



Band Tales

Palomar Audubon Society
A Chapter of the
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume XXVIII
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July-August
2013

Editor
Arne Christiansen

THANK YOU, KEMER!

After thirteen years of volunteer support for the PAS website, Kemer Thomson is stepping down from his role as PAS webmaster. I had the pleasure of working with Kemer and appreciate his bringing to life my ideas for changes to the website. His will be big shoes to fill, which I'm well aware of since I will attempt to fill them. We have hired a contractor to convert the software for our website to software that is free and will be easier for me to learn and support. The contractor is advising me on changes we can make to add appeal and ease of use to our webpage. She will assist me in coming up to speed. Watch for future announcements on our progress and planned changes. I would like to hear your ideas of what you would like to see at our website, and please be patient with me as we go through this transition.

PAS WEBSITE IMPROVEMENTS

By Jeff Ebright
(from an earlier issue)

The menu on the left side was getting too long, so sub-menus were added to reorganize it. The main menu now has five selections. The 'Home' menu item did not change. Under menu item 'News' is a menu for Blog, Newsletters Archive, and Conservation. Blog is an addition to the website. I post notices from Audubon and other bird or conservation groups, general news about PAS events, and interesting bird related news articles. The Blog is updated several times during the week. The 'Field Trips' menu item did not change. Under menu item 'About Us' is a new page that gives an overview of PAS and a menu for Organization, Volunteer, and Membership. Under menu item 'Resources' is a menu for Links, Checklist, Gallery, and Articles. The Gallery is fairly new and is worthwhile to check each week to see the latest photos from Saturday's bird walk. The Article page is new this year and has larger documents from Audubon like the Strategic Plan and how to make your backyard bird friendly. It also has the bird identification presentations I do for the PAS Programs.

The next planned improvement will be to the Links page. The links will be grouped by type and I have several other useful links to add. Send any ideas you have for improving our website to palomaraudubon@gmail.com.

HAPPY TRAILS, PODNERS!

On Sunday, June 2nd, sixty members and guests of PAS spent an afternoon to remember at the beautiful home of Bert and Sharon Kersey in Fallbrook. To call it a "picnic" fails to adequately describe the event under the oak trees, so expertly headed by Penny Hernandez and Sunny Christiansen. With Doug Nail competently manning the bar, Arne Christiansen and Hal Benham grilling tender filet mignon and chicken, Sally Sanderson happily accepting donations for the raffle, and Nan Thomas carefully verifying winning tickets, birders could for once, however briefly, put aside their binoculars and scopes and talk freely for a few special hours. Many thanks go to the Kerseys and to all who helped volunteer in other ways to create this wonderful party.

We all had fun vying for great raffle gifts which included a scope donated by the Sandersons and a watercolor donated by Ilene Littlefield. We saw beautiful bird photos taken by our members and had to vote for our favorites. We were treated to a demonstration of Bert's fantastic train set, and got to see woodpeckers, nuthatches, orioles, a titmouse and phainopepla at the many feeders off the Kersey's deck. Our delicious meal was topped off with ice cream sundaes, and as the shadows grew longer we all left this special place enriched and renewed by beauty and friendship.

Fondly,

Barbara Dunn

(editor's note: see pictures of this event on pages 4 and 5 of this issue of **Band Tales**. You have undoubtedly noticed the change in color of this issue; the pictures from the picnic should be more remarkable with this change. Should you have any reaction please let me know at: arnec@juno.com or via phone at 858-487-0731. As always, I would welcome any copy you might wish to share with the rest of us.)

Arne

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A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Jeff Ebright

For those of you that attended our annual picnic, I hope that you enjoyed it as much as I did. Once again, Penny Hernandez and Sunny Christiansen did a wonderful job of planning and putting on the picnic. They started in January on the planning. This was my first time to Burt & Sharon Kersey's home, and I was impressed with what a perfect location for a picnic. Once again, I would like to extend all of Palomar's gratitude to the Kerses for being such generous hosts. Lastly my thanks to all the volunteers who helped set up, clean, assist, and donated items to the raffle. Besides good food and cheer for all, we raised over \$600 to support our activities.

In April, I led a bird walk for Escondido High and Middle school students at Kit Carson Park. The walk was part of their science class curriculum. I showed them some of basics of bird watching and bird behavior.

