



# Band Tales

Palomar Audubon Society  
*A Chapter of the*  
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume XXXV  
No. 2

March-April  
2020

Editors  
Jill & Fred Weber



Read about this beautiful raptor in Ranger Dave's first column on page two under Conservation Notes!

## ***Inside this Band Tales***

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## A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

*Penny Hernandez, President*

Time to get ready for spring! Spring starts March 19th and ends June 20th. Springs means new life. Baby birds, little baby wild animals and hopefully spring rains will bring spring flowers. Be sure to get out there with us on our weekly field trips. You never know who or what you'll see.



The end of spring, June 14th, will be our annual picnic at the beautiful Fallbrook home of Bert and Sharon Kersey. Bring your optics for great birding. Mark your calendar and save the date. Stand by for more information.

Talking about spring, I have been doing a little early spring cleaning.

Did you know that we used to have a Historian who made scrapbooks for each President? I found Ken Weaver's book. He was our first President, 1987-1992. Ed Littlefield's, Paul Bergford's, and Wayne Prey's books were given to their family members. I also have my books from 2003-2005 and 2006-2009. We have not had a historian since 2009, which seems a shame to me. I had more fun looking at these books. They show our Christmas bird count lists, all the fun picnics with great pictures of our younger selves. There are stories of our first scholarship winners, class room visits, bird festivals, and bird trips. I will bring these books to a meeting so anyone interested can enjoy them. I also found some pictures of Osprey nests that PAS built and mounted in Bernardo Bay and up at Lake Wohlford. Not sure the Ospreys knew what they were, but the nests looked great.

Also happening this spring are our birding classes. If you or someone you know would like to learn more about the birds, watch for more information.

Hope to see you this Spring!!

*Penny*



**REMINDER:  
DEADLINE FOR THE  
MAY-JUNE ISSUE IS  
APRIL 15<sup>th</sup>.  
SUBMIT COPY TO  
[jillnfred@cox.net](mailto:jillnfred@cox.net)**

## CONSERVATION NOTES

*Ranger Dave, Conservation Chair*

### The Peregrines of Morro Rock

**By Ranger Dave**

Hello and thank you for giving me the opportunity to share some of the conservation stories and projects I come across and work with on a daily basis. I hope you enjoy them and get a chance to see some of the areas for yourself. Conservation is always an uphill battle but it's one I believe in and one I have dedicated my life to fighting.



Last month I was in Morro Bay attending the Winter Bird Festival and co-leading a workshop on the behaviors of the Western and Clarks grebes. While there I made it a point to visit Morro Rock. Besides being a massive volcanic plug rising from the ocean floor at an elevation of 581 feet and a sacred site of the local Chumash tribes it was and still is the epicenter of one of the most spectacular conservation come-backs ever.

The Peregrine Falcon is the fastest hunter on earth traveling at speeds of up to 200+ miles an hour in pursuit of their prey. As fast as they are their speed however could not protect them from the hidden dangers of pesticide use in the 60's and 70's. Due to use of these chemicals that were widely accepted at the time and thought to be safe combined with the effect it had on their eggs (thinner/weakened egg shells that the parent would unknowingly crush when sitting on the nest) the Peregrines became another statistic and were added to the California Endangered Species List. Only 10 Peregrine Falcons were counted during nesting season in 1970.

(Continued on Page 3)





## Peregrines (continued from Page 2)

Since Morro Rock was one of a few areas where nesting falcons were found in the area an initiative was started by the Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Research group to help them survive. Team members would start the process of ascending and descending the rock and swapping out falcon chicks on what would become an annual spring occurrence for many years to come. The team employed a series of endangered species management techniques that including captive breeding, double clutching, captive hatching of thin fragile wild eggs, and fostering falcon chicks into wild nests.

It must have been a confusing time for the female falcon, prompted out of her nest by volunteers rappelling down the rock they would swap one chick for two or take eggs to be incubated and then reintroduced at a later date. Always under the watchful eyes of the volunteers that stood vigil sometimes in 24-hour shifts at the base of the rock.

