



Band Tales

Palomar Audubon Society
A Chapter of the
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume XXXIV
No. 6

November-December
2019

Editors
Jill & Fred Weber

ESCONDIDO CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2019**

Each year between December 14th and January 5th, thousands of birders and nature enthusiasts participate in one or more of the 2000+ Christmas Bird Counts held annually in the United States, Canada, and many other Western Hemisphere countries. This year will mark the 120th year for this event.

This holiday season please join with the other birders for this important citizen science effort sponsored by the National Audubon Society. The one-day bird counts provide valuable data about the number of bird species and numbers of each species occurring within a set geographical area.

Palomar Audubon Society would like to extend an invitation to all birders to participate in the annual Escondido Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, December 28, 2019. The count circle incorporates mostly rural areas near Escondido, Valley Center, Ramona, and Poway. Fantastic birding skills are not a requirement – an extra pair of eyes is always helpful. The after-birding compilation meeting will be held in the early afternoon at Kit Carson Park's covered picnic shelter. The highlight of the day will be the deli-style lunch provided, courtesy of Palomar Audubon Society.

For more information contact Jim Beckman on an upcoming Saturday field trip. Jim can also be reached at (858) 205-2819. For additional information and/or team assignments contact the Escondido CBC senior compiler, Ken Weaver by phone at (760) 723-2448 or by email at gnatcatcher@sbcglobal.net.



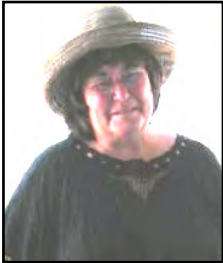
Inside this Band Tales

A Bird's Eye View.....page 2
Conservation Notespage 2
Field Trips.....pages 4,5

A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Penny Hernandez, President

It's time to be thankful and jolly. It's time to start thinking about the National Audubon Christmas Bird Count. We are the citizens in what is called Citizens Science. From a recent article in the Union Tribune, titled "North America sees 29% decline in birds", it says professional ornithologists are assisted by devoted amateur bird-watchers, (citizens), whose observations and surveys help with these studies. That's why it's so important that we take part in the local Christmas Bird Count. Find more information in this newsletter.



Being the end of the year is also the time to think about taxes, sorry! If you haven't made your charitable contributions yet, there is still time.

Palomar Audubon uses your contributions towards helping our youth learn about birds, plants, nature. We help other organizations preserve important land for us all to enjoy. We thank you for thinking of us.

Enjoy your Thanksgiving and Holiday Season and we'll see you at the Christmas Bird Count.

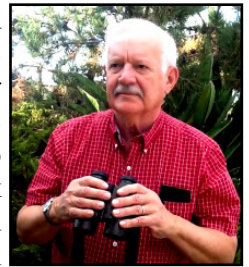
Penny



Mark your calendars for the Christmas Bird Count.

CONSERVATION NOTES

Richard Fowler has submitted his resignation as our PAS Conservation Committee Chair. For many years Richard has guided PAS involvement with the San Dieguito River Park, The Escondido Creek Conservancy, bird surveys and field trips. Richard was instrumental in soliciting donations from our members to aid in many conservation projects, submitted a bimonthly column for Band Tales on a variety of subjects and served on our Board of Directors all while maintaining a wonderful sense of humor. PAS wishes to



Just a Reminder

There will be no chapter meetings in November and December. See you January 23rd.



Thank Richard for his years of service to our chapter and his unrelenting work for

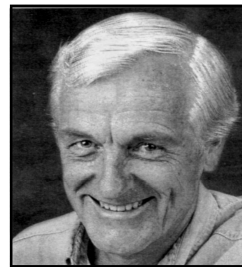


**REMINDER:
DEADLINE FOR THE
JANUARY/FEBRUARY ISSUE IS
DECEMBER 15th.
SUBMIT COPY TO
jillnfred@cox.net**

SUNDANCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEEDS ADULT BIRDERS

On August 26, with the help of a team of fourth grade students, Krisztina Scheeff and Alice Holmes mounted 28 bird posters on the Sundance Elementary playground south fence. That fence overlooks the running track and Twin Trails Park where the students bird at recess. Recess Birding began on Wednesday, October 9 with an enthusiastic group of third, fourth, and fifth grade students. Thirty-seven students turned out during their noon recess. Twelve species were sighted between 12 noon and 1:15 – Western Bluebird, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Cassin's Kingbird, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Scaly-breasted Munia and nest, American Crow, House Finch, Rufous Hummingbird, House Sparrow, and Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Certainly, not every student saw all of these species, but enthusiasm is high and the students look forward to our next Recess Birding day. Recess Birding desperately needs volunteer birders. We bird each Wednesday at Sundance Elementary School, 8944 Twin Trails Drive in Rancho Penasquitos from 12 noon to 1:15 PM. It is great fun and the children are enthusiastic. If you can help one or two Wednesdays a month, please call or

