



Band Tales

Palomar Audubon Society
A Chapter of the
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume XXIX
No. 2

July-August
2014

Editor
Arne Christiansen

FROM THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION WEBSITE

WELCOME POLLINATORS TO YOUR YARD

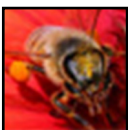
About 75% of flowering plants rely on pollinators like bees, butterflies and hummingbirds.

But sadly, **pollinators are on the decline** worldwide. Since **Pollinator Week was June 16-22**, 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 wildlife.

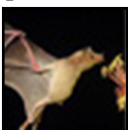
Help bees, butterflies and hummingbirds by certifying your yard, garden or balcony as an official National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitat® at:

<http://www.nwf.org/How-to-Help/Garden-for-Wildlife/Create-a-Habitat.aspx>

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



Honeybees pollinate about one-third of all crops in the United States. 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.



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.



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.



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.

FROM THE CALIFORNIA AUDUBON WEBSITE

TRICOLORED BLACKBIRD



Linda Pittman

The Tricolored Blackbird is North America's most colonial landbird. Found almost exclusively in California, its breeding colonies often teem with more than 50,000 birds, sometimes all settled into a single 10-acre field or wetland to raise their young. While similar to the more widespread Red-winged Blackbird, the Tricolored Blackbird is distinguished by its red shoulder patch with a bright white bar.

In the 19th Century, Tricolored Blackbird flocks were described as so numerous "as to darken the sky." Since then, the population has declined from several million to slightly less than 300,000 today. Over just the last 70 years, the Tricolored Blackbird population has decreased by more than 80%.

The reasons for this decline are many, but the loss of marsh and nearby foraging habitats along the coast and in the Central Valley is the main issue. In more recent years, the species has become dependent on agricultural

see BLACKBIRDS, Page 3

Inside this Band Tales

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A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Penny Hernandez

If you missed the May meeting maybe you don't know who is now President of Palomar Audubon Society. Jeff Ebright, who did a wonderful job as President, has stepped down and I, Penny Hernandez, have once again taken the job. For those who don't know, I was President for six years, 2003 thru 2009. I am happy about both decisions. I am proud of the changes Doug Nail and Jeff Ebright made while President. They both have increased our conservation projects and updated our communication skills; we now reach more people interested in birding and conservation. We now have email, Facebook, website, and of course our great newsletter.

Did you miss this year's picnic? Maybe you just didn't remember the 50's. Elvis (or his spirit) was among us. His songs, along with Lawrence Welk music, and even a bunch of nostalgic tunes such as "Itsy Bitsy Teenie Weenie Yellow Polka Dot Bikini" and "Charlie Brown" helped to make this a great period event. What more could you ask for? How about a photo contest with pictures of our guests in the 50's? The wedding picture of Ed and Ilene Littlefield was wonderful. Joan Perron was a stunning young woman and was as stunning at the picnic with her beautiful 50's outfit. Some of the men haven't changed at all, Paul Zeph was the first one I knew right away.

I thought Hal and Arne did a great job on the steaks. John Sanderson was a wonderful bartender, and Jeff and Tom were the best of Soda Jerks (soda jerks, mind you.) Love those root beer floats!

Know what I liked most about the picnic? Everyone joining in to make it a great picnic. We had people setting up and cleaning up. Sally, Jan, and Sophie handled the raffle with class, while Sharon and Bert had a great time taking on the photo contest.

Talking about joining together to be our best, that is my goal this year. I want more of you to say "yes" to helping to run your chapter. It really is fun. You could meet new people, do things you've not done before. Do you know what happens at the newsletter foldings? You make new friends. Sometimes you get lunch or great goodies, maybe a glass of wine. Maybe you know a great speaker or topic you would like to share. Have you taken a great birding trip lately? Bet we would like to hear about it, either as a program or a story in the newsletter. How about doing a bird count on an Indian reservation. Conservation projects can be fun and interesting and help our communities.

