



Band Tales

Palomar Audubon Society
A Chapter of the
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume XXV
No. 6

March-April
2017

Editor
Arne Christiansen

SPRING BIRD CLASSES

Palomar Audubon Society is again offering bird classes on consecutive Tuesday evenings beginning March 14th, 2017. The first three classes will be for beginners and the last three (starting April 4th) will be for intermediate birders. The classes will be integrated for beginners taking both classes. There will be three Saturday field trips, March 25th, April 8th, and April 22nd.

Classes will start at 6:30 PM and run for 90 minutes. They will be held at the Glassman Recreational Center at 18448 RB Community Center Drive off West Bernardo Drive (the large Casa De Las Companas Retirement Home is on the east side of this intersection).

The classes will cover the classification of birds, field markings of local birds, behavior, vocalization, tracking, and the different habitats in San Diego County.

Cost for either class is \$ 60.00 and the cost for both is \$ 90.00.

The course will be led by Phoenix Von Hendy, a long-time birding leader in North County and a certified tracker naturalist. For questions about the course contact Richard Fowler at rcfowl@cox.net. To register complete the form below and send with check to:

Palomar Audubon Society, P.O. Box 2483, Escondido, Ca. 92033-2483 by March 10th, 2017

SPRING BIRD CLASSES REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s) _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

___ Beginner/novice \$60.00 each

___ Intermediate \$60.00 each

___ Both classes \$90.00 each Total enclosed : _____

Total _____

**AGAIN: Mail form and check to Palomar Audubon Society,
P.O. Box 2483, Escondido, Ca.92033-2483 by March 10, 2017.**



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

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A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Penny Hernandez

I don't know how many of you read the Union - Tribune, but I have one weekly writer that I can't miss, Ernie Cowen Outdoors column. He always has great subjects: birds, bugs, fish, deserts, mountains, and seas. I also want to thank him for his support of all of San Diego's Audubon Societies. He mentions our meetings, bird classes, and festivals in his column. I wish he would be my ghost writer.



Since I know how busy he is with his columns and speaking engagements, along with his photography, I will just use his subject ideas.

Ernie's article on the "HOPING FOR GREAT DESERT BLOOM" in January has me looking forward to March. Last year my brother, Al, visited in March and we went out to Anza-Borrego Desert looking for blooms. Al, a Botanist, is a great person with whom to look for blooms. He can spot the smallest flower from the car. The problem is, he only knows the scientific names and I want to know the common names.

According to Ernie's article we should have a great year. The experts say rain, temperature and wind are what make either a good year or a great year. As you are aware we have had the rain, so let's pray that the winds and temperatures are correct too.

Well, I am going to call my brother, have him fly down in March, and remember to get my binoculars ready to find all the desert birds along with those wonderful blooms.

Maybe I'll see you there.

Penny

CONSERVATION NOTES

Richard Fowler

SAVE 1,000 ACRES !

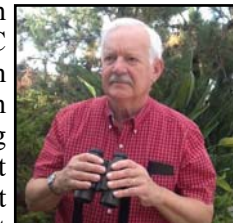
Kevin Bernard, president of Escondido Creek Conservancy (TECC), updated the Palomar Audubon Board at our February meeting on the current status of TECC efforts to preserve 1000 acres in North San Diego County.

The 1000 acres consist of two parcels north of Escondido and close to Daley Ranch. The first is the 694 acre Mountain Gate property east of Daley Ranch and the second is the 290 acre John Henry Ranch just west of Lake Wohlford. TECC is working on an additional property that would protect a corridor from Interstate 15 to Lake Wohlford. A corridor that would help preserve the large predators in San Diego County.

TECC currently has options to purchase the above properties. Options that received financial support from

Palomar Audubon this past year. TECC will need continuing financial support over the next three years until the property is acquired by a major funding source, such as the County, State or NGO. Their fund raising goal for this year is one million dollars and for the next three, eleven million. TECC has been very successful at preserving such properties in the past and has never failed to date. Their successes are further down the Escondido Creek water shed below Escondido. According to Bernard, a key to TECC's success has been their ability to leverage dollars on the order of 80:1.

