



Band Tales

Palomar Audubon Society
A Chapter of the
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume XXIV
No. 6

May-June
2010

Editor
Arne Christiansen

COME ONE! COME ALL! To A “GOOD OL’-FASHIONED PICNIC”

The Annual Palomar Audubon Society Picnic is scheduled for June 13th and will be held at the Palomares House in Fallbrook. Doug and Mickey Nail will be the hosts. The picnic will start at 4:00PM sharp. The cost will be \$20.00 per person, which includes full picnic fare, wine and beer. As usual, please bring a piece of fruit for the traditional Friendship Salad. We will have some terrific things to raffle off...you'll be very surprised!!

Directions to the Palomares House are as follows: From the I-15 take the Fallbrook Exit and take a left going west across the freeway. Then take a right at the “T” on East Mission Road and continue for about four miles to the first traffic light which is Stage Coach Lane. Take a left on Stage Coach Lane and continue for 2.3 miles to 1815 Stage Coach Lane where the Palomares House is on the right.

You can also come directly up from Highway 76 on South Mission Road (S15) and take a right on Stage Coach Lane just past Fallbrook High School...home of the Warriors. Take Stage Coach Lane for 1 mile to the Palomares House at 1815 Stage Coach Lane on your left.

If you have GPS, just put in 1815 Stage Coach Lane and let it take you to the picnic. If you use The Thomas Guide, the site is located on page 1027 – J6.

Please return the reservation form on page 6 of this issue, including a check made out to PAS, to make reservations and send by June 8th to:

Doug and Mickey Nail
1461 Knoll Park Lane
Fallbrook, CA 92028

We look forward to seeing you on June 13th.



2010 GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT HIGHLIGHTS

The 2010 Great Backyard Bird Count broke another participation record--bird watchers across the continent and Hawaii set a new record by submitting more than 97,200 checklists--a nearly 4% increase over last year. Checklists came in from all 50 states in the U.S. and from all 10 provinces and 3 territories of Canada. Participants reported 602 species in 11.2 million individual bird observations. Patterns detected in GBBC data are used to alert scientists to particular species or questions that may require more detailed follow-up studies.

The GBBC Top-10 lists are a fun way to highlight the count's extremes. In terms of overall numbers of birds counted, the American Robin led the way by a huge margin with 1,850,082 individuals reported. Canada Goose was a distant second with reports of 748,356 birds. Snow Goose, American Crow, and European Starling all came in with about 500,000 individuals each.

Texas, with its size, habitat diversity, and dedicated birders, was the species diversity hotspot again this year with 347 species. Since 2004, Texas has consistently led the count with more than 300 species recorded each year. This year Tivoli, Texas, takes the honor of having the most species recorded at any locality with 175 species. In terms of sheer numbers of individual birds of any species, Saint Petersburg, Florida, led the way for the second year in a row with 1,476,478 birds reported--1,450,058 of those birds were robins! Issaquah, Washington recorded the second highest abundance with 226,266 birds.

For the full story visit:

www.birdsource.org/gbbc/science-stories/2010-results/



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A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Doug Nail

Time sure flies when you're having fun! At least that's how I feel...seems like I just wrote about the upcoming Gull Course but, unfortunately, I have to tell you that we got rained out and had to cancel the course. We had a lot of good feedback from those who wanted to go saying the course was a great idea, so we will continue to offer these bird identification courses as time and seasonality allows.



I sure hope some of you got down to the Bird Festival in San Diego in March. There were some great courses, trips and bird tours, and the festival gave us a chance to talk to some experts. I sure enjoyed it. Mickey and I took Kody Fluck, our young birding neighbor, down for a day and he was treated to some great hospitality from many of the participants. I was really impressed with how many people reached out to Kody.

I want to thank those of you who took the time to get the State Parks initiative signed by neighbors and just people on your street or in your neighborhood. I hope we all get to vote on this issue as keeping our state parks open and healthy is a very important objective...especially for us birdwatchers!

