



Band Tales

Palomar Audubon Society
A Chapter of the
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume XXXVI
No. 5

September-October
2021

Editors
Jill & Fred Weber



Lesser Scaup photographed at Dixon Lake by Aedyn Loeffke

Find photos and info about
the new water feature and
benches at Daley Ranch on
page 5.

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A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Penny Hernandez, President

I know I sound like a braggart but the other fun thing about growing sunflowers is watching the birds eat the seeds right from the flowers. I dried the flowers on my patio table and the birds (House and Gold finches) found them in a matter of minutes. Now that the birds are done with the flowers I have used them in flower arrangements. Can't wait for next year's crop.

Our new fiscal year started July 1st. The Board talked about what



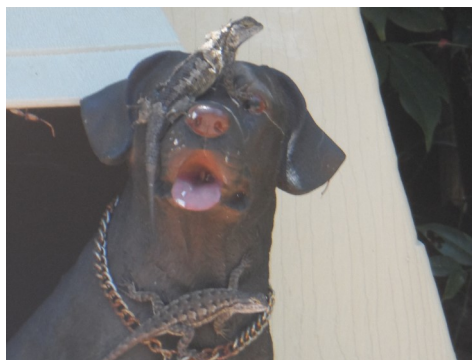
if anything the chapter can do at this time. It was decided we will not have programs or field trips until 2022. Keep reading your newsletters and our Facebook page and web

site for current information. I've sent a picture (dog) for the newsletter that needs a caption. My caption would be "Really!!" what would you suggest? Send it for the next newsletter.

Hope you've been doing some birding on your own. The benches are up by the "drip" (close to the ranch house) at Daley Ranch if you're looking for a place to sit and watch the birds.

Good birding friends.

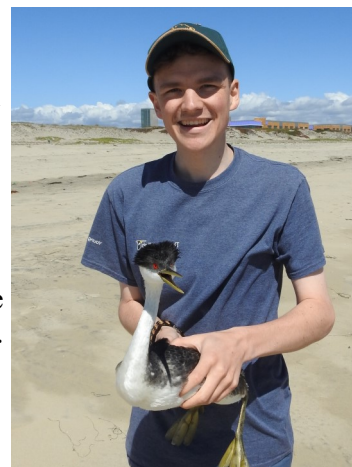
Penny



CONSERVATION NOTES

Trysten Loeffke, Conservation Chair

Well, it's that time of year again. Fall migration is in full swing. Many of our summer resident birds have left already, headed for a variety of wintering grounds anywhere from Mexico to the bottom of South America. Shorebirds that have spent the summer breeding high in the arctic tundra have returned with their young to our beaches, and by the end of September the White-crowned Sparrows will be back in our yards.



Migration is an exciting time of year for birders, as old favorites return to our feeders and the chance of a rare find is never far away. Incredible things happen as quite literally billions of birds begin their southward push, navigating thousands of miles. But migration is also a very dangerous time of year for birds. Their journey is filled with no end of obstacles and threats. Birds have always died during migration, that's part of the harsh reality of their lives, but in our increasingly modern world, those deaths have also been increasing.

It's no secret that light pollution has been ruining viewing conditions for astronomers the world over, but have you ever thought about how it might be affecting birds? As several billion birds move southward, many of them are crossing entire continents. And, as is often the case with many long-haul flights, that means flying at night. Most people don't realize that many of our familiar diurnal species travel at night during migration. Despite their normally diurnal lifestyle, these birds have adapted to flying in dark during the long trek of migration. Normally, flying at night isn't a problem for them, at least it isn't until they come across a building with nighttime lighting.

It is estimated that over 100 million birds are killed each year by striking windows when they become disoriented by bright nighttime lighting. That is a staggering amount of birds. And window collisions aren't the only problem. Suddenly coming upon bright lights in the middle of the night so disorients the birds that if they don't kill themselves on the

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windows they will often fly confused around the light source and waste precious energy in the process.

This has been shown to lead to many deaths among nocturnal migrants.

In an effort to reduce the number of nocturnal migrant deaths, Audubon has created the Lights Out Program, a national effort to save migrating birds by reducing nighttime lighting.