Come and join the other wonderful members that make up this great chapter.



Penny

CONSERVATION NOTES

Richard Fowler

A SHEARWATER JOURNEY

On a late September morning Ellen and I arrived at a Monterey wharf to join the group that had signed up for Shearwater Tours "Fall Seabird Classic". It was a sold out trip and we waited with some apprehension to board a small boat. We were signed in by none other than Debi Shearwater who was to lead the trip along with three spotters. She informed us that this was her 38th year leading pelagic bird trips, and even with that experience, she couldn't predict what we would see on a particular day. With that thought in mind we were off to see what we would see.



Monterey Bay is part of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary that stretches 276 miles from the San Francisco Bay area to Cambria. The Sanctuary contains diverse habitats that are home to many marine mammals, birds, and fish. Of interest to our trip was the report that Monterey Bay had seen an unusual influx of anchovies that was attracting humpback whales as well as seabirds. According to a seasoned boat captain, "We haven't had conditions like this for forty years. There is a feeding frenzy out there".

After we pulled away from shore and entered open water, we were greeted by four-six foot swells. Our boat responded accordingly. This did not provide a good platform from viewing bird life through our binoculars, though most of us gave it a good try as birds were abundant. Finally, I relaxed, put my binoculars down, leaned against the cabin wall, and watched the birds go by. The first birds to attract interest were skimming over the water, gliding, and then going into a turn, showing their ventral side. Most had white bellies, but some had brown bellies. My initial oversimplification was that the white bellies were Pink-footed Shearwaters and the brown bellies were the Sooty Shearwaters. I had to adjust that classification when a shearwater appeared that was really white underneath with no apparent mottling, though a dark tail. It was a New Zealand visitor, the Buller's Shearwater. A super bonus occurred when one of the spotters cried "Manx". There was general excitement as the boat pulled around to give us all a view of the North Atlantic Manx Shearwater. Debi reported she has seen as many as seven shearwater species on a single trip, but for me seeing four species was really exciting. During our seven hour trip we saw plentiful birdlife. The Common Murres was seen in large numbers as was the Rhinoceros Auklet and Western Gulls. Several Tufted Puffins were unexpected visitors. A South Polar Skua and a Pomarine

Jaeger made brief passing visits, and several Black-footed Albatrosses were seen, including one that floated just a few feet away from our boat, giving us a great view. Near the end of the trip we were treated to a true feeding frenzy. Several Humpback Whales were moving through the water followed by a huge number (200-300?) of fast moving sea lions, a large number of seagulls hovered overhead. According to Debi, she had never seen anything quite like it.

In spite of the no-frill boat accommodations, the trip provided us with a memorable nature experience. For anyone interested in a pelagic trip Shearwater Tours (shearwaterjourneys.com) offers additional trips out of Half Moon Bay, Sausalito, and Bodega Bay. The different locations offer somewhat different profiles as to the birds you might see. There are also other tour operators offering pelagic trips in the Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary.



BLACKBIRDS from Page 1

lands, with most of the largest colonies nesting in grain fields. A real dilemma develops because Tricolored young typically have not yet left the nest before the time farmers harvest their crop, and harvesting destroys Tricolored Blackbird nests and young. In some cases as many as 20,000 nests have been lost in a single field.

Collaborative Conservation

Audubon California is working closely with landowners and its partners in the Tricolored Blackbird Working Group to protect this species across California. The Tricolored Blackbird Working Group is a collaborative alliance of farmers, agricultural associations, governmental agencies, and environmental organizations that have all recognized the importance of a multi-faceted and cooperative approach to promote the long-term persistence of the Tricolored Blackbird. The Working Group strives to reverse the population decline of this species, and increase the population to more than 750,000 over the next 20 years.

The efforts of the Working Group are guided by the Tricolored Blackbird Conservation Plan that lays out a strategy to boost populations through long-term conservation planning and short-term action-oriented intervention. Specifically, the Plan commits stakeholders to implement: (1) habitat conservation projects to benefit the species; (2) a research program to more thoroughly understand the species' life history; (3) a monitoring program to effectively document population trends and distribution; and (4) an outreach and education program to enhance public and private landowner awareness, and to build public support for conservation.

