

Band Tales

Palomar Audubon Society

A Chapter of the
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume XXVIII No. 3 November-December 2013

Editor Arne Christiansen

PROTECT KIT CARSON PARK

The group, FRIENDS OF KIT CARSON PARK, was formed several months ago following successful community action that blocked a disastrous proposal for a loud, gaudy, sprawling waterpark there. A great deal of sensitive of wetland, open space and recreational land, not to mention the ambiance of the entire park, would have been affected. This proposal appears to have been intended to by-pass the Planning Commission en route to approval allowing little time for effective public input.

The sole purpose of the FRIENDS is to protect the park by keeping local citizenry informed and allowing them the opportunity to be heard when any changes of consequence are proposed. It will accomplish this by meeting regularly with City Planning Staff and by otherwise keeping abreast of City thinking (contacts that have already been established), by keeping its members ("Friends") informed and by soliciting their opinion. This information will be fed back to the city, advancing or stalling proposals as they may come along, providing the city with this valuable input.

FRIENDS OF KIT CARSON PARK is totally apolitical. It is adversarial of no one. It seeks solely to protect Kit Carson Park. There are now about 200 friends, interested people who have asked to be kept informed and of whom nothing else is asked. Clearly, the greater its membership, the more effective this organization is likely to be.

Kit Carson Park is at the core of Palomar Audubon's existence. You are invited...asked...to become a Friend and help with its protection. If you are willing to join or have questions, please contact Ed Hall by email at: ecjmhall@yahoo.com. To join, simply respond "I'm In". It's the responsible thing to do, right?



ESCONDIDO CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2013

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 114th 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 28th. 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 <u>no</u> participation fee required by National Audubon. Along with the event being <u>free</u>, 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 gnatcatcher@sbcglobal.net.

Sign up now and join the fun and important event!



Inside this Band Tales

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A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Jeff Ebright, President

with an urgent need to fill a majority of the Officer and Director positions. I'm happy to report that as of the Board of Director's meeting on October 2nd, our chapter has filled all the vacant positions. Since these were midterm replacements, their terms will run to the end of the fiscal year on June 30th. A list of candidates for full terms will be presented at the May program for membership election. I wish to thank everyone who volunteered to help the chapter in its time of need. A complete list of the Officers and Directors is listed in this Band Tales and at our website.

One of the vacancies was created with the pending move of Doug and Mickey Nail to Arizona in November. Their contributions to our chapter have been invaluable. Personally, I will miss them very much. They have volunteered a great deal of their time to improve our chapter and have held roles as President, Treasurer, Conservation Director, Chair, **Publicity** Merchandise Chair, Field Trip Leaders, Program Presenters, out-of-area trip organizers, and other roles too many to write or remember. I think every bird walk I was on with them I would learn something new about nature. My favorite programs were the ones that Doug gave about his many birding trips throughout the world. It was not only about the interesting birds seen, but also about the country and the culture. I have seen Doug literally give the binoculars off his back to help a beginning birder enjoy the bird walk. I wish them the very best for their new life in Arizona and thank them for their friendship and guidance for me personally and Palomar Audubon.

FROM THE MEMBERS

Arne Christiansen, Editor

In the last issue of **Band Tales** I asked whether some of you might have some ideas, experiences, photos or anything else, for that matter that you would like to share with the rest of us.

Joan Perron and Gary Grantham (see p. 5 for an article by Gary) took me up on the challenge; she phoned (see? it's that easy at 858-487-0731 or arnec@juno.com) with some birding assistance she had received from Doug Nail about birding in areas outside ours. Doug had suggested she visit a website called http://birdingpal.org/. I went to the site and was duly impressed by what I saw. Thanks, Joan and Gary!

Now, in case somebody else called me with a sharing tidbit but it didn't get into this issue, be warned that it's best to email me at <code>arnec@juno.com</code> with some thing(s) you would be willing to share. I'll try to make sure that your ideas appear in the next issue. Let's make this an ongoing feature!

CONSERVATION NOTES

Richard Fowler

n October 5th of this year, 31 birders under the leadership of Doug and Mickey Nail met at Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve in Huntington Beach. Although expectations were high for a big list of shore birds, it was the peak of a Santa Ana and winds were strong enough to keep most bird life hovering close to ground level and birders trying to shield themselves from the blowing sand. After an unproductive hour or two, the birders surrendered to nature's demands and retreated. Fortunately there was a backup plan, Huntington Beach's Central park.

