

Band Tales Palomar Audubon Society A Chapter of the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume XXIX No. 3

September-October 2015

Editor Arne Christiansen

R.I.P.

IS THIS YOUR LAST PAPER COPY OF **BAND TALES?**

Penny Hernandez, President PAS

his may be your last paper copy of the Band Tales Newsletter. For at least the last 15 years or so, Donna and Al Przecha have been mailing our newsletters to us. After all this time they have decided to retire, (retire in peace). Since their announcement the Board has been looking for someone to volunteer to take over the job. Well, guess what? No one has stepped forward to help the Chapter continue to mail paper copies of the newsletters to our members. For those of you who have computers this isn't a problem, you can just go on the web page and see a copy, but there are many of our members who do not use computers.

In the past, the job has included updating the membership lists, printing labels, applying the labels which are sorted by zip code, and taking them to the Post Office. Everything, but the updating of the lists and printing of the labels can be done by anyone. What we need is someone who understands computers. Donna and Al are willing to train and have written instructions, so please be an active member and help. You might even find it is fun.

MEANWHILE:

PALOMARBIRD CELEBRATES 15th ANNIVERSARY!

alomar Audubon Society's own Yahoo discussion group, PalomarBird, celebrates its 15th anniversary on October 7th. Back in the year 2000, long-time PAS member, Kemer Thomson started the group with 25 members. Kemer was the group administrator for almost 13 years. Thanks so much, Kemer!

PalomarBird currently has 142 members and during the past 15 years, over 2400 messages have been posted. Also, it should be noted that our discussion group is currently the oldest birding discussion group in San Diego County.

Jeff Ebright is our current group administrator. To get the bird species results from our weekly field trips as well as receiving other useful information on recent birding activities, join our PalomarBird discussion group:

www.groups.yahoo.com/group/PalomarBird

ast April, Jim Beckman posted an announcement I from the San Diego Audubon Society that they were sponsoring a photo contest that was open to all bird photographers. The contest was unique in that the photos entered for competition were limited to just five endangered San Diego County birds:

California Least Tern Ridgway's Rail **Western Snowy Ployer** California Gnatcatcher **Coastal Cactus Wren**

We are pleased to announce that Palomar Audubon Society member, John Walker, has won the Best Species Photograph for the Western Snowy Plover.

The link to his winning photograph is: https://www.flickr.com/photos/nc killie/6597818311/in/ album-72157627409101323/

Besides being an active birder/photographer on our weekly field trips, John was on our PAS Board of Directors in 2010-2011. He and his wife, Katherine, moved back to the UK in 2013 and a sorely missed.

So —- TA-DAH! Below is the winning photo:



(Where's a Ruddy Turnstone when you need one?)



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ANOTHER BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Arne Christiansen, Band Tales Editor

orry, Folks, but this time, with Penny's contribution taking front page, you get a <u>different</u> bird's eye view. As the editor of Band Tales since 2002 I have witnessed a succession of positions filled by the few who serve in the not-so-glamourous positions to allow Palomar Audubon Society to thrive. That's the way most volunteer organizations work but it's time for more of us



to step up and volunteer so that those who do so much for PAS don't inevitably suffer burn-out. Been there, done that and it's no fun!

Not being one to mince words, if you think I'm spreading panic over a nonexistent issue look on page 6 of this issue and count the people who serve in more than one capacity. Frankly, from my personal

experience, sending a copy of the newsletter for inclusion on the PalomarBird website eliminates a lot of work for those of us involved in the process: no printing, folding, sorting by zip code and mailing.

If that's what the membership wishes we can go with it. Those of us without computers and/or computer skills can simply find somebody who would be willing to share, maybe even print, a digital copy of Band Tales. End of story!

I have nearly given up asking for articles, even handwritten ones, from readers, necessitating "fill" from National and California Audubon as well other sources. Now it's up to you. If you wish to continue receiving "hard" copies of Band Tales let us hear from you.

