



# Band Tales

Palomar Audubon Society  
A Chapter of the  
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume XXXII  
No. 4

November-December, 2017

Editor  
Arne Christiansen

## ESCONDIDO CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30<sup>th</sup> 2017

Each year between December 14<sup>th</sup> and January 5<sup>th</sup>, thousands of birders and nature enthusiasts participate in one or more of the 2000+ Christmas Bird Counts held annually in the United States, Canada, and many other Western Hemisphere countries. This year will mark the 118<sup>th</sup> year for this event.

This holiday season please join with the other birders for this important citizen science effort sponsored by the National Audubon Society. The one-day bird counts provide valuable data about the number of bird species and numbers of each species occurring within a set geographical area.

Palomar Audubon Society would like to extend an invitation to all birders to participate in the annual Escondido Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, December 30, 2017. The count circle incorporates mostly rural areas near Escondido, Valley Center, and Ramona. Fantastic birding skills are not a requirement – an extra pair of eyes is always helpful.

The after-birding compilation meeting will be held in the early afternoon at Kit Carson Park's covered picnic shelter. The highlight of the day will be the deli-style lunch provided, courtesy of Palomar Audubon Society.

For more information contact Jim Beckman on an upcoming Saturday field trip. Jim can also be reached at (858) 205-2819. For additional information and/or team assignments contact the Escondido CBC senior compiler, Ken Weaver by phone at (760) 723-2448 or by email at [gncatcher@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gncatcher@sbcglobal.net).

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

## SALTON SEA TRIP

Come join Palomar Audubon Society as we bird the Salton Sea and areas around the Sea and Imperial Valley January 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Our trip two years ago was very successful and we are looking forward to another "birdie weekend". Our trip will include a full day of birding on Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup> and a half-day on Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> to allow ample time to drive home in the afternoon daylight.

We are limiting the number of participants to 30 to maximize the birding experience. This field trip is a fundraiser for Palomar Audubon Society. The cost of the trip is \$30 per person, which includes a guide fee and a donation to PAS. To attend this field trip you must be a current member of Palomar Audubon. If you are not a member but would like to attend, please add a \$25 membership fee to the cost of the trip.

To secure your reservation, please send your \$30/person check, payable to "Palomar Audubon Society" to: Hal/Dianne Benham, 15946 Cumberland Drive, Poway, CA, 92064. In addition to the \$30, please include the first and last name, email address, cell phone number and mailing address for each participant. If the trip fills we will begin a waiting list.

Hotel rooms (non-smoking) at the Brawley Inn are being held for Palomar Audubon Society at a special group rate for the nights of Friday, January 26<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup>. You are responsible for calling the Brawley Inn to reserve one of these rooms for one or both nights. Their phone number is 760-344-1199. The Palomar Audubon Society Salton Sea field trip is always a popular birding adventure. Don't delay making your reservation!

If you have questions regarding this trip, you may contact Dianne or Hal Benham by email at:

[diannebenham@me.com](mailto:diannebenham@me.com)



### Inside this Band Tales

*A Birds-Eye View* .....page 2  
*Conservation Notes* .....page 2  
*No Programs during either November nor December*  
*Field Trips* .....pages 4-5

## A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

*Penny Hernandez, President*

Do you have a plan in place for enduring hurricanes, earthquakes, fires and other disasters? I know all of these things happen every day, it just seems not all at once or to the degree at which they have occurred in the past year. I know we all try to have insurance to replace what we have lost, but can insurance replace forests, animals, rivers, marshes, sea shores, and other natural resources? No!



I'm not even sure where I am going with this. I just know we have to think of the natural world, along with the material world of homes, buildings, cars, and other possessions when these disasters happen. Please think of ways we can replace, rebuild, save and ensure the world is here

for present and future generations. Let us all act together to make our visions a reality.