After all these efforts their numbers slowly but surely began to rise and by 1999 the Peregrine Falcon was removed from the endangered species list. If you are ever in Morro Bay stop by the rock and see Peregrines for yourselves. Be sure to look for Falcon Bob who has been out there on a daily basis for 30+ years. He is always happy to help people spot the Falcons and educate them on their amazing comeback story.

## Hatch-Watch 2020

A pair of bald eagle eggs in a nest at Big Bear Lake are expected to hatch any minute now and the public is invited to watch live. Go to [friendsofbigbearvalley.org](http://friendsofbigbearvalley.org) and click on eagle nest.



**The Escondido CBC**, sponsored by the Palomar Audubon Society, was conducted on December 28. Approximately eighty observers in twenty-five teams recorded (a preliminary) 155 species. The top five rarities, based on the number of previous records were: Nashville Warbler, one at Kit Carson Park in Escondido (2nd record); Harris's Hawk, one near the Ramona Airport (3rd CBC in a row); White-winged Dove, two near the Ramona Airport and ten near Black Canyon Road (3rd CBC in a row); Barn Swallow at Rangeland Road in Ramona (3rd record); and Summer Tanager, two at the Safari Park (3rd record).

I noted at least eighteen species on the Escondido count that were not recorded on the San Diego CBC in 2018. Observers noted seventeen species of raptors including Golden Eagle, Ferruginous Hawk, Zone-tailed Hawk, and Prairie Falcon. Songbirds observed that are not frequent in winter on the coastal counts included Mountain Bluebird, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Bell's Sparrow, Scott's Oriole, and Yellow-headed Blackbird. Over-wintering birds more typical of the immediate coast than inland included Plumbeous Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, and Western Tanager.

Some interesting observations included over 50 Selasphorus hummingbirds including many adult male Allen's, twenty-four Scaly-breasted Mannikins spotted by six teams, more than two hundred Eurasian Collared-Doves, and a Black-throated Magpie-Jay present at Kit Carson Park. On an encouraging note, many of our coastal sage scrub birds (California Quail, Wrentit, Cactus Wren, California Thrasher) are finally showing increasing numbers following the disastrous fires of 2003 and 2007 which hit this CBC circle especially hard.

Ken Weaver  
Fallbrook



## 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.

### Field Trips

**Saturday, March 7, 8:30 am.**

#### San Jacinto Wildlife Area

Riverside County

(RC 749-B4) Rating: 2

From San Diego County take I-15 north through Temecula and take the I-215. Continue north on the I-215. 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 two miles to the SJWA headquarters parking lot on the right. From Escondido allow 75 minutes drive time. Bring a lunch. Always a PAS favorite!

Leader: Sally Sanderson

760-749-6995

**Saturday, March 14, 8:30 am.**

#### Lake Hodges

##### Del Dios

(1149-E4) Rating: 2

From I-15 in Escondido exit at Via Rancho Parkway and drive west to Lake Drive. Turn left and drive south about 1/2 mile. Meet at Del Dios Park across from the Country Store. We should see waterfowl, shorebirds and a whole host of local residents.

Leader: Hal Benham

858-679-7904

**Saturday March 21, 8:30 am**

#### Whelan Lake Bird Sanctuary

##### Oceanside

(1066-F7) Rating: 2

From Hwy 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 Rd. 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, March 28, 8:30 am.**

#### San Pasqual Agricultural Trail

##### Escondido

(1151-B1) Rating: 2

Meet at the Ysabel Creek Rd. trailhead at the intersection Ysabel Creek Rd. & Bandy Canyon Rd. This intersection can be reached from Highland Valley Rd. east off of Pomerado Rd & I-15, or from Hwy 78 east of the Wild Animal (Safari) Park. We hope to see local residents, which include Cactus Wren, Greater Roadrunner, and a few raptors, possibly the Zone-tailed Hawk. Bring a lunch for an after-birding picnic. Expect warm weather.