We've had some constructive meetings with the folks at the Wildlife Research Institute and we'll be highlighting those findings and our proposal for how we can help them and meet some of our goals at the same time. We will present our findings to the Board on April 1st. Also see Char's letter.

When you get this newsletter, some of us will be in Panama enjoying the birding, the food and the scenery. We'll fill you in when we get back.

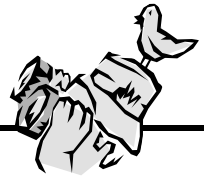
Our Arizona trip in August is already full. Hal and Dianne Benham have put together a great itinerary for us. We should get some nice new birds and for some of us we'll see some old friends we haven't seen since we were last in Southeast Arizona.

I want to encourage you all to continue your bird watching during April and May... they are two of our best months with many new migrants coming home to breed in our county. We have already seen Hooded Orioles (3/16), Black-headed Grosbeaks (3/27), Least Bell's Vireos (3/27) and Black-chinned Hummingbirds (3/28). So, get out there and see the show... it promises to be a good one.

We've been having some great local birding trips around the county and to neighboring counties - San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine for ducks and wading birds,

Doheny State Beach Park for gulls, San Jacinto Wildlife Area for waterfowl and raptors, Whelan Lake for new spring migrants and a great look at a wide variety of ducks just as they were about to head north for the breeding season. I hope you take advantage of those trips coming up. I know Jim Beckman has put some great locations together to help us see good birds!!

Good birding!



EARTH DAY PHOTOS SEARCH

A top reporter for the Washington Post is seeking Audubon photos from the first Earth Day 40 years ago. If you have a photo from an Audubon Chapter or Center-sponsored Earth Day event from April 22, 1970 that contains participants along with an identifiable Audubon logo or banner, please scan the photo and send it by email with photo caption and all pictured individuals identified to Delta Willis at dwillis@audubon.org by the end of this week. Please be aware that you must own the rights to share this photo.

Thanks very much,

Rebecca Richter, Program Associate
Audubon Chapter Services



CONSERVATION NOTES

Char Glacy

PALOMAR AUDUBON SUPPORTS WILDLIFE

RESEARCH INSTITUTE (WRI)

One of the objectives in the Palomar Audubon Society Strategic Plan for 2009 – 2010 is to establish an ongoing, meaningful, and synergistic relationship with the Wildlife Research Institute in Ramona and to help them further their conservation and research goals. The status and protection of the Golden Eagles in San Diego County was WRI's original research project and it continues to be one of their foremost concerns. The fate of the Golden Eagles in San Diego is not only a concern of WRI; it is also a concern of the Palomar Audubon Society. The North American population of Golden Eagles continues to decrease, especially in Southern California. WRI has an established team of Golden Eagle biologists, bioclimbers and volunteer observers that have been active in San Diego since 1988. Using over 130 years of historic information and the yearly field surveys WRI continues to document the current population of Golden Eagles. Through detailed research and tracking with bands and telemetry, WFI can determine Golden Eagle population immigration, emigration and mortality. Using Google Earth, they can track a single bird's migration path over time, generating some very compelling data.

In April the board agreed to make a \$5000 contribution to the WFI "Sponsor An Eagle" program. This amount covers the cost of a \$4000 satellite transmitter and a year of daily tracking. In return 2 very lucky members will have the opportunity to assist WRI when they band, tag and affix the satellite transmitter to an eagle. Get your picture with the eagle. Name the eagle and receive an annual tracking report on your eagle. These will be raffled at our annual picnic – so be sure to attend!

SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The San Dieguito River Park is looking for volunteers to help restore the Park's trail system and the creation of wildlife habitat. Weekend work projects are designed to be hands-on.

Special Work Projects will begin at the San Dieguito Lagoon end of the Park in April 2010 and will take place every fourth Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

No reservations are necessary, but if you are with a group or would like to schedule a special work project for your

group (minimum of 20 participants) please contact Barbara@sdrp.org. Please wear closed-toe shoes and a hat or sunscreen. If you have work gloves, please bring them. If not, we have some for you to borrow! For school or scout credit hours please let the Ranger on duty know that you need a time slip. If you are under 16 years of age you must have an adult with you or make prior special arrangements. We welcome all your help and hard work!

