



Band Tales

Palomar Audubon Society
A Chapter of the
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume XXX
No. 6

May-June
2015

Editor
Arne Christiansen

BIRDS MATTER

Audubon President David Yarnold talks about why birds matter, and the important role that Audubon plays.

Below, we list just a few of the reasons why birds matter. Can you think of others?

1. Nearly six million Californians consider themselves birders or birdwatchers, as do about 48 million Americans overall. (Source: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service)
2. One of the most enduring symbols of our country is a bird, the Bald Eagle.
3. Birds are one of the best indicators of environmental health - healthy native bird populations signal a healthy ecology.
4. Humans have a fascination with birds that goes back thousands of years across nearly every culture.
5. Birds are the one form of wildlife that nearly everyone encounters every day.
6. Birds are an important part of California's natural identity - right up there with redwoods, beaches, and Half Dome.
7. More than 600 bird species call California home.
8. There are more than 10,000 species of birds in the world, more than mammals (about 5,000) and reptiles (about 8,000).
9. California contains 145 Important Bird Areas, essential habitat that must be protected to sustain our state's bird populations.
10. Because of their popularity, birds provide a terrific doorway to learning about the natural world.
11. Birders pump about \$38 billion into the U.S. economy each year, producing about 671,000 jobs. If you include indirect and induced contributions to the economy, the value rises to about \$82 billion. (Source: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service)
12. Learning about birds is a great way for young children to reconnect with the outdoors and avoid Nature Deficit Disorder.
13. The plight of declining bird species was a major driver in the passage of the nation's first wildlife protection laws, and continued to be a major influence leading up to the passage of the U.S. Endangered Species Act of 1973. There are currently 90 birds listed as Threatened or Endangered under the Endangered Species Act. (Source: USFWS)
14. An image of a bird is perhaps the most common symbol ever used on American coins and paper currency.
15. Three Major League baseball teams are named for birds, as are five NFL football teams, four NHL hockey teams, and one NBA basketball team. (And we're not counting the Raptors, Redwings, or Flyers)

16. Their song is one of the most beautiful sounds in nature.

17. Literary experts have counted as many as 600 different references to birds in the works of William Shakespeare - including 45 to 60 different bird species. For example: "Light thickens, and the crow/Makes wing to the rooky wood" - Macbeth.

18. Some birds have been around a very long time. For instance, the California Condor has its origins in the Pleistocene era, which ended nearly 12,000 years ago.

19. Birds can be amazingly tough. For instance, the Blue-winged Teal can survive in temperatures as low as -58 degrees Fahrenheit and as high as 122 degrees.

20. The California Department of Fish and Game, in collaboration with conservation groups, identified 74 bird Species of Special Concern in California, which have not been listed or given official conservation status, but whose California populations are nonetheless considered at-risk.

21. The California list of Threatened or Endangered Species contains 29 bird species and subspecies.

22. Birds are already demonstrating widespread impacts from climate change.

23. Of the three icons displayed on the California version of the U.S. 25-cent piece, one is a bird: the California Condor.

24. Admit it, you wish you could fly, too.

25. Teddy Roosevelt was a birder.

26. Birds provide natural insect pest control.

27. Birds, such as hummingbirds, play a vital role in natural pollination.

28. Bird species that are listed as threatened or endangered often provide the only legal means to protect dwindling habitat areas. Protections that have been put into place for the Marbled Murrelet and the Spotted Owl, for instance, are all that stands in the way of the destruction of the West Coast's old growth forests.

29. A birdy, in golf, is a very good thing.

30. One of the classic bird songs of all time, the Trashmen's "Surfin' Bird" reached No. 4 on the Billboard charts in 1963. The song was a combination of the Rivington's R&B singles "Papa-Oom-Mow-Mow" and "The Bird's the Word."

