



Band Tales

Palomar Audubon Society
A Chapter of the
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume XLIV
No. 2

July-August
2019

Editor
Arne Christiansen

PAS SIERRA TRIP A GREAT SUCCESS!

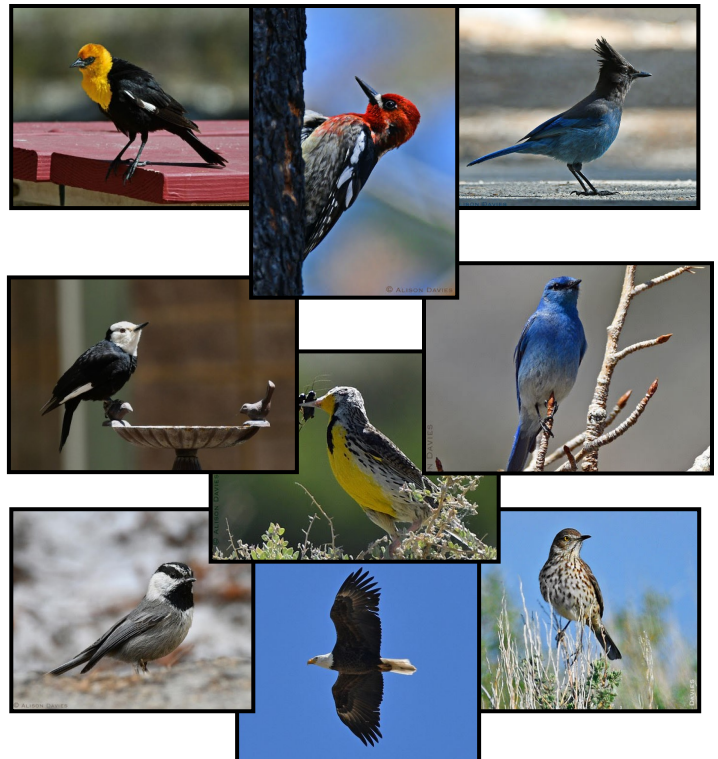
From May 3rd to May 7th, 2019, nine birders from Palomar Audubon made a fantastic trip to the Eastern Sierra, racking up a total of 140 species during the trip. Led by Steve Ellis and Hal Benham, the group was treated to spectacular sights of snow covered mountains that never stopped to amaze.

We visited over twenty birding spots, including the Mount Whitney Fish Hatchery, Long Valley Grouse lek, Crowley Lake, Convict Lake, Lee Vining, Aspendell, Glacier Lodge, Lake Sabrina, Billy Lake and, of course, "Dirty Socks."

Although the target birds were the Sooty Grouse and the Greater Sage Grouse, we were also looking for higher latitude species that we seldom see in San Diego County. Favorite birds included both Gambel's and California Quail, Lesser Nighthawk, breeding plumage Dunlin, Wilson's and Red-necked Phalarope, breeding plumage Common Loon, Bald Eagle, Bank Swallow, Swainson's Hawk, Lewis's Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Black-billed Magpie, American Dipper, Mountain Bluebird, LeConte's Thrasher, Sage Thrasher, Cassin's Finch, MacGillivray's Warbler, Green-tailed Towhee, Yellow-headed Blackbird and of course Sooty and Greater Sage Grouse.

We were treated to a very informative talk by Eric Tymstra, a doctoral student from UC Davis regarding the habits of the Greater Sage Grouse at the BLM office in Bishop. We were also joined by Ken Wells and Steve Brad on the grouse lek as well as Bishop birders Ron and Nancy Ovderholtz, who guided us to a couple of really nice spots they knew about. We invited them to join us down here to do some birding with PAS in the future. The weather was great, the scenery fantastic and the birding was excellent! A very successful trip!

a sampling of birds observed; more on page 2



Inside this Band Tales

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A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Penny Hernandez

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER. SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!!