The park, at 350 acres, is a multiuse park that is the largest in Orange County. It is a heavily wooded park with trails lined by large eucalyptus trees as well as several small reedy ponds. It is located several miles from the coast and on this particular day was mostly shielded from the Santa Anna. Our birders, determined to turn inclement weather into an opportunity, ventured forth into the eucalyptus groves and associated thickets. Lead by some of our younger birders we were quickly viewing, with some effort, warblers and vireos. These included the Townsend, Wilson, Orange-crowned, Yellow-rumped, and Black-throated Gray Warblers, as well as the Hutton's and Warbling Vireos. Although some of us began to complain of warbler neck, we nonetheless continued on.

In the midst of this endeavor we were treated to an unexpected sight, a male Orange Bishop foraging near a small pond. His brilliant orange and black coloration was truly awesome. For many of us this was a life bird, though the Bishop, a native of southern Africa, long ago established a breeding population in the Los Angeles area. In addition, we saw a small flock of another introduced bird with a striking appearance, the Nutmeg Manikin. The Manikin has also established a breeding population in San Diego County. We did not observe a third introduced bird that was identified on last year's trip, the Pintail Whydah. However, by the end of the trip we had observed a total of 65 species. The complete list is available on the Palomar Audubon website.

This was another great trip led by Doug and Mickey. Their keen eye for birds as well as their leadership of trips and the club has been a great asset to Palomar Audubon. They will be moving to Arizona later this year and will be missed. Hopefully, we will continue to see them from time to time on birding trips.

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.

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

Saturday, November 2, 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: Penny Hernandez

760-746-8315

Saturday, November 9, 8:30 a.m.

Lake Hodges East/Bernardo Bay

Rancho Bernardo

(1150 - A6) Rating: 2

From I-15, exit west at Rancho Bernardo Rd. 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

Saturday, November 16, 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 Ave, go under the Highway 67 overpass staying on Woodside Avenue (into Lakeside) to the end of the road, 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 of the road -- to the parking area on the left.

Leader: Jeff Ebright 858-484-3932

SUNDAY, November 24, 8:30 a.m.

San Jacinto Wildlife Area Riverside County

(RC 749-B4) Rating: 2

NOTE: THIS 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-minute drive time.

Leader: Sally Sanderson

760-749-6995

Saturday, November 30, 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 St. in National City. Go west a short distance and turn left on Bay Blvd. 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 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 7, 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

and Julie Szabo (909) 239-4374.

Saturday, December 14, 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: Michael Beeve

209-247-5237

FIELD TRIPS, from Page 3

Saturday, December 21, 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 28

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 (760) 723-2448 or email gnatcatcher@sbcglobal.net.

Sign up now and join the fun!

Saturday, January 4, 8:30 a.m.

Dixon Lake Escondido

(1110-C3) Rating: 2

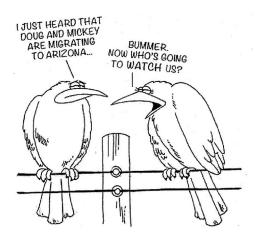
From I-15 in Escondido, exit at El Norte Parkway and drive east approximately 3 miles. Look for the" Daley Ranch/Dixon Lake" signs and turn left (north) on La Honda Drive. Drive up the hill to the free parking area on your left at the end of the road. Meet at the east end of the parking lot, near the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

Leader: Sally Sanderson

760-749-6995



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



Farewell Open House for Doug & Mickey Nail

It's sad but true. Our favorite friends and birding pals are packing up and moving to Green Valley, Arizona. Let' send them off with a grand **P.A.S. FAREWELL PARTY** following the Lake Hodges bird walk on November 9th!

The Particulars

Saturday, November 9th, about 11:30 am Sunny & Arne Christiansen's home in Rancho Bernardo 12480 Pomerado Place (Phone 858-487-0731) Refreshment will be served and everyone is welcome!

Directions

From the north: Take Interstate 15 to the POMERADO ROAD exit (just south of the Lake Hodges bridge.) Go about 2¼ miles on Pomerado Road, then turn RIGHT on Pomerado Place. 12480 is the third house on the right. From the south: Take Interstate 15 to the RANCHO BERNARDO ROAD exit. Go EAST for about a mile and turn LEFT on Pomerado Road. In about ½ mile turn LEFT on Pomerado Place. 12480 is the third house on the night

WE DID IT!