Leader: Jim Beckman

858-205-2819

**Saturday, April 4, 8:30am.**

#### Old Mission Dam

##### San Diego

<http://www.mtrp.org/park.asp>

(1230-F6) Rating: 2

Take Highway 52 east to the Mast Blvd. exit in Santee. Turn north/east onto Mast Blvd. and then right at the 1st traffic signal (West Hills Parkway). Take West Hills Parkway to Mission Gorge Road and turn right. Take Mission Gorge Road 0.2 miles and merge right onto Father Junipero Serra Trail. Proceed 0.7 miles down Father Juniper Serra Trail to the Old Mission Dam parking lot, located on the right. Arrive extra early to avoid parking on the street. This should be prime time for spring migrants.

Leader: Jeff Ebright

858-484-3932

**Saturday, April 11, 8:30 am.**

#### Dairy Mart Pond/Tijuana River Valley

##### San Diego

(1350 - D5) Rating: 2

From North County, take the I-15 south and merge with the I-5 south to the Dairy Mart Road Exit. Turn right on Dairy Mart Rd. (south). Continue a very short distance and meet at the dirt parking lot on your right just before the concrete bridge and next to the large "TJRV County Park" sign with the pond on the west side of Dairy Mart Road. We will also drive a short distance to the TJRV Park Headquarters (public restroom and bird feeders) and then visit the nearby Bird & Butterfly Garden where there is a chance of seeing the elusive Black-throated Magpie Jay.

Leader: Jack Friery

619-218-7342

**Saturday, April 18, 8:30 am.**  
**Wilderness Gardens Preserve**  
**Pala**

(409-E6) Rating: 2

This small wilderness area represents a fine example of oak woodland habitat. Meet in the Wilderness Gardens parking lot, which is about 10 miles east of I-15 on Hwy.76, on the south side of the highway. Look for the "Wilderness Gardens Preserve" sign. Parking fee required, but free with senior County pass. Bring a lunch for an after-birding picnic. Expect warm weather.

Leader: Trysten Loeffke  
 760-749-5898

**Saturday, April 25, 8:30 am.**  
**Big Morongo Canyon Preserve**  
**Morongo Valley, San Bernardino County**

<http://www.bigmorongo.org/>

(SB 616-J5) Rating: 1

Big Morongo Canyon Preserve is always a spring hotspot and a favorite PAS field trip. In the caretaker's yard, several hummingbird and seed feeders attract many bird species for your enjoyment. Birds often found here are Western and Summer Tanagers, Vermilion Flycatchers, Yellow-breasted Chat, and several other more uncommon species. Picnic tables and restrooms are available. Bring a lunch for an after-birding picnic at the bird feeders.

Directions to Big Morongo: (for GPS Users the address is 11055 East Dr, Morongo Valley, CA 92256): From Escondido, proceed north on I-15 approx. 36 miles to the I-15/I-215 split in Murrieta. Change to I-215 north and continue about 30 miles to Hwy 60 east. Take Hwy 60 east approx. 18 miles and merge with the I-10. Then continuing east on I-10 approximately 40 miles to Hwy 62. Go north on Hwy 62 about 12 miles to Morongo Valley (a small town). About a mile or two into town, look for signs for Big Morongo Canyon Preserve. Turn right (south) on East Drive, a dirt road, to the Preserve. The parking lot is just beyond the caretaker's house. Allow 2+ hours travel time from Escondido.

