



# Band Tales

Palomar Audubon Society  
A Chapter of the  
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume XXIX  
No. 4

November-December  
2014

Editor  
Arne Christiansen

## THE NAMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'

In July the American Ornithologist Union came out with the latest checklist. Among the changes, there are two that affect Southern California birders:

1. Scaly-breasted Munia is the new correct name for the Nutmeg Mannikin. That's the name used for that bird worldwide, not Mannikin or Spice Finch which are nicknames used by the pet cage bird industry. The Munia is now accepted as a countable bird in the U.S. and that bird is the most requested bird wanted to be found in SoCal by out-of-state birders from the east. Most visiting birders have already seen our west coast specialties (Wrentit, Acorn Woodpecker, California Gnatcatcher, etc.) but we now have a new countable bird species that is not found in most parts of the U.S. There are lots of them at Kit Carson Park!



2. The Clapper Rail has been split into three species. The bird that we have here in California (and Arizona & Nevada) is now called Ridgway's Rail. The rail in the Southeast U.S. will keep the Clapper Rail name, and the rail found in South America is now called the Mangrove Rail.



## PALOMAR AUDUBON SOCIETY HATS FOR SALE

A new shipment of our official ball caps has just arrived! Just in time to show your support for our local Audubon chapter. They sport our very own PAS green & white California Gnatcatcher logo, are beige in color, and one size fits all. The cost is \$20 (tax included) and will be available for purchase on our weekly field trips and at our monthly general membership meetings. This is a fund raiser for Palomar Audubon Society. Contact Jim Beckman (858-205-2819) for more information.

## HAVE YOU BEEN WAITING TO TRIM YOUR TREES?

*(from Wild Birds Unlimited)*

Breeding season is over, which makes fall the perfect time to prune trees and shrubs. If you haven't started, you better hurry, because it's a good idea to get it done before the Santa Ana winds begin to blow. It's the best time to prune summer-blooming shrubs and trim the

see **PRUNING**, Page 4

## ESCONDIDO CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2014

Each year between December 14<sup>th</sup> and January 5<sup>th</sup>, thousands of California birders and nature enthusiasts participate in one or more of the 100+ Christmas Bird Counts held in California. This year will mark the 115<sup>th</sup> year for this event.

This holiday season please 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 geographical area.

Palomar Audubon Society would like to extend an invitation to all birders to participate in the annual Escondido Christmas Bird Count on Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>. 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 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 contact Jim Beckman on an upcoming Saturday field trip. Jim can also be reached at (858) 205-2819. For additional information and/or team assignments contact the Escondido CBC senior compiler, Ken Weaver by phone at 760-723-2448 or by email at [gnatcatcher@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gnatcatcher@sbcglobal.net).

This year Palomar Audubon Society is making a concerted effort to have more of it's members participate in this important event. Sign up now and join the fun!



## Inside this Band Tales

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

## A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

*Penny Hernandez, President*

I am having a hard time finding something of interest to you to write about. I thought I could write about what a great meeting we had in September, featuring Neil Solomon, "Birds of Barrow, Alaska". It was a great meeting, but I was disappointed by how few people attended. Was it the subject, the day of the week, the time, what? Please let us know. In October Ryan Andrews presented "Birds of Southeast Arizona". No general meetings occur during the holidays, November and December, but please attend in the new year and give us another chance to interest you in our meetings.



In a different vein, I would like to thank Alice Holmes for taking on the job of Membership Chair; please find her phone number on the back of the newsletter if you have any membership questions. Jan Behrhorst has kindly taken on the job of leading the newsletter folding group. Please see her if you would like to help. One more thank you goes out to Joan Perron who is taking over the hospitality spot. She will need help providing the goodies at our meetings. Please sign up.

I could write about climate change and how it will effect birds in California, namely the grebes, brown pelicans, burrowing owls, etc.. I really should leave this topic to our Conservation Chairman to explain. Richard Fowler has been a busy man. Besides meeting with his committee to decide on which projects our chapter may be interested in pursuing, he also attended a SoCal Council quarterly meeting in Long Beach. It is there that he and I learned about Audubon Climate Science. It is a very important subject. If you would like to view a presentation by the Audubon's Chief Scientist, Gary Langham, go here: <https://audubon.webex.com/audubon/ldr.php?RCID=dc28075464a8a91f4b5b0ed1ab4236a4>.

I leave you now with a promise that I will read other Presidents' letters to see what great things they have written in hopes that my next letter will be an more informative.

*Penny*



**REMINDER:  
DEADLINE FOR THE  
JANUARY-FEBRUARY ISSUE IS  
NOVEMBER 15<sup>th</sup>.  
SUBMIT COPY TO  
[arnec@juno.com](mailto:arnec@juno.com)**

## CONSERVATION NOTES

*Richard Fowler, Conservation Chair*

### BIRDS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

On September 9<sup>th</sup> the Audubon Society released its study projecting the fate of 588 species of North American birds over the coming decades. Of these, 126 species are at risk of severe decline of habitat by 2050 (endangered) and another 188 species will suffer a similar decline of habitat by 2080 (threatened) if global climate change continues on its current trajectory. Numerous extinctions are possible during this time frame. The species data is based on Christmas and breeding counts as well as the habitats needed for the individual specie. Pelagic and Hawaiian birds were not included in the seven-year study because of insufficient data.



