



Band Tales

Palomar Audubon Society
A Chapter of the
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

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November-December, 2012

Editor
Arne Christiansen

COME SEE WHAT YOU CAN SEE AT THE SALTON SEA!

Come join Palomar Audubon as we bird the Salton Sea and areas around the Sea. Doug Nail will lead this trip for Palomar Audubon. The dates for the trip are the weekend of January 26-27, 2013. Last year's trip was very successful and we are looking forward to another "birdie weekend".

Should you want to come along please contact Doug or Mickey Nail at 760-451-9370 or Doug's cell phone at 760-468-3459 or via e-mail at naildo@sbcglobal.net. Let them know how many people are coming, how many rooms you will need and whether you'll need two queen beds or a king bed. We will be staying at the Brawley Inn and the Nails will be hosting a hospitality room on the early evenings of the 25th and 26th at the Brawley Inn in beautiful downtown Brawley. The cost of the trip is \$30 per person.



The San Joaquin River is California's second largest river, an incredible natural resource that not only provides incredible opportunities for birds and other wildlife to thrive, but also supports California's agricultural economy.

Congress in 2009 passed the San Joaquin River Restoration Program to ensure that this great river will prosper well into the future. But for the restoration to happen, **our leaders need to hear your voice.**



ESCONDIDO CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Each year between December 14th and January 5th, thousands of California birders and nature enthusiasts participate in one or more of the 100-plus Christmas Bird Counts held in California. This year will mark the 113th year of the event.

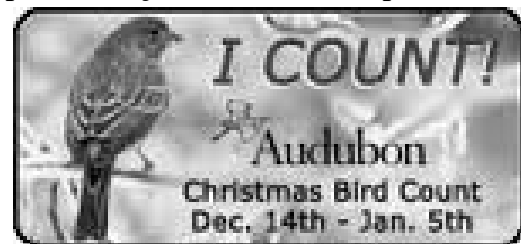
This holiday season join with thousands of others for this important citizen science effort across California. The one-day bird counts provide valuable data about the number of bird species and numbers of each species occurring within a set geographic area.

Palomar Audubon Society would like to extend an invitation to all birders to participate in the annual Escondido Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, December 29th. 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.

This year there is no participation fee required by National Audubon. Along with the event being free, the summary reports will be available online.

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 by phone at 760-723-2448 or email gncatcher@sbcglobal.net.

Sign up now and join the fun and important event!



Inside this Band Tales

- A Birds-Eye View* page 2
- Conservation Notes* page 3
- Field Trips* pages 4, 5
- Programs* page 5

A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Jeff Ebright

The election is weeks away and it seems that the two parties can find little to agree on. One issue that both parties should support is conservation. To quote from the Audubon, "American Eagle Compact" campaign, "We also know it's both disrespectful and simplistic to pigeonhole a commitment to conservation as progressive or conservative. Protecting birds, their habitats and our natural resources is just plain common sense." Several organizations such as National Wildlife Federation and American Bird Conservancy have similar campaigns. I have posted calls for support at our blog. I hope that you will add your voice and support to these campaigns.

We have two major birding trips planned. The weekend of January 26th, Doug and Mickey Nail will lead a trip once again to Salton Sea. Those in attendance last year can attest to what a fun and special experience Salton Sea is. After about an 8 year hiatus, Ed Hall is going to lead a trip to the Eastern Sierras. The trip is currently planned for the weekend of April 13th. The trip is being timed to see the Greater Sage Grouse do its mating dance. Details are still in the works, so look for an announcement for signing up in the January Band Tales. The number of participants will be limited, so be sure to sign up early.

Speaking of trips I hope that you were able to attend our October program, Doug Nail's presentation on Palomar's trip to Peru. Doug's presentations are always entertaining and informative. For January, we are planning a program on how to attract birds to your backyard with native plants. For February, we'll be showing the HBO movie, "Birders: The Central Park Effect". I have seen it and strongly recommend it.

Hope to see you on one of our upcoming bird walks or programs.



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

By Jeff Ebright

Well, if you are joining a Palomar Audubon led bird walk, it can mean the difference in feeling welcomed or excluded. So if you have a name tag, please wear it on walks. Also, our leaders will try to bring name badge labels to use. Many of us have been birding together for years and are friends, but think of all the new birders we would like to welcome into our organization.

UPCOMING BIRD FESTIVALS



January 18-21: Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival: *Morro Bay, CA.* Join Morro Coast Audubon Society (MCAS) for its 17th annual 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 preeminent 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! Registration begins October 1, 2012 and ends January 6, 2013.