For those staying overnight, we are recommending the Best Western Joshua Tree Hotel & Suites at 56525 Twentynine Palms Highway, Yucca Valley 92284 (760) 365-3555 at the upper price range (NOTE: this is not the Best Western Gardens Hotel in the city of Twentynine Palms) or we are also recommending the Super 8 at 57096 29 Palms Hwy Yucca Valley CA (760) 228-1773 for about \$60 less. Note, due to music festivals, rooms are expensive and in high demand, so book early. Leader TBA

**Saturday, May 2, 8:00 am. (Note new earlier Spring/Summer 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/Dixon Lake" signs and turn left on La Honda Drive. Continue north toward Dixon Lake and on to the free Daley Ranch parking area on your left. Meet at the trailhead kiosk.

Leader: Gerry Baade  
 858-231-9876

**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 bimonthly newsletter, and an invitation to our monthly programs and weekly field trips.

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

*(payable to Palomar Audubon Society)*

☐ **Contribution**

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



**MARCH PRESENTATION****APRIL PRESENTATION****Thursday, March 26****Nancy Christensen****Antarctica!**

Nancy will present slides of her recent trip to the white continent. Nancy and her husband Russ traveled to Antarctica with Linblad/National Geographic in January 2019. They visited multiple locations along the Antarctic peninsula and in the Weddell Sea. Several locations had never been visited by National Geographic, including the recently discovered Adélie Penguin colony in the Danger Islands, so it really was an exploration expedition. This was truly a trip of a lifetime.

Nancy Christensen is a native of San Diego County, born and raised in Chula Vista. Nancy attended UCSD, studying Art (painting and photography) and Anthropology. These two subjects combined in a 1979 project with the San Diego Museum of Man, photographing a collection of Inca bones showing signs of disease. Approximately 1400 of her photos were published in the "Hrdlicka Paleopathology Collection". Nancy's primary interest was always wildlife, and for a few years she spent time painting extinct species of birds and mammals after studying skins at the San Diego Natural History Museum and other museums in the southwest United States. She also wrote and illustrated articles for various publications including Zoonooz. Photographing wildlife was a major part of Nancy's life for a number of years, and for a time she had two agents that marketed her work in various places. The Cedar Fire in 2003 destroyed her paintings as well as the collection of photographs she had accumulated, and ended her small career as a wildlife photographer. Today Nancy watches birds, photographs birds, chases birds, and basically enjoys birds. She started eBird listing in 2011 and is happily wallowing in the joys of being a "birder".

**Thursday, April 23****Trish Boaz****"The San Dieguito Valley River Conservancy:****From A Vision To Reality"**

The San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy is supported by more than 1800 enthusiastic members. They partner with the San Dieguito River Park Authority, other non-profit organizations including Palomar Audubon Society, citizens, landowners, governments, and other stakeholders to conserve our natural resources, offer education about the River Valley to our community, and provide recreational opportunities throughout the San Dieguito River watershed. Since 1986, the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy has been committed to acquiring lands within the San Dieguito River Park watershed (which consists of 94,000 acres) and the completion of the 70 mile "Coast to Crest Trail" from Del Mar to Volcan Mountain near Julian. Thus, turning a goal from a vision to a reality. Over 75% of the River Park land is located in areas served by our Palomar Audubon Society. Trish will talk about the latest and greatest happenings with the Conservancy including updates on acquisitions, the Coast to Crest Trail, and the Citizen Science Program.

Trish Boaz was hired in 2013 as SDRVC's Executive Director and brings over 30 years experience in conservation and environmental protection, as well as established positive relationships with many of the Conservancy's partners. She previously worked for the County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation, where she oversaw the implementation of the Multiple Species Conservation Program and managed the award-winning County Trails Program. She also coordinated the County's acquisition of over 7,000 acres of open space lands. Trish also volunteers as a crisis interventionist with the City of San Diego Police Department.

## Salton Sea Birding Trip

January 24 to 26, 2020

By Doug Walkley

Over the weekend of January 24 – 26, 2020, twenty one PAS members returned to one of the best birding sites in United States: The Salton Sea! It continues to amaze and impress. Seeing the masses of Snow Geese at daybreak was absolutely breathtaking! And the murmurations of twisting, swirling, morphing clouds of thousands of Red-wing Blackbirds flying en masse was mesmerizing! It felt especially good after recently learning how 2.9 billion birds have vanished across North America since 1970, a decline of roughly 30%. We thought to ourselves: Well, maybe not here!