Of the 314 species that are at risk, 170 are resident or migrant species regularly seen in California. They include many shore birds such as the Clark, Western, Eared, and Horned Grebe as well as the American White Pelican, Brown Pelican, and Western Gull. The Golden and Bald Eagle are both endangered as is the Allen Hummingbird, Hutton's Vireo, and Burrowing Owl. The complete list of the 170 species can be reviewed on the Audubon California website.

The big question is: What can be done about this? On a personal level we can make our backyards and patios more supportive of birds. My arid rural property has no surface water so I provided a large bird bath this summer. It has been a very popular place for a variety of birds and has given me the pleasure of seeing them up close. The Oak Titmouse, Lesser Goldfinch, Acorn Woodpecker, Wrenit and Black-headed Grosbeak have all been regular visitors.

On the national stage we need to combat climate change due to carbon pollution. This includes fighting for clean energy production by wind, solar, hydro, and geothermal. There may also be opportunities to further reduce carbon dioxide emissions by more efficient power plants or sequestration of carbon dioxide. Personally, I believe we also need to support natural gas as a bridge to cleaner energy sources, though this is opposed by some environmental groups. To reach the goal of cleaner energy we need to press our representatives on a local, state, and federal level on the need for change. It helps if they know you are one of their constituents rather than a representative of Audubon.

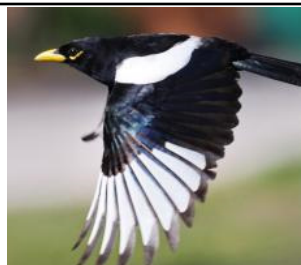
Another critical step is the protection of core habitats for specific species. In arid Southern California this means protecting coastal habitats as well as riparian habitats, whether it is our few running streams, inland ponds, or the Salton Sea. This is not to ignore species, such as the California Gnatcatcher, that has lost habitat because of development. Although it did not make the list, it remains threatened.



The Palomar Audubon Club's conservation committee is actively seeking opportunities to protect key riparian habitats. We are working with partners to identify threatened habitats that we can mitigate. One such site is Escondido Creek which flows south from Lake Wolford through a cement channel in Escondido all the way to the San Elijo Lagoon. There is increasing interest in restructuring the channel through Escondido and beyond to a more natural riparian channel (without the cement and alien plants). Our committee will be supporting this goal

(For more information go to <http://climate.audubon.org/>)

## **MORE BIRDS THREATENED BY CLIMATE CHANGE:**



*Yellow-billed Magpie*



*Rufous Hummingbird*



*Spotted Owl*



*White-throated Sparrow*



*Allen's Hummingbird*



*Baird's Sparrow*



*Bald Eagle*



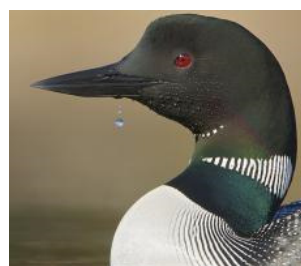
*Brown Paukican*



*Burrowing Owl*



*Cerulean Warbler*



*Common Loon*



*Eastern Whip-poor-will*



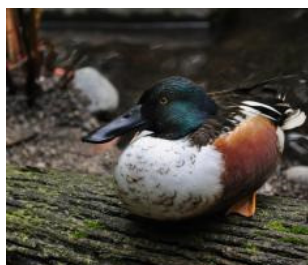
*Golden Eagle*



*Greater Sage-Grouse*



*Hooded Oriole*



*Northern Shoveler*



*Osprey*



*Piping Plover*



*Ruffed Grouse*

## FIELD TRIPS

*Jim Beckman*

Whether a seasoned birder or a beginner, you are welcome to join us. For more information call the trip leader shown below. Heavy rain cancels trips. Locations in Thomas Guide Coordinates are shown in parenthesis as (Page-Column Row). Ratings: 1=easy, suitable for all levels, 2=moderate, a bit more walking and possibly some hilly terrain, 3=challenging, longer hikes and may involve some steep terrain.

Saturday, November 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 we will drive to Famosa Slough.

Leader: Jeff Ebright

858-484-3932

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

### **Lake Hodges East/Bernardo Bay**

Rancho Bernardo

**(1150 – A6) Rating: 2**

From I-15, exit west at Rancho Bernardo Road and turn right onto West Bernardo Drive going north. Proceed to the street marked Rancho Bernardo Recreation Center (stoplight) and turn left. Drive west to the parking areas by the Ed Brown Senior Center (18402 West Bernardo Drive).

