



Band Tales

Palomar Audubon Society
A Chapter of the
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Editor
Arne Christiansen



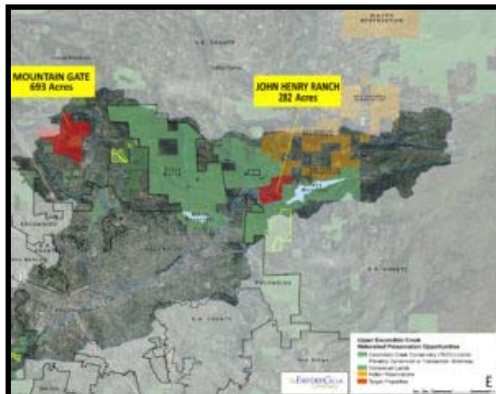
FROM THE NATIONAL AUDUBON WEBSITE

SAVE 1,000 ACRES

Ann Van Leer, Executive Director

During 2017, The Escondido Creek Conservancy ramped up our efforts to save 1,000 acres in the upper watershed by partnering with the **Friends of Daley Ranch** and with **Palomar Audubon Society** to purchase the Mountain Gate and John Henry properties. Both organizations have agreed to match donations from their supporters. In the past year we have received over 350 individual donations, the most individual donations of any preservation effort the Conservancy has led. With the matches, we have now raised almost \$200,000 towards our private fundraising goal of \$300,000! Donations are used for transaction costs we are required to make to control the properties through 2018 while we fundraise. The balance will come from grants we are seeking in parallel to the private fundraising effort.

We recently received a little good news that one of our pending grants made the first qualifications cut and received a site visit by the grant reviewers! While this was a very promising step, we still have a long way to go. We currently have other grants pending and are writing more that, if awarded, would apply towards the balance. Your donation to the campaign to **SAVE1000acres**, of any amount, is extremely significant as it helps potential grantors understand the scope and scale of the appreciation residents have for this land. It is very powerful when we can say 350 people thought these properties worthy enough to apply their hard-earned money towards saving this piece of the planet! Consider a donation to the campaign to help us achieve our goal of 1,000 individual donations! See save1000acres.org.



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 sugar, boiled for one to two minutes. Never use honey, artificial sweeteners, or food coloring. Clean humming bird 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

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A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Penny Hernandez, President

Hope you all had a great Holiday. I know the fires effected some more than others, but hopefully everyone will be facing a better new year.

I went back and reread my last letter about not knowing where I was going with the subject of natural disasters. I also read the Conservation Notes by Richard Fowler. I didn't realize we were writing about the same subject. The thing I did think about after reading Richard's article is that natural disasters are a part the ecosystem and in the long run will lead to recovery and health of flora and fauna. We haven't found ways to stop hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, but what about many of the wild fires? A great many of these fires are manmade. Careless campers, downed power lines, arsonists, these are the things we can control, so let's get busy solving these problems.

We know these disasters are going to continue so let's work hard to figure out what we as individuals, communities, and conservation groups can continue to do to ease the suffering of humans, wild animals, and our important resources.



Penny

PAS 2016 CONSERVATION REVIEW

Richard Fowler, Conservation Chair

Rapid Natural Selection

Richard Fowler

As some of you older students of biology and evolution may remember, natural selection is not always a slow process. Although typically it may occur over many generations, there are examples of rapid change. One that came to mind as I prepared this story is the Peppered Moth. Back in the early 1800's as soot covered trees and buildings in industrial parts of the United Kingdom, a black form of the Peppered Moth rapidly replaced the salt and pepper lighter form. This suggested that the black form was better adapted to the industrial age. As a side note it is interesting that modern studies have linked this changed to a mutation that occurred in about 1819. It is also noteworthy that with environmental cleanup, the