After 20 years of tirelessly and beautifully editing 6 issues per year of Band Tales **Arne Christiansen** has decided to retire. He richly deserves our praise for a job well done! PAS wishes to thank Arne for his years of service to this Chapter. Arne has set the bar very high for **Jill and Fred Weber** who will begin producing the newsletter starting with this issue. (Please be patient with us). Contact us at jillinfred@cox.net. We will happily accept your



Wow! It doesn't seem that long ago that I agreed to be the Band Tales editor but a lot of birds have flown the coop since then (is that an appropriate birder substitution for "a lot of water has flowed under the bridge"?). It has been quite a trip, with so much help from so many people, and I am truly grateful for what these folks have done to make the job easier; at the risk of omitting any names I'll just say "*merci beaucoup, muchas gracias, mange tak, arigato and mahalo* to y'all. However a special thanks is due to proof-reader-in-chief Sunny Christiansen, who has caught so many blunders and eggs that have been laid along the way. Also a great big thanks to Jill and Fred Weber who have agreed to take on the job.

Happy trails to you, live well and be happy,

Arne

Ads From Palomar Audubon Members For Birding Related Items May Be Posted to Website

Submit ad requests to palomaraudubon@gmail.com. Only requests from Palomar Audubon Members for bird related items will be accepted. Palomar Audubon is providing this service as a benefit to our members and does not guarantee the items sold. The buyer should contact the seller to find out information about an item for sale and arrangement to purchase.

PAS received the following charming letter from one of our members. With her permission we are sharing her letter as it shows how the joy of birding can be a lifelong hobby and that there is always a way to enjoy our feathered friends! Thank you Marilyn for sharing your story.

Hi Penny,

I am a longtime birdwatcher (89 years old)! My first husband was president of the Kansas City Burroughs Nature Club and when we moved to San Diego in 1956, was V.P. of the S.D. Audubon Society for a while. He was friends of many professionals including Roger T. Peterson, the Cruickshanks, Irby Davis (Texas), etc. His name was John Bishop and due to his being 15 yrs. older than I, he has been gone for many years. I'm still using the 10x50 (pre-WWII) Carl Zeiss binocs he gave me as a wedding present!



My second husband Dan and I moved to this senior complex last July and our little corner is a delightful spot for birds. We have had 34 species from our patio, including Hooded Orioles, Blue birds, Black-headed Grosbeaks and 2 lovely Western Tanagers in our bird bath. My husband is a convert to birdwatching. I would love to volunteer but my bone on bone knees don't permit me to walk much without a

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, November 2, 8:30 am.

(NOTE: New Fall/Winter Start Time)

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" sign and turn left (north) on La Honda Drive. Continue up the hill toward Dixon Lake and on to the Daley Ranch free parking area on your left. Meet at the trail-head kiosk.

Leader: Tom Trowbridge

760-522-8519

Saturday, November 9, 8:30 am.

Lake Hodges East/Rancho Bernardo

Rancho Bernardo

(1150 – A6) Rating: 2

From I-15, exit west at Rancho Bernardo Rd. and turn right onto West Bernardo Drive going north. Proceed to the street marked Rancho Bernardo Recreation Center (stoplight) and turn left. Drive west to the parking areas by the Ed Brown Senior Center (18402 West Bernardo Drive).

Leader: Jeff Ebricht

858-484-3932

Saturday, November 16, 8:30 am.

Lindo Lake

Lakeside

(1232-B3) Rating: 2

From North County, take I-15 south to Hwy.52 then east to Hwy 67. Head north, and take the Winter Gardens Blvd. Exit. Turn left on Woodside Ave (into Lakeside) and continue northeast to the Lindo Lake County Park. Stay on Woodside a short distance, turn right on Chestnut St. which then becomes Lindo Lane. Park in the small parking lot on the left, next to the **VFW hall at 12650 Lindo Lane**. A great assortment of birds is always found here.