31. Researchers say that human speech may have evolved from birdsong.

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A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Penny Hernandez

It's hard to believe that another year will end on June 30th. Our Chapter has had some great speakers, great field trips, and if you have read Richard Fowler's conservation column in the newsletter, you know we are working hard in that area too. I want to thank this year's Board for a job well done, and I am looking forward to working with them again.



Before we start the New Year, dust off your sombrero, practice your Spanish, and get ready for our Fiesta Picnic June 14th. We are still going to have our great steaks and chicken, but everything else will have a Mexican flare. Oh, the friendship salad will be called "Amigo Ensalada" and will need your piece of fruit; don't forget to cut it up. Something new this year will be a dessert contest, rules to follow.

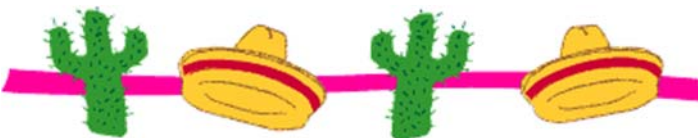
1. Make a BIRD themed dessert
2. Your dessert will be judged on appearance, taste and originality. Prizes will be awarded.
3. Your dessert will be our dessert this year. So the more of you who enter the more desserts we will have to eat. Think cake, cookies, candy, pies, etc.

For more information on the Picnic look elsewhere in this newsletter.

One last question before I go: Is anyone else confused on why, if we have a severe draught and need to conserve water, the UT is talking up the 7000 new homes in the North County? That could add up to 28,000 more people using water. I am just asking.

Hope to see you all at the upcoming field trips and the great Fiesta Picnic.

Penny



CONSERVATION NOTES

Richard Fowler

CITIZEN SCIENCE: THE BORREGO VALLEY HAWKWATCH

April 1st looked like a good day for a trip to the desert, there was a cooling trend and daytime highs were unlikely to exceed 90 degrees. Plus, if I waited any longer, the Swainson's Hawk spring migration would be over. So, birding buddy Paul and I headed for Borrego. Our destination was the Borrego Springs Hawk Watch Station on DiGiorgio Road. We arrived there at 8:30 and were greeted by Laura, a volunteer who was manning the watch. There was no wind and no birds. Laura assured us that we wouldn't see the Swainson's until the wind picked up, but, also warned us that only a few birds had come in the evening before and there appeared to be a drop off in the food supply, the main one being the caterpillars of the Sphinx Moth.



While we waited for birds, Laura filled us in on the Hawk Watch as well as its history. It started in 2003 when Hal Cohen, a veteran hawk watcher, noted the Spring flow of Swainson's through the Valley. He reconfirmed the flow the next year and the yearly count was begun. Laura reported she has been a regular for the past five years and is part of core group of watchers. She also participates in the July Big-horned Sheep count which is a three day ordeal around the July 4th holiday. I was pleasantly surprised to hear that the total sheep count for the entire park was around 900 last year and the population appears stable.

At this point the conversation was interrupted by hawks appearing on the distant horizon. They were hard to follow with binoculars, but Laura and her scope confirmed they were Swainson's and we got a good look. Unfortunately, they remained far away and never crossed the road that would have registered then as counted. For the rest of our time there were a few more sightings, but by 10 AM none were counted. This was in marked contrast to our previous visit on March 11, 2014 when we saw several hundred Swainson's forming kettles at close range and heading out over Coyote Canyon and points North, all in about a two hour period.

All in all the Hawk Watch and the story about the Sheep count made for a very enlightening morning. It is clear that Citizen Science projects like these are collecting very valuable information about the natural world. As an example, the Anza-Borrego Foundation reports that the Spring count of Swainson's is the largest count of Swainson's in the continental U.S. and is reported to a national data base that collects data throughout the U.S. This provides the necessary information to assess the status of this specie on a yearly basis.

Richard

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, May 2, 8:00 a.m. NOTE time change

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 (north) on La Honda Drive. Continue on toward Dixon Lake and on to the free Daley Ranch parking lot on your left. Meet at the kiosk.

Leader: Tom Trowbridge
760-743-1052

Saturday, May 9, 8:00 a.m.