*Penny*



San Diego Bird Festival is a 5-day event being held from the 21<sup>st</sup> of February to the 25<sup>th</sup> of February 2018 in San Diego, USA. This event showcases products like native birds soar above the breathtaking landscapes of Chile on this journey through Southern Patagonia, including adventures by land and a three night cruise, the world's most beautiful natural sites including the Darwin Mountain Range, Magadaleña Island and the Magellan Forest to observe Chile's avifauna and much more etc. in the Consumer & Carnivals industry.

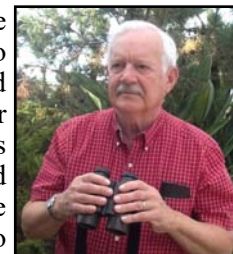
The best way to get the trips you want is by registering online at: [https://live.iplanevents.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=reg.info&event\\_id=2829](https://live.iplanevents.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=reg.info&event_id=2829). The system can register parties of one or two. For groups of more than two people, please contact the San Diego Audubon Society at (858) 273-7800 or via the website at: [www.sandiegoaudubon.org/](http://www.sandiegoaudubon.org/) There is a \$10 registration fee per person.

## CONSERVATION NOTES

*Richard Fowler, Conservation Chair*

### ENDANGERED SPECIES AND HURRICANES

The Puerto Rican Parrot (AKA the Amazon Parrot) enjoyed a robust population in Pre-Columbian days. However loss of habitat, hunting and other scourges greatly reduced the population. In 1989 Hurricane Hugo destroyed over half the wild population and at the end of that year only 22 birds remained. The bird has been listed as critically endangered since 1994 and as of 2012 there were over 300 birds in captivity and up to 80 in the wild.



According to a recent article in the New York Times by Luis Ferre-Sadurni, the parrot is an iconic specie of Puerto Rico. The bird survives in El Yunque and Rio Abajo National Forests both of which received direct hits from Hurricane Maria. At this point it is impossible to assess the survival of this wild population, though it is clear that there has been a major loss of trees that the parrots rely on for food and shelter from the sun.

Fortunately, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has a Puerto Rican Parrot recovery program that is currently assessing the damage. They and volunteers are mitigating the threat to the parrots by clearing away debris and providing artificial shelter from the sun. Some food sources have survived though the quantity at this point is not known.

Biologist report that hurricanes are a natural part of Puerto Rico's ecosystem and in the long run will lead to recovery and health of flora and fauna. In the short run it is a different story and the fate of the Puerto Rican Parrot in the wild is unknown.

Closer to home Florida's endangered Snail Kite was in the path of Hurricane Irma. National Audubon reported that all 44 active Snail Kite nests at Lake Okeechobee were lost, which is a significant proportion of all the Snail Kite nests in the Everglade system. The Snail Kite does well when the ecosystem does well. Both National Audubon and Florida Audubon are working to maintain healthy water levels in the Everglades and there is hope that the nesting success of Snail Kites will improve in the year ahead.

We can do our part by supporting National Audubon.

*Richard*



## YOU CAN STILL HELP SAVE 1000 ACRES!

Palomar Audubon's match for the **SAVE 1000 ACRES** fund drive will continue until December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 unless the match is reached before then. Be alert for the owl logo on another letter from PAS. Please give a hoot and give what you can.

*Richard*

## IS HAPPINESS A HUMMINGBIRD?

*(Thanks to contributor Pat Pawlowski)*

Just wondering--that's how I felt when I saw the tiny brownish feathery thing (a hummingbird, natch, but which species? Not easy to tell) flittering among the milkweed plants. The plants had flowered some time ago, and now seemed to be offering up to the winds and whatever else their seeds, each of which had whitish silky filaments attached. Probably the female hummer was gathering the filaments to prepare a secure and comfortable nest for her little offspring-to-come. It was pretty cool to see a hummer where there usually isn't.

So I guess milkweed (*Asclepias* species) can be called a multi-tasker plant. Naturally we all know (or do we?) that it is a host plant for the larval stage of monarch and queen butterflies. Also, milkweed flowers contain nectar, which is appreciated by all kinds of little six-legged critters. And those critters attract insect-eating birds. Plus nest-material-gathering hummingbird mothers which birders get to watch. Let's hear it for the plants!