Your board is of course interested in how PAS can best support TECC efforts. We would love to hear from you with any ideas you may have. In the meantime this will be a continuing issue for the board. We hope to present a plan to the membership in the next two months. So stay tuned for the next Band Tales.



Richard

In our zeal to discover and observe interesting birds, we may sometimes forget that there are rules to the game. It's worth refreshing ourselves on these rules--here is the **ABA Code of Birding Ethics**.

American Birding Association Principles of Birding Ethics

1. Promote the welfare of birds and their environment.
 - 1(a) Support the protection of important bird habitat.
 - 1(b) To avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger, exercise restraint and caution during observation, photography, sound recording, or filming.

Limit the use of recordings and other methods of attracting birds, and never use such methods in heavily birded areas or for attracting any species that is Threatened, Endangered, or of Special Concern, or is rare in your local area.

Keep well back from nests and nesting colonies, roosts, display areas, and important feeding sites. In such sensitive areas, if there is a need for extended observation, photography, filming, or recording, try to use a blind or hide, and take advantage of natural cover.

Use artificial light sparingly for filming or photography, especially for close-ups.
 - 1(c) Before advertising the presence of a rare bird, evaluate the potential for disturbance to the bird, its surroundings and other people in the area, and proceed only if access can be controlled, disturbance can be minimized, and permission has been obtained from private land-owners. The sites of rare nesting birds should be

(Continued on page 7)

FROM AUDUBON NATIONAL



Sambucus Canadensis Fruit with Thrasher
Photo by Will Stuart

By growing native plants, you are helping birds and you're not alone. Together bird lovers can make a big difference in the fight against climate change.



I HAVEN'T
PLANTED YET



1 - 5



5 - 10



10 - 25



MORE THAN
25

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 23

Anne Mulford

“Leading the Way – SeaWorld's Bird Rescue Program”

As we all know, SeaWorld San Diego is an animal theme park, oceanarium, outside aquarium, and a marine animal park. With a legacy of animal rescue spanning more than 50 years and benefiting more than 28,000 animals, SeaWorld is leading the way in responding to wildlife in crisis. Working in partnership with state, local, and federal agencies, SeaWorld rescue teams are on call 24/7 assisting animals that are orphaned, ill, injured, or in need of expert care. This presentation will briefly cover the program history, current program structure, what bird species SeaWorld cares for, different care protocols based on taxa, oiled wildlife care, and possibly an individual case or two.

Anne Mulford is a Senior Aviculturist having worked in the SeaWorld Bird Department for over 20 years. During that time she has cared for flamingos, waterfowl, aviary birds, rehab birds, high- and sub-Antarctic penguins, and Alcids. In 2015 she became one of three dedicated staff in the recently created Bird Rescue area within the Bird Department. In December 2016, she joined the newer SeaWorld Rescue Department which combined both the Bird and Mammal Rescue functions and now cares solely for all rescue animals. Tonight's presentation promises to be very informative and educational.

Mark your calendars. Don't miss this one!

Thursday, April 27

Ed Henry

“Birds, Blossoms, and Butterflies: Trinidad & Tobago”

This presentation features photos taken from November 30 through December 7, 2015, in and around the Asa Wright Nature Center on Trinidad and the Cuffie River Eco-lodge on Tobago. The slides show some of the diverse and colorful birds, blossoms and butterflies of those places, including honeycreepers, motmots, hummingbirds, and the unique Oilbird among many others.

Ed Henry is a retired San Diego State University Professor of Anthropology and past-president of the San Diego Audubon Society. He has been photographing birds for eleven years.

This is Ed's third PAS presentation. Mark your calendar and don't miss this one!

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 4, 8:30 a.m.

Santee Lakes

Santee

(1231-A5) Rating: 2

From I-15 go east on Highway 52. Exit at Mast Blvd. Continue east on Mast Blvd. to Fanita Parkway. Turn right and continue south to the entrance to Santee Lakes on your right. Car entry fee is \$5.