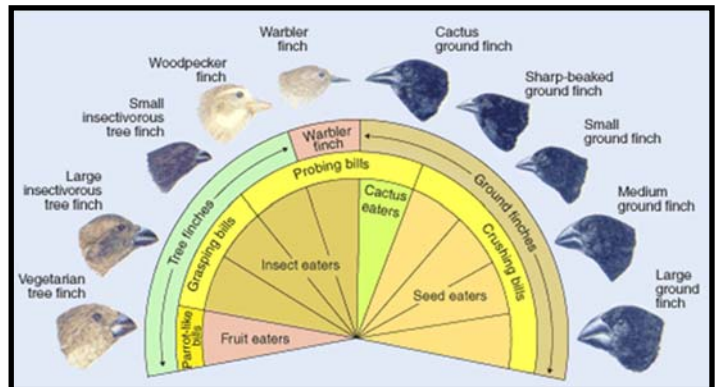
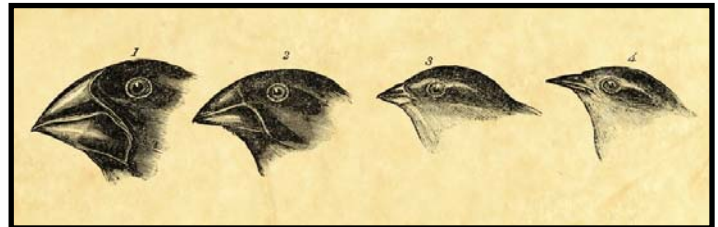


lighter form of the Checkered Moth has reappeared as the dominant form in the large industrial cities. This only reinforces the view that natural selection can be rapid.

Fast forward to present day birds in the United States. The Snail Kite has been an endangered species in the Everglades. As of 2007 the number had dwindled to as few as 700. Their usual diet had been small apple snails. However, a larger invasive snail appeared in 2004. There was great concern that this would contribute to further decline in Snail Kite numbers because the Kites appeared to have difficulty eating the larger snails.

However, researchers at the University of Florida have discovered that the number of Snail Kites has grown in the past thirteen years (to over 2,000 at present.) They have also documented increased beak size and body mass for the Snail Kites since 2004 (up 8-14 percent). It would appear that the larger beak size has contributed to the Snail Kites ability to ingest the larger invasive snail. This change has occurred over two generations of Snail Kites and indicates that natural selection has happened very quickly. The study also suggests that genetics has played a role as larger beaked parents have produced larger beaked offspring and larger beaked offspring have fared better than their smaller beaked cousins.

This appears to be good news for an animal's ability to adjust to climate change and other environmental threats quickly. Of course it does not change the reality that we are in a time of increased extinction of species, but the news is not all bad.





SAVE THE DATE: Olympic Birdfest, April 13-15, 2018. Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tours, live auction, raffle, gala banquet, and more. Our featured speaker: Claudio Vidal will talk about Patagonia & Chile: Birds & Mammals at the End of the Americas. Join our festival pre-trip: a three-day, two-night birding/sightseeing cruise of the San Juan Islands, April 10-12, 2018 or extend your festival with our Neah Bay post-trip on April 16-17, 2018: two days exploring northwest coastal Washington. To learn more and register, visit www.olympicbirdfest.org.



2018 SAN DIEGO BIRD FESTIVAL

Feb 21-25, 2018

Marina Village Conference Center

Special Guests: Paul Bannick, Kevin McGowan, Bill Thompson III, and Julie Zickefoose

Registration began October 2, 2017 9:00 am Pacific Time. The best way to get the trips you want is by registering online. The system can register parties of one or two.

For groups of more than two people, please contact us.

There is a \$10 registration fee per person. Want to save on registration? Volunteer during the festival! Choose the Attendee Role of "Volunteer," and your registration fee will be waived. We'll contact you and set you up to work a shift.

Please note there is an error in the brochure insert worksheet. Su02 is listed at an incorrect price of \$105. The cost of this field trip is \$125.

In some resources, the F03 field trip is listed with an ending time of 1:30, and in others the listed time is 3:30. The correct ending time is 1:30 pm.

We regret that we have cited the incorrect name for one of our cherished sponsors. We urge you to check out Birds & Nature Tours Portugal at their website: www.birds.pt. They will be doing a couple of free programs during the festival, and co-leading field trips.