Speaking of plants: Fall is a great time to welcome native plants into your bird-watching life. Fall is when many of the native plant organizations hold their sales. Although it is said that you can plant natives any time of the year, Fall is when there is the best selection of plants to choose from. So keep your eyes peeled (you do anyway; you're a birder) for plant sale announcements, and visit some native plant nurseries.

You probably don't need to attract the Bluebird of Happiness, a hummingbird will do!

*(editor's note: Pat has written for California Garden, San Diego Home/Garden; thanks Pat )*



## GREAT HARBOR CRUISE

On Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup> Arne and Sunny Christiansen celebrated their 52<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary with -family aboard the "Someday is Now" 46-foot cabin cruiser. This trip was generously donated for .auction at the PAS Annual Picnic by members Al and Gray Church. Not only did they skipper the yacht, but they also provided wonderful snacks and perfect weather.

Al and Gray offer two-hour harbor cruises, fishing expeditions (poles and bait provided) or custom- designed pelagic trips for up to six people. Keep them in mind the next time you want to entertain out-of-town guests or treat yourself to a beautiful cruise on San Diego Bay. Call Gray Church at 951-757-9621 or via email at

[somedaycharters.com](http://somedaycharters.com).



*("Someday is Now")*

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

Joe Leeak  
Max Leibowitz  
Jack and Constance Lee  
John and Sally Sanderson  
Marilyn Schmitz

## AND WE APPRECIATE OUR DONORS VERY MUCH!

Jack and Kathy Billings  
Rustom Jamader

## 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.

**(NOTICE - New Fall/Winter Start Time)**

**Saturday, November 4, 8:30 am.**

**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 trail-head kiosk.

Leader: Tom Trowbridge

760-743-1052

Saturday, November 11, 8:30 am.

**Lake Hodges East/Rancho Bernardo**

Rancho Bernardo

**(1150 - A6) Rating: 2**

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

Leader: Jeff Ebricht

858-484-3932

Saturday, November 18, 8:30 am.

**South Bay Salt Works**

National City

**(1330 F4) Rating: 1-2**

From North County, take I-15 south to I-5 and exit at Palomar St. in National City. Go west a short distance and turn left on Bay Blvd. Continue south to 1470 Bay Boulevard and the dirt parking lot on your right. Use a restroom at a fast food joint in National City before arrival - Palomar St. east etc. This location is a restricted area not open to the public. We will be driving/hiking out on the dikes extending into South Bay to view waterfowl and shorebirds. **Arrive early for car assignments. The entrance gate will be closed and locked after our departure.** FWS Ranger Debbie Good will accompany us on this field trip.

Leader: Jim Beckman

858-205-2819

SUNDAY, November 26, 8:30 am.

**San Jacinto Wildlife Area**

Riverside County

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

**NOTE: THIS A SUNDAY FIELD TRIP.** From San Diego County take I-15 north to I-215. 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 three miles to the SJWA headquarters parking lot on the right. From Escondido, allow 75 minutes drive time.

Bring a lunch for an after-walk picnic. Always a favorite field trip!

Leader: Sally Sanderson

760-749-6995 vcwillow@aol.com

Saturday, December 2, 8:30 am.

**Lindo Lake**

Lakeside

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

From North County, take I-15 south to Hwy.52 then east to Hwy 67. Head north, and take the Winter Gardens Boulevard Exit. 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, December 9, 8:30 am.

**San Elijo Lagoon**

Solana Beach

**(1167-E6) Rating: 2**

Take I-5 to Lomas Santa Fe Drive. Go west to North Rios Avenue. Turn right (north) and go all the way to the end of North Rios Avenue Park and meet at the end of the street near the barricade. This is a good spot to view wintering waterfowl and shorebirds.