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

**Dominic Alleva
Barbara Anderson
Jim Beckman
Jan Behrhorst
Vivian Geaslin
Char Glacey
Alice Holmes
Kris and Rachael Kloke
Roger and Mary Marquis
Barbara Raab
John and Sally Sanderson**

WE VERY MUCH APPRECIATE THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THESE DONORS

**Michael Cassidy
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Jan Behrhorst
Jim Beckman
Audrey Grigsby
Pfizer Matching funds on behalf of Dawn Nowlin
Richard Fowler
Penny Hernandez
Kristopher Kloke
Charlotte Estrada
Sunny Christiansen
Dave Cowan
Gray Church
Hal and Dianne Benham
Dennis Schepman**



LAKE HODGES BIOBLITZ RECORDS SPECIES COUNT FOR FUTURE

On April 25th a team of more than 200 conservationists and students under the auspices of San Diego Zoo Global surveyed the north shore of Lake Hodges to create the first comprehensive survey of biodiversity in the area. The results of the study dubbed BioBlitz, which occurred less than a month before a wildfire swept through the region, documented the presence of more than 800 species of plants and animals in the more than 350-acre park.

"This is the first time the biodiversity of this area has been systematically recorded," said James Danoff-Burg, director of conservation education for the San Diego Zoo's Institute for Conservation Research. "We knew that the region had been severely affected in the past by wildfires, and now we have a baseline to review the changes that have occurred since this most recent wildfire event."

Although only minimally impacted by the Cocos fire that burned in the area for four days beginning on May 14, 2014, the information collected by the survey is expected to give conservationists information about how regional changes like wildfire and drought can affect the plant and animal population in a region.

"Understanding and protecting our glorious open space is vital, not only because we are wards of this internationally important hotspot but also because we live here," said David A. O'Connor, M.Sc., consultant with the conservation education division of the San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research. "We are lucky to have this magnificence on our doorstep, which we can step into and explore and stroll or bike through."

Lake Hodges is a reservoir that was created by the City of San Diego by damming the San Dieguito River and is now part of the 92,000-acre San Dieguito River Park. Occurring on April 24th and 25th, the bio survey was undertaken over 24 consecutive hours by participants from the City of San Diego Water Department, San Dieguito River Park, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural History Museum, UC San Diego, UC Riverside, San Diego Tracking Team, Palomar Audubon, International Barcode of Life, North American Field Herping Association, San Diego Mycological Society, High Tech High North County, High Tech Elementary North County, Explorer Elementary, San Diego Zoo Safari Park's Conservation Corps, McCloud Media, Stephanie Nowinski Illustrations, San Diego Zoo Global volunteers, and community members.

CREATE A BIRD-FRIENDLY HABITAT

There are a number of ways to attract birds to your garden, from planting native plants to providing safe stopover areas for them to eat, drink and nest.

- **Provide water year-round** - A simple birdbath is a great start. Change water every 2-3 days in summer and use a heater in the winter. Place the water container about 10 feet from dense shrubs or other cover that predators may use.
- **Install native plants** - Select a variety of native plants to offer year-round food in the form of seeds, berries, nuts, and nectar. Try to recreate the plant ecosystem native to your area. Evergreen trees and shrubs provide excellent cover through all seasons, if they are part of your local ecosystem. The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center has lists of recommended native plants by region and state.
- **Eliminate insecticides in your yard** - Insects are the primary source of food for many bird species and are an important source of protein and fats for growing juvenile birds.
- **Keep dead trees** - Dead trees provide cavity-dwelling places for birds to raise young and as a source to collect insects for food. Many species will also seek shelter from bad weather inside these hollowed out trees.
- **Put out nesting boxes** - Make sure the boxes have ventilation holes at the top and drainage holes below. Do not use a box with a perch, as house sparrows are known to sit on a nesting box perch and peck at other birds using the nesting box. Be sure to monitor the boxes for invasive animal species known to harm or outcompete native species.
- **Build a brush pile in a corner of your yard** - Start with larger logs and top with smaller branches. Some birds will hunt, roost or even nest in brush piles.
- **Offer food in feeders** - Bird feeders are great sources of supplemental food during times of food scarcity, and also enhance bird viewing opportunities.
- **Remove invasive plants from your wildlife habitat** - Many invasive plants outcompete the native species favored by birds, insects and other wildlife. Check with your local U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperative Extension System office for information on plant species to avoid. Find your local Cooperative Extension System office.
- **Reduce your lawn area** - Lawns have little value to birds or other wildlife, and they require more energy for mowing, applying fertilizers and watering.