January 24-27: Snowgoose Festival of the Pacific Flyway: *Chico, California.* This marvelous annual festival offers more than 70 field trips and workshops that cover six counties, reaching out into the rice fields, wildlife refuges and river walks where mild winter weather, abundant food and lots of water draw our avian visitors. Our workshops offer something for everyone and may include nature photography, bird carving, bird identification, how to record nature sounds, designing a garden for wildlife, and much more. Free nature activities are offered for children, as well as armchair adventures for the less hardy. On Saturday evening of the festival we have a banquet featuring an exciting keynote speaker.



February 14-17: Winter Wings Festival: *Klamath Falls, Oregon.* Explore the Klamath Basin of southern Oregon and northern California, a major migratory stop on the Pacific Flyway and host to the largest congregation of wintering bald eagles in the lower 48 states. Keynote participants for the 2013 festival include photographer George Lepp, birder and photographer Kevin Karlson, and naturalist Alvaro Jaramillo. There are many guided field trips, birding and photography workshops, free family activities, and receptions.



February 28-March 3 San Diego Bird Festival: *San Diego.* The 17th annual festival takes wing on scenic Mission Bay with keynoter Dr. John Fitzpatrick, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and special guest Bill Thompson III. Festival HQ is steps from San Diego's famous "Mile of Birds" river estuary. Events include field trips, pelagic trips, workshops, Birding & Optics EXPO, a Big Sit, and Family Free Day, plus a post-festival Baja endemics trip.

CONSERVATION NOTES

Doug Nail

CONSERVATION ON A SMALL SCALE

Here Mickey and I sit, on Sunday morning, having had a great Saturday morning of birding with our Palomar Audubon friends. We sure are lucky to find ourselves in such a great place. San Diego County has to be one of the very best places to retire in all the world. We did so twelve years...hard to believe it has been that long ago!



I'm sitting here watching California Quail come to our ground bird baths, Western Scrub Jays come to our suet feeder and Lesser Goldfinches come to the thistle feeder in droves. At the same time, Northern Mockingbirds are calling like crazy, Cassin's Kingbirds too and there are about twenty Anna's Hummingbirds at the feeder sounding like an angry hive of bumble bees! House Finches and Mourning Doves feed on the ground with one eye to the sky...they need to be on the look out for Mr. Cooper who came through about an hour ago...unsuccessfully this time. The White Crowns Sparrows are back in large numbers and our Song Sparrow is quite put out by the sheer numbers and visibly shaken by the competition for food and bathing. Our resident California Thrasher as finally decided to make our yard his home and we are so grateful for having him finally commit to living here in the yard. The Wrentits are busy talking back and forth and visiting the suet feeder and the bird baths ever so quickly. An Orange Crowned Warbler busys itself in the Mexican Sage and a few Yellow-rumps are finally making their presence known. Crows and Ravens mix here in the neighborhood so they are always around looking for an opportunity...we try not to give them any.

The birds are sure here and I like to think Mickey and I had a lot to do with what's now in our yard. and what has been counted as a yard bird on our twelve year old list (128 species). Not all ABA birds but that also is one of the virtues of living in San Diego County...you get to see a few "extras" every once in a while!

Twelve years ago we decided to take out most of our avocado trees (what did we know about growing avocados anyway) and replace them with California native vegetation. It sounded simple and cutting down of the trees (87 of them) wasn't too tough as I remember (remembering is getting harder and harder for me). What followed was an education I am still participating in.

Cleaning off thousands of yards of Red Apple, filling five giant Dipsy-dumpsters with everything from the yard including a huge deck which to us was an "eye sore" and to the previous owners was something "integral" to the house. Seven truckloads of redwood bark and our yard

looked like a park with no trees, bushes or rocks. Left standing was the house, one Chilean Pepper tree and several palms and a bougainvillea...I know they aren't California natives but we needed somewhere to put a few bird houses!

We gave ourselves a three to five year timeline for completion. We have failed miserably on the timeline but we are so happy we started...finishing is still a work in progress but we are very happy we have been on this mission. The birds have rewarded us and continue to do so every day and many nights. We look forward to seeing who is here every morning and who will come through during the day. Makes retirement so much more enjoyable to wake up to all the noises and sites and to know this is our home too.

I'm still getting my education, the timelines have all passed me by but as I continue down this road I now know I am making a contribution to the birds and this continues to motivate me to do a little more each year. The neighbors who thought I was some "wacko" from the East Coast now have feeders up and they too are beginning to enjoy the birds. Well, maybe not the Northern Mockingbirds when they are singing well into the night from their chimneys!

I would recommend folks think about going "native" and the younger the better. That way your children can see the value in having a yard full of nature. Your body is still in a condition that you will be able to rebound more quickly than mine does. And just think of all the time you'll have to enjoy it. Mickey and I are treasuring every minute of our yard.