In a previous Band Tales, we listed the Wildlife Research Institute (WRI) as one of the organizations that PAS provides financial support to for their environmental work. The founder/director of WRI has recently plead guilty to federal charges that he captured and banded raptors in 2010 without the required permit. This has raised several concerns for the Board of Directors and we have decided to delay our planned donation to WRI until we review the situation at our next board meeting in August. This will allow us time to find out the sentence from the judge and have a chance to communicate with WRI on their plans as an organization. WRI has been instrumental in educating the public with their highly popular Hawk Watch program and establishing the Ramona Grassland Preserve to protect critical habitat for raptors.

Doug Nail has stepped down as chair of our Conservation Committee. I wish to thank Doug for the good work he did in that role. We all enjoyed his articles in the Band Tales. Doug built a strong bond between PAS and our local conservation groups. He has built a strong partnership with the Escondido Creek Conservancy (TECC). If you visit their Visitor Center you will see stuffed birds from PAS on display and you might see Doug who now volunteers as a docent for TECC. I want to welcome Richard Fowler as our new Conservation Chair. He is currently acquainting himself with the local conservation community and becoming familiar with PAS conservation work. If you have an interest in conservation please consider joining the conservation committee, since it is a big task for only one person. I

wish Richard the best and ask that you give him your support.

I would like to welcome two new members to the Board of Directors, David Mathis and Phil White. It won't take David long to come up to speed, since he has been attending the board meetings as a guest for the past two years. I wish to thank them both for volunteering their time and expertise to help guide PAS.



CONSERVATION NOTES

Jeff Ebright (for Richard Fowler)

I'm filling in for this issue during the transition to a new Conservation Chair, and I want to take this opportunity to point out areas where you can help. In the Palomar Audubon blog, I have recently listed several notices from National and California Audubon, the National Wildlife Federation, American Bird Conservancy, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and Endangered Habitats League soliciting help with their conservation efforts.

The Escondido Creek Conservancy is looking for volunteers for their Land Maintenance Work Days. It is a great way to get involved with the Conservancy and to meet other people with an interest in conservation. Throughout the year, Conservancy staff and volunteers participate in Work Days at locations around the Escondido Watershed to remove invasive species, clean up trash, maintain trails, and help with a variety of other hands-on jobs in order to care for the land we protect.

The San Dieguito River Park is looking volunteers to help with the following projects:

- Trail Restoration - 2nd Sunday of each month, 8-11 a.m.
- Habitat Restoration - 3rd Saturday of each month, 8-11 a.m.
- Water Quality Testing
- Volunteer Patrol
- River Valley Guide
- Sikes Adobe Historic Farmhouse Docents
- Dust-Devils, who work side by side with Park Rangers and provide invaluable help with hands-on projects throughout the Park.

I encourage you to consider these opportunities and others at these fine organizations that contribute to protecting and improving our environment for the benefit of birds, other wildlife, and people that enjoy and benefit from nature.



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

Warren Cotton
Dee and Jim Stephens
Barbara Raab
Dianne and Hal Benham
Jim Beckman
Joan Comito
The Tingley Family
Pat and Dick Cook

WE VERY MUCH APPRECIATE THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THESE DONORS:

Joan Friesenhahn
Celeste Larson
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Pat Berena & Roberta Maso
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Kathleen and John Koenig
Petra Koellhoffer
Allen Family
Richard Cook
Judy Jankauski
Sunny and Arne Christiansen
Penny Hernandez



FROM THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION WEBSITE

Three out of every four flowering plants rely on pollinators like bees, butterflies and Hummingbirds.

But sadly, **pollinators are on the decline** worldwide. There's no better time to reward these hard workers for all they do than by turning your yard or garden into a welcoming haven for bees, butterflies and hummingbirds.

Here are a few tips to attract these helpful friends to your garden:

1. **Honeybees** pollinate about one-third of all crops in the United States and contribute roughly \$15 billion a year to the economy. Honeybees and smaller native bees have somewhat shorter tongues than bumblebees, so they'll appreciate tightly packed clusters of tiny flowers and shallow blossoms like some milkweeds, spirea, goldenrod and phlox.
2. **Bats** are hard at work while you're asleep, so consider night-blooming plants in addition to day-bloomers. Install a bat box on a nearby tree to encourage bats to take up residence in your yard.
3. **Hummingbirds** love brightly colored, tubular flowers. Native red trumpet honeysuckle and many types of columbine are a favorite. When blooms are few, supplement flowers with feeders filled with nectar water.
4. **Butterflies** move pollen on their bodies, like bees, but aren't quite as efficient as other pollinators. Attract these beauties with red, yellow, orange, pink and purple blossoms that are flat-topped or clustered and have short flower tubes.



