



Band Tales

Palomar Audubon Society
A Chapter of the
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

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March-April
2021

Editors
Jill & Fred Weber



This exceptional photo of an Osprey with a carp was submitted by our own Ranger Dave along with two other beautiful photos to be found on page 3.
Thanks Dave !

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A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Penny Hernandez, President

Where do I start! Tree trimmers! In the last few days, tree trimmers have been working in my neighborhood. My complex had the trees trimmed a few months ago, fall, early winter. These trimmers



are trimming at the end of February. Nesting season is February 1st. thru August 15th.

Birds and active nests are protected by Migratory Bird Treaty Act and California Migratory Bird Protection Act of 2019. State code 3503, "unlawful to take, possess or

needlessly destroy the nest or eggs of any birds."

Well, these trimmers destroyed a nest that has been a Great Horned Owls nest in the past and the same nest has been used by a Cooper's Hawk in the recent years. A Cooper's has been checking it out the last week. I should have said something to the trimmers, but assumed they knew what they were doing.

Please don't make my mistake. I am hoping the nest was not in use yet and the trimmers knew that. Following is a list of when most birds nest, and a number to call if you see a violation of the above acts.

Call Cal-tip for violations 888-334-2258. Also plan using trimmers only in the fall or winter months.

Jan-Mar Great Horned Owl, Ravens

Mar-June Screech Owls

Feb-May Hummingbirds, songbirds, swallows

April Red-tailed Hawk

May-June Robins, Gold Finch, Mockingbirds

Apr-July Red-shoulder Hawk

Mar-Aug Orioles

June Cooper's Hawk

When will we be having our walks and meetings, who knows? Things seem to be improving so maybe in the fall? I do want to thank everyone who did the Christmas Bird Count on January 2, 2021. We owe you a lunch. I also want to let you know the Board has approved the development of a water feature in Daley Ranch. Tom Trowbridge and helpers will start working on the project next week.

Stay well and keep birding.

Penny

CONSERVATION NOTES

Trysten Loeffke, Conservation Chair

We all love birds. The very fact that you're sitting here reading this right now is evidence of that fact. As bird-lovers we also want to help, protect, and learn more about birds in any way we can and that's where conservation enters the conversation. But, unfortunately, to many of us the mysterious depths of ornithology- with its teams of dedicated field researchers, cutting-edge lab technicians, world-class geneticists, and international conservation schemes- seems to soar high above us at its own unattainable heights, seemingly something that we, as ordinary individuals, have no impact on.

So how can you, as an ordinary citizen, help to protect and conserve our beloved birds and the habitat they need? We don't all have degrees in the various disciplines of biology, we don't all have the ability to trek off as part of a research team, and we certainly don't all have bottomless supplies of funds to donate to our favorite worthy cause. But what if I were to tell you that whoever you are, whatever your position in life is at the moment, you too could become a part of the great process of ornithology?

The answer is in citizen science. In just the past few months some of the biggest annual citizen science projects on the calendar have taken place. In December and January we had the National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count; our counterparts at the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds over in Europe have just wrapped up the Big Garden Birdwatch; and even now as I am writing this article we are on the final day of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Great Backyard Bird Count. All of these events, and many others, are examples of citizen science projects that only work because of you, the everyday bird-loving people. I'd like to elaborate on just a few of the ways that citizen science has changed the course of ornithology.

On January 2nd, 2021, the Palomar Audubon Society sponsored our local count circle of the annual Christmas Bird Count. Our teams throughout the Escondido area were able to record 155 species in the twenty-four hour period. Nationwide, this was the 121st Christmas Bird Count, making it the nation's longest running citizen science project.



The data collected each year in count circles across the country guides not only Audubon's conservation efforts but also those of many other conservation organizations across North America. Such an incredibly long-running survey is providing scientists with the information they need in order to monitor and map the ever changing trends of bird populations, and it is all because of the dedicated efforts of birders like you birding in your local areas that this information has become available.