Overnor Jerry Brown just signed a historic bill that will save some of California's most majestic birds from senseless lead poisoning deaths. Assembly Bill 711 will require non-lead ammunition for all hunting in California beginning in 2019, removing the single greatest source of unregulated lead from our environment.

This was an incredibly difficult fight for Audubon California and its partners. You were there with us. Thank you.

Lead shot left behind on the ground, as well as fragments of lead bullets left behind in hunted carcasses, have been a constant obstacle to bird conservation in California for decades. You heard a lot about the California Condor during this campaign, as the research has shown definitively that this endangered species simply cannot recover with lead in the environment. But the condor is just part of the story. Iconic birds such as the Golden Eagle and Bald Eagle also suffer the threat of lead poisoning, along with more than 130 other wildlife species. Moreover, research also shows that people who eat meat hunted with lead ammunition have higher levels of lead in their blood.

Previous efforts to address this have been limited in scope, leaving behind loopholes that have put birds and people at risk of exposure to one of the deadliest toxins known to man. Assembly Bill 711 is the light at the end of the tunnel that will finally rid us of this threat.

There's more to do. Now that the bill has been signed, the State Fish and Game Commission has until 2019 to implement the law in its regulatory capacity. Audubon California will be there every step of the way to ensure that the new rules on lead are implemented quickly and properly.

Ridding our environment of lead ammunition is quite possibly one of the greatest conservation victories in the last 20 years. I hope you are as proud as I am to have been a part of it.

Sincerely,

Brigid McCormack Executive Director Audubon California

P.S. Victories like these are only possible with your ongoing support. Help us continue the fight for birds into the future.

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE

By Gary Grantham

The Eurasian Collared-Dove, *Streptopelia decaocto*, is an introduced species that is spreading rapidly in San Diego County and we are almost sure to get more in the future.

Where did this exotic visitor come from? The Eurasian Collared-Dove originated in India, Sri Lanka and Myanmar and then over several hundred years spread west to Turkey and the Balkans and eventually to Western Europe. Today it is common in small towns and agricultural areas of Europe. It was introduced in the Bahamas in the 1970's and it wasn't long until escapees reached the relatively close shore of Florida. As they say, the rest is history. In less than 20 years the Collared Dove spread across the entire width of North America. The ones we are seeing now in the San Diego area arrived from the east after colonizing in Imperial County.

To the casual observer, a Eurasian Collared-Dove might be mistaken for a Mourning Dove which is the common dove here in San Diego. But this spreading exotic is larger, heavier and paler in color and shows a squared-off tail with a broad white band while Mourning Doves have sharply pointed tails with narrow white borders. Also, it gets its name from the black collar around the back of its neck which is absent in the Mourning Dove.

The voice of this adaptable species is also a clue. It has a rhythmic, three-syllable hooting call that is slightly lower in pitch than the Mourning Dove's mournful cooing call. It also lacks the airy whistling sound the Mourning Dove's wings make on take off.

Another reason for the rapid spread of this stranger is its prolific nesting habits. A female lays two eggs, but can produce up to six broods a year and in moderate climates can nest almost year-round. Also, with its rapid increase in numbers there is concern about the collared-dove's impact on native species since they are a large and aggressive dove. However, a recent study at Tennessee Tech University found they were not any more aggressive or more successful competitors than Mourning Doves.

Although their numbers are sure to increase in the short term here in San Diego, experts are hoping that the population may eventually stabilize before we are up to our eyeballs in doves. Meanwhile keep an eye out for these hearty visitors in San Diego County and around your neighborhood. The Eurasian Collared-Dove, coming soon to a feeder near you.



Chapter-only Membership

hapter-only membership provides the option to choose Palomar Audubon as your Audubon chapter and have 100% of your dues support local projects and chapter activities. With a National Audubon membership, your chapter is assigned based on your zip code and only a portion of your dues goes to Palomar Audubon. Members of other Audubon Chapters may join Palomar Audubon Society as Chapter-only Members while maintaining membership in their current chapters.

Chapter-only Members may participate in all chapter activities and may serve on the Board of Directors and as officers in the chapter. They will receive our bi-monthly newsletter Band Tales. Chapter-only individual membership dues are \$20.00 a year and family memberships are \$25.00 a year. For additional information, please contact Kris Kloke at kristopher.kloke@gmail.com or 951-500-8960.

