PAS FIFTH ANNUAL BIRD CLASS

Palomar Audubon Society is again offering bird classes on consecutive Tuesday evenings beginning Tuesday April 16, 2019. The first three classes will be for beginners and the last three (starting Tuesday May 7th) will be for intermediate birders. The classes will be integrated for beginners taking both classes. There will be three Saturday field trips, April 27th, May 11th and May 28th.

Classes will start at 6:30 P.M. 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 Compañas 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 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 April 13, 2019.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s): __________________________________________ Phone: __________________

E-mail: ________________________________________________

_____ Beginner/novice $60.00 each   _____ Intermediate $60.00 each   _____ Both classes $90.00 each

Total enclosed: ____________________

Mail form and check to Palomar Audubon Society, P.O. Box 2483, Escondido, Ca. 92033-2483 by April 20th, 2019.
OW!! Another year gone and what a good year PAS had…

Palomar Audubon had huge success with our birding classes and hope 2019 classes are as successful. Richard Fowler has also headed up our “Save a Thousand Acres” campaign. We have helped The Escondido Creek Conservancy purchase the Mountain Gate Property and are on the way to purchasing the John Henry Property. Thank you to our Members who helped with the mailings and those who have donated.

Speaking of education, how about Alice Holmes success at Sundance Elementary School. We have helped another generation to learn to appreciate the environment and the birds that are supported by that environment. Alice has had help with her success by chapter members, parents of those students and Hewlett Packard Corporation, plus a great professional photographer. Another school (in Valley Center) is showing interest in the same program for the New Year.

Those of you who birded in Arizona with our PAS group this year had a wonderful trip. Members got a chance to see new life birds, what could be more fun for a birder. Dianne and Hal Benham did a great job organizing the trip and are working to find another trip for this coming year.

What about that Jim Beckman? Not only has he planned the fabulous programs and field trips, but he and Doug Walkley worked their magic on finding great locations, and even better Scholarship Winners. They already have our winner for 2019.

We start our new year with the Christmas Bird Count, January 5th, 2019 and in February PAS will be sponsoring the Southern California Council meeting. It’s a meeting where all Southern California chapters get together to discuss Audubon business and hear what other chapters are doing. All members are welcome to attend and to participate in the meeting. More information on location, etc. to follow.

Thank you all for the great year and please continue to support your chapter.

A BIRD’S EYE VIEW
Penny Hernandez, President

CONSERVATION NOTES
Richard Fowler, Conservation Chair

MOUNTAIN GATE WALKABOUT

On October 27th Palomar Audubon Board members joined Board members of Daley Ranch and The Escondido Creek Conservancy (TECC) for a tour of the recently acquired 693 acre Mountain Gate property. The purchase of this property was aided by your generous support for the Palomar Audubon's 2017 “Save 1000 Acres” campaign.

The purchase is locate off the Meadow Mountain Road exit on Interstate 15 north of Escondido. We all gathered at the Park and Ride off the freeway and caravaned to the site close by.

Our first stop was an old cement block building which TECC plans to convert to a nature center/research center. Plans are developing for a variety of activities that will be centered there. We then drove and walked to high points on the property. To the East we had a commanding view of Daley Ranch and to the West a view all the way to the ocean. Most of the land surrounding the property was undeveloped or sparsely populated. The property itself is divided into an old avocado orchard and native habitat of California Sage, Chamise, and Buckwheat. The avocado trees are mostly dead and are being removed.

After the tour and plenty of photos of the giant boulders (including elephant rock) and the setting sun, we gathered for fellowship with the folks from Daley Ranch and TECC. It was a sublime experience. Dusk was approaching, the view was 360 degrees, and the company great. Champagne and great snacks also helped. Hats off to Ann and Meghan of TECC for making this meeting happen. Look forward to your own trip to Mountain Gate at some point in the future.

