



# Band Tales

Palomar Audubon Society  
A Chapter of the  
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume XXIII  
No. 6

March-April  
2015

Editor  
Arne Christiansen

## FROM AUDUBON CALIFORNIA SEABIRDS



Audubon California has recently launched an initiative to protect and restore the diverse array of seabirds in California and the North Pacific - which include some of the Pacific Coast's most fascinating and important species. One of the key goals of this new program is to raise the public's awareness of the importance of these birds that are rarely seen, but are nonetheless vital to our marine ecosystems.

These birds all inhabit the California Current Ecosystem, a discrete marine system that stretches from Vancouver Island in Canada to Baja, Mexico. This is one of the world's most productive marine areas. Every year millions of seabirds breed, feed, and/or migrate through off of our coastline, taking advantage of wind-driven upwelling which brings nutrients to the surface and creates rich food resources to top predators such as marine mammals, large fish and seabirds.

The Ashy Storm-Petrel, Laysan Albatross, Marbled Murrelet are just a few of the nearly 150 breeding and migrating seabirds in the California Current System. The larger group of seabirds generally fall into three categories: Procellariidae (albatrosses, petrels and shearwaters), Pelecaniformes (pelicans, boobies, cormorants, and frigatebirds), and Alcidae (murrelets, guillemots, murrelets, auklets, and puffins). Some of these birds spend years at sea, only coming ashore on islands, beaches or cliffs to breed. They are uniquely adapted to marine life with dense waterproof feathers, layers of fat, and desalinization system.

Audubon California has prioritized seabird conservation because these species are critical components of marine ecosystems. As abundant top predators, they are sensitive indicators of change in the marine environment, telling us a great deal about the impacts of climate change and pollution. Eleven of Audubon's Watchlist Birds are seabirds. Three Pacific coast species are on the federal

endangered species list (Brown Pelican, Least Tern, and Marbled Murrelet), and seven more are federal birds of Special Conservation Concern.

One initial focus is the California Marine Life Protection Act, which allows public representatives to create a network of marine reserves - underwater parks - throughout the state. These reserves are needed to restore damaged fish stocks and protect seabirds from disturbance at key breeding areas. Audubon's coastal chapters will continue to prove absolutely critical to this process.

Another focus is the designation of Marine Important Bird Areas for the entire North Pacific from Alaska to Baja. Audubon California is leading this tri-national initiative and will finish the work in 2010. These Important Bird Areas will serve as the basis for seabird advocacy and management in the region.

## Annual Picnic a Go for June!

Mark Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, on your calendars for this year's PAS Picnic. All the details will be in the May-June issue of **Band Tales**.

Anybody willing to volunteer to help with the Picnic please call Sunny Christiansen at 858-487-0731 or Penny Hernandez at 760-746-8315. We are working on a theme and on the menu; we welcome your suggestions.



## Inside this Band Tales

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## A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

*Penny Hernandez*

I think we have started out the New Year very successfully. We have had some great field trips, and I was really impressed with our young scholarship winners and the delightful program they presented in January. I want to be a part of one of those American Birding Association camps.



How many of you participated in the Great Backyard Bird Count on Valentine's weekend? It is one of the Citizen Science projects we can be a part of right in our own backyards;

no driving, no hiking, you can let the birds come to you. If you did not participate this year, mark your calendar for next year. I was in Carpinteria at my son's house so I had my grandkids help me. We saw a Scrub Jay, Allen's Hummingbird, White-crowned Sparrow, Eurasian Collared Dove, House Sparrow and House Finch. The Red-shouldered Hawk was calling overhead, so the kids decided we should go to the Park to see where it had nested. We ended up with 10 species of birds in that very short time.

We had two members bring in their answers to the quiz in the last newsletter. Hopefully more of you had fun answering the "Bird Names-Color" at home. I am going to try one more quiz and see how many of you bring your answers to the March meeting.

### COLOR-PATTERN NAMES

Test your knowledge of species names:

- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Ash-throated      | 15. Olive-sided     |
| 2. Blue-throated     | 16. Orange-crowned  |
| 3. Buff-breasted     | 17. Pink-footed     |
| 4. Chestnut-backed   | 18. Ruby-crowned    |
| 5. Chestnut-collared | 19. Rufous-crowned  |
| 6. Coppery-tailed    | 20. Rufous-necked   |
| 7. Glaucous-winged   | 21. Rufous-winged   |
| 8. Golden fronted    | 22. Sulphur-bellied |
| 9. Golden-crowned    | 23. White-winged    |
| 10. Gray-checked     | 24. Yellow-billed   |
| 11. Gray-headed      | 25. Yellow-breasted |
| 12. Green-tailed     | 26. Yellow-headed   |
| 13. Green-winged     | 27. Yellow-shafted  |
| 14. Olive-backed     |                     |

Enclosed please find our annual solicitation letter. This is where we ask you to please support your Chapter. We would like to continue to give our young people scholarships to great camps, support the Christmas Bird Counts, publish top-notch newsletters, support other local environmental groups such as the Escondido Creek Conservancy and the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy and pay to have wonderful, informative monthly meetings. PLEASE HELP...