THE SCOPES TRIAL

The *Audubon Guide to Spotting Scopes*, by Wayne Mones, was originally published as an insert in the March-April 2010 issue of *AUDUBON*. "As a serious member of the birding tribe, you will, sooner or later, want a spotting telescope and a tripod. The higher magnification and stability will allow you to see field marks and fine details of distant birds that you cannot distinguish with your binoculars. Choosing the right model is more complicated than choosing binoculars, because there are more choices of style, size and eyepiece. You should know what to look for and be aware of the trade-offs before pulling the trigger. Since a spotting scope is a major investment, and since you will probably buy only one in your lifetime, you will really want to get it right."

View or download this publication for free online

FOR MORE INFO:

To order Audubon outreach materials from Chapter Services, download the order form at <http://www.audubon.org/local/outreachHome.html> and either:

*Mail to Chapter Services; 30 Fort
Missoula; Missoula, MT 59804-7211
Email Chapter Services, or
Call in your order at (800) 542-2748*

Checks only, please; no cash or credit cards.

To read more go to:

www.audubon.org/local/cn/NetworkerSpring10.tml#pubs



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.

Saturday, May 1, 8:00 a.m.

(note Spring/Summer start time)

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). Meet just past the concrete bridge next to the large pond on the west side of Dairy Mart Road. We will also caravan 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 Magpie Jay.

Leader: Jim Beckman

858-792-5526

Saturday, May 8, 8:00 a.m.

Daley Ranch

Escondido

(1110-C3) Rating: 2

From I-15 in Escondido, exit at El Norte Parkway and drive east approximately 3 miles. Look for the “Daley Ranch” sign and turn left (north) on La Honda Drive. Continue on toward Dixon Lake and to the Daley Ranch parking lot on your left.

Leader: Sally Sanderson

760-749-6995

Saturday, May 15, 8:00 a.m.

Kit Carson Park

Escondido

(1150-C1) Rating: 1

From I-15 in Escondido, exit east on Via Rancho Parkway and drive about 1 mile to Park Road entrance on your left – at the fire station. Proceed on Park Road about ¾ mile to the Amphitheater parking lot on the right. Woodland, riparian, and open-area habitats usually get us a nice list of resident birds.

Leader: Sunny Christiansen

858-487-0731

Saturday, May 22, 8:00 a.m.

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 Highway 76, on the south side of the highway. Parking fee required. Bring a lunch for an after-birding picnic. Expect warm weather.

Leader: Penny Hernandez

760-746-8315

Saturday, May 29th, 8:00 a.m.

Sweetwater River Gorge

Rancho San Diego

(1271-J6) Rating: 2-3

From I-5, I-805, or I-15, take Hwy. 94 east; stay on Highway 94 as it becomes Campo Road, then turn right on Singer Lane, and then an immediate left onto the dirt parking area near the old steel bridge. This area is a rich stream habitat surrounded by native chaparral and sage scrub. There are no restrooms or drinking water available, so plan accordingly. Expect warm weather. It's a PAS tradition to eat at Rubio's after birding.

Leader: Jim Kerr

858-442-4726

Saturday, June 5, 8:00 a.m.

William Heise County Park/Santa Ysabel Mission

Julian

(1156-C5) Rating: 2-3

From Escondido take Hwy 78 east (from San Diego take Hwy 67 east) to Ramona, then Highway 78 toward Julian, past Santa Ysabel. At Wynola start looking for the sign for William Heise Park (1 mile west of Julian). Turn right on Pine Hill Road and drive south for 2 miles to Frisius Road. Turn left (east) onto Frisius Road and drive for another 2 miles to the park entrance. We will meet in the parking lot. There is a parking fee. We will also drive to Santa Ysabel Mission to look for orioles and other spring/summer migrants. Bring a lunch for an after birding picnic. Expect warm weather.

Leader: Jeff Ebright

858-484-3932

Saturday, June 12, 8:00 a.m.