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

- Ann Baldwin
- Michael and Sonja Beeve
- David and Kathy Billings
- Arne and Sunny Christiansen
- Joan Comito
- Judy Doebke
- Brian and Janet Edwards
- Elinor Foulke
- Ed and Jan Hall
- Bill and Martha Saltzman

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

- Michael and Sonja Beeve
- David and Kathy Billings
- Barbara Bury
- Brian and Janet Edwards
- Elinor Foulke
- Ed and Jan Hall
- Judy Jankauski
- Richard Mason
- Dawn Nowlin
- Scott Pallais
- Bill and Mariam Sherrad
- Peter Thomas



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.
760-743-1052

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. Continue toward Dixon Lake and the Daley Ranch free parking area on your left. Meet at the east end of this parking lot, adjacent the Dixon Lake entrance.

Leader: Jim Beckman
858-205-2819

Saturday, January 13, 8:30 am.

Sweetwater River/Bonita

National City

(1310-C4) Rating: 2

Take I-15 south to I-805 south and take the Sweetwater Road exit in National City. Turn right at Sweetwater Road and then right at Plaza Bonita Road. You will see the Plaza Bonita Shopping Center parking area on the left. Meet at the far west corner of the parking lot near the Outback Steakhouse. Our walk will be along the Sweetwater River where we should see a good variety of waterfowl and other birds.

Leader: Jeff Ebright
858-484-3932

Saturday, January 20, 8:30 am.

Dos Picos County Park & Rangeland Road

Ramona

(1171-H5) Rating: 2

From I-15 in Rancho Bernardo go east on Rancho Bernardo Road, which turns into Espola Road (S5), and continue to Poway Road (S4). Turn left and drive east to Highway 67. Head north on Highway 67 and just before you reach Ramona, make a hard right on Mussey Grade Road (heading southwest). Continue on Dos Picos Park Road ½ mile to the park entrance on the left. There is a San Diego County Park parking fee, but free with a County senior pass.

Leader: Michael Beeve
209-247-5237



Saturday, January 27 – Sunday, January 28

Salton Sea Weekend

NO LOCAL FIELD TRIP

Saturday, February 3, 8:30 am.

Guajome Regional Park

Oceanside

(1067-D7) Rating: 2

From Highway 78 in Oceanside, exit north on College Boulevard, and drive 4.4 miles north to Highway 76. Make a right turn on Highway 76 and continue east about ½ mile to Lake Guajome Road. Turn right (south) and drive up the hill past the park entrance, which does not open until later, and park on the street.

Leader: Doug Walkley
310-387-8190

Saturday, February 10, 8:30 am.

Oak Hill Memorial Park

Escondido

(1130-F1) Rating: 1

From I-15 exit east on Via Rancho Parkway, which becomes Bear Valley Parkway, and drive 5 miles north to Glen Ridge road at Orange Glen High School. Turn right on Glen Ridge Road and proceed approximately 1 mile east to the cemetery gate. Turn left to parking area.

Leader: Penny Hernandez
760-746-8315

Saturday, February 17, 8:30 am.

San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary

5 Riparian View, Irvine, CA 92612

(Thomas Guide to Orange County, page 859 J-7)

Rating: 2

Take I-5 north to the San Diego Freeway I-405. Continue north on the I-405 a short distance and then take the Culver exit and turn left (south). At the first signal, which is Michelson, turn right. Continue west on Michelson and then turn left on Harvard. Continue south on Harvard and then turn right on University Drive. Continue on University to Campus Dr. and turn right again. Stay in the far right lane and immediately turn right on to Riparian View which will enter the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. (There is a dark green sign by the turnoff, identifying this as the route into the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary) At the end of the road, you will make a sharp left turn down a steep driveway and into the parking lot. The first building you see will be the Sea & Sage Audubon House. Beyond the Audubon House are the ponds of the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary and many trails for us to explore. Allow 50 minutes from Oceanside.

Leader: Sally Sanderson
760-749-6995

Saturday, February 24
San Diego Bird Festival – No Scheduled Field Trip

Saturday, March 3, 8:30 am.