OR from Mast Blvd, turn left on Fanita Parkway, and continue north to Lake Canyon Drive. Turn right, park and walk in the open gate for **free**. Meet in the parking lot by the General Store between lakes 4 & 5.

Leader: Tom Trowbridge
760-743-1052

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

San Jacinto Wildlife Area

Riverside County

(RC 749-B4) Rating: 2

From San Diego County take I-15 north through Temecula and take the I-215. Continue north on the 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 18, 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, March 25, 8:30 a.m.

Whelan Lake Bird Sanctuary

Oceanside

(1066-F7) Rating: 2

From Highway 78 west, exit north on El Camino Real and continue to Douglas Drive. From I-5 north exit east on Highway 76 and continue to the Douglas Drive exit. Take Douglas Drive north approximately 1 mile and turn left on North River Road. Continue west on North River Rd. to the entrance gate at the end. **Proceed to the Sanctuary on the dirt road. Disregard the "No Trespassing" Signs. Park at the parking area next to the caretaker's house overlooking the lake.**

Leader: Doug Walkley
310-387-8190

Saturday, April 1, 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 Highway 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. Bring a lunch for an after-birding picnic. Expect warm weather.

Leader: Jim Beckman
858-205-2819

Saturday, April 8, 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. Arrive extra early to avoid parking on the street. This should be prime time for spring migrants.

Leader: Jack Friery
619-218-7342

Saturday, April 15, 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). Continue a very short distance and meet at the dirt parking lot on your right just before

the concrete bridge and next to the large "TJRV County Park" sign with the pond on the west side of Dairy Mart Road. We will also drive a short distance to the TJRV Park Headquarters (public 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, April 22, 8:30 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. Look for the "Wilderness Gardens Preserve" sign. 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, April 29, 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 Highway 60 east. Take Highway 60 east then continuing east on I-10 approximately 40 miles to Highway 62. Go north on Highway 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 a 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, May 6, 8:00 a.m. (Note new earlier 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: TBA

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

Hal and Dianne Benham
Sharel Andrews
Richard Cook
Mike and Meredith Dow
Stephen Ellis
Ed and Jan Hall
Gail De Lalla
Fred and Jill Miller
Tom and Eva Murphy
Penny Hernandez
Karen Matthews and John Oldson
Bonnie Packert
Janet Peyton
Linda Rasmussen
Sarah Wardlaw
Paul Zepf

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

Sharel Andrews
Hal and Dianne Benham
Richard Cook
Mike and Meredith Dow
Ed and Jan Hall
Rustom Jamadar
Fred and Jill Miller
Tom and Eva Murphy

SAVE THE DATE: Olympic Birdfest, April 7-9, 2017. Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tours, live auction & raffle, gala banquet, and more. Our featured speaker: noted nature photographer Bonnie Block. Join our festival pre-trip: a three-day, two-night birding/sightseeing cruise of the San Juan Islands, April 4-6, 2017. Register separately at www.pugetsoundexpress.com/audubon. Extend your festival with our Neah Bay post-trip on April 9-11, 2017: two days exploring northwest coastal Washington. BirdFest at www.olympicbirdfest.org. registration at www.olympicbirdfest.org.



EASTERN SIERRA/OWENS VALLEY FIELD TRIP LIMITED SIGN-UP

From May 4th to May 8th, Hal Benham will be facilitating a field trip to view Sierra Nevada birdlife featuring the Sage Grouse mating ritual at their lek near Crowley Lake. May 4th is a travel day to Lone Pine. On May 5th we will travel north to Bishop, birding along the way. Important stops will be at Glacier Lodge for Sooty Grouse and Aspendell for gray-crowned rosy finch, mountain bluebird, Cassin’s finch, Clark’s Nutcracker and other high altitude specialties. We will stay in Bishop 2 nights. On the evening of May 5th we will attend a talk on the Greater Sage Grouse by biologist Sherri Lissius. May 6th will find us at the Lake Crowley grouse lek at 5:30 AM, which means leaving Bishop no later than 4:45 AM. We will spend ample time at the lek, then bird in a long loop for the rest of the day, stopping along the way for a picnic lunch, and finally arriving back at Bishop in the afternoon. On May 7th we will bird our way back to Lone Pine with several stops planned. We will spend the night of the 7th in Lone Pine or you can forge on home if you have the energy.