Leader: Dave Cowan

858-437-4101

Saturday, December 16, 8:30 am

**A Fallbrook Adventure!**

**Live Oak County Park/Los Jilgueros Preserve**

Fallbrook

**(1028- C5) Rating: 1**

Take I-15 north to the Fallbrook/E Mission Exit 51. Cross over the freeway and turn left on to Old Highway 395 located at the stoplight immediately after the I-15 South Freeway exit. Proceed 1 mile south to Reche Road. Turn right and proceed 2.2 miles up Reche Road to Live Oak County Park located immediately after Gird Road. Meet in the parking lot. There is a small parking fee at all SD County Parks, but free with a Senior Parking Permit. Our target birds here are the Band-tailed Pigeons and Wood Ducks. Lewis's Woodpeckers have also been seen here at this time of the year. Afterwards, we travel to Los Jilgueros Preserve for winter riparian species. Continue up Reche Road until it dead-ends onto Old Stagecoach Road. Turn left and proceed until it dead-ends into South Mission Road. Turn right, proceed through the next traffic light and within 100 yards, turn right into Los Jilgueros Preserve. **Afterwards a buffet lunch is being served two**

**minutes away at the Walkley's.** A word of caution: several GPS models do not work well in the Fallbrook area. It is best to follow these instructions.

Leader: Doug Walkley  
310-387-8190

Saturday, December 23, 8:30 am.

**Tijuana Estuary**  
Imperial Beach  
(1349-F1) Rating: 2

Travel south on I-5 from San Diego and exit west on Coronado Avenue, which becomes Imperial Beach Boulevard. Turn left on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street to Caspian Way, turn left and then right to the Tijuana Estuary Visitor Center parking lot.

Leader: Michael Beeve  
209-247-5237

Saturday, December 30

**Escondido Christmas Bird Count**

Palomar Audubon Society would like to extend an invitation to all birders to participate in the annual Escondido Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, Dec 30th. The count circle incorporates mostly rural areas near Escondido, Valley Center, and Ramona. Fantastic birding skills are not a requirement – an extra pair of eyes is always helpful. The after-birding compilation meeting will be held in the early afternoon at Kit Carson Park's covered picnic shelter. The highlight of the day will be the deli-style lunch provided, courtesy of Palomar Audubon Society. For more information and/or team assignments, contact Jim Beckman (858) 205-2819 or Ken Weaver (760) 723-2448

email [gncatcher@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gncatcher@sbcglobal.net).

**Sign up now and join the fun!**

Saturday, January 6, 8:30 am.

**Dixon Lake**  
Escondido

(1110-C3) Rating: 2

From I-15 in Escondido, exit at El Norte Parkway and drive east approximately 3 miles. Look for the "Daley Ranch/Dixon Lake" signs and turn left (north) on La Honda Drive. Drive up the hill to the free parking area on your left at the end of the road. Meet at the east end of the parking lot, near the kiosk, adjacent to the Dixon Lake park entrance.

Leader: Sally Sanderson  
760-749-6995 [vcwillow@aol.com](mailto:vcwillow@aol.com)



## Olympic BirdFest 2018

*Come Bird With Us*

**Sequim, Washington, April 13-15, 2018**

**G**rab your binoculars and join the 15<sup>th</sup> annual **Olympic BirdFest 2018** celebration at the Dungeness River Audubon Center, April 13-15, 2018.

The stage is set...quiet bays and estuaries, sandy beaches, a five-mile-long sand spit, and a protected island bird sanctuary on the Strait of Juan de Fuca; wetlands, tide pools, rainforests, and lush river valleys. The players are ready ... Marbled Murrelets, Rhinoceros Auklets, Harlequin Ducks, Black Oystercatchers, Peregrine Falcons, Barred and Pygmy Owls will be sporting their finest spring plumage for this celebration. Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tour, and a gala banquet. Our featured speaker this year, Claudio Vidal has been exploring & birding since the age of 12 and currently leads birding/nature tours & photo safaris through Patagonia, Chile & South America.