Actually I've been told I need to write more than a sentence, so I'll talk about our year-end picnic. What fun. The weather was warm and sunny. The location (Hal and Dianne Benham's house) was beautiful and all attendees seems to like the food. Pork, Chicken, Salads, Pineapple upside down cupcakes, coconut cream pies. Thirty-four attendees dressed in their finest Hawaiian attire. Sorry if



you missed it!

By the way, if you didn't attend why did you miss it? We have been getting fewer and fewer party goers. It can't be the company, everyone has been great. Is it the food? Maybe the day of the week, or that June is a busy month with graduation, Father's Day, etc.? Let us know and maybe we can do something about it. We miss you!

Penny

CONSERVATION NOTES

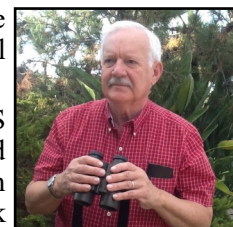
Richard Fowler

A THOUSAND ACRES SAVED!

Ann Van Leer, the executive director of The Escondido Creek Conservancy, updated Palomar Audubon Society members at our annual picnic on June 9th. The great news was the final acquisition of the John Henry Ranch, the 290 acre parcel just west of Lake Wohlford. This plus the prior purchase of the Mountain Gate project completes the successful purchase of the original Save 1000 Acres Campaign.

Ann thanked us for the support PAS has provided the past two years and filled us in on plans to restore both properties. Escondido Creek Conservancy is already working to restore degraded habitat. Longer term it will focus on improved access to the properties as well as the establishment of a nature center.

Hopefully, we can look forward to visiting these properties. The PAS conservation team has already done a bird count on the John Henry property and looks forward to more counts on both properties. Bird walks may be possible in the future. However, restoration will be a long term project, so a time line for visits is currently difficult. Stay tuned for more updates.



Richard



A great big Thank You to Hal & Dianne Benham for hosting this year's Annual Picnic. Also, thanks to all of you who helped set up tables, etc. and clean up. And a special thanks to Bert Kersey who was out of town and couldn't attend but prepared all the cute "birdy" name tags.

(more Luau pics on page 7)

Richard Fowler presents a PAS check to Ann Van Leer, the Executive Director of The Escondido Creek Conservancy to match the \$10,665.00 dollars donated by our members toward the preservation of 1000 Acres in Northern Escondido. Due to matching funds from an anonymous donor, our chapter managed to contribute over \$31,000 dollars this year toward the purchase of this property! Congratulations Members!!

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

Walt and Sandra Bates
Jim Beckman
Hal and Dianne Benham
Allen Bond
Joan Comito
Jeff and Vicki Ebright
Tracy Henchbarger
Clark Mahrtd
Joan Falconer/Nabih Mansour
Richard Mason
Jean Meadowcroft
Charlotte Morris
Joan Perron
Elizabeth Rose
John and Sally Sanderson
Eleanor Schubert
Dale and Ann Silimperi
Fred and Jill Weber
Paul Zepf
Katherine Zubel

AND WE VERY MUCH APPRECIATE THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THESE DONORS

David and Dorothy Appleby
Nina Barris
Walt and Sandra Bates
Jim Beckman
Hal and Dianne Benham
Kristin Bergford
Alan Billotte
Elizabeth Bulkley
Edgar and Linda Canada
Celeste Cantu
Joanne Casterline
Arne and Sunny Christiansen
Deanne Clatworthy
Judith Doebke
Jason and Erin Duran
Bill and Myrna Eastwood
Jeff and Vicki Ebright
Brian Edwards
Sam and Sandy Farrow
Elinor Foulke
Marj Freda
Don and Janet Gallup
Gary and Cheryl Grantham
Tracy Henchbarger