VOLUNTEER!

or watch for the next issue of this newsletter at:

http://www.palomaraudubon.org

Again it's up to you, not the nebulous "somebody else." I am confident that virtually all of us have access to a phone, and contact numbers of all Board members may be found on page 6.

Bye-bye for now, and may you have happy birding,

Arne

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

CONSERVATION NOTES

Richard Fowler, Conservation Chair

CITIZEN SCIENCE: THE SYCAMORE CREEK PROJECT

In 2014 the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy was awarded a grant to research, design and launch a citizen science ecological monitoring program for the San Dieguito River Valley. A fundamental part of this project is the engagement and training of volunteers.

The Palomar Audubon Society has stepped forward to provide volunteers for bird counts at the Sycamore Creek office of the SDRVP. This site is 165 acres of coastal sage scrub, riparian habitat, and woodland. It is bisected by Sycamore Creek, a stream that continues to flow into the summer months of the current drought. The



site is hemmed in on two sides by Rancho Bernardo homes and on the north side by Highland Valley Road. Only on the East side is there a passage to open space. This eventually links to Blue Sky Ecological Preserve, Lake Poway and Lake Ramona. The site did sustain some damage from the 2007 October fire, but shows little evidence of it today.

A monitoring program requires protocols. PAS has agreed to bird counts twice a quarter for the entire year. We have also agreed to a fixed time to start counts (7:30 A.M.) as well as five regular stops of 10 minutes each on the established route through the site. We remain free to count birds between stops. The protocol was reviewed and accepted by the San Diego County Management and Monitoring program.

PAS conducted it first count on February 4th of this year and as of August we have had five counts, two winter, two spring, and one summer. We have identified 55 species so far and this includes large numbers of the usual suspects such as Acorn Woodpeckers, Mourning Doves, Wrentits, and Spotted and California Towhees. Other species include Canyon and Rock Wren, Yellow-breasted Chat, Yellow Warbler, Fox and Chipping Sparrow, Bluegray Gnatcatcher, Hutton's vireo, and Phainopepla. We have not identified either the Bell's Vireo or the California Gnatcatcher, two endangered species that have been identified in nearby habitats.

The goal of this project is a baseline inventory of bird species on this parcel. This information will enhance our ability to protect these species and better manage the potential development of the surrounding area. All PAS members who are interested in birding and conservation are welcome to participate in these counts. Our next count will be on September 9th. Please feel free to contact me about your availability for the September count or future counts. Going forward we anticipate counts in other areas of the park. These counts will focus on some of the most pristine and threatened areas of the park and include areas not open to birding for the general public.



PROGRAMS

Please join us for our interesting monthly program and refreshments at the <u>Remington Club, 16916 Hierba Drive, Rancho Bernardo</u>. 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 24th

Ed Henry

"Birds of Northern and Western India"

In January and February of 2014, Ed Henry photographed birds at and near Bhuj and the Gir National Forest in Gujarat, in the Nawabganj Sanctuary near Lucknow; at and near the Taj Mahal in Agra; at Keoladeo Sanctuary near Bharatpur, Rajasthan, and in New Delhi. He documented 130 species of birds and will show us the best of his photos.

Ed Henry taught Anthropology and Ethnomusicology at San Diego State University for 33 years before doing more serious birding and bird photography. Ed is currently the President of the San Diego Audubon Society.

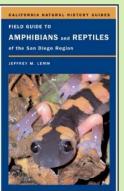


Thursday, October 22

Jeff Lemm

"Snakes, Lizards, and Frogs in San Diego County"

Jeffrey Lemm is a herpetologist at the San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research. Jeff has traveled the world in search of reptiles and amphibians and has won awards for his photography of these amazing creatures. He is the author of the "Field Guide to Amphibians and Reptiles of the San Diego Region". This presentation gives us an opportunity learn something about those other animals that we often see, when out and about, exploring our local environment.