2019 PAS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Palomar Audubon Society has a multifaceted mission, including a community outreach program with several special initiatives. One of these initiatives is our teen scholarship program. This year we will provide a 100% scholarship award for a week long educational summer camp on birding conducted by the National Audubon Society at Hog Island, Maine. The recipient of our 2019 Scholarship award is Aedyn Loefke. Aedyn is 14 years old and really got hooked on birds five years ago when he was 9 years old. At that time, Aedyn vividly remembers a PAS field trip to Kumeyaay Lake in Santee where a beautiful male Summer Tanager was found. His favorite birds are the Greater Roadrunner and California Quail. An interesting tidbit about Aedyn is that on a PAS field trip at the Salt Works in National City, he helped rescue a Brant Goose that got oil-soaked and couldn’t fly. Also, at his Valley Center home he raises Doves. He has fifteen of them now. Congratulations Aedyn!
Mark your calendars, 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, January 5
Escondido Christmas Bird Count
Saturday, January 12, 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
858-216-5623

Saturday, January 19, 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: Hal Benham
858-679-7904

Saturday, January 26, 8:30 am
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 Hwy 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 Road 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, February 2, 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. Continue on a short distance and turn left to the parking area.
Leader: Jim Beckman
858-209-2805

Saturday, February 9, 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 16, 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 Drive 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.
NOTE: The leader for this field trip will be Jennifer Falconer, who lives close-by, and frequently birds at this location.
Leader: Jennifer Falconer
949-278-1630.
Atlanta’s premiere park got a (chimney) swift makeover this year. The 24-foot-tall tower surrounded by native plants at Piedmont Park will hopefully coax a small population of Chimney Swifts to return to the area each spring and reverse the bird’s population decline. Lillie Kline, habitat conservation program coordinator at Atlanta Audubon, led a team that added 27 species of insect- and bird-friendly plants from the Georgia piedmont ecoregion around the tower—a combination that should contribute to the species’ conservation on a continental scale.

**Birmingham Audubon Saved Least Tern Eggs from Careless Beachgoers**

Heroes from Birmingham Audubon’s coastal program wasted no time when they heard of beachgoers destroying hundreds of Least Tern eggs on a barrier island. Audubon scientists investigated and found a huge Least Tern colony of nearly 600 nests—and also evidence that humans had plundered the nests for eggs and piled them to overheat in the sun. Birmingham Audubon quickly protected the remaining nests and notified the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of the vandalism. Because the bird is federally protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the agency and the Department of Justice have since opened an investigation. Although the tern colony took a serious hit, the birds still managed to fledge 83 chicks this year.

### 3. Urged Action on Federal Climate Policy

Our warming planet is the biggest threat facing birds and people, and Audubon is firmly committed to finding bipartisan climate solutions. Last summer, for the **first time in a decade**, a Republican-led carbon-tax bill was introduced in Congress. While the bill wasn’t perfect, beginning the conversation was critical: Putting a price on carbon is a proven way to reduce carbon pollution in our atmosphere. This fall another bipartisan carbon-pricing bill was introduced. Over 2,000 of you said that you wanted Congress to prioritize climate solutions, and when the 116th session of Congress begins in January, Audubon will be there too, advocating with our members across the country.

### 4. Secured Water for Birds and People

Water sustainability and a secure water future for birds and people is one of Audubon’s core priorities. To support that, we advanced several key water protections this year. Working from West to East:

**California Allocates $4 Billion Dollars for Water and Climate Work**

This past summer, voters in California approved Proposition 68, a $4 billion bond measure that will fund programs for safe parks, clean water, natural resources, climate change preparedness, and relief for the Salton Sea. Audubon California was part of a broad coalition of organizations working closely with lawmakers during the 2017 legislative session to put Prop. 68 on the ballot. For the roughly one million people living around the Salton Sea and the birds of the Pacific Flyway, such as the Eared...
Audubon Helped Push Drought Planning in the West

Significant progress has been made among seven states that share Colorado River water: Arizona, Nevada, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming—as well as Mexico (by a previous agreement, Minute 323)—would reduce water use to keep more water in the reservoirs and reduce the risk of catastrophic shortages. Doing nothing about the Colorado River’s decline is too risky for people and birds. A drought agreement, if approved in early 2019, will benefit birds like the Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Yellow Warbler, and Yuma Ridgway’s Rail. The Western Rivers Action Network—Audubon’s diverse coalition of more than 65,000 birders, hunters, anglers, and business leaders (including brewers)—were critical to advancing the issue.

Lawmakers Approve Reservoir to Restore Everglades’ Water

After a summer of water crises in Florida, Audubon secured one of the most important wins for America’s Everglades in a decade with the approval of the Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir project.