Penny Hernandez
Rustom Jamadar
Carol Koleszar
Marc Lane
Anna Marie Lea
Connie Lee
Connie Luizzi
Clark Mahrtd
Ray and Heidi Marc-Aurele
Mary Marquis
Dorothy Marron
Jean Meadowcroft
Charlotte Morris
Steven Moss
Barbara Mounier
Mark Mercer/Barbara Orr
Ken Parsons
Joan Perron
Jack Peterson
Furio Picco
Jeanne Rigler
Mary Lou Rosczyk
John and Sally Sanderson
Dennis Schepman
Marilyn Schmitz
Diane Schroeder
Eleanor Schubert
Fay Scrivner
Mel Senac
Ken and Sue Smith
Paul Sodeman
Jon and Susan Tittle
Tom Trowbridge
Vinka Valdivia
Richard and Veronica Walworth
Fred and Jill Weber

**NO PROGRAMS ARE SCHEDULED FOR JULY
OR AUGUST. FIELD TRIPS WILL CONTINUE,
BUT NOTICE THE REVISED SUMMER START
TIMES. REGULARLY SCHEDULED PROGRAMS
WILL RESUME IN SEPTEMBER.**

**HAVE A GREAT SUMMER WITH SOME GREAT
BIRDING!**

Chapter-only Membership

Chapter-only membership provides the option to choose Palomar Audubon as your Audubon chapter and have 100% of your dues support local projects and chapter activities. With a National Audubon membership, your chapter is assigned based on your zip code and only a portion of your dues goes to Palomar Audubon. Members of other Audubon Chapters may join Palomar Audubon Society as Chapter-only Members while maintaining membership in their current chapters.

Chapter-only Members may participate in all chapter activities and may serve on the Board of Directors and as officers in the chapter. They will receive our bi-monthly newsletter Band Tales. Chapter-only individual membership dues are \$25.00 a year and family memberships are \$25.00 a year. For additional information, please contact Alice Holmes at 925-212-8165 or greenheron@sbcglobal.net.

Application for Chapter-Only Membership

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

Make checks payable to Palomar Audubon Society.
Send payment with this completed form to:

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

Individual Membership - \$25 per year: ☐ New Member ☐ Renewal

Family Membership - \$25 per year: ☐ New Member ☐ Renewal

Additional Contribution to Palomar Audubon of \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

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.

Please Note: Summer being can be very warm so be sure to bring sunscreen and sufficient water on walks.

July – August, 2019

Please Note: Summer being can be very warm. So be sure to bring sunscreen and sufficient water on walks.

Saturday, July 6, 8:00 am.

Tijuana Estuary and 7th Street

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 Street to Caspian Way, turn left and then right to the Tijuana Estuary Visitor Center parking lot.

Leader: Jim Beckman
858-205-2819

Saturday, July 13, 8:00 am.

Guajome Regional Park

Oceanside

(1067-D7) Rating: 2

From Highway 78 in Oceanside, exit north on College Boulevard curving left and drive 4.4 miles to Highway 76. Make a right turn and continue east about ½ mile to Lake Guajome. Turn right (south) and drive up the hill past the park entrance. We usually convene on this road beyond the park entrance since we gather well before the park opens. **Expect warm weather.**

Leader: Doug Walkley
310-387-8190

Saturday, July 20, 8:00 am.

Tecolote Canyon Park

San Diego

(1268-F2) Rating: 2

Depending on your starting location, travel to the I-5 freeway. From the I-5 in San Diego, exit east at the Seaworld Drive/Tecolote Road. off-ramp – away from Mission Bay. Continue on Tecolote. to the end and park at the visitor's center. This is a great spot for finding both resident and migrating birds. Rarities often show up here. **Expect warm weather.**

Leader: Jack Friery
619-218-7342

Saturday, July 27, 8:00 am.

Robb Field/San Diego River Tidal Mud Flats

San Diego

(1267-J5) Rating: 1

We will visit two locations along the San Diego River Floodway to look for early migrant and returning shorebirds, often still in breeding plumage, and post-breeding dispersal Elegant Terns. From North County, take Highway 163S to I-8W and drive toward Ocean Beach. Make a slight left at Sunset Cliffs Boulevard. and then stay in the right lane. Turn right onto West Point Loma Boulevard. and then right at Bacon Street. Drive straight ahead to the Robb Field parking area near the tennis courts at the east end. Bring a scope if you have one. We will also visit the nearby San Diego River Flood Control Channel and/or Famosa Slough.