FUN PHOTOS FROM THE 2013 PAS PICNIC

(Photos courtesy Sonja Beeve, Penny Hernandez and Bert Kersey)



The Host and Hostess: Bert and Sharon Kersey



Which one is the best?



Ride 'em, Cowgirl!



Strike One!



(Winning photo by Bob Serling)



*Cook 'em jist right, fellers!
(That'd be Hal Benham and Arne Christiansen)*



*Whut's a Western Bar-B-Q without a sa-LOON?
(Bartender Doug Nail with Ed Hall)*



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.

Please Note: Summer birding can be very warm so be sure to bring sunscreen and sufficient water on walks.

Saturday, July 6, 8:00 a.m.

Lake Murray

La Mesa

(1250 E-6) Rating: 1-2

Take I-8 east to the Lake Murray Boulevard. Exit and proceed 1 mile north (right turn) to Baltimore Drive. Turn left and drive about 1 mile to Jackson Drive. Turn left again, proceed ¼ mile and make another left turn on Golfcrest Drive. Continue about 1 mile on Golfcrest Drive to the Mission Trails Regional Park entrance on the left. Meet in the parking lot near the softball field bleachers. This location is on the northwest end of Lake Murray. Expect warm weather.

Leader: Jim Beckman
858-205-2819

Saturday, July 13, 8:00 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: Sally Sanderson
760-749-6995

Saturday, July 20, 8:00 a.m.

Torrey Pines State Reserve

San Diego/Del Mar

(1207 J1&H3) Rating: 2

Since there is a \$15/vehicle parking fee, carpooling is suggested. We will meet at a nearby Park & Ride and carpool from there. From I-5, take the Carmel Valley Road exit and drive a short distance west to the first stoplight @ Pointe Del Mar Road. Turn left into the Park & Ride parking lot. There are no public restrooms. Initially, we will bird along the freeway frontage road south to the wastewater pump station. Later, returning to our cars at the parking lot, we will drive west to the Reserve entrance on Carmel Valley Road. Torrey Pines State Reserve is located within the San Diego City limits and yet remains one of the wildest stretches of land on

our Southern California coast. Its 2000 acres of land are as they were before San Diego was developed with the chaparral plant community, the rare and elegant Torrey Pine trees, miles of unspoiled beaches, and a lagoon that is vital to migrating seabirds.

Leader: Jack Friery
619-218-7342

Saturday, July 27, 8:00 a.m.

Guajome Regional Park

Oceanside

(1067-D7) Rating: 2

From Highway 78 in Oceanside, exit north on College Boulevard curving left and drive 4.4 miles to Highway 76. Make a right turn and continue east about ½ mile to Lake Guajome Road. Turn right (south) and drive up the hill past the park entrance. We usually convene on this road beyond the park entrance since we gather well before the park opens. Expect warm weather.

Leader: David Mathis
760-754-5215

Saturday, August 3, 8:00 a.m.

Robb Field/San Diego River Floodway

San Diego

(1267-J5) Rating: 1

We will visit two locations along the San Diego River Floodway to look for early migrant and returning shorebirds, often still in breeding plumage, and post-breeding dispersal Elegant Terns. From North County, take Highway 163S to I-8W and drive toward Ocean Beach. Make a slight left at Sunset Cliffs Boulevard. Then stay in the right lane. Turn right onto West Point Loma Boulevard. and then right at Bacon Street. Drive straight ahead to the Robb Field parking area near the tennis courts at the east end. Bring a scope if you have one. We will also visit the nearby San Diego River Flood Control Channel and/or Famosa Slough.

Leader: Jeff Ebright
858-484-3932

Saturday, August 10, 8:00 a.m.

San Elijo Lagoon

Solana Beach

(1167-E6) Rating: 2

A good spot to find early fall migrants. 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. Bring a scope, if you have one, and water and plan for warm weather.