The trip will be limited to 20 participants. All meals and lodging will be at the participants own expense. The cost is \$50 per person for members of Palomar Audubon Society and \$75 per person for non-members. Checks should be made payable to Palomar Audubon Society. The application must be postmarked **no sooner** than March 15th, and participants will be selected on a first come-first served basis. Send application and check to Dianne Benham, 15946 Cumberland Dr., Poway, CA 92064. Call 858 679 7904 for questions. Participants will receive a full itinerary plus lodging and restaurant details via email when selected.

EASTERN SIERRA REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s) _____

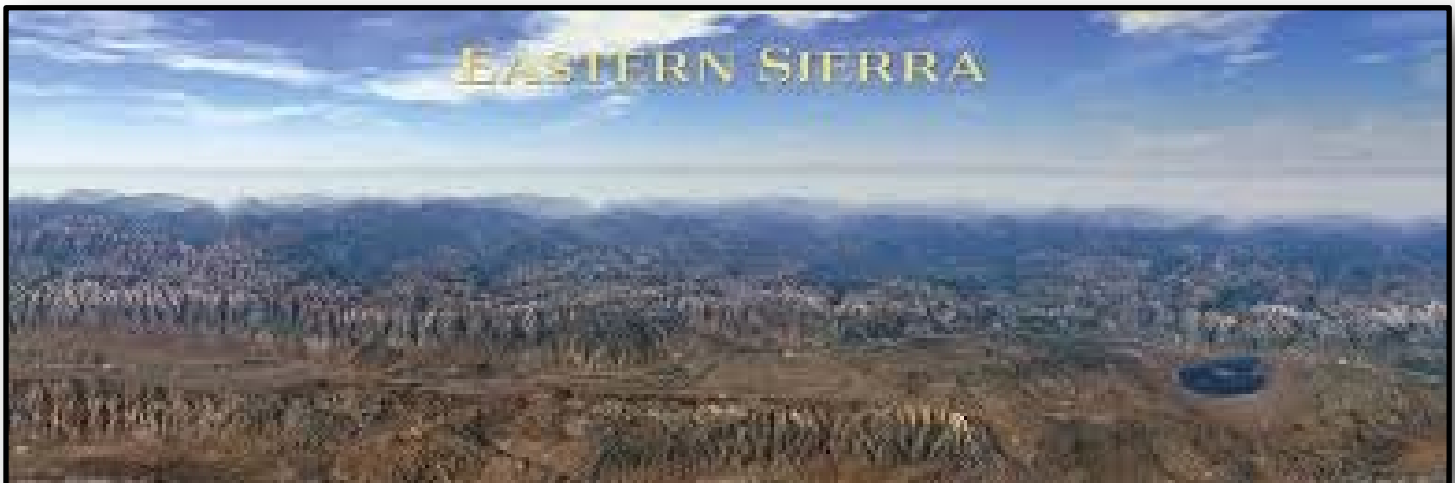
Address _____

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

E-mail _____

Amount Enclosed _____



FROM AUDUBONATHOME

FIVE ACTIONS THAT WILL PROTECT BIRDS WHERE YOU LIVE:

- 1) Reduce or eliminate pesticide and herbicide use. By using fewer chemicals in and around your home you will help keep birds, pets and your family healthy.
- 2) Help keep ALL water clean: patch bare areas in your yard with native grasses to prevent erosion, sweep sidewalks and driveways instead of hosing them down, and use a funnel when you fill your lawn-mower. The pollution that flows from your yard into local streams can have a harmful impact on the environment.
- 3) Let your yard get a little messy! Leave snags for nesting places and stack downed tree limbs to create a brush pile, which is a great source of cover for birds during bad weather.
- 4) Attract hummingbirds with sugar water, made by combining four parts hot water to one part white sugar, boiled for one to two minutes. Never use honey, artificial sweeteners, or food coloring. Clean hummingbird feeders with a solution of one part white vinegar to four parts water once a week.
- 5) Make your windows visible, to birds to prevent collisions. Put up screens, close drapes and blinds when you leave the house, or stick multiple decals on the glass (decals need to be no more than two to four inches apart to be effective).