Leader: Jack Friery

619-218-7342

Saturday, November 23, 8:30 am.

South Bay Salt Works

National City

(1330 F4) Rating: 1-2

From North County, take I-15 south to I-5 and exit at Palomar St. in National City. Go west a short distance and turn left on Bay Blvd. Continue south to 1470 Bay Blvd. and the dirt parking lot on your right. No restrooms. Use a gas station restroom or a fast food joint in National City before arrival – on Palomar St. east etc. This location is a restricted area not open to the public. We will be driving/hiking out on the dikes extending into South Bay to view waterfowl and shorebirds. Arrive early for car assignments. The entrance gate will be closed and locked after our departure. FWS Ranger Debbie Good will accompany us on this field trip.
Leader: Jim Beckman

858-205-2819

SUNDAY, December 1, 8:30 am.

San Jacinto Wildlife Area

Perris, Riverside Count

(RC 749-B4) Rating: 2

NOTE: THIS A SUNDAY FIELD TRIP. From San Diego County take I-15 north to I-215. Continue north on the I-215 to Perris. Exit at the Ramona Expressway right (east). Continue east to Lakeview (a small town). At the stoplight, turn left (north) on Davis Road. Proceed on the asphalt and gravel road for three miles to the SJWA headquarters parking lot on the right. From Escondido, allow 75 minutes drive time.

Bring a lunch for an after-walk picnic. Always a favorite field trip!

Leader: Sally Sanderson

760-749-6995 vcwillow@aol.com

Saturday, December 7, 8:30 am

A Fallbrook Adventure!

Live Oak County Park/Los Jilgueros Preserve

Fallbrook

(1028- C5) Rating: 1

Take I-15 north to the Fallbrook/E Mission Exit 51. Cross over the freeway and turn left on to Old Highway 395 located at the stoplight immediately after the I-15 South Freeway exit. Proceed 1 mile south to Reche Road. Turn right and proceed 2.2 miles up Reche Road to Live Oak County Park located immediately at Gird Road. Meet in the parking lot. There is a small parking fee at all SD County Parks, but free with a Senior Parking Permit. Our target birds here are the Band-tailed Pigeons and Wood Ducks. Lewis's Woodpeckers have also been seen here at this time of the year. Afterwards, we travel to Los Jilgueros Preserve for winter riparian species. Continue up Reche Road until it dead-ends onto Old Stagecoach Road. Turn left and proceed until it dead-ends into S

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Mission Road. Turn right, proceed through the next traffic light and within 100 yards, turn right into Los Jilgueros Preserve. Afterwards a buffet lunch is being served two minutes away at the Walkley's. A word of caution: several GPS models do not work well in the Fallbrook area. It is best to follow these instructions.

Leader: Doug Walkley 310-387-8190

Saturday, December 14, 8:30 am.

Batiquitos Lagoon

Carlsbad

(1127-A7) Rating: 1-2

From I-5 in Carlsbad, exit east on Poinsettia Lane. Turn right on Batiquitos Drive, drive about ½ mile to Gabbiano Lane, turn right and continue to the end. Park on the street in the residential area. We will look for ducks, waterfowl, raptors, and riparian birds.

Leader: Dave Cowan

858-437-4101

Saturday, December 21, 8:30 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 Blvd. Continue west and turn left on 3rd Street to Caspian Way, turn left again and then turn right into the Tijuana Estuary Visitor Center parking lot.

Leader: Jack Friery

619-218-7342

Saturday, December 28

Escondido Christmas Bird Count

Palomar Audubon Society would like to extend an invitation to all birders to participate in the annual Escondido Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, December 28. The count circle incorporates mostly rural areas near Escondido, Valley Center, Poway, and Ramona. Fantastic birding skills are not a requirement – an extra pair of eyes is always helpful. The after-birding compilation meeting will be held in the early afternoon at Kit Carson Park's covered picnic shelter. The highlight of the day will be the deli-style lunch provided, courtesy of Palomar Audubon Society. For more information and/or team assignments, contact Jim Beckman on a field trip or call (858) 205-2819 or contact the senior compiler, Ken Weaver (760) 723-2448 email gnatcatcher@sbcglobal.net. Sign up now and join the fun!

