



Band Tales

Palomar Audubon Society
A Chapter of the
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

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2011

Editor
Arne Christiansen

ISSUES & ACTION

(from <http://ca.audubon.org/>)



(photo by Alison Sheehey)

Audubon California has a long history of effective policy advocacy, and some of our most impressive conservation victories have come in this arena, including efforts to save Mono Lake and create new protections for the California Condor. Because we are linked not only to the National Audubon Society, but also to the 48 local chapters in California, we have a broad network to call upon when we want to support legislation or public policy that aligns with Audubon’s mission and values.

We encourage you to not only learn about the important conservation issues facing California today – and our work on them – but to also participate and make your opinions known to your local, state and federal leaders. Visit this page often, sign up for our Action Alerts and stay engaged.

Audubon California policy priorities

Audubon California’s policy advocacy efforts fall into four basic areas

1. Stabilize and increase populations of at-risk species of birds

Audubon California has a long history of policy successes involving the California Condor, the Western Snowy Plover, and the Tricolored Blackbird, and we will continue to advocate on behalf of these and other specific at-risk bird species. Our work in this area not only seeks to secure important protections for these species, but also the protection of their essential habitat and the development of conservation strategies.

2. Prevent persistent declines or range contractions in populations of common native birds

While identified at-risk species will always be high on Audubon California’s policy agenda, we will

also continue to make our voice heard on issues related to various threats to common native birds and their habitats. For instance, we will continue to advocate for additional protections for California’s wetlands, and create new opportunities for working with agriculture and private landowners to protect birds and important habitat. Understanding that global warming presents an unprecedented threat to birds and habitats, we will actively support legislation and policies that lessen its impact, all the while ensuring that the solutions are sustainable and minimize impacts on wildlife.

3. Improve and protect the health of habitats that support birds

Conserving habitats for birds and other wildlife is an essential part of Audubon California’s mission, and we will continue to identify and initiate conservation projects, actions, policies, and funding on behalf of these critical landscapes. In this area, our work will be guided by our knowledge and work in the state’s Important Bird Areas, as well as the organization’s own sanctuaries and Centers, where we have made substantial investments in terms of conservation and scientific research.

4. Building a culture of conservation

Continued public support and public funding for Audubon California’s mission depends on communities of people who care about wildlife protection. For this reason, we will continue to pursue opportunities to promote educational and recreational programs at our Centers and Sanctuaries, as well as the many beneficial programs supported by California chapters. Moreover, a critical element of all of our policy advocacy will be to educate the public about the importance of conservation issues to their lives with a mind toward mobilizing an ever larger base of support for our mission.

Inside this Band Tales

<i>A Birds-Eye View</i>	page 2
<i>Conservation Notes</i>	page 2
<i>From PAS Inbox</i>	page 3
<i>Field Trips</i>	pages 4, 5

A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Jeff Ebright

As mentioned in the last Band Tales, the Board of Directors has been working on the goals for this year. We have developed a set of goals that I feel confident will be achievable and improve our group.



To do more in the area of conservation, we are going to move beyond mere financial support of worthy conservation groups to partner with them to achieve common goals. We have already started meetings with the Escondido Creek Conservancy (See Doug's article for details). We also plan to work with San Dieguito River Conservancy and Wildlife Research Institute. Other conservation projects include promoting bird friendly backyards, citizen science projects besides Christmas Bird counts, twice yearly endangered bird species surveys at Lake Hodges Important Bird Area, and provide educational bird walks for Wilderness Gardens.

To improve communication within our organization, we plan to make improvements to our web presence to provide automated email notification based on different aspects of Audubon, shared photos, articles related to Audubon and nature, general question and answer forum, more links to other sites of interest, birding location information, and more Audubon news. We will also create a PAS pamphlet to communicate Palomar Audubon's message to the general public.

We are forming committees to evaluate our educational and publicity direction. Examples of some of the areas they will evaluate are offering bird identification classes and should we have a Facebook page. These committees will be looking for your input and participation in developing future goals.

We are ending the selling of merchandise. The small amount of funds raised did not warrant continuing this effort. We have a small amount of merchandise left which we will sell at a reduced price or give away as a promotion to our members.

Lastly, we will strive for our chapter to function under the guidance of "One Audubon" with increased integration with National and State Audubon organization.

As always, I would like to hear your thoughts. Feel free to talk to me or one of your other board members when you see them on bird walks, programs, or other Palomar events. Or send an email to palomaras@hotmail.com.