Another Reason to Be A Gardener

Three out of every four flowering plants rely on pollinators like bees, butterflies and Hummingbirds. But sadly, **pollinators are on the decline** worldwide. 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 bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. Here are a few tips to attract these helpful friends to your garden:

- 1. Honeybees pollinate about one-third of all crops in the United States and contribute roughly \$15 billion a year to the economy. 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.
- 2. 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.
- 3. **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.
- 4. **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.



FIELD TRIPS

Jim Beckman

hether 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 5, 8:00 am

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 Rd. to the Park Road entrance at the stoplight. Turn left, and proceed on Park Road about ¾ 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 12, 8:00 am. 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

Saturday, September 19, 8:00 am.

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 26, 8:00 am.

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 on to 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, October 3, 8:00 am.

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 Ave. West. Continue west approximately 6 miles to Pacific Coast Hwy. Turn left (south) and drive about 1 mile (making a U-turn) to the Reserve parking lot on the east side of Pacific Coast Hwy. It's about 70 miles from Oceanside and should take about 75 minutes. Meet at the boardwalk entrance. Arrive extra early for the best parking spots. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy at the Huntington Central Park picnic tables.

Leader: Sally Sanderson vcwillow@aol.com 760-749-6995

Saturday, October 10, 8:00 am. 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 Dive 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 am. 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

NOTE: A Message from Doug Walkley:

For the Early Birds, we have made special arrangements with Greg to have the gate open by 7 am. Diane and I have again decided to call a subset of this outing "The Big Sit". For those who prefer to simply linger by the lake, please join Diane. Just show up with your own comfy chair, or saddle up to the picnic table or benches, and watch the show. For a couple hours, you will be entertained by many different performers as they come on

stage then depart. Even without the birds, this is a beautiful, serene location where one may enjoy the peacefulness of the lake and the hills beyond. Your count may not be too shy of that of the Trekkers who will come back hot, tired and sweaty. A coffee urn will be brewing up a storm as early as 7:30 AM to help open those peepers with a quick caffeine fix. Famous Fallbrook doughnut holes will be available to produce a nice early morning sugar high. Later, lemonade will be served.

For those interested in lunch, we will be dining at "The Pitstop", located beside the police station, at 3825 Mission Avenue, Oceanside 92058, just a couple of blocks west of Douglas Drive. It's loaded with 50's atmosphere, automobile memorabilia, and serves at least twenty different styles of burgers, all at reasonable prices.

Saturday, October 17, 8:00 am.

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 24, 8:00 am.

La Jolla Coastline La Jolla

(1227-E6) Rating: 1

From Highway 52 driving west exit at La Jolla Boulevard West (formerly Ardath Road.) Continue on this road, which will merge with Torrey Pines Rd for about 3/4 mile, then turn right on Prospect. Continue on Prospect to Coast Boulevard. Meet on the ocean-side 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. Park at the first available parking space located. We will be looking for shorebirds, gulls, and seabirds.

Leader: Jack Friery 619-218-7342

> Saturday, October 31, 8:30 am. (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 up the hill toward Dixon Lake and on to the Daley Ranch free parking area on your left. Meet at the trailhead kiosk.

Leader: Jim Beckman 858-205-2819

Saturday, November 7, 8:30 am.

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 near-by Famosa Slough.

Leader: Jeff Ebright 858-484-3932

PALOMAR AUDUBON SOCIETY
WELCOMES
NEWAND RENEWING
CHAPTER-ONLY MEMBERS:

Jan Behrhorst
Daniel Labeaune
Robin Kohler & William Lee
Tzung-Horng Yang & Jenjen Lin
Gayle O'Key
Pat Pawlowski
Elizabeth Rose
John & Sally Sanderson
Dennis Schepman
Petra Koellhoffer

AND WE APPRECIATE OUR
DONORS VERY MUCH!

The Birdwatcher
Orval Carter
Robin Kohler & William Lee
Tzung-Horng Yang & Jenjen Lin
John & Sally Sanderson
Dennis Schepman
Margaret Yorio



THE DEFINITION OF INSANITY: SANTA BARBARA'S OIL SPILL

Here we are again. Another spill, another blackened beach. Are we destined to repeat ourselves until there's nothing left to protect?

