



Band Tales

Palomar Audubon Society
A Chapter of the
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume XXXIII
No. 6

May-June
2019

Editor
Arne Christiansen



HAWAIIAN LUAU JUNE 9TH

Aloha! This year's social is a luau at the beautiful home of Hal and Dianne Benham. See page 6 for details and for the reservation form which needs to be completed and mailed by June 3rd.

We hope to see you there!

PAS ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Watch your mail box for our annual plea for funds to support our Chapter activities. Palomar Audubon Society is proud to offer weekly bird walks, interesting monthly programs, beginning and intermediate birding classes and support for a bird watching program at Sundance Elementary School where over 100 students have identified forty-five species near their school. PAS would be happy to work with other schools if members can suggest schools that would like to introduce their students to bird watching and can offer a few hours a week to assist.



(Bird Watching at Sundance Elementary School)



MANY THANKS

As the end of our fiscal year approaches on June 30th, the PAS Board would like to acknowledge and thank the following people for making our Chapter successful (listed alphabetically:)

1. Jim Beckman for his tireless hours of scheduling bird walks and monthly programs,
2. Jan Behrhorst for labeling and mailing the newsletter.
3. Hal and Dianne Benham for organizing wonderful birding trips outside San Diego County.
4. Arne Christiansen for 19 years of editing **Band Tales** and Sunny Christiansen for amending and proofing the product.
5. Jeff and Vicki Ebright for maintaining our wonderful website, our membership database and for sending thank you letters to donors.
6. Richard Fowler for his interesting conservation articles and coordination of the bird classes.
7. Alice Holmes for her work as Membership Chair and leader of the Sundance Elementary School Bird Watching Program.
8. Fred and Jill Weber for bringing refreshments to our monthly meetings.
9. And, of course, to all the Board members who contribute to the success of PAS. They welcome your suggestions and participation. Kudos for a job well done!

BOARD ELECTIONS

will be held at the May General Meeting. Keep the date open and be there to have your voice heard!



Inside this Band Tales

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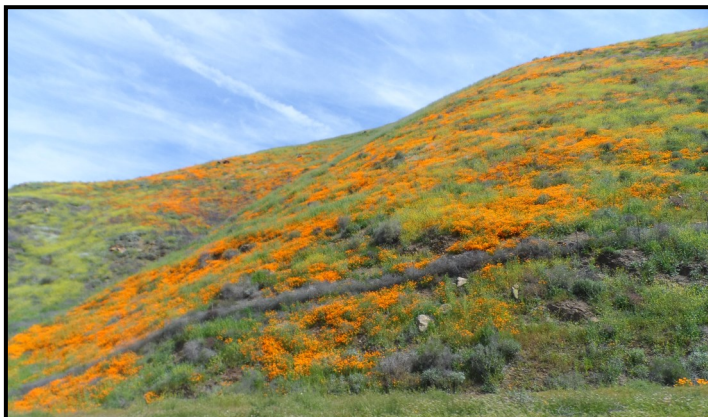
A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Penny Hernandez

As I sit today writing this letter and waiting for the rain, it doesn't seem very spring-like to me. It didn't feel like I could wish a happy spring to my readers, but then I remembered that "April showers brings May flowers!" Not that we haven't had wonderful flowers. Hopefully you were able to go up to Lake Elsinore to see the poppies. We weren't able to get off the freeway, because of the crowds, and we were forced to drive 5 miles an hour which enabled us to see and take great pictures. It was unbelievable. The flowering trees, the bright green grass everywhere, the wonderful wildflowers, I am hoping for no more draught for years to come. HAPPY SPRING TO EVERYONE!

Elsewhere in the newsletter you will find the announcement of this year's PAS Picnic. June 9th, Hawaiian theme, great food, raffle, and friendly fun. Start looking for those pictures of your trip (s) to Hawaii and see if you can win a prize. Ask anyone, you don't want to miss the fun! I hope you enjoy all the new growth, all the new baby animals, including baby birds and the wonderful San Diego County climate.

Penny



(California Golden Poppies in bloom this year near Lake Elsinore next to Highway I-15)

CONSERVATION NOTES

Richard Fowler

BIRDING THE TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY

Flying into McAllen, Texas in early March, eleven friends of Palomar Audubon had high expectations for life birds. After meeting Mary Gustafson, our guide, we were off for some evening birding in McAllen. Our first target was the Green Parakeet, a Mexican species that is probably native to the area. We were navigating heavy rush hour traffic, but none the less soon heard the chucking of large numbers of Great-tail Grackles. We arrived at a large shopping center where the Grackles were on the pavement, cars and power lines. Mary was quick to point out that some of the birds on power lines were clumped together in small numbers unlike the Grackles. Sure enough, they were the Green Parakeets. There were hundreds of them along with one White-winged Parakeet. All these birds in a busy metropolitan area was an amazing sight.