*Penny*

## CONSERVATION NOTES

*Richard Fowler*

### HAWAIIAN BIRDING

The Christmas holidays were winding to a close and the Fowler family was ready for a Hawaiian vacation. Ellen had carefully planned eight days divided between the big island of Hawaii and Kauai. Family members from Poway and Texas converged on a lovely B&B near Hilo, the biggest town on Hawaii. All systems were go, but, Richard was hoping to squeeze in some birding from the start. The group's top priority on the big island, however, was Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. With lava flowing and history in the making it seemed like the only way to go. Our first stop was the Visitor's Center in the park where we met a young guide who took us on a short tour. Apart from some unique flora such as the Koa and Ohia canopy, the major attraction was the giant Kilauea Caldera which was smoldering away. Though there appeared to be no major volcanic activity during our visit, a subsequent visit to the little town of Pahoa some 20 plus miles from the Caldera indicated that lava flows from the Caldera were continuing to move slowly toward the town. The local pharmacy had already closed, and it wasn't clear whether the nearest restaurant would still be open for visitors. Fortunately, while the local folks were busy talking about the volcanic activity, they did not seem to be in a hurry to leave and most businesses were open for us tourists.



Later Richard did manage some birding on the big island but had the distinction of not identifying a single native bird. Nonetheless, there were plenty of introduced birds to observe. Ever present was the Common Myna, an Indian native, along with the Zebra and Spotted Doves. The Yellow-billed Cardinal and the Crested Cardinal as well as the Japanese White Eye were also conspicuous in the rain forest along the coast.

On the fourth day we headed for Kauai which entailed two short plane flights which landed us in the town of Lihue. A short drive later we were on the South coast where condo developments abound. The next morning looked promising for some serious birding, so the whole family headed out for the North coast and the Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge. As we approached the small town of Kilauea, Ellen suddenly slammed on the brakes and excitedly pointed to several geese on grassland near a restaurant we hoped to visit. They were Nene, the state bird of Hawaii, and the first we had seen. They were in no hurry to move and browsed indifferently as we shot multiple photos. This was only the beginning. As we headed toward the lighthouse there were Nene around every corner. They did not appear to be endangered in this area. However, Kauai may be a particularly favorable habitat for them as, according to Hawaii Audubon, the Mongoose was never introduced to Kauai. On the big Island the Nene continues to be



reintroduced, but predator control of the Mongoose and other threats appear problematic.

In any case the Kilauea Point lighthouse and environs was a spectacular sight with the lighthouse and the sheer surrounding cliffs several hundred feet above the crashing waves. On one side of the lighthouse were several hundred perched white shore birds, which occasionally would take flight and sally forth over the waves. Their red legs and Booby like heads revealed them to be Red-legged Boobies, which would breed and raise their young on this cliff over the coming months. On the other side of the lighthouse were several larger birds, the Laysan Albatross, which appeared to be repairing large stick nests for the coming season. The White-tailed Tropicbird was also a reported regular visitor to this site, though I was not successful in identifying it.

My final birding goal was Kokee State Park, which is located on the west side of Kauai at about 4,000 feet elevation. It was overcast and rainy as we headed up a rather narrow road to the rainiest spot in the USA, which gets on average over 400 inches of rain a year. It is an attraction for birders as it is one of the best places to see some of Hawaii's rarest birds. This has something to do with the deadly effect of mosquitos, which carry avian malaria, not being able to survive well in this habitat. Nonetheless, it was raining heavily in the park and I gave up my quest to see the Apapane, I'iwi, and the Anianiau among other rare or uncommon birds. However, before leaving the park I was able to identify an old friend from the Kauai coast and grasslands, the Pacific Golden-Plover. This is a bird you won't miss if you go to Kauai in the winter.

*Richard*



(Nene Geese out for a stroll in Hawaii)



**REMINDER:  
DEADLINE FOR THE  
MAY-JUNE ISSUE IS  
APRIL 15<sup>TH</sup>.  
SUBMIT COPY TO [arnec@juno.com](mailto:arnec@juno.com)**

## 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, March 26, 2015

### Ernie Cowan

#### "Life of a Bird Photographer"

Ernie Cowan is a writer, photographer, teacher and lecturer. He leads photo tours in Anza-Borrego and the Eastern High Sierra. He has been an Outdoors Writer for 26 years and he writes a monthly Backyard Birdwatching column for the U-T San Diego newspaper. Ernie's presentation will give us an overview of birding in San Diego County looking at each of our main regions, including shorelines and lagoons, inland valleys, mountains and deserts. Also, with a little humor. Don't miss this one!