The title of this expedition is perhaps a misnomer since not one of our recorded birds was seen close to the Salton Sea. The sea has shrunk so much that it was always at least a quarter of a mile from us. But it is the Salton Sea area that people identify with, so we continue to call it the “Salton Sea” trip.

The dynamics of the group were particularly enjoyable this year, with everyone contributing, interacting and generally having a good time. Sound planning by guides Steve Ellis, Doug Walkley, Jim Beckman and Hal Benham, including two full days of scouting out the routes in advance, helped us avoid wrong turns onto overgrown or rough road conditions. Our Friday night Italian meal at the hotel restaurant, Assagio, was excellent with fast, friendly service. Saturday night we ordered nine Domino’s pizzas for our meeting room. This worked out well, as it allowed us to do the check-list and to compare notes on our overall impressions of the trip. Many thanks to Hal & Dianne Benham who, as usual, did an excellent job of organizing this trip.

All in all, we recorded 106 species, four more species than in January 2018. Nineteen new species were seen, yet fifteen species sighted in 2018 were not located this time. Ten birders in our group, including me, had lifers! We once again found two Great-horned Owls in two different caves on Red Hill. Another was found high in a palm tree by Debbie Lebo at the Cattle Call. The Greater White-fronted Geese were a pleasant surprise for all. On Sunday, we recorded eight species that had not been sighted on Saturday.



Bird Photos By Joan Comito



. Below is our list. The species denoted in red are those seen in our 2018 trip to Salton Sea, but not this year. The species denoted in blue are those not seen in 2018. The number immediately following the species name represents the number of that species found on Saturday, whereas the number immediately following represents the number of that species seen on the Sunday.

>Greater White-fronted Goose 8, 0  
 > Snow Goose 2000, 0> Ross's Goose 5, 0  
 > Canada Goose 2, 0> Gadwall 1, 0  
 > American Wigeon 10, 2> Mallard 2, 6  
 > Cinnamon Teal 4, 6> Northern Shoveler 66, 4  
 > Northern Pintail 200, 0> Green-winged Teal 100, 0  
 > Redhead 50, 0> Ring-necked Duck 1, 0  
 > Bufflehead 2, 0> Hooded Merganser 1, 0  
 > Ruddy Duck 600, 100> Gambel's Quail 25, 6  
 > Pied-billed Grebe 6, 3> Western Grebe 0, 8  
 > Clark's Grebe 0, 4> American White Pelican 0, 45  
 > Double-crested Cormorant 20, 10  
 > Neotropic Cormorant 0, 4  
 > Great Blue Heron 7, 3> Great Egret 50, 12  
 > Snowy Egret 0, 2> Cattle Egret 200, 200  
 > Green Heron 3, 1> Black-crowned Night Heron 2, 7  
 > White-faced Ibis 15> Turkey Vulture 0, 2  
 > Osprey 1, 0> Northern Harrier 12, 2  
 > Ferruginous Hawk 1, 0> Red-tailed Hawk 18, 8  
 > American Kestrel 30, 20> Peregrine Falcon\* 1  
 > Yuma Clapper Rail 1, 0> Sora 5, 0  
 > American Coot 500, 500> Sandhill Crane 6,  
 > Mountain Plover 2 (Friday)> Killdeer 15, 5  
 > Black-necked Stilt 12, 6> American Avocet 50, 0  
 > Spotted Sandpiper 1, 1> Greater Yellowlegs 4, 0  
 > Willet 4, 0> Long-billed Curlew 50, 33  
 > Marbled Godwit 20, 0> Western Sandpiper 3, 0  
 > Least Sandpiper 30, 0> Long-billed Dowitcher 70, 0  
 > Wilson's Snipe 6, 0> Ring-billed Gull 500, 400  
 > California Gull 4, 1> Caspian Tern 1 (Friday)  
 > Rock Pigeon 35, 8> Eurasian Collared-dove 50, 7  
 > Mourning Dove 100, 10> Common Ground-dove 4, 0  
 > Inca Dove 6, 0> Greater Roadrunner 4, 1  
 > Great Horned Owl 2, 1> Burrowing Owl 6, 0  
 > Anna's Hummingbird 0, 2> Costa's Hummingbird 0, 0  
 > Belted Kingfisher 1, 1> Ladder-backed Woodpecker 0, 0  
 > Northern Flicker 0, 0> Gila Woodpecker 0, 1  
 > Red-naped Sapsucker 0, 1  
 > Black Phoebe 15, 3> Say's Phoebe 6, 2  
 > Cassin's Kingbird 2 (Friday)> Loggerhead Shrike 5, 3  
 > Hutton's Vireo 1, 0> Horned Lark 3, 0  
 > Tree Swallow 100, 15> Barn Swallow 4, 0  
 > Verdin 3, 4> Marsh Wren 12, 8  
 > Ruby-crowned Kinglet 3, 2> Vermillion Flycatcher 1, 3  
 > Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 0, 0> Black-tailed Gnatcatcher 4, 2  
 > Northern Mockingbird 1, 1> European Starling 50, 8  
 > American Pipit 1, 0 (thank you Adam)  
 > Yellow-rumped Warbler 8, 4> Aber's Towhee 6, 4  
 > Savannah Sparrow 1, 0> Song Sparrow 2, 1  
 > Lincoln Sparrow 1, 0> White-crowned Sparrow 12, 4  
 > Dark eyed Junco> Red-winged Blackbird 1000, 300  
 > Western Meadowlark 20, 10> Yellow-headed Blackbird 3, 0  
 > Brewer's Blackbird 100, 0> Great-tailed Grackle 12, 15  
 > House Finch 0, 6  
 > House Sparrow 12, 10