Leader: Jeff Ebright
858-216-5623

Saturday, August 3, 8:00 am.

Stonewall Mine and Cuyamaca Lake

FAVORITE LAST YEAR!

Julian

(1176-E6) Rating: 2

From San Diego, take I-8 east and exit north on Highway 79. Continue north approximately 15 miles along Highway 79 to just north of the Paso Picacho Campground. From North County, take Highway 78 (or Highway 67) to Ramona, and then continue on Highway 78 just past Julian, to Highway 79. Take Hwy 79 south approx. 8 miles. The mine itself is off a small state park road that is well-signed in both directions and to the east of Highway 79. **There is a California State Park day-use parking fee. Carpooling is recommended.** Meet in the parking lot. **Bring a lunch for an after-walk picnic. Expect warm weather.** We should see mountain birds as well as waterfowl at the lake.

Leader: Hal Benham
d858-679-7904

Saturday, August 10, 8:00 am.

Santee Lakes

Santee, CA

(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 at Fanita Parkway and the entrance to Santee Lakes is on the right. Car entry fee is \$5. OR from Mast Boulevard, turn north on Fanita Parkway and continue north to Lake Canyon Drive. Turn right, park, and walk in the open gate for **FREE**. Meet in the parking lot by the General Store between lakes 4 and 5. **Expect warm weather.**

Leader: Tom Trowbridge
760-522-8519

Saturday, August 17, 8:00 am.
Dairy Mart Pond/Tijuana River Valley
 San Diego
(1350-D5) Rating: 2

From North County, take I-15 south and merge with the I-5 south to the Dairy Mart Road Exit. Turn right on Dairy Mart Road (south). Meet just past the concrete bridge next to the large "TJRV Park" sign and the large pond on the west side of Dairy Mart Road. We will also caravan a short distance to the TJRV Park Headquarters (public restroom and bird feeders) and then visit the nearby Bird and Butterfly Gardens where we might see the elusive Black-throated Magpie Jay.

Leader: Jim Beckman
 858-205-2819

Saturday, August 24, 8:00 am.
Kit Carson Park
 Escondido
(1150-C1) Rating: 1

From I-15 in Escondido, exit east on Via Rancho Parkway and drive about one mile northeast on Bear Valley . to the Park Road entrance at the stoplight (fire station on left). Turn left and proceed west on Park Road about ¾ mile to the Amphitheater parking lot on the right. Woodland, riparian, and open-area habitats will usually get us a nice list of resident birds. **Expect warm weather.**

Leader: Tom Trowbridge
 760-522-8519

Saturday, August 31, 8:00 am.
Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve

Rancho Peñasquitos(1189-C7) Rating: 2

We will meet at the Rancho de los Peñasquitos Adobe Ranch House parking lot and explore trails through grasslands and riparian woodland. Take I-15 and exit at Mercy Road going west. Turn right onto Black Mountain Road and drive a short distance to Canyonside Park Drive (first stop light). Turn left and continue west to the Adobe Ranch House parking lot. **Expect warm weather.**

Leader: Jeff Ebricht
 858-216-5623

Saturday, September 7, 8:00 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. **Expect warm weather.**

Leader: Sally Sanderson vewillow@aol.com
 Home:760-749-6995
 Cell: 760-638-9913



SUNDANCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BIRDING UPDATE June, 2019

In spite of some inclement weather, it has been a special 'Birding' year for the students of Sundance Elementary School. One hundred eight third, fourth and fifth grade students participated in our noon recess bird walks. Three Sundance parents faithfully helped with bird identification and binocular distribution. Other regular adult birders include our poster photographer, Krisztina Scheeff, Ranger Dave from San Dieguito River Park, Gail Smith of Palomar Audubon, and Wild Birds Unlimited staff members, Alex, Alice and Jerry.