Leader: Tom Trowbridge

760-743-1052

Saturday, November 15, 8:30 a.m.

### **Lindo Lake**

Lakeside

**(1232-B3) Rating: 2**

From North County, take I-15 south to Highway 52, east to Mission Gorge Road. Continue east to Woodside Avenue, go under the Highway 67 overpass staying on Woodside Avenue (into Lakeside) to the end, with the parking lot on the left. From San Diego, take I-8 east to Highway 67 north, and take the Riverford Road exit. After exiting, turn left on Woodside Avenue (into Lakeside) and continue northeast to the Lindo Lake County Park. Stay on Woodside a short distance, turn right on Chestnut Street which then becomes Lindo Lane. Park in the small parking lot on the left, next to the VFW hall at 12650 Lindo Lane.

Leader: Jack Friery

619-218-7342



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

### **South Bay Salt Works**

National City

**(1330 F4) Rating: 2**

From North County, take I-15 south to I-5 and exit at Palomar Street in National City. Go west a short distance and turn left on Bay Boulevard. Continue south to 1470 Bay Boulevard and the dirt parking lot on your right. Use a restroom at a fast food joint in National City before arrival – Palomar 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

SUNDAY, November 29, 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 minutes drive time.

Bring a lunch for an after-walk picnic.

Leader: Sally Sanderson

760-749-6995

Saturday, December 6, 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 13, 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: Dave Cowan

858-437-4101

Saturday, December 20, 8:30 a.m.

**Tijuana Estuary/7<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Street to Caspian Way, turn left and then right to the Tijuana Estuary Visitor Center parking lot.

Leader: Michael Beeve

209-247-5237

**SUNDAY, December 28**

**Escondido Christmas Bird Count**

**NOTE: THIS IS A SUNDAY FIELD TRIP.** Palomar Audubon Society would like to extend an invitation to all birders to participate in the annual Escondido Christmas Bird Count on Sunday, 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. 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 Jim Beckman (858) 205-2819 or Ken Weaver (760) 723-2448 email gnatcatcher@sbcglobal.net. **Sign up now and join the fun!**

Saturday, January 3, 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 the Dixon Lake park entrance.

Leader: Sally Sanderson

760-749-6995

**PRUNING, from Page 1**

browned-out top growth on dormant perennials. But please leave enough foliage for birds to take cover and keep in mind that hummingbirds will begin nesting the end of November and they'll be looking for small trees and shrubs within which to nest.



**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.*

**PROGRAMS**

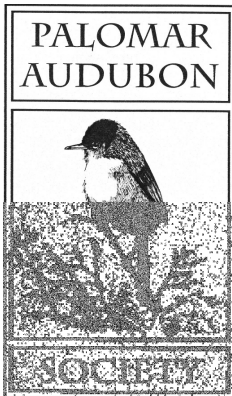
*No programs are scheduled during the months of November and December. General meetings will resume in January on the regularly scheduled fourth Thursday of each month.*



# Band Tales

## November-December, 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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**Palomar Audubon Society**  
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Penny Hernandez..... 760-746-8315

#### Vice-President

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

#### Secretary

Jeff Ebright..... 858-484-3932

#### Treasurer

Sunny Christiansen..... 858-487-0731

#### Directors

Jan Behrhorst..... 619-507-3627  
 Dianne Benham ..... 858-679-7904  
 Richard Fowler ..... 619-252-3767  
 Alice Holmes ..... 925-212-8165  
 Tom Trowbridge ..... 760-743-1052  
 Doug Walkley ..... 310-387-8190

#### Committee Chairs

Band Tales..... Arne Christiansen . 858-487-0731  
 Conservation.. Richard Fowler ..... 619-252-3767  
 Exhibits..... Penny Hernandez.. 760-746-8315  
 Field Trips ..... Jim Beckman ..... 858-205-2819  
 Fundraising .... Committee ..... xxx-xxx-xxxx  
 Hospitality ..... Joan Perron ..... 442-747-7416  
 Membership... Alice Holmes ..... 925-212-8165  
 Programs..... Committee..... xxx-xxx-xxxx  
 Publicity ..... Open ..... xxx-xxx-xxxx  
 Scholarship ..... Jim Beckman ..... 858-205-2819

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

Webmaster: Jeff Ebright: 858-484-3932  
[palomaraudubon@gmail.com](mailto:palomaraudubon@gmail.com)

### Board of Director's Meeting

*Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup>*

*Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup>*

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

<b>November</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Mission Bay Flood Control Channel &amp; Famosa Slough Walk</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Lake Hodges East/Bernardo Bay Walk</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Lindo Lake Walk</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>South Bay Salt Works Walk</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>San Jacinto Wildlife Area Walk</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Lake Elsinore Walk</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>San Elijo Lagoon Walk</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Tijuana Estuary/7<sup>th</sup> Street Walk</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>Escondido Christmas Bird Count</b>
<b>January</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Dixon Lake Walk</b>