Thursday, April 23, 2015

### Mike Matherly

#### "The Long Journey: Marvels and Science of Bird Migration"

An overview of one of the great wonders on earth and the latest research explaining why, how, and when billions of birds take wing in their search for the endless summer. Focusing on North America and San Diego, heavy emphasis will be on the geography and biology of migration, including the challenges and obstacles birds face crossing a rapidly changing continent. Mike is a retired professional geographer, working for over 35 years at Grossmont College, where he taught in the Earth Sciences Dept. specializing in urban growth and resource issues. He has been a birder and bird photographer since 1996, when he discovered that the search for birds gets you to some of the wildest places on earth.



## 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, March 7

### **San Diego Bird Festival – No Field Trip**

Saturday, March 14, 8:30 a.m.

#### **San Jacinto Wildlife Area**

Riverside County

**(RC 749-B4) Rating: 2**

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 two miles to the SJWA headquarters parking lot on the right. From Escondido allow 75 minutes drive time. Bring a lunch. Always a PAS favorite!

Leader: Sally Sanderson

760-749-6995

Saturday, March 21, 8:30 a.m.

#### **Whelan Lake Bird Sanctuary**

Oceanside

**(1066-F7) Rating: 2**

From Hwy 78 west, exit north on El Camino Real and continue to Douglas Drive. From I-5 north exit east on Hwy 76 and continue to the Douglas Drive exit. Take Douglas Drive north approximately 1 mile and turn left on North River Road to the entrance gate at the end.

**NOTE: Arrive no later than 8:15 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 open, proceed to the Sanctuary. Disregard the "No Trespassing" Signs. Don't be late!**

Leader: Doug Walkley

310-387-8190

Saturday, March 28, 8:30 a.m.

#### **Lake Hodges**

Del Dios

**(1149-E4) Rating: 2**

From I-15 in Escondido exit at Via Rancho Parkway and drive west to Lake Drive. Turn left and drive south about 1/2 mile. Meet at Del Dios Park across from the Country Store. We should see waterfowl, shorebirds and a whole host of local residents.

Leader: Jeff Ebright

858-484-3932

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

#### **San Pasqual Agricultural Trail**

Escondido

**(1151-B1) Rating: 2**

Meet at the Ysabel Creek Rd. trailhead at the intersection Ysabel Creek Rd. & Bandy Canyon Rd. This intersection

can be reached from Highland Valley Rd. east off of Pomerado Rd & I-15, or from Hwy 78 east of the Wild Animal (Safari) Park. We hope to see local residents, which include Cactus Wren, Greater Roadrunner, and a few raptors, possibly the Zone-tailed Hawk.

Leader: Jim Beckman

858-205-2819

Saturday, April 11, 8:30 a.m.

#### **Old Mission Dam**

San Diego

<http://www.mtrp.org/park.asp>

**(1230-F6) Rating: 2**

Take Highway 52 east to the Mast Blvd. exit in Santee. Turn north/east onto Mast Blvd. and then right at the 1st traffic signal (West Hills Parkway). Take West Hills Parkway to Mission Gorge Road and turn right. Take Mission Gorge Road 0.2 miles and merge right onto Father Junipero Serra Trail. Proceed 0.7 miles down Father Juniper Serra Trail to the Old Mission Dam parking lot, located on the right. This should be prime time for spring migrants.

Leader: Jack Friery

619-218-7342

Saturday, April 18, 8:30 a.m.

#### **Big Morongo Canyon Preserve**

Morongo Valley, San Bernardino County

<http://www.bigmorongo.org/>

**(SB 616-J5) Rating: 1**

From Escondido, proceed north on I-15 for approximately 36 miles to the I-15/I-215 split in Murrieta. Change to I-215 north and continue about 30 miles to Hwy 60 east. Take Hwy 60 east then continuing east on I-10 approximately 40 miles to Hwy 62. Go north on Hwy 62 about 12 miles to Morongo Valley (a small town). About a mile or two into town, look for signs for Big Morongo Canyon Preserve. Turn right (south) on East Drive, a dirt road, to the Preserve. The parking lot is just beyond the caretaker's house. Picnic tables and restrooms are available. In the caretaker's yard, several hummingbird and seed feeders will attract many birds for your enjoyment. This location is always a spring hot spot and favorite PAS field trip. Bring a lunch for an after birding picnic at the bird feeders. Allow 2 hours travel time from Escondido.

Leader: Doug Walkley

310-387-8190

Saturday, April 25, 8:30 a.m.

