



Band Tales

Palomar Audubon Society
A Chapter of the
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

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September-October
2014

Editor
Arne Christiansen

ESA PROTECTIONS SHOULD BE UPHELD FOR CA GNATCATCHER

Audubon California is opposing the latest attempt by Southern California developers to remove the California Gnatcatcher from protection under the Endangered Species Act. The delisting petition relies on a new study claiming the California Gnatcatcher is not a genetically unique subspecies, but a number of avian experts contend that this study is based on inadequate data and that the petition should be rejected by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. We are keeping a close eye on the developing situation.



(PAS logo: California Gnatcatcher by Charlotte Farrell)

WESTERN SCRUB-JAY, NOW 3X MORE AWESOME?

J.B.S. Haldane was a famous Scottish turned naturalized Indian biologist and mathematician who loved going barefoot and studying genetics, particularly evolution in animals. What does this Mr. Haldane have to do with the colorful Western Scrub-Jay? Researchers discovered that there are three distinct sub-species of Western Scrub-Jay. They used the Haldane rule which states that, if species hybrids of one sex only are inviable or sterile, the afflicted sex is much more likely to be heterogametic (XY) than homogametic (XX). In plain terms this refers to dominance in genes. A team led by Occidental's John E. McCormack discovered the following populations have unique genetics: *A. californica* (Pacific Slope); *A. woodhouseii* (Interior US plus Edwards Plateau plus Northern Mexico); *A. sumichrasti* (Southern Mexico).

What, if any, impact this discovery has on conservation remains to be seen.



(Photo by Maggie Smith)

IN MEMORIUM PAUL BERGFORD

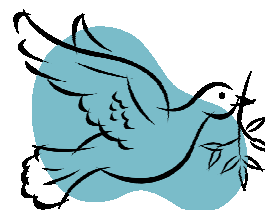
03/07/1926-08/13/2014

Third President of the Chapter
1997-1999

Paul Bergford became a member of Audubon in 1990 after having attended one of Jane McNeil's bird watching classes in the College of Extended Studies of San Diego State University. He began participating in Palomar Audubon Society chapter events that year and was persuaded to serve on the Board of Directors as Treasurer, continuing in that capacity for five years until July 1996, when he became Vice President. He was chosen President in May 1997 for two years. After that he continued to serve on the Board of Directors as Past President for four more years until 2003. Paul will be missed so much by all of us who had the pleasure of knowing him.



(Paul, Wayne Pray, Ilene Littlefield and Penny Hernandez
At Asilomar)



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A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Penny Hernandez, President

Welcome to the new season of PAS. Palomar Audubon Society has been on summer recess. Come see the exciting new programs we will have for you.

Actually we have been busy with our field trips this summer. Hopefully you have joined us on the walks and added to your life lists. Let Jim Beckman know if there are places you think we should try and I bet he would love to hear what you think of the places we have been.



The Board had a meeting in July. We wanted to have a head start on the new year and meet new board members. Once again I ask you all to send us your ideas.

Kris Kloke, who has been doing a nice job as membership chair, announced that he has accepted a new job in Oregon and has resigned. Jeff Ebright agreed to handle our membership requirements on a temporary basis. Please contact me or Jeff if you have some time to become more involved in Palomar Audubon. Also, we need someone to coordinate the volunteers who bring and setup the refreshments for our monthly meetings.

Remember we have only two meetings the rest of the 2014, but plenty of field trips. We take November and December off because our meetings fall on the holidays. Don't forget to check our website, Facebook, and of course the newsletter for all the PAS news.

Some sad news for you who knew Paul Bergford, the PAS President from 1997-1999. He passed away 8/13/14. We will miss him and send our sympathy to his daughter Kristin.

See you soon,

Penny

CONSERVATION NOTES

Richard Fowler, Conservation Chair

EXTINCTION CAUSED BY MAN

Elizabeth Kolbert (author of THE SIXTH EXTINCTION) postulates, along with others*, that we are entering a period of mass extinction for our fauna (the sixth extinction). The five prior mass extinctions occurred in prehistory, the last (famous for the extinction of the dinosaurs) occurred more than 60 million years ago. The current period, which may date

back 500 years, has the distinction of being the only period to occur during the existence of Homo sapiens.