Regards, and flyin' high  
 Doug Walkley

## ***PALOMAR AUDUBON SOCIETY WELCOMES***

### ***NEW AND RENEWING CHAPTER-ONLY MEMBERS:***

<b><i>Joseph Leeak</i></b>	<b><i>Cynthia Rippee</i></b>
<b><i>Jo Casterline</i></b>	<b><i>Judy Gendreau</i></b>
<b><i>Adam Weiner</i></b>	<b><i>Kathy Marvel</i></b>
<b><i>David Hekel</i></b>	<b><i>Margaret Yorio</i></b>
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<b><i>Stephen Gabbert</i></b>	<b><i>Linda Canada</i></b>
<b><i>Elinor Foulke</i></b>	<b><i>Sherel Andrews</i></b>
<b><i>Trysten Loeffe</i></b>	<b><i>Barbara Launspach</i></b>
<b><i>Thomas Pietuch</i></b>	<b><i>Deborah Lebo</i></b>

***Ed Hall***

***John & Nan Thomas***

***Michael & Sonja Beeve***

***Bert & Sharon Kersey***

***Daniel & Marion Flores***

***Mary Jo & Patrick Hayes***

### ***AND WE APPRECIATE OUR DONORS VERY MUCH!***

***Jean Friesenhahn***

***William Sherrard***

***Ed Hall***

***Michael & Sonja Beeve***

***Cynthia Rippee***

***Jo Casterline***

***John & Nan Thomas***

***Michael Wittmer***

***Kathy Marvel***

***Vanita Murthy***

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***Marty Hales & Jim McKerrow***

***Celeste Larson***

***Alice Holmes***

***Sherel Andrews***

***Susan Newlin***

***Judy Gendreau***

***Mary Jo & Patrick Hayes***



As further evidence of the great time had on the Salton Sea trip, PAS received the following letter from one attendee. Thanks for sharing Bill!