Leader: Doug Nail
760-451-9370

FIELD TRIPS, from Page 4Saturday, August 17, 8:00 a.m.**Santee Lakes**

Santee, CA

(1231-A5) Rating: 2

From I -15 go east on Highway 52. Exit at Mast Boulevard. Continue east on Mast Boulevard. to Fanita Parkway. Turn right at Fanita Parkway and the entrance to Santee Lakes is on the right. Car entry fee is \$5. OR from Mast Boulevard, turn left on Fanita Parkway and continue north to Lake Canyon Drive. Turn right, park, and walk in the open gate for FREE. Meet in the parking lot by the General Store between lakes 4 and 5. Expect warm weather.

Leader: Jim Beckman

858-205-2819

Saturday, August 24, 8:00 a.m.**Dairy Mart Pond/Tijuana River Valley**

San Diego

(1350-D5) Rating: 2

From North County, take I-15 south and merge with the I-5 south to the Dairy Mart Road Exit. Turn right on Dairy Mart Road (south). Meet just past the concrete bridge next to the large "TJRV Park" sign and the large pond on the west side of Dairy Mart Road. We will also caravan a short distance to the TJRV Park Headquarters (public restroom and bird feeders) and then visit the nearby Bird & Butterfly Gardens where we might see the elusive Black-throated Magpie Jay.

Leader: Michael Beeve

209-247-5237

Saturday, August 31, 8:00 a.m.**Kit Carson Park**

Escondido

(1150-C1) Rating: 1

From I-15 in Escondido, exit east on Via Rancho Parkway and drive about one mile northeast on Bear Valley Road to the Park Road entrance at the stoplight. Turn left, and proceed on Park Road about ¾ mile to the Amphitheater parking lot on the right. Woodland, riparian, and open-area habitats will usually get us a nice list of resident birds. Expect warm weather.

Leader: Penny Hernandez

760-746-8315

Saturday, September 7, 8:00 a.m.**Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve**

Rancho Peñasquitos

(1189-C7) Rating: 2

We will meet at the Rancho de los Peñasquitos Adobe Ranch House parking lot and explore trails through grasslands and riparian woodland. Take I-15 and exit at Mercy Road going west. Turn right onto Black Mountain Road and drive a short distance to Canyonside Park Drive (first stop light). Turn left and continue west to the Adobe Ranch House parking lot. Expect warm weather.

Leader: Jeff Ebricht

858-484-3932

PROGRAMS

Please join us for our interesting monthly program and refreshments at the Remington Club, 16916 Hierba Drive, Rancho Bernardo. There is a social period beginning at 7:00 pm with the meeting and program getting under way promptly at 7:30 pm.

NO PROGRAMS ARE SCHEDULED FOR JULY OR AUGUST. FIELD TRIPS WILL CONTINUE, BUT NOTICE THE REVISED SUMMER START TIMES. REGULARLY SCHEDULED PROGRAMS WILL RESUME IN SEPTEMBER.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER WITH GREAT BIRDING!

**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** _____

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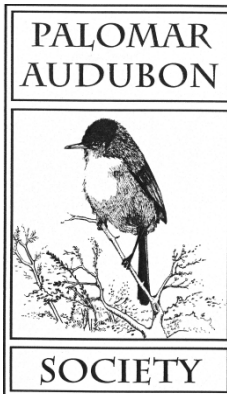
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100% of Chapter Membership dues supports projects locally.

Band Tales

July-August, 2013

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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Scholarship..... Jim Beckman..... 858-205-2819

Web Page: <http://www.palomaraudubon.org>

Webmaster: Jeff Ebright:
palomaraudubon@gmail.com

Board of Director's Meeting

Wednesday, August 7th

7:00 p.m. at the Remington Club

16916 Hierba Drive
Rancho Bernardo

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

QUICK CALENDAR

<i>July</i>	<i>6</i>	Lake Murray Walk
<i>July</i>	<i>13</i>	Tijuana Estuary & 7 th Street Walk
<i>July</i>	<i>20</i>	Torrey Pines State Reserve Walk
<i>July</i>	<i>27</i>	Guajome Regional Park Walk
<i>August</i>	<i>3</i>	Robb Field/San Diego River Floodway Walk
<i>August</i>	<i>7</i>	Board of Directors' Meeting
<i>August</i>	<i>10</i>	San Elijo Lagoon Walk
<i>August</i>	<i>17</i>	Santee Lakes Walk
<i>August</i>	<i>24</i>	Dairy Mart Pond/Tijuana River Valley Walk
<i>August</i>	<i>31</i>	Kit Carson Park Walk
<i>September</i>	<i>7</i>	Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve