



Band Tales

Palomar Audubon Society
A Chapter of the
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume XXXVI
No. 4

July-August
2021

Editors
Jill & Fred Weber



Scaled Quail photo by Aedyn Loeffke

Read where to find this and many other birds in Aedyn's article on birding Arizona, along with more great photographs taken by Aedyn.

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**Palomar Audubon Society
Chapter-only Membership**

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**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.

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100% of Chapter Membership dues supports projects locally.

Wildlife Oasis at Daley Ranch

The hole is dug, the water is dripping, the native plants are in, and the birds are flying down to drink and bathe in their new oasis across the street from the Ranch House. Benches are ordered for the viewing area above the pond and the area must still be cleared off for the many people, we hope, to be enjoying it. In late October we plan to plant 10 to 20 more native plants around the pond and that should complete the project.

By Tom Trowbridge



CONSERVATION NOTES

Trysten Loeffke, Conservation Chair

As many of you know, David Yarnold, long-time CEO of the National Audubon Society, has recently resigned and we now have a new National CEO: Dr. Elizabeth Gray. Dr. Gray has recently come to Audubon from The Nature Conservancy and brings with her innovative new ideas and a passion for wildlife.

Back in May, I participated in a Zoom meeting with both Dr. Gray and David Yarnold. It was a great conversation and I'd like to share some of my thoughts on that meeting with you.

Dr. Gray is a wonderful woman and she will be moving Audubon forward in many exciting new directions. We have certainly been left in good hands. Our past CEO, David Yarnold, started the meeting off and introduced us to Dr. Gray, who then gave us a short bio of herself. This was not just a meet-and-greet, however, this was a discussion and council meeting. Dr. Gray gave us each a list of her most pressing questions and concerns about filling this new role and the floor was opened to discussion on these topics. Each of the local chapter leaders in attendance was able to give personalized insight and feedback directly to Dr. Gray. What an opportunity! We discussed things such as Audubon's greatest accomplishments, our greatest disappointments, our local chapter's greatest struggles, the need for a politically diverse supporter base, our hopes for the next few years of Audubon, a greater focus on connectivity between local and national levels of Audubon, and so much more.

Having had this personal discussion, I wanted to assure you all that we are in good hands under Dr. Gray's leadership. I am looking forward to the reforms and new ideas that she will be bringing to Audubon. Her experience from The Nature Conservancy and her passion for conservation will move our valuable work forward greatly. Dr. Gray truly cares about the individual chapters and one of the things that excited me the most is that, going forward, she is looking for greater involvement with and input from the local chapters and members. I am looking forward to Dr. Gray's new leadership and her continued involvement with all of us at the chapter level. Our leadership may have changed, but our work is only progressing.

A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Penny Hernandez, President

What happens when you spoil your yard birds by feeding them only sunflower seeds? Well in my case, I got a wonderful jungle of giant sunflowers.



I stopped using the regular bird seed because of the birds kicking out the seed they didn't want. I still have the mess of the sunflower shells, but they eat most of the seeds. What they don't eat, I get to enjoy. Besides the birds, the flowers also attract



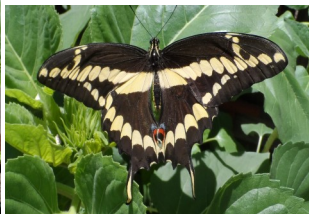
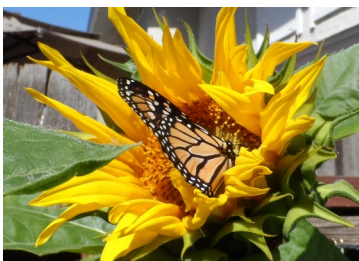
bees and beautiful butterflies. I've had Mourning Cloak, Swallowtails, Monarchs, Sulfur and Cabbage butterflies. I want to thank the Board Members for signing up for another year on the board. Dave Hekel is the only member not returning due to a busy travel and work schedule. He will continue to

send great pictures and articles he thinks will interest us - thank you Dave. I also want to thank everyone who has sent in a donation. We will continue to use the funds to support local projects including a water feature surrounded by native plants at Daley Ranch. Benches have been ordered so we can sit and enjoy the birds and wildlife attracted to the Drip. Hopefully we will be able to resume meetings and bird walks in the fall. Watch future newsletters for details. Hope you are enjoying the colored pictures in our newsletter.

Please submit pictures to Jill and Fred Weber at jillnfred@cox.net for inclusion.

Good Birding friends!

Penny



BIRDING ARIZONA

By Aedyn Loeffke



Blue Throated Mtn Gem

At first glance, you might not think that Arizona would be a good place for birding, with most of it being a hot and dry desert. But in reality, south-eastern Arizona is one of the top birding locations in the U.S. Being so close to Mexi-

co, southeastern Arizona regularly gets many Mexican rarities and even many of the resident birds are found nowhere else in the U.S.