Another annual bird survey is the Great Backyard Bird Count, sponsored by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. As I am writing this, this year's GBBC is not yet over but so far birders around the globe have tallied almost 6,000 species, that's nearly 60% of the world's species! All just in three days! This enormous project also helps us to map the global populations of birds and their habitats. It is because of projects such as this that we are better able to understand what areas birds are thriving in and what areas they are declining in, thus allowing us to essentially create a template that shows us the areas that need our conservation efforts the most.

But for those of you who want to be able to maximize your efforts for the birds you don't have to wait for those few days a year that these projects occur. Instead, I would encourage you to get involved with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Project eBird. The eBird database is essentially the eternal version of a citizen science project. Whether you've spent the weekend on a birding field trip, saw something that caught your eye as you drove to the store, or you've just spotted the usual suspects from your kitchen window, all sightings are welcome in eBird, all day, everyday. With the data that has been entered into eBird.org scientists across the globe have been able to harness the power of millions of records, including photos and audio recordings- all entered by ordinary people like you and me. With this data they have been able to discover evidence to support the classification of new species, monitor threatened populations, uncover the mystery of migrations and so much more, all because bird-lovers the world over shared what they've seen and heard. This project is an incredible way to get involved and to aid the work of conservation and ornithology. If you're worried that you won't know how to operate eBird, don't fret. Take the free eBird essentials course provide by the Cornell Lab's Bird Academy. There you'll find all the information you need to get you started on the road to citizen science.

Whether you're an avid birder who enjoys traveling to exotic locations or you prefer the comfort of watching the birds from your back patio at home, there is always a way you can help bird science and

conservation and you can start today. Citizen science provides a greater portion of scientific data than many of us realize, and we need you to help that database grow.

The next major citizen science event on the calendar is the Global Big Day, to be held on May 8th, 2021. During the Global Big Day the goal is to find as many species as possible within the twenty-four hour period, but even spending five minutes birding in your garden can contribute to the day's totals.

I encourage you all to join the global team and start counting birds today! Your sightings provide invaluable data that helps to further the work of conservation the world over.



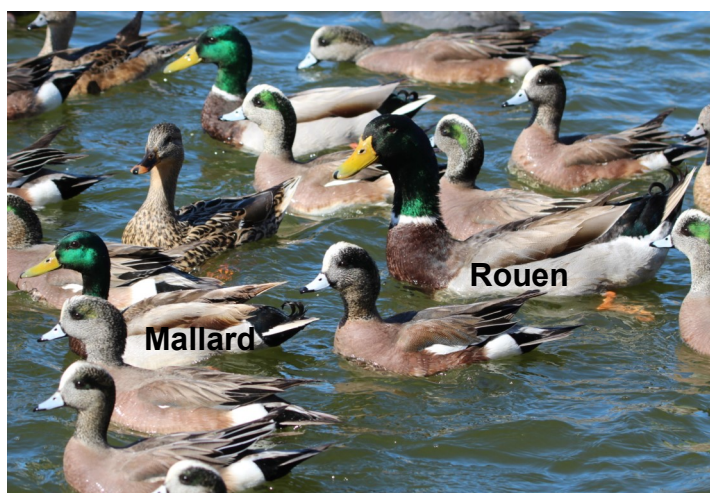
Say's Phoebe (above) Juvenile Cooper's Hawk (below)



ESCAPED DOMESTICS LIVING HAPPILY AT KIT CARSON PARK

By Jill Weber

Three pairs of Rouen or Rhone ducks have taken up residence at Kit Carson Park's Eagle Scout Pond. These are domesticated ducks raised mostly for meat production as they are not prolific egg layers. They are easy to overlook as they are nearly identical to a Mallard,