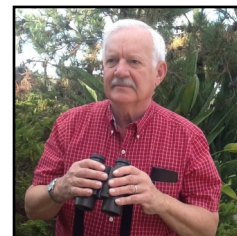
We started our second day at the extensive gardens of a historic McAllen mansion. Our target was a rare Mexican species, the Crimson-collared Grosbeak. We took up positions at a large feeding station with fruit, grain and suet and prepared to wait for a reputed very shy bird. In the meantime we were entertained by Plain Chachalacas, Green Jays and Great Kiskadees. Finally Mary whispered the presence of the Grosbeak in heavy brush. Our patience paid off when it made a couple of nice appearances for us. A little guy, for a Grosbeak!

Our next stop was Estero Llano State Park, a few miles from McAllen. A key bird was the Common Parakeet, a night jar which blends in incredibly well with its environment and shows no sign of movement during the day. Because of the stake out, we were all able to see it and photograph it. At a bird feeder we were treated to a dust bath by a Curve-billed Thrasher and got good looks at the Olive Sparrow and the Black-crested Titmouse.

We then stopped at a local birder's home that was situated on a bayou with a great view of the border wall. Nice chat with Dan (the owner) who told us he had a home list of over 200 species. Black-bellied Whistling Ducks and Neotropic Cormorants were in abundance and down the road we saw a Fulvous Whistling Duck.

Then we were on to a Monk Parakeet colony with nests around transformers and power lines. They were a noisy bunch with immature as well as mature birds. The local power company appeared very tolerant of the large nests on their transformers.

The last stop of the day was the Bentsen Rio Grande Valley State Park. Some of you may remember Senator



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, May 4, 8:00 am.

NOTE Spring/Summer time change

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 (north) on La Honda Drive. Continue on toward Dixon Lake and on to the free Daley Ranch parking lot on your left. Meet at the kiosk. Expect warm weather.

Leader: Tom Trowbridge
760-743-1052

Saturday, May 11, 8:00 am.

Lindo Lake
Lakeside

(1232-B3) Rating: 2

From North County, take I-15 south to Highway 52 east to Mission Gorge Road. Turn left and continue east to Woodside Avenue. Go under the Highway 67 overpass staying on Woodside Avenue (into Lakeside) to end at the Lindo Lake County Park. From San Diego, take I-8 east to Highway 67 north, and take the Riverford Road exit. After exiting, turn left on Woodside Avenue (into Lakeside) and continue northeast to the Lindo Lake County Park. Stay on Woodside a short distance, turn right on Chestnut Street 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, May 18, 8:00 am.

Kit Carson Park
Escondido

(1150-C1) Rating: 1

From I-15 in Escondido, exit east on Via Rancho Parkway (which becomes Bear Valley Parkway) and drive about 1 mile to the Park Road entrance on your left at the fire station. Proceed on Park Road about ¾ mile to the Amphitheater parking lot on the right. Woodland, riparian, and open-area habitats usually get us a nice list of resident birds.

Leader: Jeff Ebright
858-216-5623

Saturday, May 25, 8:00 am.

Sweetwater River Gorge

Rancho San Diego

(1271-J6) Rating: 2-3

From I-5, I-805, or I-15, take Highway 94 east; stay on Highway 94 as it becomes Campo Road, then turn right on Singer Lane, and then an immediate left onto the dirt parking area near the old steel bridge. This area is a rich stream habitat surrounded by native chaparral and sage scrub. There are no restrooms or drinking water available, so plan accordingly. Expect warm weather. **It's a PAS tradition to eat lunch at close-by Rubio's Coastal Grill after birding.**

Leader: Jim Beckman
858-205-2819

Saturday, June 1, 8:00 am.

Wm Heise County Park/Santa Ysabel Mission

Julian

(1156-C5) Rating: 2-3

From Escondido take Highway 78 east (from San Diego take Highway 67 east) to Ramona, then Highway 78 toward Julian, past Santa Ysabel. After the town of Wynola, start looking for the sign on your right for William Heise County Park (1 mile west of Julian). Turn right on Pine Hill Road and drive south for 2 miles to Frisius Road. Turn left (east) onto Frisius Road, and drive another 2 miles to the park entrance. We will meet in the parking lot. There is a parking fee, but free with a Senior County pass. We will also drive to the Santa Ysabel Mission to look for orioles and other spring/summer migrants.

Bring a lunch for an after-birding picnic. Expect warm weather.

Leader: Jeff Ebright
858-216-5623

Saturday, June 8, 8:00 am.

Agua Dulce Creek

Laguna Mountains

(430-B5) Rating: 2-3

We will meet at the old parking area for Agua Dulce Creek Group camp. Driving east on I-8, and after Pine Valley, look for signs indicating the Sunrise Highway Exit and Laguna Mountain Recreation Area. Go north on Sunrise Highway (S-1) approx. 8 miles to Wooded Hill Road, the first road on the left and directly across the road from Morris Ranch Road. Continue on Wooded Hill Road to the end. Restrooms, picnic tables and water are available in the Lagunas near the General Store at Burnt Rancheria Picnic area. A Forest Service Adventure Pass is required for day-use parking and is available locally in San Diego County at major sporting goods stores and at the Laguna General Store. Bring a lunch for an after-walk picnic. Expect warm weather.

Leader: Jim Beckman
858-205-2819

FIELD TRIPS, from Page 5

Saturday, June 15, 8:00 am.
Cuyamaca Rancho State Park
Julian

(429-L3) Rating: 2-3

From San Diego, take I-8 east and exit north on Highway 79. Continue approximately 12 miles to the Paso Picacho Campground on the left. From the North County, take Highway 78 (or Highway 67) to Ramona, and then continue on Highway 78 just past Julian, to Highway 79. Take Highway 79 south approximately 10 miles to the campground on the right where we will meet. **Note: The State of California has recently increased the day-use parking fee. Carpooling is highly recommended. Bring a lunch for an after-walk picnic.** Expect warm weather.

Leader: Hal Benham
858-679-7904

Saturday, June 22, 8:00 am.
Lake Murray
La Mesa

(1250 E6) Rating: 1-2

Take I-8 east to the Lake Murray Boulevard. Exit and proceed 1 mile north (right turn) to Baltimore Drive. Turn left and drive about 1 mile to Jackson Drive. Turn left again, proceed ¼ mile and make another left turn on Golfcrest Drive. Continue about 1 mile on Golfcrest Drive to the Mission Trails Regional Park entrance on the left. Meet in the parking lot near the softball field bleachers. This location is on the northwest end of Lake Murray. Expect warm weather.

Leader: Jim Beckman
858-205-2819

Saturday, June 29, 8:00 am.
Palomar Mountain State Park
San Diego County

(409-G7) Rating: 2

This field trip will start from the parking lot at Doane Pond. Leave the Escondido area before 7 am. From I-15, take Highway 76 east to Highway S6, north to Palomar Mountain. Or from Escondido, take Highway S6 to Palomar Mountain. At the mountaintop, at the S7 intersection stop sign, turn left and continue for 3 miles on State Park Road to the Palomar Mountain State Park entrance. **Note: The State of California has recently increased the day-use parking fee. Carpooling is highly recommended.** Proceed 1.5 miles to the Doane Pond/School Camp area. Bring a lunch for an after-walk picnic. Expect warm weather.

Leader: Sally Sanderson vwillow@aol.com
760-749-6995 760-638-9913 cell

Saturday, July 6, 8:00 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 3rd Street to Caspian Way, turn left and then right to the Tijuana Estuary Visitor Center parking lot.

Leader: Jack Friery
619-218-7342

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, May 23 Rustom Jamadar

“Birds of the Himalayan foothills”

PAS member Rustom Jamadar, has been traveling to India each year for the past three years and going birding in different regions. In February 2018, he birded Northern India in the foothills of the Himalayas, where one encounters birds very different from the ones found in the plains. This presentation will be chance to see birds not seen in Rustom's previous presentations “Birds of Western India” and “Birds of Sri Lanka”.

Rustom grew up in India. He was introduced to birding when he was in college in Texas and cut his birding teeth in the Rio Grande Valley. Over the last seven years Rustom has been birding regularly in the San Diego area as well as in other parts of the US, in Central and South America and in India. Rustom has been a member of the National Audubon Society and a Life Member of the Bombay Natural History Society for over 35 years. He has also joined the local Audubon chapters: Palomar, San Diego and Buena Vista, and can be spotted on their field trips.

This is Rustom's third PAS presentation. Always extremely interesting, and wonderful photographs. A little humor mixed in. **Mark your calendars and don't miss this one!**



PAS ANNUAL PICNIC: HAWAIIAN LUAU SUNDAY, JUNE 9TH, 4:00 P.M.

This year's PAS Social will be a Garden Party at the home Dianne and Hal Benham located at:
15946 Cumberland Drive, Poway, 92064, telephone 858-679-7904.

In keeping with the Hawaiian theme Hawaiian shirts and mumus are welcome. We are hoping you have a photo of a trip to Hawaii you would like to share. Prizes will be awarded for the best pictures of Hawaiian birds, beaches, sunsets, etc. Raffle tickets will be on sale for various fun gift cards and bird-related gifts.

Dinner will include barbecued pork and chicken, baked beans, tangy coleslaw, rolls and butter. PAS will provide wine, beer and soft drinks as usual and something fun for dessert. And don't forget to bring fruit for the famous PAS Friendship Salad. Please fill in the form below and send it with a check for \$25 per person made out to Palomar Audubon Society to make your reservation. Mail it to:



Sunny Christiansen, 26739 Red Ironbark Drive, Valley Center, 92082 by June 3rd.

DIRECTIONS TO THE LUAU:

Take 1-15 to Rancho Bernardo Road. Drive east Rancho Bernardo Road, which becomes Espola Road. Then turn left onto Trailwind Road, then immediately left onto Cumberland Drive.

2019 PAS PICNIC - PLEASE RSVP BY JUNE 3RD



Name: _____

Number of People _____ Phone (just in case) _____

Do you prefer Beer, _____ Soft Drinks, _____ Water or _____ Wine _____

I would like to help with setup _____, cleanup _____, or bartending _____.

NOTE: PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING A PIECE OF FRUIT FOR THE FRIENDSHIP SALAD AND A PICTURE OF HAWAII IF YOU HAVE ONE.

ALSO, PLEASE BRING A DIGITAL CAMERA IF YOU OWN ONE. SEND PICNIC PHOTOS TO arnec@juno.com AND WE'LL INCLUDE AS MANY OF THEM AS WE CAN ALONG WITH A PICNIC RECAP IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF BAND TALES.

Palomar Audubon Society Chapter-only Membership

Mail your application to:

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

Membership in the Palomar Audubon Society includes a subscription to **Band Tales**, Palomar Audubon's bi-monthly newsletter, and an invitation to our monthly programs and weekly field trips.

☐ *New Member - \$25* ☐ *Renewal - \$25*

☐ *New Family Member - \$25* ☐ *Renewal - \$25*

(payable to Palomar Audubon Society)

☐ *Contribution* _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

*100% of Chapter Membership dues supports
projects locally.*

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

Richard Cook
Dave Cowen
Alison Davies
Mike and Meredith Dow
Gary and Cheryl Grantham
Constance and Jack Lee
Dorothy Marron
Donna Payton
Jack Peterson
Gail Smith

AND WE APPRECIATE OUR DONORS VERY MUCH!

Richard Cook
Mike and Meredith Dow
Gary and Cheryl Grantham
Donna Payton
Jack Peterson
Margaret Yorio



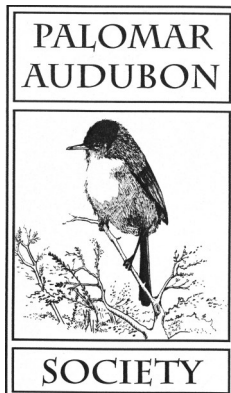
**REMINDER:
DEADLINE FOR THE
JULY-AUGUST ISSUE IS
JUNE 15TH.
SUBMIT COPY TO
arnec@juno.com**

SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE!

Band Tales

May-June, 2019

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

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Sunny Christiansen	760-297-3096	
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Membership	Alice Holmes	925-212-8165
Scholarship	Jim Beckman	858-205-2819
Travel	Hal & Dianne Benham ..	858-679-7904

Web Page: <http://www.palomaraudubon.org>
 Webmaster: Jeff Ebright: 858-216-5623
palomaraudubon@gmail.com

Board of Director's Meeting

Thursday, May 2nd & Thursday, June 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

May 2	Board Meeting
May 4	Daley Ranch Walk
May 11	Lindo Lake Walk
May 18	Kit Carson Park Walk
May 23	General Meeting: "Birds of the Himalayan Foothills"
May 25	Sweetwater River Gorge Walk
June 1	William Heise County Park/Santa Ysabel Mission Walk
June 6	Board Meeting
June 8	Agua Dulce Creek Walk
June 9	Annual PAS Picnic
June 15	Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Walk
June 22	Lake Murray Walk
June 29	Palomar Mountain State Park Walk
July 6	Tijuana Estuary Walk