While this may seem like a problem that only affects cities-- and it is true that a majority of light-related bird deaths do occur in cities-- this is something that we can help to tackle even in our own homes. Audubon has provided a list of ways that you can help to make your home more bird-friendly during this critical migration season. These include simple suggestions such as:

Turn off exterior decorative lighting.

Extinguish pot and floodlights.

Turn off interior lighting especially on higher stories.

Down-shield exterior lighting to eliminate horizontal glare and any upward light.

Avoiding over-lighting with newer, brighter technology.

Without the distraction and confusion caused by mostly unnecessary nighttime light sources, nocturnal migrants can pass by safely and continue their journey southwards.

Part of what is so wonderful about this program is that it not only benefits the birds, but it also has tangible benefits for us as well. Just think of the money you could save by turning off those porch lights at night or by turning off that light upstairs when you leave the room. With our energy bills growing ever higher, reducing the amount of light we use-- and thus electricity-- can greatly impact our bills for the better. And by doing so, you'll be helping to safeguard our migrating birds-- birds that probably pass right over your house without you ever knowing. It's a win-win really.

So, if you'd like to help migrating birds, and lower that electric bill in the process, please consider taking some measures to reduce or eliminate nighttime lighting at your home or business. Go to Audubon.org/lights-out-program to learn more about what you can do to help our nocturnal migrants.

ESCONDIDO CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 2022****By Jim Beckman**

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 122nd 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 Sunday, January 2, 2022. 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.

Due the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Audubon Society most likely will put in place some new rules for this year's CBC's. All activities must comply with all current state and municipal COVID-19 guidelines. See the next November/December newsletter for details.

After November 15 2021, 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 gmatcatcher@sbcglobal.net.

Again this year, Palomar Audubon Society is making a concerted effort to have more of it's members participate in this important event. Sign up after November 15, and join the fun!

NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES FOR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS.

Please start using fred17hmr@gmail.com or
jillweber55@hotmail.com. The
jillInfred@cox.net will be going away at the
end of the year.

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

Shirley Bernstein

Joanne Casterline

Sunny & Arne Christiansen

Yvette Durham

Donna Holmes

Leslie Kuhn

Corinne Lines

Clark Mahrtdt

Mary Ann Roberts

AND WE APPRECIATE OUR DONORS VERY MUCH!

Joanne Casterline

Ann & Doug Collins

Patricia Fallon

Richard Fowler

Penny Hernandez

Ustom Jamadar

Loretta La Bianca

Constance Lee

Clark Mahrtdt

Jim Martin

John & Nan Thomas

Paul Zepf

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*

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

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E-mail _____

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

Save the date for October Big Day

If you thought Global Big Day was fun, join in on **Saturday, 9 October** for another day-long celebration of birds. This year's event is during both International Migratory Bird Day and Global Bird Weekend. Submit at least one eBird checklist on October Big Day and help set a new world record!



Beautiful Wildlife Oasis at Daley Ranch built by Tom Trowbridge and crew.



WILDLIFE OASIS READY FOR VISITORS AT DALEY RANCH

The wildlife drip at Daley Ranch is ready for your visit. Follow the main road to the ranch house to enjoy the variety of birds being drawn to this water source. You just might see other types of wildlife also!

Two beautiful benches have now been installed near the drip. The benches were purchased by PAS, aided by a donation from **Paul Zepf** in memory of his beloved wife **Barbara Zepf**. PAS wishes to thank Paul for his generous donation. Thanks to Paul and PAS members, many a hiker and birder will enjoy a restful stop by the drip!



(Lesser Scaup from cover) I thought it deserved to be printed in color also. Thanks Aedyn!

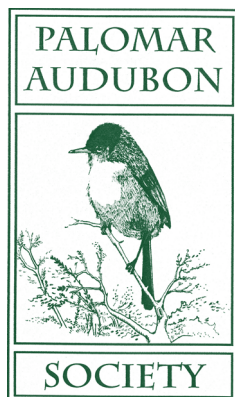


Were always looking for photos and content for the newsletter. So if you have a photo or photos or a birding related article or story send it to us.

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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 September-October

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.**