> By Tyler Hayden Birds in This Story:



Snowy Plover



Brown Pelican
Pelecanus occidentalis

June 5, 2015, Santa Barbara, California — On Tuesday, May 19, a rusted pipeline broke, smothering Santa Barbara's beaches and tides with a dense blanket of warm oil. The onshore pipe, operated by Houston-based Plains All American Pipeline, leaked more than 100,000 gallons of oil; 21,000 of those gallons poured into a drainage ditch, under a freeway, and into the Pacific. It was the worst local spill since 1969, when a Santa Barbara Channel drilling rig blowout sent a catastrophic 4.2 million gallons of crude onto area beaches and helped give rise to the modern environmental movement. And it occurred along one of the most ecologically pristine and fiercely protected places on earth. Swarming with seabirds, dolphins, sea lions, kelp forests, and migrating whales, the crystal clear, reef-filled waters of the undeveloped Gaviota Coast are one of the only places in the world where northern and southern plants and sea life meet in such a copious yet delicate display of color and movement. It's called "The Galápagos of North America" for good reason.

Two and a half weeks later, with the oiled evidence bagged and tagged and the iridescent sheen fading from the ocean's surface, serious questions linger—about the pace and protocol of the initial response, about what the lasting effects will be on the area's rich intertidal ecosystem, and about what costs and responsibilities the pipeline's owner should be made to bear.

This is not Plains All American Pipeline's first big mishap. The company operates 17,800 miles of pipe and gathering systems across the country. Between 2004 and 2007 the Environmental Protection Agency ordered

Plains to pay \$3.25 million in reparations and spend \$41 million updating pipelines after 10 spills dumped a combined 273,420 gallons of oil in waterways in Texas, Kansas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma. Its Canadian division suffered three major accidents in Alberta between 2006 and 2012. And last May a ruptured Plains pipeline in Los Angeles County sent 19,000 gallons of crude through the streets of the city's Atwater Village neighborhood. Overall, since 2006 Plains has racked up 175 safety and maintenance infractions, many due to pipe corrosion. The Santa Barbara pipeline wall had eroded to an estimated 1/16th of an inch thick when it broke. According to a Los Angeles Times analysis, the company's incident rate per mile of pipe is more than triple the national average; among the more than 1,700 pipeline operators listed in a federal database, only four were cited for more infractions.







FROM THE AUDUBON ADVISORY WEBSITE

CLEAN POWER PLAN TAKES AIM AT CLIMATE CHANGE

The much-anticipated release of EPA's Clean Power Plan final rule to reduce dangerous carbon emissions from power plants arrived on August 4. This is the boldest move by any administration to reduce the carbon pollution that causes global warming.

The case for urgent action has never been stronger. Last year was the hottest on record, according to an international report. The first six months of this year were even hotter. And 14 of the 15 hottest years ever recorded have occurred in this century. As temperatures go up, sea levels rise and extreme weather disasters multiply. Extreme heat kills more Americans than hurricanes, tornadoes, floods and lightening combined. Audubon's science dramatically shows that global warming puts 314 North American birds at risk from climate change. So for Audubon, it's a bird issue.

Electric utilities contribute almost 40 percent of the United States' carbon pollution fueling global warming, the largest source in the country. The Clean Power Plan will require utilities to reduce emissions by 32 percent by 2030 compared to 2005 levels. That will keep nearly 900 million tons of carbon pollution from being spewed into our atmosphere each year. It will provide the same benefits to the climate as taking 70 percent of our cars off the road. Other health and environmental benefits will be realized as well, as the Clean Power Plan creates cleaner, healthier skies.

Each state has the flexibility to find the best, lowest-cost approach to meeting their carbon reduction goals, using a mix of building blocks that include energy efficiency measures, switching to cleaner fuels, or creating regional approaches with neighboring states.