Dianne and Hal,  
I am sorry it has taken so long to thank you both for including us on your Palomar Audubon birding trip to Brawley and the Salton Sea area. Thank you for organizing one of the finest trips in which we have ever participated. Martha and I enjoyed every minute of it and so appreciate this welcoming and knowledgeable group. It was fun. Many thanks to you and all the other organizers, and to the entire wonderful group. A great group. A wonderful time.

**Bill Saltzman**

### RARITIES REPORT BY ALISON DAVIES

Hello friends,  
We're off to a great new birding year in 2020! So many rarities...so little newsletter space! In this issue, I'll be featuring the following 3 rare birds:

#### —Black-throated Magpie-Jay—



Although this species is endemic to the Pacific slopes of Mexico, they are considered to be “established” in our Tijuana River Valley Regional Park area (just north of the border) and can be spotted at the nearby Bird and Butterfly Garden. The bird in this photo was found here in Escondido at Kit Carson Park!

#### —Orchard Oriole—



This is an immature male, found at Robb Field, Ocean Beach. The Orchard Oriole is the smallest of the Orioles. These birds are common

in the Midwest and Southern United States, and they winter in central Mexico.

#### —Rusty Blackbird—



Rusty Blackbirds make their home across Canada and Alaska, and they normally winter in the Southeastern U.S., so this visitor was a special treat for everyone who got a glimpse of it while it was down at Robb Field – and more recently, the Kobe's Swap Meet parking lot!

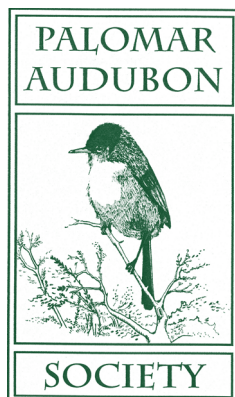
Next month in March, breeding season begins and spring migration gets underway! Be on the lookout for warblers, vireos, grosbeaks and orioles. Clark's and Western Grebes can already be seen with chicks on Lake Hodges and Lake Wolhford!

Happy Birding!  
Alison

# Band Tales

## March-April, 2020

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 Palomar Audubon Society Chapter membership.



**Band Tales**  
**Palomar Audubon Society**  
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#### Secretary

Joan Falconer.....858-566-7050

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Sunny Christiansen ..... 760-297-3096

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Dianne Benham ..... 858-679-7904

Alice Holmes ..... 925-212-8165

Nabih Mansour ..... 858-566-7050

Tom Trowbridge..... 760-743-1052

Jill & Fred Weber..... 760-604-3734

Trysten Loeffke..... 760-749-5898

Dave Hekel..... 760-855-1418

#### Committee Chairs

Band Tales ..... Jill & Fred Weber ..... 760-604-3734

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

Conservation ..... Dave Hekel..... 760-855-1418

..... Trysten Loeffke ..... 760-749-5898

Education ..... Alice Holmes ..... 925-212-8165

Field Trips/Programs Jim Beckman ..... 858-205-2819

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Membership..... Alice Holmes ..... 925-212-8165

Scholarship ..... Jim Beckman ..... 858-205-2819

Travel..... Hal & Dianne Benham. 858-679-7904

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Webmaster: Jeff Ebright: 858-216-5623

[palomaraudubon@gmail.com](mailto:palomaraudubon@gmail.com)

## Board of Director's Meeting

*Thursday, March 5th*

*Thursday, April 2nd*

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

March	5	Board Meeting
March	7	San Jacinto Wildlife Area
March	14	Lake Hodges
March	21	Whelan Lake
March	26	Chapter Meeting
March	28	San Pasqual Agricultural Trail
April	2	Board Meeting
April	4	Old Mission Dam
April	11	Dairy Mart Pond/ Tijuana River Valley
April	18	Wilderness Gardens Preserve
April	23	Chapter Meeting
April	25	Big Morongo Canyon Preserve
May	2	Daley Ranch