#### **Dairy Mart Pond/Tijuana River Valley**

San Diego

**(1350 – D5) Rating: 2**

From North County, take the I-15 south and merge with the I-5 south to the Dairy Mart Road Exit. Turn right on Dairy Mart Rd. (south). Meet just past the concrete bridge next to the large "TJRV County Park" sign and the pond on the west side of Dairy Mart Road. We will also drive a short distance to the TJRV Park Headquarters (public

**FIELD TRIPS**, from Page 5

restroom and bird feeders) and then visit the nearby Bird & Butterfly Garden where there is a chance of seeing the elusive Black-throated Magpie Jay.

Leader: Michael Beeve  
209-247-5237

Saturday, May 2, 8:00 a.m.  
**(Note new Spring/Summer 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/Dixon Lake" signs and turn left on La Honda Drive. Continue north toward Dixon Lake and on to the **free** Daley Ranch parking area on your left. Meet at the trailhead kiosk.

Leader: Tom Trowbridge  
760-743-1052



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

Sunny and Arne Christiansen  
Alison Davies  
Mary Harper  
Seabury McGown  
Will and Susan Murray  
Doug and Mickey Nail  
Janet Peyton  
Julie Szabo  
Randy and Sharon Welborn

**AND WE APPRECIATE OUR  
DONORS VERY MUCH!**

Seabury McGown  
Randy and Sharon Welborn

**FROM AUDUBON NATIONAL****What Does the GBBC Have to Do With Climate Change?**

*By Lynsy Smithson-Stanley*

*You don't have to be a bird expert to help our feathered friends fight climate change. Here's why.*

It's tough being a novice birder, especially when you work at Audubon. At a recent Delta Wind Birds/Strawberry Plains Audubon Center winter sparrow workshop, I was floored when attendees could tell a Song Sparrow from a Savannah Sparrow ... mid-flight! Me, I count it as a "win" to spot them in my field of vision.

Thankfully, you don't have to be an expert to make a difference. Case in point: I'm a climate change gal, not a bird nerd. Before joining Audubon, my birding experience was limited to counting hummingbirds at my grandfather's feeder and donning Cardinals sports paraphernalia. My professional life revolved around helping people understand global warming, from the extreme weather to the possible public health implications.

So what does climate change have to do with birds? A lot—Audubon science shows climate change is the biggest threat to North American birds. (I came to Audubon last summer to help launch our climate initiative, the organization's response to the news.) No group is better placed than Audubon to take action on climate change, and no network is better prepared to help.

The 18th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), a global citizen science effort that helps collect important data on bird behavior, has just concluded. This event, along with the Christmas Bird Count and community-based citizen science everywhere, offers everyone an opportunity to help the birds with whom they share a home and community.

With the pace and scale of the threat so startling (314 birds are seriously threatened and could, without action, go extinct thanks to climate change), it's hard to believe that individual actions lead up to change.

Yet citizen science, including the GBBC, is the foundation on which we build our conservation strategies to protect birds in a warming world. Without this kind of citizen science data, we wouldn't know that birds as widespread as the Common Loon or the Baird's Sparrow are already moving their ranges in response to climate change. We wouldn't know that the differences in bird communities you see at your backyard feeders are likely the result of global warming.

Because it doesn't matter whether you can tell a Field Sparrow from a Fox Sparrow (though I'm getting better!), you can still help out. As key indicators for how warmer temperatures are changing our world, birds are critical messengers. Counting them helps spread that message, so thank you if you participated — otherwise we hope you do so next year.

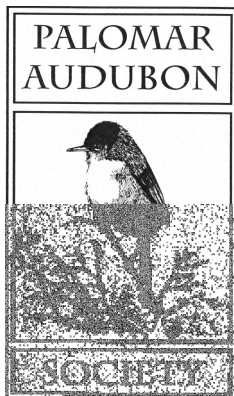
To read Band Tales IN COLOR visit  
<http://www.palomaraudubon.org>



# Band Tales

## March-April, 2015

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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### Board of Director's Meeting

*Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>*

*Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>*

7:00 p.m. at the Remington Club  
 16916 Hierba Drive  
 Rancho Bernardo

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

### QUICK CALENDAR

<b>March</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Board of Directors' Meeting</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>San Diego Bird Festival - No Field Trip</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>San Jacinto Wildlife Area Walk</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>Whelan Lake Bird Sanctuary Walk</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>General Meeting: "Life of a Bird Photographer"</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>Lake Hodges Walk</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Board of Directors' Meeting</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>San Pasqual Agricultural Trail Walk</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Old Mission Dam Walk</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>Big Morongo Canyon Preserve Walk</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>General Meeting: "Marvels and Science of Bird Migration"</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>Dairy Mart Pond/Tijuana River Valley Walk</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Daley Ranch Walk</b>