Audubon is working hard to ensure that birds survive a warming world. Our efforts just got some much-needed help with the first-ever federal effort to reduce carbon pollution through the Clean Power Plan.

¹International report confirms: 2014 was Earth's warmest year on record



Climate change threatens 314 North American bird species, including Burrowing Owls, which could lose 77 percent of their breeding range by 2080. (*Photo: Jeff Whitlock / Flickr*)

DROUGHT POLICY SHOULD HELP, NOT HARM, BIRDS

ongress put forth several legislative efforts to address the drought-plagued western United States this summer. The House of Representatives debated and passed a California-centric drought package (HR 2898), sponsored by Congressman Valadeo (R-CA), to address water issues in that state hit hard by dry conditions. Because the bill gives little consideration to important wildlife laws like the Endangered Species Act, and also includes language that would transfer water off of wildlife refuges, Audubon opposes this bill. The Valadeo bill is now waiting for Senate action.

Congressman Jared Huffman (D-CA) also introduced a bill in the House of Representatives, HR 2983, that is more bird-friendly and doesn't rob water from wildlife. Audubon supports that bill, but the House has yet to act.

Meanwhile, several bills have been introduced in the Senate addressing state and regional needs. California Senators Diane Feinstein (D) and Barbara Boxer (D) have introduced legislation specific to California, and New Mexico Senators Martin Heinrich (D) and Tom Udall (D) followed suit to address drought conditions in their state. It's expected that the Senate will set aside time in the jampacked month of September to discuss these and other possible pieces of legislation aimed at addressing the drought. We anticipate reaching out for your help over the next several months to promote the right package that will help alleviate drought conditions without putting birds and wildlife at risk.

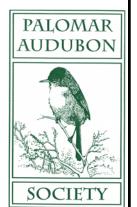


A Great Egret in drought-ravaged California. (*Photo: staticantics / Flickr*)

Band Tales

September-October, 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.



Band Tales

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

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DATED MATERIAL

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PALOMAR AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, & COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2014-2015

President

Penny Hernandez760-746-8315 Vice-President

Jim Beckman858-205-2819

Secretary

Jeff Ebright858-484-3932

Treasurer

Sunny Christiansen858-487-0731

Directors

Jan Behrhorst619-507-3627 Dianne Benham858-679-7904 Richard Fowler619-252-3767 Alice Holmes925-212-8165 Tom Trowbridge......760-743-1052

Doug Walkley......310-387-8190

Committee Chairs

Band Tales .. Arne Christiansen ...858-487-0731 ConservationRichard Fowler......619-252-3767 Exhibits...... Penny Hernandez....760-746-8315 Field Trips .. Jim Beckman858-205-2819 Fundraising. Committeexxx-xxx Hospitality .. Penny Hernandez 760-746-8315 Membership..Alice Holmes925-212-8165 Programs..... Committee......xxx-xxxx Publicity..... Openxxx-xxxx Scholarship . Jim Beckman 858-205-2819

Web Page: http://www.palomaraudubon.org Webmaster: Jeff Ebright: 858-484-3932

palomaraudubon@gmail.com

Board of Director's Meeting Thursday, September 3rd

Thursday, October 1st 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

Preserve Walk

~ - P	_	
September	5	Kit Carson Park Wal
September	<i>12</i>	Peñasquitos Canyon
September	19	Bataquitos Lagoon W
Santambar	21	Congral Magting: "R

September 3 Board Meeting

Valk Birds of Northern and Western

India"

Kumeyaay Lake Walk September 26

October **Board Meeting**

October **Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve & Huntington Central** Park Walk

Whelan Lake Bird Sanctuary Walk October *10*

Lake Hodges Walk October 17

General Meeting: "Snakes, Lizards, and Frogs in October San Diego County"

24 La Jolla Coastline October

Daley Ranch Walk (Note Fall/Winter Start Time) October 31

November Mission Bay Flood Control Channel & Famosa Slough Walk