Good Birding!

CONSERVATION NOTES

Doug Nail

If you recall, last month I talked about the difficulty in any one person or group of folks making much happen with regard to improving the habitat for our local and migratory birds. It is a matter of resources - time, money and manpower. Our Palomar Audubon Society is surely an example of this. We are a small group of folks personally committed to help the birds we love continue to thrive. What we don't have are enough resources to impact much on our own. What we have been doing (with money you all so kindly donate) is to support three local organizations who have demonstrated their ability to successfully buy and restore habitat in our local area. These organizations are The Escondido Creek Conservancy (TECC), the Wildlife Research Institute in Ramona and the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy. I think we are all happy that your money is working hard for the birds!

Now, we would like to move a step closer and see whether we can "partner" with one of the organizations so even more can be accomplished. I look at it as another bite out of that big elephant called Habitat Conservation and Restoration. I have been meeting and talking with folks at The Escondido Creek Conservancy and they are also very interested in entertaining the subject of partnering. We are looking at areas like:

- Having some of our Palomar Audubon folks becoming docents at their Elfin Forest Preserve which currently is open only two or three days a week because they haven't the manpower to man it more frequently. They have a beautiful new interpretive center that could be used more if they had more resources.
- Leading bird walks, having bird identification programs and working with some of TECC folks to establish bird-friendly backyards with neighbors in their area.
- Creating a local bird list for the area.
- Using PAS's stuffed bird collection in their interpretive center.
- Having our Palomar Audubon brochure available at the interpretive center

I will be continuing our meetings with TECC and I'm sure that before long I will be calling for help from others in our group to help fulfill the things we'd like to work on with TECC.

Stay tuned; if you have a chance go take a look at TECC new interpretive center, I'm sure you will be energized. It is located on Harmony Grove Road along the Escondido Creek head west out of Escondido.

Conservation...one bite at a time!

Good birding,

FROM PAS INBOX

Jeff Ebricht

In previous Band Tales, I asked the question, "How long have you been bird watching and what got you started?"

From Paul & Barbara Zepf:

We had been members of the Friends of Penasquitos Canyon from its founding probably in the late 70's. Barb heard about a birdwatching class to be taught by Jane McNeal in the canyon probably in the early 80's. Of course, Jane later founded Palomar Audubon Society which we joined as Chapter Members. Barb was hooked from the start. She was gone a lot on walks with Jane and others. I figured if I was going to see her again I'd better join the walks. And I was hooked soon also. We've been birding for the fun of it ever since. Thanks for setting up all the PAS bird walks; we like them a lot.

From Bert Kersey:

A MURDER OF CROWS

Did you know that crows can not only use tools, but they even make tools? There is a fascinating 50-minute video online about the intelligence of crows.

You can watch it for free at:

<http://video.pbs.org/video/1621910826/>

Be sure to turn up the sound and click on the full screen icon.

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Send your questions and information you would like to share with the other members to

palomaras@hotmail.com



PAS ONLINE

If you have internet access and haven't yet checked out the PAS website at www.palomaraudubon.org you are likely missing out on some valuable features, such as pdf versions of archived newsletters, listing of field trips with Google maps indicating starting points and directions, links to other sites of interest to birders, a pdf copy of the PAS birding checklist and more. Stay up-to-date on your organization's activities, as well as articles from Audubon National and California.

Oh yes, and Happy Birding!

COME CELEBRATE OUR 16TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL!

Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival, January 13-16, 2012

MORRO BAY, CALIFORNIA – Come to where the birds are and join Morro Coast Audubon Society (MCAS) for our 16th Annual Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival. Located on California's scenic Central Coast, Morro Bay is an important stop on the Pacific Flyway and one of the country's pre-eminent birding spots. The area is recognized worldwide for its diversity of both resident and wintering birds, and at last year's festival, over 200 species of birds were identified!

The Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival is sponsored by MCAS and gives you the chance to join local and national birding experts on a variety of field trips and workshops. Field trip group sizes are limited to maximize spotting and identification opportunities. The Festival also offers workshops aimed at sharpening your birding skills, as well as evening programs with outstanding speakers.

Our keynote speaker Saturday, January 14th will be Jon Dunn, presenting a program on the diversity of Wood Warblers of North America. Jon is one of the primary experts on field identification in North America and is a tour leader for WINGS Birding Tours.