Find many more ideas at AudubonAtHome.org or look us up on Facebook at www.facebook.com/AudubonAtHome.

(Continued from page 2)

divulged only to the proper conservation authorities.

1(d) Stay on roads, trails, and paths where they exist; otherwise keep habitat disturbance to a minimum.

2. Respect the law and the rights of others.

2(a) Do not enter private property without the owner's explicit permission.

2(b) Follow all laws, rules, and regulations governing use of roads and public areas, both at home and abroad.

2(c) Practice common courtesy in contacts with other people. Your exemplary behavior will generate goodwill with birders and non-birders alike.

3. Ensure that feeders, nest structures, and other artificial bird environments are safe.

3(a) Keep dispensers, water, and food clean and free of decay or disease. It is important to feed birds continually during harsh weather.

3(b) Maintain and clean nest structures regularly.

3(c) If you are attracting birds to an area, ensure the birds are not exposed to predation from cats and other domestic animals, or dangers posed by artificial hazards.

4. Group birding, whether organized or impromptu, responsibilities as a Group Member.

4(a) Respect the interests, rights, and skills of fellow birders, as well as those of people participating in other legitimate outdoor activities. Freely share your knowledge and experience, except where code 1(c) applies. Be especially helpful to beginning birders.

4(b) If you witness unethical birding behavior, assess the situation and intervene if you think it prudent. When interceding, inform the person(s) of the inappropriate action and attempt, within reason, to have it stopped. If the behavior continues, document it and notify appropriate individuals or organizations.

Group Leader Responsibilities [amateur and professional trips and tours]

4(c) Be an exemplary ethical role model for the group. Teach through word and example.

4(d) Keep groups to a size that limits impact on the environment and does not interfere with others using the same area.

4(e) Ensure everyone in the group knows of and practices this code.

4(f) Learn and inform the group of any special circumstances applicable to the areas being visited (e.g. no sound devices allowed).

4(g) Acknowledge that professional tour companies bear a special responsibility to place the welfare of birds and the benefits of public knowledge ahead of the company's commercial interests. Ideally, leaders should keep track of tour sightings, document unusual occurrences, and submit records to appropriate organizations.

Please follow this code. Distribute it and teach it to others.

Additional copies of the Code of Birding Ethics can be obtained from ABA. The ABA Code of Birding Ethics may be reprinted, reproduced, and distributed without restriction. Please acknowledge the role of ABA in developing and promoting this code.

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March-April, 2017

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
 P.O. Box 2483
 Escondido, CA 92033-2483

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Treasurer	
Sunny Christiansen.....	760-297-3096
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Richard Fowler	619-252-3767
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Web Page: http://www.palomaraudubon.org	
Webmaster: Jeff Ebright: 858-484-3932 palomaraudubon@gmail.com	

Board of Director's Meeting

Thursday, March 2nd
Thursday, April 6th
 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	
March	2 Board of Directors' Meeting
March	4 Santee Lakes Walk
March	11 San Jacinto Wildlife Area Walk
March	18 Lake Hodges Walk
March	23 General Meeting: "Leading the Way – SeaWorld's Bird Rescue Program"
March	25 Whelan Lake Bird Sanctuary Walk
April	1 San Pasqual Agricultural Trail Walk
April	6 Board of Directors' Meeting
April	8 Old Mission Dam Walk
April	15 Dairy Mart Pond/Tijuana River Valley Walk
April	22 Wilderness Gardens Preserve Walk
April	27 General Meeting: "Birds, Blossoms, and Butterflies: Trinidad & Tobago"
April	29 Big Morongo Canyon Preserve Walk
May	6 Daley Ranch Walk