Saturday, January 4, 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. Drive up the hill to the free parking area on your left at the end of the road. Meet at the east end of the parking lot, near the kiosk, adjacent to the Dixon Lake Park entrance. Seniors can also drive through the Dixon Lake Park entrance, turn right, and park for free near the restrooms.

Leader: Jim Beckman

858-209-2819

Saturday, January 4, 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

HEY, ALL YOU PAS BIRDERS!

Fred & Jill, Editors

Do you have any "WOW!" moments in your birding life? Maybe a "Wish I could share this!" or "Nobody would ever believe what I just saw!"? The majority of this edition of **Band Tales** consists of articles gleaned from non-PAS sources; most of the rest of the articles are submitted by Board members.

None of us is likely to win a Pulitzer Prize in journalism, but—hey, come on, folks—share some of your birding (or for that matter non-birding) experiences with the rest of us. Should you not feel comfortable writing an article just send me whatever you have; we'll fix it up "real purty," making you happy that you have agreed to share with the rest of us.

I took this space because some more copy was needed to fill out YOUR newsletter. It could have been yours to share; **PLEASE!!** We're here at jillnfred@cox.net

So get all of your ducks in a row and send us something!!



RARITIES REPORT

BY ALISON DAVIES

HAPPY FALL, EVERYONE! AS A NEW CONTRIBUTOR FOR OUR NEWSLETTER, I'M EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THAT I WILL BE PROVIDING AN ARTICLE IN EVERY ISSUE OF BAND TALES, DEDICATED TO SHARING INFORMATION ABOUT RARE BIRDS THAT HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY. ONLY THOSE SPECIES THAT HAVE BEEN OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED BY EXPERT REVIEWERS WILL BE INCLUDED ON THE LIST, AND A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OR INTERESTING FACTOID ALONG WITH A PHOTO WILL ACCOMPANY EACH BIRD.

TRACKING AND RECORDING OF RARE BIRDS WILL BEGIN ON JANUARY 1, 2020, AND THE SPECIES LIST WILL APPEAR IN THE FIRST ISSUE OF BAND TALES FOR THE NEW YEAR. HOWEVER, I DO WANT TO SHARE WITH YOU THE MOST THRILLING SIGHTING OF 2019: ON MAY 27, A HISTORY-MAKING EVENT UNFOLDED AS A HUDSONIAN GODWIT ARRIVED AT THE SAN DIEGO RIVER TIDAL MUDFLATS FOR A WEEK-LONG STOPOVER, MARKING THE FIRST TIME THIS SPECIES HAS EVER BEEN RECORDED IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY.

AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THE PHOTO BELOW, IT WAS AN AVIAN PAPARAZZI EVENT!

HUDSONIAN GODWITS BREED IN THE ARCTIC DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS, AND IN THE FALL THEY FLY NON-STOP FROM JAMES BAY, ONTARIO, CANADA, TO SOUTHERN SOUTH AMERICA. SINCE THEY NORMALLY MIGRATE THROUGH THE GREAT PLAINS, THIS INDIVIDUAL'S VISIT TO SAN DIEGO CLASSIFIED

IT AS A "MEGA-RARITY" (HENCE, THE PAPARAZZI!).



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

Sally Kloman
Susan Newlin
Donna Payton
Anna Marie Lea
Tom Murphy
Marilyn Perrin
Barbara & Curt Asman
Leslie Ricketts

AND WE APPRECIATE OUR DONORS VERY MUCH!

P R Thomas
Sally & John Sanderson
Sunny & Arne Christiansen
Sharon & Jon Nachison
James Hall

The Salton Sea Holds On For Dear Life

How migratory birds are faring while they await state action to save this critical water resource for millions of birds.

The Sea isn't dead. Yet.

I keep telling myself that. Yet, each time I participate in Audubon's bird survey at the Salton Sea, the changes are dramatic. The bird numbers appear to continue to decline and the shoreline of the Sea becomes even more unreachable as it shrinks.

While braving a blistering 110 degree day this summer, Audubon's Ryan Llamas and I did see some birds. Migratory birds still know this is a place to stop on their migratory journey to points south for the winter. At our first stop, in the early morning before the temperature gauge hit 90 degrees, I felt a sense of relief as we were treated to a lot different species on the northwest side of the Sea. Mixed flocks of shorebirds, including Black-necked Stilts, Western Sandpipers, Black-bellied Plovers, and Willets prodded along the muddy shoreline, picking out invertebrates. A handful of Black Skimmers flew by low along the water hoping to skim the surface for a meal. A couple of Brown Pelicans bobbed on the water surface in the distance. My hopes were high as we left this survey point because we saw over 1,000 birds.