Application for Chapter-Only Membership		
Membership in the Palomar Audubon Society includes a subscription to Band Tales, the Palomar Audubon's bi-monthly newsletter, and an invitation to our monthly programs and weekly field trips.		
Make checks payable to Palomar Audubon Society. Send payment with this completed form to:		
Palomar Audubon Society P.O. Box 2483 Escondido, CA 92033		
Individual Membership - \$20 per year: □ New Member □ Renewal Family Membership - \$25 per year: □ New Member □ Renewal Additional Contribution to Palomar Audubon of \$		
Name		
Address		
CityStateZip		
Telephone		
Email		

FIELD TRIPS, from Page 6



Our National Forests and other public lands provide vital habitat for birds and other wildlife across the country, including the Great Gray Owl.

(Photo by Marcl Schauer / Shutterstock.com)

YOUR ACTIONS AT WORK

ore than 16,500 Audubon supporters like you responded to our urgent alert last month as the U.S. House of Representatives prepared to vote on one of the worst bills we've ever seen, the horribly misnamed "Restoring Healthy Forests for Healthy Communities Act" (HR 1526). Among other things, the bill mandates unsustainable logging in all National Forests. As expected, the bill passed through the House on a largely party-line vote of 244-173.

Although we can't win them all, it's critical that your members of Congress continue to hear from you to oppose harmful legislation. With such an outpouring of public opposition, we are hopeful that this bill won't see the light of day in the Senate.

More CBCs for You

Saturday, December 14 San Diego Sunday, December 15 Borrego Monday, December 16 Henshaw Saturday, December 21 Oceanside

Saturday, December 28 Escondido (see page 1)
Saturday, January 4 Rancho Santa Fe



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

B-2-B

(BIRDER TO BIRDER)

Joan Buddinghagen wishes to pass on some equipment she no longer needs to somebody who can use it:

Nikon Spotting Scope Fieldscope III 60 mm ED St with Nikon eyepiece 20-60/25/75x Zoom FS 60/82mm

includes tripod and Sibley Fieldguide (new) \$750.00 phone: 760-741-1826



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

Helga Rosser
Marj and Jim Freda
Donna and Al Przecha
Byron Swift and Valeria Merino
Barbara Dunn and David Mathis
Deanna Clatworthy
Roberta Maso and Pat Berena
Ann Hannon
Susan Hunter
The Huey Family
Ruth and Otto Talle

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.

Band Tales

November-December, 2013

The Band Takes 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.

Band Tales

Palomar Audubon Society P.O. Box 2483 Escondido, CA 92033-2483 NONPROFIT ORG. U.S.POSTAGE PAID SAN DIEGO, CA PERMIT NO. 1515



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Penny Hernandez	760-746-8315			
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Sunny Christiansen	858-487-0731			
Directors				
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Dianne Benham	858-679-7904			
Richard Fowler	619-252-3767			
Kris Kloke	951-500-8960			
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Carolyn Stables	858-705-6055			
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Hospitality Penny Hernandez				
Membership Kris Kloke	951-500-8960			
Programs Committee	xxx-xxx-xxxx			
PublicityOpen	xxx-xxx-xxxx			
ScholarshipJim Beckman				
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Webmaster: Jeff Ebright: 858-484-3932				
palomaraudubon@gmail.com				
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Board of Director's Meeting

Thursday, November 14th
Thursday, December 5th
7:00 p.m. at the Remington Club
16916 Hierba Drive
Rancho Bernardo

Note: All Palomar Audubon Society members are welcome at <u>all</u> Chapter Board meetings.

QUICK CALENDAR

		QUICK CALENDAK
November	2	Mission Bay Flood Control Channel & Famosa Slough Walk
November	9	Lake Hodges East/Bernardo Bay Walk
November	14	Board Meeting
November	16	Lindo Lake Walk
November	<u>24</u>	San Jacinto Wildlife Area Walk
November	30	South Bay Salt Works Walk
December	5	Board Meeting
December	7	Lake Elsinore Walk
December	14	San Elijo Lagoon Walk
December	21	Tijuana Estuary/7 th Street Walk
December	28	Escondido Christmas Bird Count
January	4	Dixon Lake Walk