Whether or not the current period will be a major mass extinction, the relationship between Man and the extinction of specific species appear very close, and obvious in some cases. In the latter category is the Passenger Pigeon which was reputed to once be the most commonly occurring bird in North America before hunting rendered it extinct in the early 20th century. The Great Auk suffered the same fate in the early 1800's. The Great Auk was a large flightless bird that in its heyday ranged over Scandinavia and beyond.



Unfortunately, the bird was easy to catch and apparently tasty. With the coming of human settlers its range was reduced to a few rocky outcroppings in the North Atlantic. When mariners located these sites, the Auk was a goner. The last one was shot near Iceland in 1821.

The lack of a written record makes man's relationship to other extinctions less clear, however, human settlement timelines and the lack of other plausible explanations make humans suspect. The Moa of New Zealand (more large flightless birds) were known to have been hunted by New Zealand's native people (the Maori), and were probably extinct by the time Europeans arrived.

Today, large animals, or mega-fauna, are threatened on many fronts by human activity. Elephants and rhinos are hunted for their tusks and horns as well as suffer habitat loss. Large cats, apes, and bears are also losing habitat in many parts of the world and continue to be preyed upon by humans. Protective breeding programs and large reserves may be slowing the loss of some, but survival in the wild remains uncertain for others.

In addition to these negative direct interactions between humans and animal species, there is the role of human activity in climate change. This is a very serious worldwide threat that the Audubon Society and other groups are actively studying. Hopefully, we will be able to mitigate the effects of climate change and protect vulnerable species over time. In doing this we should not lose sight of other extinction threats. These include the continued exploitation and destruction of mega-fauna, the loss of natural habitats, and the introduction of alien species that threaten native plants and animals. Palomar Audubon has a distinguished history in fighting for habitat preservation in San Diego County. These include the Society's role in land purchases that are now part of the San Dieguito River Park. Our Board of Directors remains committed to continuing this fight. We also welcome input from our membership as to where else we can direct our conservation efforts.

*Dirzo, Rudolfo, et al. "Defaunation in the Anthropocene" Science: vol. 345, 401-406 (2014)

Richard

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.

Thursday, September 25

Neil Solomon

"Birds of Barrow, Alaska"

Barrow is as far north as you can get in the US. And, if you didn't know that, the signage throughout the town will constantly remind you. Barrow is a different place. It's "the top of the world" (or so the signs say). Be that as it may, in June, as the winter ice melts and eighty some odd days of continuous sunlight begins, breeding birds arrive in large numbers to mate and nest in the tundra. Many of these birds can only be seen here, as they spend the rest of the year at sea. Others, can be seen further south but only at this time can they be seen in breeding plumage. Join us for a glimpse of life in the land of the midnight sun.

Neil Solomon has been photographing birds for the last fourteen years or so. He is a long time resident of San Diego and member of the Photonnaturalist Camera Club. Neil enjoys photographing birds where ever he can find them but particularly enjoys traveling to out-of-the-way places. Alaska is a favorite place and Barrow was Neil's eighth Alaskan photo trip.

Thursday, October 23

Ryan Andrews

"Birds of Southeast Arizona"

Ryan is a 14-year old teenager who is a co-recipient of Palomar Audubon Society's 2014 Young Birder Scholarship Award. He became really interested in birds at age six when his family put out a bird feeder and he started keeping track of his sightings and he reported his results to the Missouri Department of Conservation. One of his favorite observations was seeing the Eurasian Tree Sparrow, which in North America, is found only in Missouri. This past summer, Ryan spent a week visiting our PAS friends, Doug and Mickey Nail, at their home in Southeast Arizona. Ryan will share with us his photos and discuss his birding adventures in locating some of the birds found there.