As the day went on, it got hotter, we wilted, and the birds were few and far between. There were

a few highlights –we saw a group of perhaps 100 Phalaropes out on the water surface. These unique shorebirds spend a lot of their life on open water rather than on the shore. They spin in the water to stir up invertebrates. I watched and waited. They didn't spin. Perhaps they stopped in to rest and were headed to a lake with more nutrient rich waters. Along the southwestern shore, we observed a group of several hundred Northern Shovelers – in recent years, we have seen large numbers of these dabbling ducks spending the winter at Salton Sea. I hope they are here to stay for the winter.



My biggest disappointment came at Poe Road – our survey point in the southwest corner of the lake. This has been one of my favorite sites to count birds, usually with an amazing diversity and number during fall migration. The edge of the sea was barely distinguishable in the heat haze. I figured if we could get near the edge we would see the birds I had been waiting for. Despite our spotting scopes, we saw



only a fraction of the birds we normally see. The rich edge with its wetlands was dried up and the birds just were not there like they had been. The distance from

where the road ends to where the Sea begins had moved dramatically in the past 6 months.

We knew this was coming – the models show how the Sea is receding. It's just hard to see especially when it is punctuated by a lack of birds. The Sea is not dead yet. There are still some birds – and there must be some fish because there were a handful of pelicans around the Sea (not that I saw them fishing) and in some areas the shoreline is still wet enough to support the invertebrates that shorebirds need to fatten up during their annual migration of thousands of miles. The State of California has the funding, and the plan, to build habitats around the exposed Sea edge to allow these birds to continue to use the Sea as an important wetland resource. We are seeing signs of hope from the State as they are making progress to begin constructing habitat projects on the dry seabed next year

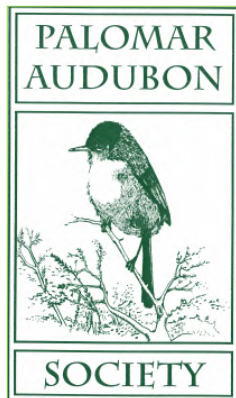


If I write this one year from now, and the State still hasn't completed, or even started, a restoration project, I am guessing I will have fewer birds to talk about. And it's not like there are bountiful other wetlands for these birds to choose from – today in California, the options are slim, and for some the

Band Tales

November-December, 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.



Band Tales

Palomar Audubon Society

P.O. Box 2483

Escondido, CA 92033-2483

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SAN DIEGO, CA
PERMIT NO. 1515

DATED MATERIAL

Please Expedite

PALOMAR AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, & COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2019-2020

President

Penny Hernandez 760-746-8315

Vice-President

Jim Beckman 858-205-2819

Secretary

Mary Marquis 941-323-8647

Treasurer

Sunny Christiansen 760-297-3096

Directors

Dianne Benham 858-679-7904

Joan Falconer 858-566-7050

Alice Holmes 925-212-8165

Nabih Mansour 858-566-7050

Tom Trowbridge 760-522-8519

Jill & Fred Weber 760-604-3734

Committee Chairs

Band Tales Jill & Fred Weber 760-604-3734

Band Tales Mailing... Jan Behrhorst 619-507-3627

Conservation Position Open

Education Alice Holmes 925-212-8165

Field Trips/Programs Jim Beckman 858-205-2819

Hospitality Jill & Fred Weber 760-604-3734

Membership Alice Holmes 925-212-8165

Scholarship Jim Beckman 858-205-2819

Travel Hal & Dianne Benham 858-679-7904

Web Page: palomaraudubon.org

Webmaster: Jeff Ebright: 858-484-3932

palomaraudubon@gmail.com

Board of Director's Meeting

Thursday, November 7th

Thursday, December 5th

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

November	2 Daley Ranch Walk (Note new start time)
November	7 Board Meeting
November	9 Lake Hodges Walk
November	16 Lindo Lake Walk
November	23 South Bay Salt Works Walk
December	1 San Jacinto Wildlife Area Note: Sunday Walk
December	5 Board Meeting
December	7 Fallbrook Adventure Walk
December	14 Batiquitos Lagoon Walk
December	21 Tijuana Estuary Walk
December	28 Escondido Christmas Bird Count
January	2 Board Meeting