Santee Lakes

Santee

(1231-A5) Rating: 2

From I-15 go east on Highway 52. Exit at Mast Boulevard. Continue east on Mast Boulevard. 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 Boulevard turn left on Fanita Parkway, and continue north to Lake Canyon Dr. Turn right, park along the street, and walk through the open gate for **FREE**. Meet in the parking lot by the General Store between lakes 4 & 5.

Leader: Tom Trowbridge
 760-743-1052

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 6:30 pm with the meeting and program getting under way promptly at 7:00 pm.

Thursday, January 25, 2018

Alex Bairstow

“My Youth Summer Birding Camp in Colorado”

Palomar Audubon Society has a community outreach program with several special initiatives. One of these initiatives is our youth scholarship program. In July 2017, we provided a 100% scholarship award for a week-long educational teenager birding camp conducted by the American Birding Association at Estes Park, Colorado. The recipient of this Young Birder scholarship was Alex Bairstow.

Alex is 17 years old and a senior in high school. He became hooked on birds around age nine, though he has been interested in nature for as long as he can remember. What got him interested in birds was observing his grandmother's bird feeder in Massachusetts. After that, he set up his own feeder at his home in Virginia, before moving to California. His father is career military and Alex was free to roam the trails around his neighborhood on Camp Pendleton, seeing all sorts of new birds. Right now Alex is extremely interested in shorebirds. Alex is planning on attending Humboldt State University where he hopes to pursue a career in marine biology. Also, Alex leads birding field trips at the Whelan Lake Bird Sanctuary and Agua Hedionda Lagoon.

Alex is an excellent birder and is very active on eBird. He is looking forward to sharing his good time and great photos with the generous members of PAS who support our scholarship programs!

Mark your calendars. Don't miss this one!

Thursday, February 22

Neil Solomon

“The Birds of Peru”

From the Urubamba River below the heights of Machu Picchu, over 12,000 foot Andean passes to the lowlands of the Amazon headwaters, Peru is a land of ancient civilizations and Birds. Many Birds. 1792 species of Birds to be exact.

Neil would like to share his experiences traveling for two weeks by air, train, van, and boat, as he braved torrential rain and rock slides, to photograph Peruvian birds wherever he could find them. Neil has many stories to tell, but more importantly, many images to show you.

Neil has been photographing birds for the past seventeen years or so. He is a long time resident of San Diego and a member of the Photo Naturalists Camera Club. Neil enjoys photographing birds wherever he can find them but particularly enjoys traveling to out-of-the-way places. This is Neil's ninth PAS presentation, and like his previous programs, you can count on it being very interesting and informative.

Mark your calendars. Don't miss this presentation!



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January-February, 2018

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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 & COMMITTEE CHAIRS
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- Secretary**
 Jeff Ebright 858-484-3932
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 - ConservationRichard Fowler 619-252-3767
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 - Scholarship.....Jim Beckman 858-205-2819
 - TravelHal & Dianne Benham 858-679-7904

Web Page: <http://www.palomaraudubon.org>
Webmaster: Jeff Ebright: 858-484-3932
palomaraudubon@gmail.com

Board of Director's Meeting

Thursday, January 4th
Thursday, February 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

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| January | 4 | Board of Directors' Meeting |
| January | 6 | Dixon Lake Walk |
| January | 13 | Sweetwater River/Bonita Walk |
| January | 20 | Dos Picos County Park & Rangeland Road |
| January | 25 | General Meeting: Alex Bairstow - "My Youth Summer Birding Camp in Colorado" |
| January | 27 | Salton Sea Trip (no local walk scheduled) |
| February | 1 | Board of Directors' Meeting |
| February | 3 | Guajome Regional Park Walk |
| February | 10 | Oak Hill Memorial Park Walk |
| February | 17 | San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary Walk |
| February | 22 | General Meeting: Neil Solomon - "The Birds of Peru" |
| February | 24 | San Diego Bird Festival (no local walk scheduled) |
| March | 3 | Santee Lakes Walk |