To register and for more information about the Festival, check out our website at www.morrobaybirdfestival.org. Registration starts on October 1, 2011 and our brochure will be available then. The deadline is December 31, 2011 but early signups are encouraged as the most popular events fill up quickly.



PROGRAMS

No programs are scheduled during the months of November and December. General meetings will resume in January on the regularly scheduled fourth Thursday of each month.

FIELD TRIPS

Jim Beckman

Whether a seasoned birder or a beginner, you are welcome to join us. For more information call the trip leader shown below. Heavy rain cancels trips. Locations in Thomas Guide Coordinates are shown in parenthesis as (Page-Column Row). Ratings: 1=easy, suitable for all levels, 2=moderate, a bit more walking and possibly some hilly terrain, 3=challenging, longer hikes and may involve some steep terrain.

Saturday, November 5, 8:30 a.m.

Mission Bay Flood Control Channel & Famosa Slough
San Diego

(1268-C4) Rating: 1

Take I-15 south to I-8. Go west on I-8 and exit north on I-5. Take the first off-ramp, Sea World Drive west to South Shores Park Drive, (stop light). Turn left and proceed to our meeting place along the frontage road adjacent to the Flood control Channel. We will be looking for migrating waterfowl and shorebirds in the channel and bay areas and then we will drive to Famosa Slough.

Leader: Doug Nail

760-451- 9370

Saturday, November 12, 8:30 a.m.

Lake Hodges East/Bernardo Bay

Rancho Bernardo

(1150 – A6) Rating: 2

From I-15, exit west at Rancho Bernardo Road and turn right onto West Bernardo Drive going north. Proceed to the street marked Rancho Bernardo Recreation Center (stoplight) and turn left. Drive west to the parking areas by the Ed Brown Senior Center (18402 West Bernardo Drive).

Leader: Jeff Ebright

858-484-3932

Sunday, November 20, 8:30 a.m.(note: Sunday)

San Jacinto Wildlife Area

Riverside County

(RC 749-B4) Rating: 2

From San Diego County take I-15 north to I-215. Exit at the Ramona Expressway right (east). Continue east to Lakeview (a small town). At the stoplight, turn left (north) on Davis Road. Proceed on the asphalt and gravel road for three miles to the SJWA headquarters parking lot on the right. From Escondido, allow 75 minutes drive time.

Leader: Sally Sanderson

760-749-6995

Saturday, November 26, 8:30 a.m.

Lindo Lakes

Lakeside

(1232-B3) Rating: 2

From North County, take I-15 south to Highway 52, east to Mission Gorge Road. Continue east to Woodside

Avenue, go under the Highway 67 overpass staying on Woodside Avenue (into Lakeside) to the end, with the parking lot on the left. From San Diego, take I8 east to Highway 67 north, and take the Riverford Road exit. After exiting, turn left on Woodside Avenue (into Lakeside) and continue to the end to the parking area on the left.

Leader: Jeff Ebright

858-484-3932

Saturday, December 3, 8:30 a.m.

South Bay Salt Works

National City

(1330 F4) Rating: 2

From North County, take I-15 south to I-5 and exit at Palomar Street in National City. Go west a short distance and turn left on Bay Boulevard. Continue south to 1470 Bay Boulevard and the dirt parking lot on your right. Use a restroom at a fast food joint in National City before arrival – Palomar Street east, etc. This location is a restricted area not open to the public. We will be hiking out on the dykes extending into South Bay to view waterfowl and shorebirds. FWS Ranger Debbie Good will accompany us on this field trip.

Leader: Jim Beckman

858-205-2819

Saturday, December 10, 8:30 a.m.

Lake Elsinore

Riverside County

Rating: 2

Take I-15 north to Lake Elsinore and exit at Railroad Canyon Road/Diamond Drive. Proceed west towards the Baseball Stadium past Lakeshore Drive and turn right on Pete Lehr Drive. Park at the Baseball Stadium, near the lake levee entrance. Joining us will be PAS member and local Wildomar birder, Julie Szabo, who frequently birds this Riverside County birding hotspot.

Trip Leaders: Jim Beckman (858) 205-2819 and Julie

Szabo (909) 239-4374.

Saturday, December 17, 8:30 a.m.