Wilderness Gardens Preserve

Pala

(409-E6) Rating: 2

This small wilderness area represents a fine example of oak woodland habitat. Meet in the Wilderness Gardens parking lot, which is about 10 miles east of I-15 on Hwy.76, on the south side of the highway. Parking fee required, but free with senior County pass. Bring a lunch for an after-birding picnic. Expect warm weather.

Leader: Jim Beckman
858-205-2819

Saturday, May 16, 8:00 a.m.

Kit Carson Park

Escondido

(1150-C1) Rating: 1

From I-15 in Escondido, exit east on Via Rancho Parkway (which becomes Bear Valley Parkway) and drive about 1 mile to the Park Road entrance on your left – at the fire station. Proceed on Park Road about ¾ mile to the Amphitheater parking lot on the right. Woodland, riparian, and open-area habitats usually get us a nice list of resident birds.

Leader: Jeff Ebright
858-484-3932

Saturday, May 23, 8:00 a.m.

Lindo Lake

Lakeside

(1232-B3) Rating: 2

From North County, take I-15 south to Hwy.52 east to Mission Gorge Rd. Turn left and continue east to Woodside Ave. Go under the Hwy 67 overpass staying on Woodside Ave (into Lakeside) to end at the Lindo Lake County Park. From San Diego, take I-8 east to Hwy 67 north, and take the Riverford Rd. exit. After exiting, turn left on Woodside Ave (into Lakeside) and continue northeast to the Lindo Lake County Park. Stay on

Woodside a short distance, turn right on Chestnut St. 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, May 30, 8:00 a.m.

Sweetwater River Gorge

Rancho San Diego

(1271-J6) Rating: 2-3

From I-5, I-805, or I-15, take Hwy 94 east; stay on Hwy 94 as it becomes Campo Road, then turn right on Singer Lane, and then an immediate left onto the dirt parking area near the old steel bridge. This area is a rich stream habitat surrounded by native chaparral and sage scrub. There are no restrooms or drinking water available, so plan accordingly. Expect warm weather. **It's a PAS tradition to eat lunch at close-by Rubio's Fresh Mexican Grill after birding.**

Leader: Michael Beeve
209-247-5237

Saturday, June 6, 8:00 a.m.

William Heise County Park/Santa Ysabel Mission

Julian

(1156-C5) Rating: 2-3

From Escondido take Hwy 78 east (from San Diego take Hwy 67 east) to Ramona, then Hwy 78 toward Julian, past Santa Ysabel. After the town of Wynola, start looking for the sign on your right for William Heise County Park (1 mile west of Julian). Turn right on Pine Hill Road and drive south for 2 miles to Frisius Road. Turn left (east) onto Frisius Road, and drive another 2 miles to the park entrance. We will meet in the parking lot. There is a parking fee, but free with a senior County pass. We will also drive to the Santa Ysabel Mission to look for orioles and other spring/summer migrants. Bring a lunch for an after-birding picnic. Expect warm weather.

Leader: Jeff Ebright
858-484-3932

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

Agua Dulce Creek

Laguna Mountains

(430-B5) Rating: 2-3

We will meet at the old parking area for Agua Dulce Creek Group camp. Driving east on I-8, and after Pine Valley, look for signs indicating the Sunrise Highway Exit and Laguna Mountain Recreation Area. Go north on Sunrise Hwy. (S-1) approx. 8 miles to Wooded Hill Road, the first road on the left and directly across the road from Morris Ranch Road. Restrooms, picnic tables and water are available in the Lagunas near the General Store at Burnt Rancheria Picnic area. A Forest Service Adventure Pass is required for day-use parking and is available locally in San Diego County at major sporting goods stores and at other areas in the Lagunas. Bring a lunch for an after-walk picnic. Expect warm weather.

