



Band Tales

Palomar Audubon Society
A Chapter of the
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume XXXIV
No. 3

September-October
2019

Editor
Arne Christiansen

THE 2019 ESCONDIDO CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

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 120th year for this event.

Palomar Audubon Society would like to extend an invitation to all birders to participate in the annual

Escondido Christmas Count on Saturday, December 28, 2019.

Please check the November-December issue of *Band Tales* for registration details.



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A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Penny Hernandez, President

In the autumn of the year we can expect the changing of the leaves, migrating birds and butterflies, schools back in session, and cooler weather, plus much, much, more. All good things officially start on the 23rd of September. That same week on September 26rd our monthly meetings resume. Don't forget that refreshments may be enjoyed, as well as a chance to visit with friends starting at 6:30 p.m. as well as great speakers at 7:00 p.m.



In the autumn of our lives, we expect to start losing family, friends, and acquaintances. Not a pleasant thing. In the last month we have lost our dear friend Mickey Nail. Even after moving to

Arizona, she and Doug continued as friends and members in good standing. Mickey was active on the Board of Directors and was our treasurer for a while. We were always happy to have Mickey on our field trips. She was great at identifying the birds by sight and sound. I know I learned a lot from her.

Her daughter Gretchen said her family will fly to Scotland to scatter her ashes in the ocean off the Isle of Mull, the home of Mickey's ancestors. What a beautiful place for a beautiful woman to rest. Gretchen suggested that should anybody want to honor her memory a donation may be made in her name to Palomar Audubon Society; there is nothing she would appreciate more. For that we want to thank the family. We will miss her.

I am looking forward to a good year of birding, speakers, and great projects to keep us busy. We will continue to bird with Sundance Elementary school, work with The Escondido Creek Conservancy and maybe continue our popular birding classes. Know that we will consider any and all projects that may come our way.



**REMINDER:
DEADLINE FOR THE
NOVEMBER-DECEMBER ISSUE IS
OCTOBER 15th.
SUBMIT COPY TO
arnec@juno.com**

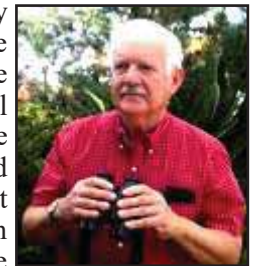
CONSERVATION NOTES

Richard Fowler, Conservation Chair

A SEASON ON THE WIND

Kenn Kaufman's latest book is a great sequel to KINGBIRD HIGHWAY and a return to his long term interest in bird migration. Kaufman relocated from Arizona to the Magee Marsh area in part because of the concentrated bird migration near the shore of Lake Erie (It was also home to his future wife Kimberley).

Kaufman tells the amazing story about the successful protection of the greater Magee Marsh habitat. There was gradual agricultural encroachment for decades, before duck hunting clubs finally intervened and bought up prime marsh habitat thus saving much of the greater marsh area (at one time the present Magee Marsh was owned by a duck hunting club). There are continuing threats to this habitat, such as the introduction of wind turbines. Kaufman and other environmentalist recently fought successfully against wind turbines in the area.



The effect of climate change on bird migration has become a critical issue. Unusual warm or cold days can have negative effects on migration patterns. Before winter is over some species like Crows will begin to migrate. Fortunately, they have some flexibility in adjusting to unexpected weather changes. March brings the ducks. They are looking for open water, so freezing weather may slow their progress north. Of course, with the small song birds like warblers, a cold snap can be deadly. Changing availability of food supply for migrating birds can also be a dangerous consequence of climate change.

Kaufman reviews the technology used to assess birds in migration. They include older technologies such as bird banding, radar, and the study of the night calls of migrating birds. Newer techniques included tracking transmitters attached to birds. By 2005 the size of transmitters were down to a third of an ounce. This led to amazing stories about the wanderings of smaller birds, such as Wood Thrush. However, a new technology is even stronger. The Motus system uses Nano tags on small birds that can then be monitored by well-placed stationary towers up to nine miles away from the migrating bird. This greatly increases the numbers of birds monitored.

I found this book very informative and enjoyable. Kaufman is a good writer and knows his subject well. The book should appeal to birders of all levels as well as all who appreciate the environment in which we live .

FROM NATIONAL AUDUBON



NEW ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT RULES WILL WEAKEN PROTECTIONS FOR BIRDS AND OTHER IMPERILED WILDLIFE

WASHINGTON – August 12, 2019

The final Endangered Species Act (ESA) regulatory reform package, released today by the Departments of the Interior and Commerce, fails the most important measure of any changes to a bedrock environmental law by marginalizing science-based protections for wildlife.

“As a whole, the rule changes are political, unwise, and will only increase litigation. They tip the balance in decision-making against vulnerable wildlife and undermine incentives for effective conservation,” said Sarah Greenberger, senior vice president for conservation policy at the National Audubon Society.

While some of the new rules are reasonable – including making it easier to direct resources to conservation projects by speeding up consultation requirements for federal projects that are beneficial to species – other changes would severely weaken protections for imperiled species.

The most egregious of the new changes would allow the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to consider the economic costs of listing a species – something expressly prohibited under existing law. Other changes will make it much more difficult to provide any protections to newly listed “threatened species” or to designate the “critical habitat” species need to recover. The new rules also allow the FWS to ignore the dire effects of climate change on imperiled species – effects we are seeing with greater regularity, such as hurricanes that jeopardize the Piping Plover.