Cheers,



PALOMAR AUDUBON SOCIETY WELCOMES THESE NEW AND RENEWING CHAPTER-ONLY MEMBERS:

Elinor Foulke
Barbara Dunn & David Mathis
William & Miriam Sherrard
Byron Swift & Valeria Merino
Marj & Jim Freda
Robert Wild
Sue Hunter
Pat Berena & Roberta Maso
Michael Wittmer Family
Marcee Sherrill
Julie Dahlin
Connie Boyd

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 3, 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 10, 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 18, 8:30 a.m.

San Jacinto Wildlife Area

Riverside County

(RC 749-B4) Rating: 2

NOTE: This is a Sunday field trip. 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 24, 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 Then 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 1, 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 Avenue east etc. This location is a restricted area not open to the public. We will be hiking out on the dikes 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 8, 8:30a.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

Julie Szabo

909-239-4374.

Saturday, December 15, 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

FIELD TRIPS, from Page 4

Saturday, December 22, 8:30 a.m.

Tijuana Estuary/7th Street

Imperial Beach

(1349-F1) Rating: 2

Travel south on I-5 from San Diego and exit west on Coronado Avenue, which becomes Imperial Beach Boulevard. Turn left on 3rd Street to Caspian Way, turn left and then right to the Tijuana Estuary Visitor Center parking lot.

Leader: Michael Beeve

209-247-5237

Saturday, December 29

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 Saturday, December 29th. 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 previous \$5.00 participation fee is no longer required by National Audubon. 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 at 760-723-2448 or email gmatcatcher@sbcglobal.net. **Sign up now and join the fun!**

Saturday, January 5, 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, near the kiosk, adjacent to Dixon Lake.

Leader: David Mathis

760-754-5215

Weekend Salton Sea Field Trip: Jan 26-27. Contact

Doug Nail naildo@sbcglobal.net

760-451-9370. See the **Band Tales** newsletter for details.

2013 GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

The 16th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) will be held February 15-18, 2013. The GBBC is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where birds are across the U.S. and Canada. Please visit the official website at www.birdcount.org for additional information.

Each checklist submitted by these citizen scientists helps researchers at the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](http://www.cornell.edu/ornithology) and the [National Audubon Society](http://www.audubon.org) learn more about how birds are doing – and how to protect them and the environment we share. Last year, participants turned in more than 104,000 checklists online, creating the continent's largest instantaneous snapshot of bird populations ever recorded.

"This count is so fun because anyone can take part -- we all learn and watch birds together -- whether you are an expert, novice, or feeder watcher. I like to invite new birders to join me and share the experience. Get involved, invite your friends, and see how your favorite spot stacks up."

-Gary Langham, Chief Scientist

Anyone can take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count, from novice bird watchers to experts. Participants count birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the event and report their sightings online at www.birdcount.org.



PROGRAMS

*During the holiday months of November and December PAS programs are suspended. See the January-February issue of **Band Tales** for those that are scheduled for the Spring. They promise to be great!*

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM US TO YOU!

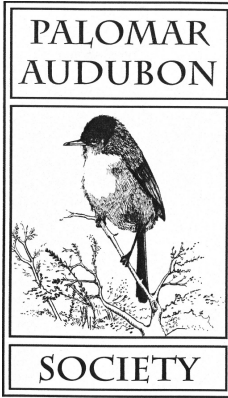


**REMINDER:
DEADLINE FOR THE
JANUARY-FEBRUARY ISSUE IS
DECEMBER 15th.
SUBMIT COPY TO
arnec@juno.com**

Band Tales

November-December, 2012

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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 Jim Beckman..... 858-205-2819
- Secretary**
 Vicki Ebright..... 858-484-3932
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 - Sunny Christiansen..... 858-487-0731
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 - Programs.....Committee..... xxx-xxx-xxxx
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**No Board of Director's Meetings
 are scheduled for
 November or December**

QUICK CALENDAR

<i>November</i>	3	Mission Bay Flood Control Channel & Famosa Slough Walk
<i>November</i>	10	Lake Hodges East/Bernardo Bay Walk
<i>November</i>	18	San Jacinto Wildlife Area Walk
<i>November</i>	24	Lindo Lake Walk
<i>December</i>	1	South Bay Salt Works Walk
<i>December</i>	8	Lake Elsinore Walk
<i>December</i>	15	San Elijo Lagoon Walk
<i>December</i>	22	Tijuana Estuary/7th Street Walk
<i>December</i>	29	Escondido Christmas Bird Count
<i>January</i>	3	Dixon Lake Walk
<i>January</i>	26-27	Weekend Salton Sea Field Trip