



Band Tales

Palomar Audubon Society
A Chapter of the
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume XXXVII
No. 1

January-February
2022

Editors
Jill & Fred Weber



Black Phoebe Photo By Aedyn Loeffke

Hi Good Friends,

I am pleased to announce that PAS will be restarting the Saturday morning birding field trips soon. The annual Escondido Christmas Bird Count will be held on January 2, 2022. See the details on page 4 And again, PAS will sponsor another weekend field trip at the Salton Sea on January 28th--30th 2022. See the details on page 4

As you know, it as been almost 2 years since our last Saturday morning field trip. This pandemic situation has been brutal. Birding has been limited to backyard birding, solo birding in pubic, or birding with a very small group of trusted friends. So now, with most people fully vaccinated, it is time to restart our very popular Saturday morning field trips. Unvaccinated birders are asked to wear a mask. See our next Field Trip Schedule on page 5

Thank you for your support,

JIM BECKMAN

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A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Penny Hernandez, President

MERRY HOLIDAYS AND HAPPY BIRDING IN THE NEW YEAR.



Here's hoping we can start
our walks and programs
soon.

Be sure to read all the great
articles in this current
newsletter.

Penny

CONSERVATION NOTES

Trysten Loeffke

Well, it's a new year already!

The beginning of a new year has traditionally symbolized hope, new beginnings, and the making of resolutions. What hope can we offer birds this year? What new beginnings could we help birds to have this year? What are some of the conservation resolutions that we could make this year? I ask these as open-ended questions. There is no right or wrong answer to these questions, but I would encourage you to ponder on them and think about what you will do for birds this year. Perhaps it will be participating in bird counts or other citizen science projects—such as submitting your bird sightings to eBird. Perhaps it will be volunteering with a conservation project or wildlife group. Perhaps it could be encouraging a friend, child, or grandchild to participate in birding and helping them to find the joy that is birding. What are your answers to these questions?

The new year is also a time of year to reflect on what we have accomplished. In 2021, Palomar Audubon hosted a Christmas Bird Count, installed a drip project that supplies water to wildlife and planted many native shrub species, and made several significant donations to local land and wildlife conservation organizations. On a broader scale, 2021 also saw the restoration of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, huge progress in restoring the Bombay Beach Wetlands at the Salton Sea, enrolling 600,000 acres of California land in Audubon's Conservation Ranching Initiative, and protecting thirteen threatened Tricolored Blackbird colonies in the Central Valley.

(Continued on page 3)

In Memoriam



Richard C. Fowler

Our dear friend Richard Fowler passed away on October 2, 2021 but I am sure he is still watching us with a mischievous twinkle in his eye. I suspect everyone who met Richard liked him because he was always friendly and had a good sense of humor and a quick smile.

Richard served on the Palomar Audubon Society Board of Directors from 2014 until 2018 as Conservation Chair. He also organized very popular bird identification classes for four years, introducing many to the joy of bird watching. He participated in bird surveys and Christmas Counts. Richard loved all things in nature, especially land conservation and all bird-related activities and luckily for us, he cherished his friendships within PAS.

Should you wish to send condolences to his lovely wife of over thirty years, address them to Ellen Fowler at the PAS P.O. Box 2483, Escondido, CA 92033. I will be sure she gets them. Sunny

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Protecting those thirteen blackbird colonies alone means that 170,000 birds were protected! We have accomplished a lot in the past year and one thing is certain: we accomplished it because of people like you. People like you giving your time and support. People like you loving birds and sharing that love with others. Thank you for all that you have done and here's to 2022 being an even better year for birds because of you!

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

Barbara Anderson
Michael & Sonja Beeve
Cathie Canepa
Joan Comito
D. Gail De Lalla
Harold Dunn
Susan Newlin
Elizabeth Rose
Marilyn Schmitz
Ed & Jud Sherman
Bob Waller
Ken Weaver

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

Michael & Sonja Beeve
H. Richard Byrne
Cathie Canepa
Jo Daughtery
D. Gail De Lalla
Harold Dunn
Katherine Lord
Michael Whittmer

SPECIES PROFILE

BLACK PHOEBE

(SAYORNIS NIGRICANS)

By Aedyn Loeffke

I thought we'd start the year off with one of our most familiar and beloved west coast birds, the Black Phoebe! The striking black and white plumage of the Black Phoebe is a familiar sight for many of us, not only when out birding but also right in our own back yards and local parks. In fact, Black Phoebes are one of those species that have actually done really well with human development. Traditionally, these small flycatchers would build their mud nest on rock faces and in tree hollows, but now they nest on a variety of man-made structures such as under eaves and bridges. This increased supply of new nest sites has actually helped their population to grow!

Although they share the name "phoebe" with



a Titan and mother of goddesses from Greek mythology, it is thought that the three species of phoebe actually get their name from the calls that they make, a soft whistled "phoe-be!" The Black Phoebe has two close cousins, the Say's Phoebe and the Eastern Phoebe. Say's Phoebes are an uncommon bird of dry, open areas in the west and can be found in many locations throughout San Diego County, often in the company of the Black Phoebe. The Eastern Phoebe is perhaps the most famous of the three, as they were the first bird species ever to be banded.

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In 1803, John J. Audubon tied a piece of string to



the leg of a young Eastern Phoebe and this was the beginning of bird banding as we know it today. Banding has gone on to provide us with invaluable information about bird lifespans and distributions.