Leader: Sally Sanderson
760-749-6995

(continued on page 4)

Saturday, June 20, 8:00 a.m.
Cuyamaca Rancho State Park
 Julian
(429-L3) Rating: 2-3

From San Diego, take I-8 east and exit north on Hwy 79. Continue approximately 12 miles to the Paso Pacacho Campground on the left. From the North County, take Hwy 78 (or Hwy 67) to Ramona, and then continue on Hwy 78 just past Julian, to Hwy 79. Take Hwy 79 south approximately 10 miles to the campground on the right where we will meet. There is a day use fee. Bring a lunch for an after-walk picnic. Expect warm weather.

Leader: Hal Benham
 858-679-7904

Saturday, June 27, 8:00 a.m.
Palomar Mountain
 San Diego County
(409-G7) Rating: 2

This field trip will start from the parking lot at Doane Pond. Leave the Escondido area before 7 a.m. From I-15, take Highway 76 east to Highway S6, north to Palomar Mountain. Or from Escondido, take Highway S6 to Palomar Mountain. At the mountaintop, at the S7 intersection stop sign, turn left and continue for 3 miles on State Park Rd. to the Palomar Mountain State Park entrance. There is a day use fee. Proceed 1.5 miles to the Doane Pond/School Camp area. Bring a lunch for an after-walk picnic. Expect warm weather.

Leader: Jim Beckman
 858-205-2819



Saturday, July 4
NO FIELD TRIP
HAPPY HOLIDAY!



FROM THE NATIONAL AUDUBON WEBSITE

SEATTLE GIRL BEFRIENDS NEIGHBORHOOD CROWS, MAKING BIRD LOVERS EVERYWHERE JEALOUS

In return for food, Gabi Mann gets some bizarre gifts from her feathered allies.

Dan Nosowitz

Published Mar 02, 2015

What if we could be friends with wild birds? Seattle-native Gabi Mann seems to have achieved that goal with one of the smartest species on the planet: the American Crow. Never mind that she's only 8-years old. This imaginative kid has a unique relationship with her neighborhood corvids, as told in a story by the BBC News Magazine.

It all started two years ago, when Gabi began feeding local flocks of crows. At first it was haphazard—a dropped chicken nugget here, a crumb from a sandwich there. But the crows took notice, and soon enough Gabi's hospitality went from being accidental to intentional. These days, Gabi's crows perch nearby whenever she's

outside, hoping for a feast or even just a morsel. But the spirit of giving inhabits both the girl and the beast. Soon enough, the crows were showering Gabi with all sorts of loot.

Every day, Gabi leaves out food (mostly peanuts, which are a big hit) in the backyard for her groupies. In return, they leave her gifts—shiny baubles like polished sea-glass, and odder trinkets, like a rusty screw or tube of chapstick. In what could have been a coincidence or a lovely curiosity, the crows promptly returned a lens cap that Gabi had lost while taking some photographs (of a bird, naturally) in an alleyway. And so the plot thickened.

Crows, and all other members of the corvid family (which also includes jays, magpies, and ravens), are renowned for their intelligence. They're known to be prodigious tool-users, and are more adept with tools than all other animals short of the great apes. Even their social behavior mirrors ours in some ways; they've been observed performing funeral rites for their deceased members of their murder (it's the name for a group of crows—not sinister at all!).

Gift-giving isn't uncommon among crows; John Marzluff, a professor of wildlife science at the University of Washington who studies the relationship between crows and people, said in an interview with the BBC, "I can't say they always will [give presents], but I have seen an awful lot of things crows have brought people." (Dead birds are one grisly example.) Sometimes those gifts aren't entirely welcome: Gabi's mother once had to throw out a rotting crab claw that the crows had so lovingly bestowed upon her daughter. But Gabi doesn't seem to be perturbed by the oddities she receives; she keeps all her gifts carefully labeled and stored, treasuring them like precious jewels. "You may take a few close looks," she said to the BBC reporter, "but don't touch."



A sampling of the trinkets Gabi's collected from the crows. Photo: Katy Sewall

PAS ANNUAL PICNIC: A FIESTA
SUNDAY, JUNE 14TH - 4 P.M.