FROM THE CALIFORNIA AUDUBON WEBSITE

WHY THE BALD EAGLE IS THE MOST HARDCORE BIRD IN THE HISTORY OF HARDCORE BIRDS IN 15 FACTS

July 3rd, 2014 · by Daniela Ogden



1. During mating season, Bald Eagle pairs join talons and cartwheel to the ground.
2. When Eagles lose a feather on one wing, they lose a feather on the other to balance themselves.
3. They can fly up to 40 miles per hour.
4. As eaglets, Bald Eagles play tug-a-war with their nest-mates. (Also they are called eaglets, which is awesome in of itself)
5. Male Bald Eagles "gift" their female mate shrubbery when the female is incubating.
6. Non-captive Bald Eagles may live as long as 40 years old.
7. They are late bloomers; most juveniles are watched over by their parents until they are 4-6 months old.
8. It is a sea eagle, possibly one of the oldest genera of living birds, and definitely not a chicken of the sea.
9. The bald eagle is not only the national bird; it is also our national animal. Take that mammals, amphibians, invertebrates, fish, and reptiles!
10. They can attack prey that weigh more than them.
11. They can swim.
12. They lay eggs around Valentine's Day. So romantic!
13. Eagle parents use a different way of walking when they have young in their nest. They curl their talons inward so as to not accidentally impale a chick.
14. Eaglets have the fastest growth-rate of any North American bird.
15. Try and find a federal government emblem without the bird.

There you have it! USA! USA! USA!

Photo by Randy Finley.

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, 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 Ebricht

858-484-3932

Saturday, September 13, 8:00 a.m.

Batiquitos Lagoon

Carlsbad

(1127-A7) Rating: 1-2

From I-5 in Carlsbad, exit east on Poinsettia Lane. Turn right on Batiquitos Drive, drive about ½ mile to Gabbiano Lane, turn right and continue to the end. We will look for ducks, waterfowl, and riparian birds.

Leader: Michael Beeve

290-247-5237

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

Kumeyaay Lake

Mission Trails Regional Park,

Santee

(1230-G6) Rating: 2

From North County, take I-15 south to CA-52 east. Take exit 13 (Mast Boulevard) and turn left onto Mast. Take the first right onto West Hills Parkway. Take another right onto Mission Gorge Road and then make a very slight right onto Father Junipero Serra Trail. At the 4-way stop-sign, make a right onto Bushy Hill Drive and turn right just past the campground entry kiosk into the free Day Use parking area. Expect warm weather.

Leader: Jim Beckman

858-205-2819

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

Whelan Lake Bird Sanctuary

Oceanside

<http://www.bvaudubon.org/whelan.htm>

(1066-F7) Rating: 2

From I-15 take Highway 78 west and exit north on El Camino Real and continue to Douglas Drive. Or from I-5 north, exit east on Highway 76 and continue to Douglas

Drive. Take Douglas Drive north approximately 1 mile and turn left on North River Road. Continue west to the entrance gate at the end. **NOTE: Arrive no later than 7:45 a.m. Park and we will wait for the caretaker to open the locked gate. We will then enter the Bird Sanctuary as a group. If the gate is already open when you arrive, continue west on the dirt road to the caretaker's house and parking lot. Disregard the "No Trespassing" Signs.**

Leader: Doug Walkley

310-387-8190

Saturday, October 4, 8 a.m.

Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve & Huntington Central Park

Huntington Beach, Orange County

(O.C. 857-C3) Rating: 1-2

Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve is the largest coastal salt marsh preserve in the Los Angeles/Orange County metropolitan region. Its 300 acres are a vital oasis for resident shorebirds and millions of migrating birds traveling between the Arctic and South America along the Pacific Flyway. At Huntington Central Park we will see locals and possibly vagrant migrants. **We will bird at the Reserve first and then drive to Huntington Central Park.**

Directions: Take I-5 north past San Juan Capistrano. Continue on I-5 to I-405. Take I-405 north (towards Long Beach). Exit on Warner Avenue West. Continue west approximately 6 miles to Pacific Coast Highway. Turn left (south) and drive about 1 mile (making a U-turn) to the Reserve parking lot on the left. It's about 70 miles from Oceanside and should take about 75 minutes. Meet at the boardwalk entrance. **Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy at the Park picnic tables.**

Leader: Jim Beckman

858-205-2819

Saturday, October 11, 8:00 a.m.