Highlights of the year include installing the 28 new vinyl bird posters that were printed by the Sundance Elementary School Twin Trails Education Foundation and Hewlett Packard. On a very drizzly day in March two teams of three students each assisted our photographer and Mrs. Holmes as they mounted the posters on the cyclone fence overlooking the running track where we bird. The principal, Mr. Rodrigo, is delighted to report that students from first through fifth grades make use of the posters.

Of course, the major highlight of the year has been the birds. Since January 2018, we have seen 48 species. This Spring we have had some memorable sightings. The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher returned some time during Spring vacation and during the first week of June we were fortunate to see her entering and exiting her nest on a regular basis. All of the student birders recognize her and think of her as their special bird. We have observed young Black Phoebes, Western Bluebirds, and Cassin's Kingbirds being fed by their parents. This last year we added Western Meadowlark, California Thrasher, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Chipping Sparrow and Rock Dove to our list of species seen.

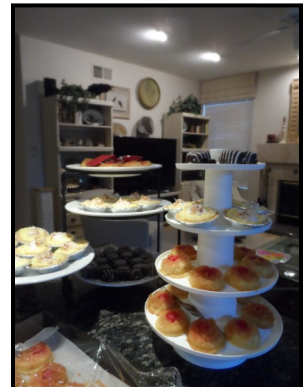
For me, I am delighted by many aspects of this experience. I love seeing a group of birders stop suddenly, put up their binoculars then slowly walk toward a bird. I love seeing a birding student with an arm in the air describing where to look for the bird he or she can see. I am pleased to hear about the birds they see in their own yards. One young man is traveling to visit relatives in China this summer and asked if he could send me pictures of birds he sees. One third grade student acted as 'Principal for a Day' and when Mr. Rodrigo asked what he would like to do as principal, he said, "I want to bird watch." The two of them birded together for 45 minutes.

As we close the school year, the students who participate in Recess Birding may enter their name in a drawing for Birding prizes. Palomar Audubon contributed 3 binoculars, Kristina Scheeff donated 4 bird photographs, Alice donated 3 bird books, and Wild Birds Unlimited contributed 6 feeders and 6 bags of seed. So, 16 children have gone home with a Birding prize.

We will continue the program in the Fall and would love to have more volunteer birders. Even the adults have a good time. Many first and second graders have continually asked to participate. We have not had enough adult volunteers to make it possible to include them. If you are interested in helping, please email me at greenheron@sbcglobal.net.

Alice Holmes

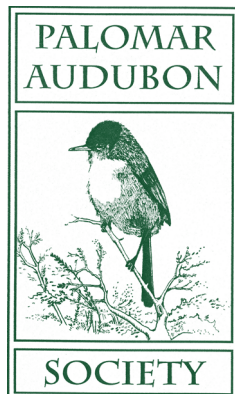
***More Luau pictures
Aloha A'Hui Hou
(Bye-Bye until we meet again)***



Band Tales

July-August, 2019

The *Band Tales* is an official publication of the Palomar Audubon Society; it is issued bi-monthly and sent to all Chapter-Only members.



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 Webmaster: Jeff Ebright: 858-216-5623
palomaraudubon@gmail.com

Board of Directors' Meeting

NO BOARD MEETINGS IN JULY OR AUGUST

Meetings will resume on September 5th

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

QUICK CALENDAR

<i>July</i>	6 Tijuana Estuary and 7 th Street Walk
<i>July</i>	13 Guajome Regional Park Walk
<i>July</i>	20 Tecolote Canyon Park Walk
<i>July</i>	27 Robb Field/San Diego River Tidal Mud Flats Walk
<i>August</i>	3 Stonewall Mine and Cuyamaca Lake Walk
<i>August</i>	10 Santee Lakes Walk
<i>August</i>	17 Dairy Mart Pond/Tijuana River Valley Walk
<i>August</i>	24 Kit Carson Park Walk
<i>August</i>	31 Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Walk
<i>September</i>	7 Oak Hill Memorial Park Walk