A Mexican-inspired Fiesta is planned for this year's Picnic which will again be held at the private Lawrence Welk Champagne Village Park. We will serve our wonderful filet mignon steaks, Mexican-style chicken and assorted side dishes. Beer, wine and soft drinks are included in the price, and margaritas should we receive requests for them and a volunteer bartender..

As always, we will have a friendship fruit salad. Please bring a piece of fruit prepared for the salad. Wear brightly colored attire, sombreros, serapes and/or anything fun to wear, but wear something!

NEW FOR THIS YEAR: A Bird-themed Dessert contest with judges and prizes. Read the President's letter on page 2 for details. Call Penny should you have questions.



DIRECTIONS TO THE PICNIC:

FROM THE SOUTH:

Go I-15 to Deer Springs/Mountain Meadows Rd. exit.
 Turn right after Deer Springs Rd. exit
 Take the first left onto Champagne Blvd.
 Go 2.1 miles
 Turn right on Champagne Village Dr.
 (Someone will open the gate for PAS members)
 Turn right immediately on Live Oak Lane
 Park will be on the left.

FROM THE NORTH:

Go I-15 S to Gopher Canyon/Old Castle Rd. exit.
 Turn left onto Gopher Canyon Rd.
 Take the second right onto Champagne Blvd.
 Go 5.5 miles
 Turn left on Champagne Village Dr.
 (Someone will open the gate for PAS members)
 Turn right immediately on Live Oak Lane
 Park will be on the left.

2015 PAS PICNIC - PLEASE RSVP BY JUNE 6TH

\$25 per person – Please make your check out to PAS and mail it with this form to
 Sunny Christiansen – 12480 Pomerado Place, San Diego, CA 92128

Name: _____

Number of People _____ Phone (just in case) _____

How many of each: # _____ Steak # _____ Chicken # _____ Vegetarian
 # _____ Beer # _____ Wine # _____ Margaritas

I would like to help with setup _____, cleanup _____ or bartending _____.

**NOTE: PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING A PIECE OF FRUIT
 FOR THE FRIENDSHIP SALAD.**



ALSO, PLEASE BRING A DIGITAL CAMERA IF YOU OWN ONE.

**SEND PHOTOS TO arnec@juno.com AND WE'LL FIT AS MANY AS WE CAN IN THE NEXT
 ISSUE OF BAND TALES ALONG WITH A PICNIC RECAP.**

Feel free to bring a "birdy" item for the raffle.

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, May 28, 2015

**Amanda Plante &
Larry Miller**

**“The Wild Parrots of Southern California:
How SoCal Parrot works to rescue and protect
these local endangered birds”**

Did you know that San Diego County is home to thousands of wild naturalized parrots? There are thirteen species that can be seen throughout Southern California and two of these species are known to be endangered. Many parrot populations are suffering in their native habitats due to habitat destruction and the illegal wildlife trade. SoCal Parrot is a local non-profit that rescues and rehabilitates injured and orphaned naturalized parrots. This presentation will help us to learn a little more about those “noisy birds” that we often see in our neighborhoods or out on a birding field trip.



PALOMAR AUDUBON SOCIETY

**WELCOMES THESE NEW AND RENEWING
CHAPTER-ONLY MEMBERS**

Barbara Anderson
Richard Cook
Toni Crisell
Jeff and Vicki Ebright
Sam and Sandy Farrow
Gary and Cheryl Grantham
Patricia Harrison
Alice Holmes
William and Nancy Hoover
Gail De Lalla
Clark Mahrtd
Joan Falconer/Nabih Mansour
Mary Marquis
Karen Matthews/John Oldson
David Rowan
Mel Senac



AND WE VERY MUCH APPRECIATE THE GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM THESE

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Charles and Valerie Zecca

Dear Members and Friends,

A great **BIG THANKS** to those who have already responded to our 2014 fund raising letter. If you have not donated yet and no longer have the envelope from the last Band Tale mailing, please send your donation to

**Palomar Audubon Society
P.O. Box 2483
Escondido, CA 92033-2483**

The suggested donations are \$20 - Single, \$25 - Family, \$55 - Sponsor, \$100 - Sustaining, and \$300 - Conserving.