Agua Dulce Creek

Laguna Mountains

(430-B5) Rating: 3

We will meet at the old parking area for Agua Dulce Creek Group camp. Driving east on I-8, and after Pine Valley, look for signs indicating the Sunrise Highway Exit

BFIELD TRIPS, from Page 4

and Laguna Mountain Recreation Area. Go north on Sunrise Hwy. (S-1) to Wooded Hill Road, the first road on the left and directly across the road from Morris Ranch Road. Restrooms, picnic tables and water are available in the Lagunas at Burnt Rancheria Picnic area. A Forest Service Adventure Pass is required and is available locally at major sporting goods stores and at other areas in the Lagunas. Bring a lunch for an after walk picnic. Expect warm weather.

Leader: Sally Sanderson
760-749-6995

Saturday, June 19, 8:00 a.m.
Cuyamaca Rancho State Park

Julian
(429-L3) Rating: 2-3

From San Diego, take I-8 east and exit north on Highway 79. Continue approximately 12 miles to the Paso Pacacho Campground on the left. From the North County, take Hwy 78 (or Highway 67) to Ramona, and then continue on Hwy 78 just past Julian, to Highway 79. Take Highway 79 south approximately 10 miles to the campground on the right where we will meet. There is a day use fee. Bring a lunch for an after-walk picnic. Expect warm weather.

Leader: Doug Nail
760-451-9370

Saturday, June 26, 8:00 a.m.
Palomar Mountain

San Diego County
(409-G7) Rating: 2

This field trip will start from the parking lot at Doane Pond. Leave the Escondido area at about 7 a.m. From I-15, take Highway 76 east to Highway S6, north to Palomar Mountain. Or from Escondido, take Highway S6 to Palomar Mountain. At the mountaintop, at the S7 intersection stop sign, turn left and continue for 3 miles on State Park Road to the Palomar Mountain State Park entrance. There is a day use fee. Proceed 1.5 miles to the Doane Pond/School Camp area. Bring a lunch for an after walk picnic. Expect warm weather.

Leader: Jim Beckman
858-792-5526

Saturday, July 3
No Field Trip - Happy Independence Day!

**PROGRAMS**

Please join us for our interesting monthly program and refreshments at the Remington Club, 16916 Hierba Drive, Rancho Bernardo. There is a social period beginning at 7:00 pm with the meeting and program getting under way promptly at 7:30 pm.

Thursday, May 27

Mary Talle

“Brown Pelican Rehabilitation”

Mary Talle has spent 20 years working for SeaWorld in various capacities, including being a member of the Bird Department since 1997. As a Senior Aviculturist her duties involve caring for the park's extensive bird collection. In addition to SeaWorld's animals, she is involved in rehabilitating native species that need a little helping hand. She will be sharing with us her role in the pelican rehabilitation program that swung into action after West coast winter storms took their toll on the birds.



RECYCLE A MILK CARTON. IT'S FOR THE BIRDS!

Audubon Licensing and Audubon Adventures are proud to announce the Make Your Own Milk Carton Birdfeeder promotion in association with Stonyfield Farm. Make use of your empty milk cartons, reduce waste and help wild birds too! PLUS, kids (with permission from their parents) can submit their creations online from April 1st through August 31st.

The “Make Your Own” milk carton birdfeeder gallery went live April 22nd. Five participants will be selected by Audubon to be displayed in an on-line art exhibit with their names, photos and outstanding milk carton bird feeders. The five featured participants will be posted on Stonyfield's website and Audubon's website. For more information please visit:

www.audubon.org/educate/educators/Stonyfield.html.

The milk carton birdfeeder gallery is now available. For educators, please check your recent Audubon Adventures classroom resource kit.





The above birders enjoyed a beautiful morning at the Tijuana Estuary on April 10th.. The walk, led by Field Trip Chair Jim Beckman, gave us good looks at the Yellow –Crowned Night Heron, Hepatic Tanager and a Nashville Warbler. Many Clapper Rails were among the 70 species observed. (Photo by John Walker)

“Just A Good Ol’-fashioned Picnic” RSVP

Please mail your check made out to PAS with the following reservation form by June 8th.