Chapter-only Membership

Chapter-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 _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

100% of Chapter-only Membership dues support local projects and Chapter activities.

Gift Membership from: _____

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.

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Saturday, July 5, 8:00 a.m.

Lake Murray

La Mesa

(1250 E6) 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 12, 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 19, 8:00 a.m.

Tecolote Canyon Park (New location!)

San Diego

(1268 F2) Rating: 2

Depending on your starting location, travel to the I-5 Freeway. From the I-5 in San Diego, exit east at the Seaworld Drive/Tecolote Road off-ramp – away from Mission Bay. Continue on Tecolote Road to the end and park at the visitor's center. This is a great spot for finding both resident and migrating birds. Rarities often show up here.

Leader: Jack Friery

619-218-7342

Saturday, July 26, 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: Doug Walkley

310-387-8190

Saturday, August 2, 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 and 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 9, 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: Michael Beeve

209-247-5237

Saturday, August 16, 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: Tom Trowbridge

760-522-8519

Saturday, August 23, 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 30, 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 $\frac{3}{4}$ 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: Jim Beckman

858-205-2819

Saturday, September 6, 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 Ebright

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!

PAS 2014 PICNIC RECAP

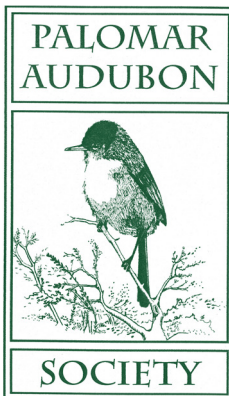
The 2014 PAS Picnic at the private picnic area in the Lawrence Welk Village was really fun. Fifty participants enjoyed filet mignon steaks, chicken, an assortment of salads and the famous Benham baked beans. Everybody enjoyed identifying their fellow PAS members from pictures taken in the 1950s – so glad none of us have changed much! In addition to being a fun event, it was a successful fund raiser. Our chapter made \$450.00 which will be used to fund other activities. If anybody took pictures please submit them to arnec@juno.com for inclusion in the next issue of Band Tales. Thanks to Deanne Clatworthy for making all the arrangements for the picnic area.



Band Tales

July-August, 2014

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>

Webmaster: Jeff Ebright: 858-484-3932
palomaraudubon@gmail.com

Board of Director's Meeting

Thursday, July 10th

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>5</i>	Lake Murray Walk
<i>July</i>	<i>10</i>	Board of Directors' Meeting
<i>July</i>	<i>12</i>	Tijuana Estuary & 7 th Street Walk
<i>July</i>	<i>19</i>	Tecolote Canyon Park Walk
<i>July</i>	<i>26</i>	Guajome Regional Park Walk
<i>August</i>	<i>2</i>	Robb Field/San Diego River Floodway Walk
<i>August</i>	<i>9</i>	San Elijo Lagoon Walk
<i>August</i>	<i>16</i>	Santee Lakes Walk
<i>August</i>	<i>23</i>	Dairy Mart Pond/Tijuana River Valley Walk
<i>August</i>	<i>30</i>	Kit Carson Park Walk
<i>September</i>	<i>6</i>	Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve