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.

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!
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 drought 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 Hernandez)

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(Penny Hernandez)
Lloyd Bentsen. The land for this park was donated by his father who owned considerable real estate in the area. Our birding here was limited to one hour as we were approaching closing time. However, the park suddenly opened up with all kinds of birds. I missed a bunch of warblers but was gratified to get good pictures of Long-billed Thrashers and a lifer, the Altamira Oriole. The range of the latter in the U.S. is limited to a narrow range in Southern Texas.

We drove toward the coast on our third day. We stopped at a viewing sight for Aplomado Falcons, but none spotted this time. We were serenaded by Eastern Meadowlarks and compared their song to their West coast cousins. Back on the road we spotted a Harris Hawk and Crested Caracara. Finally made it to the Visitor’s Center at the Laguna Atascosa NWR. This was a vast reserve with paved trails and feeding stations, but not much in the way of birding on this day. A highlight for many of us was lunch at Joe's Oyster Bar, a family restaurant business that also catches the fish. You don't want to miss it if you are in the area.

On our fourth day we were off to the Santa Ana NWR which is close to the border. The big news here was a perceived threat to build a wall along a levee that cuts right through the Refuge. If this happens, much of the Refuge will be cut off to public access. Fortunately, we were able to bird past the levee. A targeted bird, the Northern Beardless Tyrannulet was heard by most of us but only seen by a few. We all got good looks at the Least Grebe and a special treat was a good look at a Tropical Parula and his orange chest.

Our last day was devoted to the Aransas NWR and the Whooping Crane. It was a long drive as well as a boat trip to reach the Reserve. We were rewarded with great sightings of the adult Cranes and their offspring doing well on several isolated islands. At one time the population was as low as 15 in the wild. Through intelligent management of genetic diversity, the population has now swelled to several hundred healthy Cranes.

After returning to land we did a detour through Port Aransas and experienced an unexpected surprise, Two Aplomado Falcons were perched on a stand created just for them, another environmental success! These Falcons were extirpated from the U.S. in the early 20th century, in part due to egg hunters, but have been brought back in recent decades and now number fifty pairs in the U.S.

This was the end of our birding. We all felt great about Mary's leadership and thankful to Dianne and Hal Benham for organizing the trip. Hopefully, a future trip to this area can include a larger number of PAS birders. Personally, I would not hesitate to do the trip again.
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

*see FIELD TRIPS, Page 6*
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 Highway78 just past Julian, to Highway79. Take Highway79 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 vcwillow@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!
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, 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