Name(s) _____

Phone # _____

Please check if you will come with a smile and goodwill to fellow PASers.

I’d like to help with set-up or clean-up.

I have items for the raffle. (Donations of new items that have some association with birding would be greatly appreciated). Please include your phone number.

Mail to:
 Doug and Mickey Nail
 1461 Knoll Park Lane
 Fallbrook, CA 92028

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

New Member - \$20 *Renewal - \$20*

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

(payable to Palomar Audubon Society)

Contribution _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

100% of Chapter Membership dues supports projects locally.

Please check here if you are interested in National Audubon Society membership.

Please check here if you are a member of National Audubon Society.

(Chapter Affiliation)



**ENDANGERED SPECIES
IN THE SPOTLIGHT**

The Endangered Species Act works quietly behind the scenes to provide a safety net for our nation's most imperiled plants and animals. Don't miss out on the opportunity to educate your community about the importance of preserving our natural world and protecting our most vulnerable plants and animals by celebrating Endangered Species Day, May 21.

This marks the fifth anniversary of this national celebration to bring attention to the plight of endangered species and highlight success stories like the American Bald Eagle, the Peregrine Falcon, and most recently, the Brown Pelican, all brought back from the brink of extinction. The threats of climate change, habitat loss, invasive species, pesticides and all the rest continue to make species protection a challenge. Public understanding and support is crucial to our success.

Part of the effort every year is an endangered species art contest. The deadline for submission is March 26 and an application form can be downloaded [here](#).

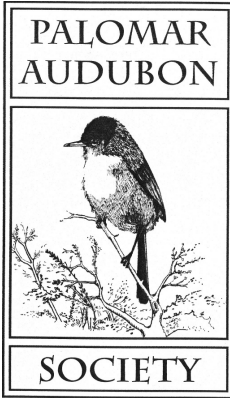
Get a toolkit of ideas your Chapter can use to highlight the importance of protecting endangered species by emailing Audubon Action. We'll send you a list of event ideas, organizations you might partner with, a draft letter

We're always looking for articles, photos and other copy for **Band Tales**, so if you can help, please submit some copy that you think might be of interest to other PASers! We'll try to get included in the next issue. (See the photo in this issue taken by John Walker, with text by Sunny Christiansen) Be well, be happy, find good birds, but help us keep your Chapter going. See you at the May 27th General Meeting!

Band Tales

May-June, 2010

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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Palomar Audubon Society
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 2009-2010**

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Web Page: <http://www.palomaraudubon.org>
 Webmaster: Kemer Thomson:
kemer.thomson@gmail.com

Board of Director's Meeting
Thursday, June 3rd (No meeting in May!!)
 7:00 p.m. at the Remington Club
 16916 Hierba Drive
 Rancho Bernardo

*Note: All Palomar Audubon Society members are welcome at
bimonthly Chapter Board meetings.*

QUICK CALENDAR

<i>May</i>	<i>1</i>	Dairy Mart Pond/Tijuana River Valley Walk
<i>May</i>	<i>8</i>	Daley Ranch Walk
<i>May</i>	<i>15</i>	Kit Carson Park Walk
<i>May</i>	<i>22</i>	Wilderness Gardens Preserve Walk
<i>May</i>	<i>27</i>	General Meeting: Brown Pelican Rehabilitation
<i>May</i>	<i>29</i>	Sweetwater River Gorge Walk
<i>June</i>	<i>5</i>	William Heise County Park/Santa Ysabel Mission Walk
<i>June</i>	<i>12</i>	Agua Dulce Creek Walk
<i>June</i>	<i>13</i>	"Good Ol'-Fashioned Picnic" Annual PAS Picnic
<i>June</i>	<i>19</i>	Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Walk
<i>June</i>	<i>26</i>	Palomar Mountain Walk
<i>July</i>	<i>3</i>	No Field Trip - Happy Independence Day!