Lake Hodges

Del Dios

(1149-E2) Rating: 2

From I-15 in Escondido exit at Via Rancho Parkway and drive west to Lake Drive. Turn left and drive about ½ mile. Meet at Del Dios Park across the street from the Country Store. We should see waterfowl, shorebirds and a whole host of local residents.

Leader: Hal Benham

858-679-7904

Saturday, October 18, 8:00 a.m.

La Jolla Coastline

La Jolla

(1227-E6) Rating: 1

From Hwy 52 driving west exit at La Jolla Boulevard West (formerly Ardath Road). Continue on this road, which will merge with Torrey Pines Road for about ¾ mile, then turn right on Prospect. Continue on Prospect to Coast Boulevard. Meet in front of the Bridge Club and restrooms. Parking is all along Coast Boulevard and

adjacent residential streets. Arrive extra early for the best parking spots. We will be looking for shorebirds, gulls, and seabirds.

Leader: Jack Friery
619-218-7342

Saturday, October 25, 8:30 a.m. (NOTE: New Fall/
Winter Start Time)

Daley Ranch

Escondido

(1110-C3) Rating: 2-3

From I-15 in Escondido exit at El Norte Parkway and drive east approximately 3 miles. Look for the "Daley Ranch" sign and turn left (north) on La Honda Drive. Continue toward Dixon Lake and on to the Daley Ranch free parking area on your left. Meet at the trailhead kiosk.

Leader: Sally Sanderson
760-749-6995

Saturday, November 1, 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 drive to Famosa Slough.

Leader: Jeff Ebright
858-484-3932



THE 114TH CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Results of the 114th Christmas Bird Count are almost complete online. To get the full count summary, regional summaries, articles from participants, and more delivered right to your inbox, sign up for *American Birds* online at www.audubon.org/citizenscience.

Audubon has moved the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) results to a digital platform by producing a FREE quarterly citizen science e-newsletter, *American Birds*. The newsletter contains news from all our citizen science programs, such as Great Backyard Bird Count and Hummingbirds at Home. It also includes the types of CBC information and summaries previously distributed in a print edition of *American Birds*.



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

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 bimonthly newsletter, and an invitation to our monthly programs and weekly field trips.

- ☐ **New Member - \$20** ☐ **Renewal - \$20**
☐ **New Family Member - \$25** ☐ **Renewal - \$25**

(payable to Palomar Audubon Society)

☐ **Contribution** _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **ZIP** _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

***100% of Chapter Membership dues supports
projects locally.***

Hey, All You Birders!

If you have Internet access and haven't yet visited the PAS website, www.palomaraudubon.org, you are missing out on some FREE, WHOLESOME FUN! (Cain't hardly git none o' that online NOHOW nomore!!)

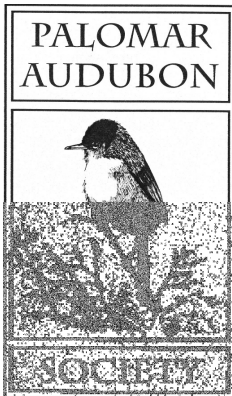
For example, if you are now reading a hard copy of this issue of **Band Tales** you probably think all those grey boxes are boring. WELL, visit us online and you just might be pleasantly surprised! I kid you not, "it's a beautiful thang when it's in COLOR!"

Signed, yer friendly editor

Band Tales

September-October, 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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Board of Director's Meeting

Thursday, September 4th

Thursday, October 2nd

7:00 p.m. at the Remington Club

16916 Hierba Drive
 Rancho Bernardo

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

QUICK CALENDAR

September 4	Board Meeting
September 6	Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Walk
September 13	Bataquitos Lagoon Walk
September 20	Kumeyaay Lake Walk
September 25	General Meeting: - "Birds of Barrow, Alaska"
September 27	Whelan Lake Bird Sanctuary Walk
October 2	Board Meeting
October 4	Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve & Huntington Central Park Walk
October 11	Lake Hodges Walk
October 18	La Jolla Coastline Walk
October 23	General Meeting - "Birds of Southeast Arizona"
October 25	Daley Ranch Walk (Note Fall/Winter Start Time)
November 1	Mission Bay Flood Control Channel & Famosa Slough Walk