San Elijo Lagoon

Solana Beach

(1167-E6) Rating: 2

Take I-5 to Lomas Santa Fe Drive. Go west to North Rios Avenue. Turn right (north) and go all the way to the end of North Rios Avenue. Park and meet at the end of the street near the barricade. This is a good spot to view wintering waterfowl and shorebirds.

Leader: Doug Nail

760-451-9370

Saturday, December 24

CHRISTMAS EVE HOLIDAY – NO FIELD TRIP!



FIELD TRIPS, from Page 4

Saturday, December 31

Escondido Christmas Bird Count

Palomar Audubon Society would like to extend an invitation to all birders to participate in the annual Escondido Christmas Bird Count on Sunday, December 31st. The count circle incorporates mostly rural areas near Escondido, Valley Center, and Ramona. Fantastic birding skills are not a requirement – an extra pair of eyes is always helpful. The participation fee, as required by National Audubon, remains at \$5.00. The after-birding compilation meeting will be held in the early afternoon at Kit Carson Park’s covered picnic shelter. The highlight of the day will be the deli-style lunch provided, courtesy of Palomar Audubon Society. For more information and/or team assignments, contact Ken Weaver 760-723-2448 or email gncatcher@sbcglobal.net.

Sign up now and join the fun!

Saturday, January 7, 8:30 a.m.

Dixon Lake

Escondido

(1110-C3) Rating: 2

From I-15 in Escondido, exit at El Norte Parkway and drive east approximately 3 miles. Look for the” Daley Ranch/Dixon Lake” signs and turn left (north) on La Honda Drive. Drive up the hill to the free parking area on your left at the end of the road. Meet at the east end of the parking lot, adjacent to Dixon Lake.

Leader: David Mathis

760-754-5215



BIRDING NEWS AND FEATURES

(from <http://ebird.org>)



Yellow-billed Magpie Survey Report

August 26, 2011

Yellow-billed Magpies were observed in twenty-four of California’s fifty-eight counties during a recent volunteer survey sponsored by Audubon California to help support the conservation of this dynamic species. The survey – held June 3-6, 2011 – was the third annual effort to rally birders all around the state to venture outside in search of the Yellow-billed Magpie.

**Palomar Audubon Society
Chapter-only Membership**

Mail your application to:

**Palomar Audubon Society
P. O. Box 2483
Escondido, CA 92033-2483**

Membership in the Palomar Audubon Society includes a subscription to **Band Tales**, Palomar Audubon’s bi-monthly newsletter, and an invitation to our monthly programs and weekly field trips.

New Member - \$20 *Renewal - \$20*

New Family Member - \$25 *Renewal - \$25*

(payable to Palomar Audubon Society)

Contribution _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

100% of Chapter Membership dues supports projects locally.

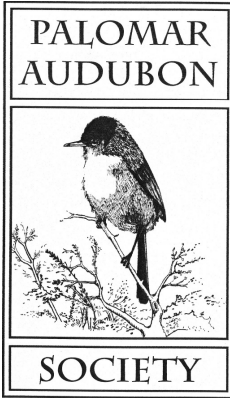


**DEADLINE FOR THE
NOVEMBER-DECEMBER ISSUE IS
DECEMBER 15TH.
SUBMIT COPY TO
arnec@juno.com**

Band Tales

November-December, 2011

The *Band Tales* is an official publication of the Palomar Audubon Society; it is issued bi-monthly and sent to all members as a part of their National Audubon Society membership or Palomar Audubon Society Chapter-only membership.



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Web Page: <http://www.palomaraudubon.org>
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Board of Director's Meeting
Wednesdays, November 2nd & December 7th.
7:00 p.m. at the Remington Club
16916 Hierba Drive
Rancho Bernardo

Note: All Palomar Audubon Society members are welcome at Chapter Board meetings.

QUICK CALENDAR		
<i>November</i>	5	Mission Bay Flood Control Channel & Famosa Slough Field Trip
<i>November</i>	12	Lake Hodges East/Bernardo Bay Field Trip
<i>November</i>	20	San Jacinto Wildlife Area Field Trip
<i>November</i>	26	Lindo Lakes Field Trip
<i>December</i>	3	South Bay Salt Works Field Trip
<i>December</i>	10	Lake Elsinore Field Trip
<i>December</i>	17	San Elijo Lagoon Field Trip
<i>December</i>	24	Christmas Eve Holiday - No Field Trip
<i>December</i>	31	Escondido Christmas Bird Count
<i>January</i>	7	Dixon Lake Field Trip