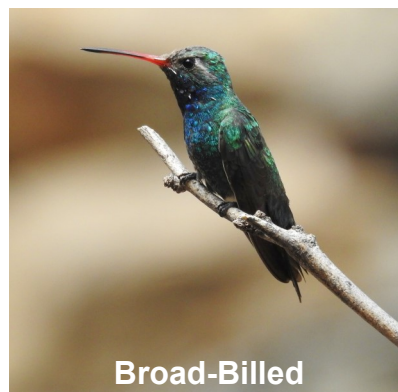
At the beginning of June, we set out to see what



Elegant Trogon

birds we could find. Our fantastic guide for the duration of our trip was someone who many of you may know, former Palomar Audubon President, Doug Nail. With Doug as our guide, the first stop of the trip was to look for nesting Rose-throated Becards. It only took us a couple

of minutes of waiting before a female visited the nest with more material. After a brief stop at the famous-- among birders at least-- Patagonia Picnic Table, we moved on to Paton Center For Hum-



Broad-Billed

mingbirds where we were able to pick up the resident Violet-crowned Hummingbirds! Our last stop of the day was Patagonia Lake where we found other Arizona specialties such as Botteri's Sparrow, Gray Hawk, and the un-

sually named Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet! A highlight of the trip was our time at the world-famous Madera Canyon, where we spent an entire day enjoying the birdlife around the Santa Rita Lodge at the heart of Madera Canyon. We started off by checking up on a Northern Pygmy-Owl that was nesting along the streambed. We found the owl near the nest plucking a nuthatch, before taking it into the nest to feed its young. Moving up the canyon, we sat at the hummingbird feeders and watched the plethora of



Mexican Jay



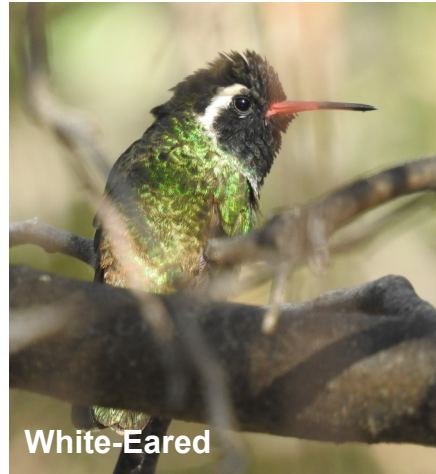
Whiskered Owl

birdlife coming to them. Dozens of brightly-colored Broad-billed Hummingbirds and a couple of the enormous Rivoli's Hummingbirds as well. On a later trip to the canyon, we were able to re-find a very rare Beryl-line Hummingbird that had at one point been

frequenting the feeders, but had been missing for a few days. Beneath the hummingbird feeders, there is an array of seed and suet feeders where we enjoyed visits from a variety of Arizona specialties, including Mexican Jays, Yellow-eyed Juncos, Bridled Titmouse, Varied Buntings, Arizona Woodpeckers, and even mammals such as the occasional White-nosed Coati! In a parking lot near the top of the canyon, we had hardly opened the doors of our car when we heard the distinct barking call of the Elegant Trogons, which we



Red-Faced Warbler



White-Eared

low the Santa Rita Mountains, we stopped at one of the many pecan orchards to look for Chihuahuan Ravens and were pleasantly surprised to find a Crested Caracara in with the ravens!

A trip up the Chiricahua Mountains got us a few of the scarcer Mexican birds such as Scaled Quail, Mexican Chickadees, and Red-faced Warblers! On our way down the back of the mountains, we stopped at Cave Creek to find the Blue-throated Mountain-Gem, a beautiful and very large hummingbird species.



Varied Bunting

In the Huachuca Mountains, we visited Miller Canyon, which is the only place in the entire U.S. that you can regularly find White-eared Hummingbirds! After some amazing views of a male White-eared Hummingbird and six other hummingbird species, we decided to hike up the canyon looking for the resident Mexican sub-



Lucifer

easily located just downstream! Madera Canyon is also a great place for owling. We had incredible views of nesting Elf Owls, the smallest owl species in the world! We also got some nice views of Whiskered Screech-Owls and heard many Mexican Whip-poor-wills. On the desert floor below the Santa Rita Mountains, we stopped at one of the many pecan orchards to look for Chihuahuan Ravens and were pleasantly surprised to find a Crested Caracara in with the ravens! A trip up the Chiricahua Mountains got us a few of the scarcer Mexican birds such as Scaled Quail, Mexican Chickadees, and Red-faced Warblers! On our way down the back of the mountains, we stopped at Cave Creek to find the Blue-throated Mountain-Gem, a beautiful and very large hummingbird species. In the Huachuca Mountains, we visited Miller Canyon, which is the only place in the entire U.S. that you can regularly find White-eared Hummingbirds! After some amazing views of a male White-eared Hummingbird and six other hummingbird species, we decided to hike up the canyon looking for the resident Mexican sub-species of Spotted Owl, but were quickly turned around by a large and angry Black Bear! We then headed up Carr Canyon for some of our last target birds of the trip, including Buff-breasted Flycatcher, Grace's Warbler, and Olive Warbler, which is not really a warbler at all but part of its

own family that only contains one species. One of our last stops was Ash Canyon, in search of the elusive Lucifer Hummingbirds. After a bit of waiting, we were able to find both a male and female! And to finish off the trip, on our last morning before heading home, we stopped along the Santa Cruz River to look for the Green Kingfishers. This was our third time trying for this species on the trip and all the searching finally paid off!

All in all, a very successful trip! We found 157 bird species, several of which were ABA rarities. South-eastern Arizona has a very unique and diverse bird-life and I would highly recommend it to all!

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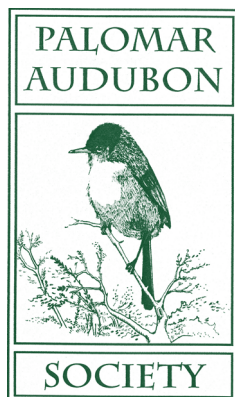
***AND WE APPRECIATE OUR
DONORS VERY MUCH!***

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Band Tales

July-August, 2021

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Board of Director's Meeting

No Meetings for July-August

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.**