Grebe, Black-necked Stilt, and American White Pelican, this is a major win: The bond measure includes $200 million for vitally important dust mitigation and habitat restoration at the Salton Sea. In 2019 Audubon will urge incoming Governor Newsom to make the Salton Sea a priority.

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(Continued from page 5)
than 300 native bird species. Its restoration will be the largest ecosystem conservation effort in the world.

5. Protected an Additional 17,000 Acres of Natural Coastal Defenses

This year, after Audubon’s advocacy, Congress protected an additional 17,000 coastal acres in storm-prone states, including North and South Carolina, Delaware, and Florida. Hurricanes teach hard lessons and more cement isn’t the answer. The bill amends the 1982 Coastal Barrier Resources Act, which removes federal support for risky development, saving taxpayers billions of dollars. Natural shorelines buffer the impact of storms for neighboring communities and provides important habitat for birds like the Red Knot, American Oystercatcher, and Piping Plover. In key states over 1200 of you helped propel this victory for birds.

6. Opened a Cutting-Edge Nature Center: Discovery Center, Philadelphia

Audubon’s newest nature center, The Discovery Center, opened earlier this year in the Strawberry Mansion neighborhood of Philadelphia. The center is a partnership with Outward Bound and sits on a storied Philadelphia landmark that is also a critical habitat for more than 150 migratory and resident bird species. The nature-focused educational facility will develop diverse programing opportunities in response to community needs and interests. These will include more traditional Audubon offerings, such as nature and bird walks, and also yoga, cooking, art and other activities designed in partnership with community leaders to introduce residents to Audubon in new ways.

Audubon’s 41 centers welcome one million people each year and serve many of the nation’s largest metropolitan areas, from Los Angeles and Dallas to Seattle, connecting people to many of America’s most treasured ecosystems, including the Everglades, the Platte River, and San Francisco Bay. It is the largest nonprofit network of nature conservation and education centers in the United States and they hold enormous potential to create educational, recreational, and professional opportunities for young people and develop a new generation of conservation leaders. To support that mission, Audubon Board Chair Maggie Walker recently invested $5 million.

7. Planted More Plants for More Birds

In 2018, Audubon’s Coleman and Susan Burke Center for Native Plants planted, sold, and donated 78,300 native plants, directly reached 85,200 people, and engaged over 300 community partners. Year to date 89,000 people have found native plants for their gardens or balcony box using Audubon’s Plants for Birds guide. Just type in your zip code to get a list of plants for your area. Planting native plants is an easy thing we can all do to help provide support for birds along their migration journey or for resident birds who are trying to adapt to our warming planet. Audubon chapters across the country are leading innovative native plant programs with local partners such as:

Black River Audubon Society in Elyria Ohio, which transformed a formerly blighted riverside site into a park that supports birds and provides welcome green space to the community, with their input and involvement.

Southwest New Mexico Audubon Society provided hundreds of native plants to community members at a municipal event in Silver City, New Mexico, as part of their B3 initiative (birds, bees and butterflies).

Elisha Mitchell Audubon Society in Asheville, North Carolina, created a Friendship Garden full of native plants with a local Hispanic Catholic Church.

8. Preserved Conservation Funding in 2018 Farm Bill

With Audubon’s advocacy, conservation funding in the 2018 Farm Bill overall held steady and support for wildlife habitat doubled. This funding will enable Audubon to continue its work with dairy farmers in California to save Tricolored Blackbirds (see #2 above) and will assist farmers in Audubon’s Conservation Ranching Program who are adopting grazing practices that are bird-friendly.

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

Barbara Anderson
Joan Comito
Josephine Daughtery
Peggy Kiefer
Joseph Leek
Cindy Rippee
Marilyn Schmitz

AND WE APPRECIATE OUR DONORS VERY MUCH!

Barbara Anderson
Gray Carpenter Church
Richard Cook
Doug Dunn
Richard & Ellen Fowler
Jerry Harmon
Tracy Henchbarger
Mary Marquis
Kathleen Marvel
Dawn Nowlin
Michael Wittmer
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.

### Board of Director’s Meeting

**Thursday, January 3**

**Thursday, February 7**

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

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