Some of our accomplishments in 2013 and plans for 2014 are:

BIRD WALKS: We offered forty-eight Saturday bird walks with over 900 participants.

PROGRAMS: We sponsored seven programs on a variety of subjects presented at monthly membership meetings. Presenters ranged from experts in their field to PAS members.

SCHOLARSHIPS: PAS 2014 Scholarship Awards sent two talented young birders, Trysten Loeffke and Ryan Andrews, to a week-long ABA Young Birders Conference.

BIRD COUNTS: We participated in the Escondido Christmas Bird Count.

PUBLICATIONS: We continue to publish "Band Tales," our newsletter, and provide an online color copy on our recently redesigned website

ENVIRONMENTAL SUPPORT: We made generous donations to several deserving organizations and conservancies during 2014.

BIRDING TRIPS OUTSIDE COUNTY: We had a very successful trip to Salton Sea in 2014 and are now planning a 2015 trip to the Kern River Valley.

To make 2015 an even more successful year we need your continuing help. Please make your check to Palomar Audubon Society. We are a 501(c)3 organization, so your gift qualifies as a charitable donation. Thank you for your support!



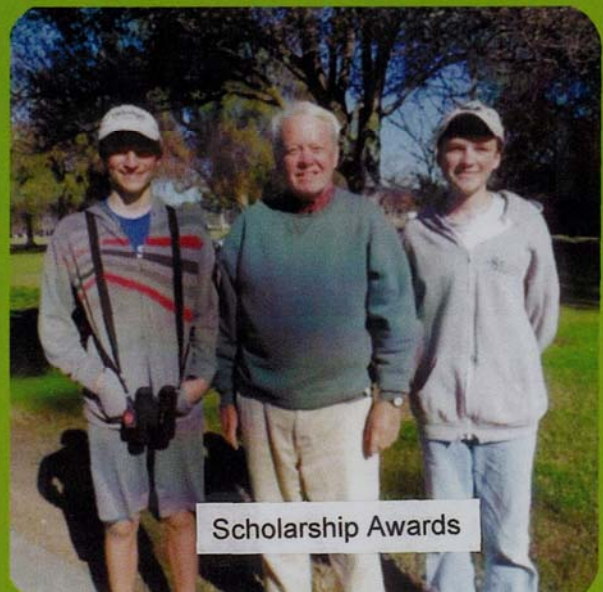
Environmental Support



Weekly Bird Walks



Christmas Bird Count



Scholarship Awards

Band Tales

May-June, 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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 - Programs..... Committee..... xxx-xxx-xxxx
 - Publicity..... Open xxx-xxx-xxxx
 - Scholarship ... Jim Beckman 858-205-2819
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Board of Directors' Meeting

Thursday, May 7th

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.

No Board of Directors' Meeting In June

QUICK CALENDAR

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <i>May</i> | 2 | Daley Ranch Walk |
| <i>May</i> | 9 | Wilderness Gardens Preserve Walk |
| <i>May</i> | 16 | Kit Carson Park Walk |
| <i>May</i> | 23 | Lindo Lake Walk |
| <i>May</i> | 28 | General Meeting: "Wild Parrots of California" |
| <i>May</i> | 30 | Sweetwater River Gorge Walk |
| <i>June</i> | 6 | William Heise County Park/Santa Ysabel Mission Walk |
| <i>June</i> | 13 | Agua Dulce Creek Walk |
| <i>June</i> | 14 | Annual Picnic |
| <i>June</i> | 20 | Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Walk |
| <i>June</i> | 27 | Palomar Mountain Walk |
| <i>July</i> | 4 | No Walk - Happy Holiday! |