Come bird with us and experience with others the spectacular landscapes of the Olympic Peninsula ...you just might go home with a new bird for your life list! Check out the offerings by going online ([www.olympicbirdfest.org](http://www.olympicbirdfest.org)).

Precede your BirdFest weekend with a three-day, two night birding cruise of the spectacular **San Juan Islands** on April 10-12, 2018. Visit San Juan and Sucia Islands, and more. Stay at the historic Roche Harbor Resort.

Extend your Birdfest weekend with the **Neah Bay post-trip**, April 16-17, 2018:

two and one-half days exploring northwest coastal Washington, a region rarely seen by birders.

Contact us by phone, at 360-681-4076 or E-mail us at [info@olympicbirdfest.org](mailto:info@olympicbirdfest.org),

Or write to us at:

Dungeness River Audubon Center  
P.O. Box 2450  
Sequim, WA 98382

## PROGRAMS

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

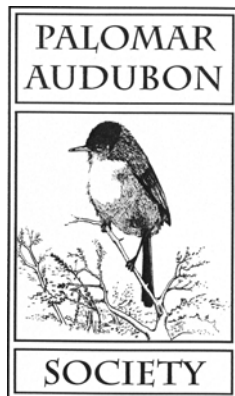
**HAVE A VERY HAPPY HOLIDAY! SEASON !**



# Band Tales

## November-December, 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**  
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### PALOMAR AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, & COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2016-2017

#### President

Penny Hernandez' ..... 760-746-8315

#### Vice-President

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

#### Secretary

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

#### Treasurer

Sunny Christiansen ..... 760-297-3096

#### Directors

Dianne Benham ..... 858-679-7904

Richard Fowler ..... 619-252-3767

Alice Holmes ..... 925-212-8165

Robin Kohler ..... 858-483-1217

Tom Trowbridge ..... 760-743-1052

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

#### Committee Chairs

Band Tales ..... Arne Christiansen ..... 760-297-3096

Conservation ..... Richard Fowler ..... 619-252-3767

Education ..... Robin Kohler ..... 858-483-1217

Exhibits ..... Penny Hernandez ..... 760-746-8315

Field Trips ..... Jim Beckman ..... 858-205-2819

Fundraising ..... Committee ..... xxx-xxx-xxxx

Hospitality ..... Open ..... xxx-xxx-xxxx

Membership ..... Alice Holmes ..... 925-212-8165

Programs ..... Committee ..... xxx-xxx-xxxx

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

Travel ..... Hal & Dianne Benham ..... 858-679-7904

Web Page: [birding@palomaraudubon.org](mailto:birding@palomaraudubon.org)

Webmaster: Jeff Ebright: 858-484-3932

[palomaraudubon@gmail.com](mailto:palomaraudubon@gmail.com)

### Board of Directors' Meeting

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

*Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>*

7:00 p.m. at the Remington Club

16916 Hierba Drive

Rancho Bernardo

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

### QUICK CALENDAR

<i>November</i>	<i>2</i>	Board of Directors' Meeting
<i>November</i>	<i>4</i>	Daley Ranch Walk
<i>November</i>	<i>11</i>	Lake Hodges East/Bernardo Bay Walk
<i>November</i>	<i>18</i>	South Bay Salt Works Walk
<i>November</i>	<i>26</i>	San Jacinto Wildlife Area Walk-SUNDAY!
<i>December</i>	<i>2</i>	Lindo Lake Walk
<i>December</i>	<i>7</i>	Board of Directors' Meeting
<i>December</i>	<i>9</i>	San Elijo Lagoon Walk
<i>December</i>	<i>16</i>	A Fallbrook Adventure! Live Oak County Park/ Los Jilgueros Preserve
<i>December</i>	<i>23</i>	Tijuana Estuary Walk
<i>December</i>	<i>30</i>	Escondido Christmas Bird Count
<i>January</i>	<i>6</i>	Dixon Lake Walk