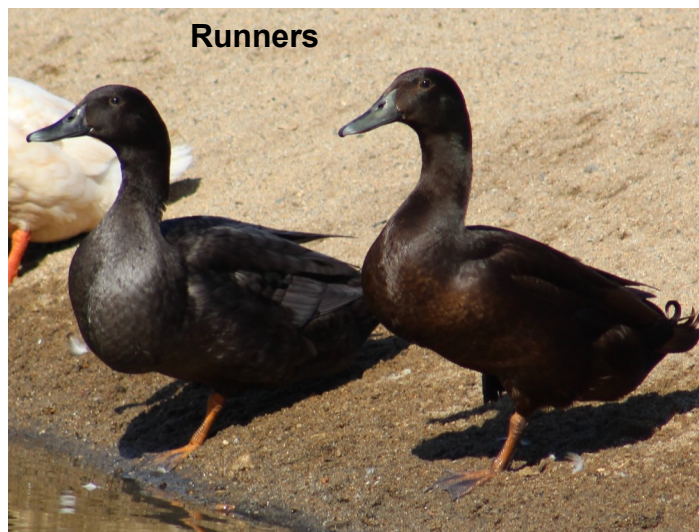


except for their hefty size. A common Mallard will weigh about 2.5 pounds while a Rouen can weigh 6-12 pounds. The females sport a prominent white "eyebrow" which sets her apart along with her size.

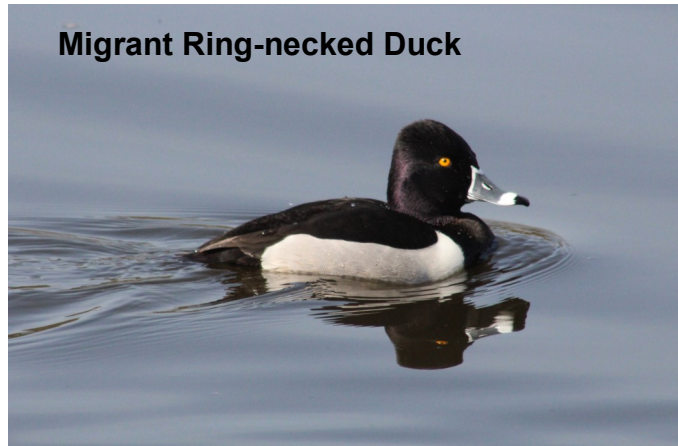


There have also been a pair of chocolate-colored Runners living there for some time and are a beautiful and comical addition to the usual

collection of wild ducks. Runner ducks stand erect like penguins and run rather than fly. The females are prolific egg layers (300-350 per year) but rarely form nests or incubate their own eggs. They often drop their eggs wherever they happen to be and then abandon them. Persons farming Runners for their eggs must gather them up often.



Stop by Kit Carson Park and enjoy these interesting domestics along with the usual assortment of permanent and visiting ducks and birds.



The Owl and the Belgian Shepherd

For years, photographer Tanja Brandt has made it her mission to capture magnificent photos of animals and wildlife. Recently, the German artist found a new challenge when she photographed the unique bond between two unlikely friends: Ingo, a Belgian shepherd, and Poldi (Napoleon), a one-year-old owl.

The owl and canine have a special protector-protected relationship. Their affection toward each other couldn't be any more evident. Ingo lovingly guards Poldi, who apparently doesn't know how to live free.

The owl hatched two days after his six brothers and sisters, therefore, has always been very vulnerable due to his small size. They respect each other and they can read each other, says the photographer.



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**

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100% of Chapter Membership dues supports
projects locally.

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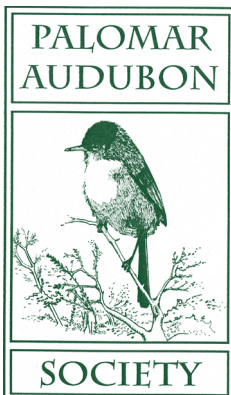
Beverly Warburton

Adam Weiner

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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.



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Board of Director's Meeting

No Meetings for March-April

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

**NO MEETINGS OR WALKS
SCHEDULED AT THIS TIME DUE TO
COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS.**