Apart from them being good insect control, the Black Phoebe always seems happy whenever you come across them and they are a joy to watch! I hope we can all take some time to appreciate this beautiful species as we start a new year!

Salton Sea Trip

Come join Palomar Audubon Society as we bird the Salton Sea and areas around the Sea and Imperial Valley on January 28 - 30, 2022. Our trip two years ago was very successful and we are looking forward to another "birdie weekend". Our field trip this year will again be led by our own Palomar members: Hal Benham, Doug Walkley, and Steve Ellis. Our trip will include a full day of birding on Saturday, January 29th and a half-day on Sunday, January 30th to allow ample time to drive home in the afternoon daylight.

We are limiting the number of participants to 30 to maximize the birding experience. And you must be a current member of Palomar Audubon Society (\$25/yr). **This field trip is a fundraiser for Palomar Audubon Society.** The cost of the trip is \$40 per person, which includes a donation to PAS.

(Continued on page 5)

UPDATE GOOD NEWS! After-birding picnic returns!

2021 ESCONDIDO CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 2022

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. **The after-birding compilation meeting will again be held this year 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.**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Audubon Society has put in place some new rules for this year's CBC's. Social distancing and masking are required at all times with unvaccinated participants. Carpooling may only occur within existing familiar groups. All activities must comply with all current state and municipal COVID-19 guidelines.

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 its members participate in this important event. Sign up, and join the fun!

FIELD TRIPS

Jim Beckman

Saturday, February 5, 8:00 am.

Guajome Regional Park

Oceanside

(1067-D7) Rating: 2

From Highway 78 in Oceanside, exit north on College Boulevard, and drive 4.4 miles north to Highway 76. Make a right turn on Hwy 76 and continue east about ½ mile to Lake Guajome Rd. Turn right (south) and drive up the hill past the park entrance, which does not open until later, and park on the street.

Leader: Doug Walkley

310-387-8190

Saturday, February 12, 8:00 am

Oak Hill Memorial Park

Escondido

(1130-F1) Rating: 1

From I-15 exit east on Via Rancho Parkway, which becomes Bear Valley Parkway, and drive 5 miles north to Glen Ridge road at Orange Glen High School. Turn right on Glen Ridge Road and proceed approximately 1 mile east to the cemetery gate. Continue on a short distance and turn left to the parking area.

Leader: Jim Beckman

858-205-2819

Saturday, February 19, 8:00 am.

San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary

5 Riparian View, Irvine, CA 92612

(Thomas Guide to Orange County, page 859 J-7)

858-205-2819

Take I-5 north to the San Diego Freeway I-405. Continue north on the I-405 a short distance and then take the Culver exit and turn left (south). At the first signal, which is Michelson, turn right. Continue west on Michelson and then turn left on Harvard. Continue south on Harvard and then turn right on University Dr. Continue on University to Campus Dr. and turn right again. Stay in the far right lane and immediately turn right on to Riparian View which will enter the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. (There is a dark green sign by the turnoff, identifying this as the route into the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary) At the end of the road, you will make a sharp left turn down a steep driveway and into the parking lot. The first building you see will be the Sea & Sage Audubon House. Beyond the Audubon House are the ponds of the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary and many trails for us to explore. Allow 50 min. from Oceanside.

Leader: Jim Beckman

858-205-2819.

Saturday, February 26, 8:00 am.

Santee Lakes

Santee

(1231-A5) Rating: 2

From I-15 go east on Hwy 52. Exit at Mast Blvd. Continue east on Mast Blvd. to Fanita Parkway. Turn right and continue south to the entrance to Santee Lakes on your right. Car entry fee is \$6. **OR** from Mast Blvd, turn left on Fanita Parkway, and continue north to Lake Canyon Dr. Turn right, park along the street, and walk west through the open gate for **FREE**. Meet in the parking lot by the General Store between lakes 4 & 5.

Leader: Tom Trowbridge

760-743-1052

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To secure your reservation, please send your \$40/person check, payable to "Palomar Audubon Society" to: Hal/Dianne Benham, 15946 Cumberland Dr., Poway, CA 92064. In addition to the \$40, please include the first and last name, email address, cell phone number, and mailing address for each participant. If the trip fills we will begin a waiting list.

Hotel rooms (non-smoking) at the Brawley Inn are being held for Palomar Audubon Society at a special group rate for the nights of Friday, January 28th and Saturday, January 29th. You are responsible for calling the Brawley Inn to reserve one of these rooms for one or both nights. Their phone number is 760-344-1199. The Palomar Audubon Society Salton Sea field trip is always a popular birding adventure. Don't delay making your reservation!

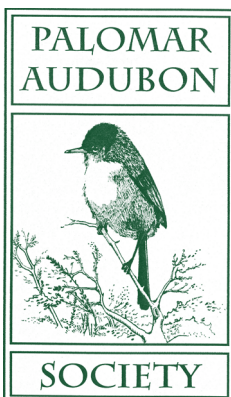


**REMINDER:
DEADLINE FOR THE
MARCH-APRIL ISSUE IS
FEBRUARY 15th.
SUBMIT COPY TO
fred17hmr@gmail.com**

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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 National Audubon Society membership or Palomar Audubon Society Chapter-only membership.



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palomaraudubon@gmail.com

Board of Director's Meeting

No Meetings for January-February

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

January	2	Christmas Bird Count and Lunch
January	29-30	Salton Sea Birding Trip
February	5	Guajome Regional Park Walk
February	12	Oak Hill Memorial Park Walk
February	19	San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary Walk
February	26	Santee Lakes Walk