“While Audubon could have supported some changes that may improve implementation while speeding up support for at-risk wildlife, these damaging new rules will weaken protections for imperiled species and include language that is wholly contrary to the law,” said Greenberger. The ESA is our nation’s most powerful tool for protecting wildlife. Protections provided by the Act have succeeded in preventing the extinction of 99 percent of the species listed and benefitted many others that depend on the landscapes it’s helped to protect. The ESA has helped numerous species recover, including the Peregrine Falcon, Bald Eagle, and Brown Pelican, and set many other species on the path to recovery.

About Audubon

The National Audubon Society protects birds and the places they need, today and tomorrow, throughout the Americas using science, advocacy, education and on-the-ground conservation. Audubon's state programs, nature centers, chapters and partners have an unparalleled wingspan that reaches millions of people each year to inform, inspire and unite diverse communities in conservation action. Since 1905, Audubon's vision has been a world in which people and wildlife thrive. Audubon is a nonprofit conservation organization. Learn more how to help at www.audubon.org and follow us on Twitter and Instagram at @audubonsociety.



Burrowing Owl

Climate change threatens 314 North American bird species, including Burrowing Owls, which could lose 77 percent of their breeding range by 2080. (Photo: [Jeff Whitlock / Flickr](#))

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.

Please Note: Summer birding can be very warm so be sure to bring sunscreen and sufficient water on walks.

Saturday, September 7, 8:00 a.m.

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. Turn left to parking area. **Expect warm weather.**

Leader: Sally Sanderson vcwillow@aol.com
760-749-6995

Saturday, September 14, 8:00 a.m.

Batiquitos Lagoon

Carlsbad

(1127-A7) Rating: 1-2

From I-5 in Carlsbad, exit east on Poinsettia Lane. Turn right on Batiquitos Drive, drive about ½ mile to Gabbiano Lane, turn right and continue to the end. We will look for ducks, waterfowl, and riparian birds. **Expect warm weather.**

Leader: Dave Cowan
858-437-4101

Saturday, September 21, 8:00 a.m.

Kumeyaay Lake

Mission Trails Regional Park,

Santee

(1230-G6) Rating: 2

From North County, take I-15 south to CA-52 east. Take exit 13 (Mast Boulevard) and turn left onto Mast. Take the first right onto West Hills Parkway. Take another right onto Mission Gorge Road and then make a very slight right onto Father Junipero Serra Trail. At the 4-way stop-sign, make a right onto Bushy Hill Drive., and turn right just past the campground entry kiosk into the free Day Use parking area. **Expect warm weather.**

Leader: Jim Beckman
858-205-2819

Saturday, September 28, 8:00 a.m.

Lake Hodges

Del Dios

(1149-E2) Rating: 2

From I-15 in Escondido exit at Via Rancho Parkway and drive west to Lake Drive. Turn left and drive about ½ mile. Meet at Del Dios Park across the street from the

Country Store. We should see waterfowl, shorebirds and a whole host of local resident birds. **Expect warm weather.**

Leader: Hal Benham

858-679-7904

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

San Diego River Estuary & Famosa Slough

San Diego

(1268-C4) Rating: 1

Take I-15 south to I-8. Go west on I-8 and exit north on I-5. Take the first off-ramp, Sea World Drive west to South Shores Park Drive (stop light). Turn left and proceed to our meeting place along the frontage road adjacent to the Flood Control Channel. We will be looking for migrating waterfowl and shorebirds in the channel and bay areas and then drive to nearby Famosa Slough.

Leader: Jeff Ebright

858-484-3932

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

La Jolla Coastline

La Jolla

(1227-E6) Rating: 1

From Highway 52 driving west exit at La Jolla Boulevard West (formerly Ardath Road). Continue on this road, which will merge with Torrey Pines Road for about ¾ mile, then turn right on Prospect. Continue on Prospect to Coast Boulevard. Meet on the ocean-side in front of the Bridge Club and restrooms. Parking is all along Coast Boulevard and adjacent residential streets. **Arrive extra early for the best parking spots.** Park at the first available parking space located. Don't pass up an available parking spot! We will be looking for shorebirds, gulls, and seabirds.

Leader: Jack Friery

619-218-7342

Saturday, October 19, 8:00 a.m.

Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve & Huntington

Central Park

Huntington Beach,

Orange County

(O.C. 857-C3) Rating: 1-2

Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve is the largest coastal salt marsh preserve in the Los Angeles/Orange County metropolitan region. Its 300 acres are a vital oasis for resident shorebirds and millions of migrating birds traveling between the Arctic and South America along the Pacific Flyway. At Huntington Central Park we will see locals and possibly vagrant migrants. We will bird at the Reserve first and then drive to Huntington Central Park.

Directions: Take I-5 north past San Juan Capistrano. Continue on I-5 to I-405. Take I-405 north (towards Long Beach). Exit on Warner Avenue West. Continue west approximately 6 miles to Pacific Coast Highway. Turn left (south) and drive about 1 mile (making a U-turn) to the Reserve parking lot on the east side of Pacific Coast Highway. It's about 70 miles from Oceanside and should take about 75 minutes. Meet at the boardwalk entrance. **VERY IMPORTANT: Arrive extra early for the best**

parking spots. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy at the Huntington Central Park picnic tables.

Leader: Sally Sanderson vwillow@aol.com
760-749-6995

Saturday, October 26, 8:00 a.m.
Whelan Lake Bird Sanctuary
Oceanside

(1066-F7) Rating: 2

From Highway 78 west, exit north on El Camino Real and continue to Douglas Drive. From I-5 north exit east on Highway 76 and continue to the Douglas Drive exit. Take Douglas Drive north approximately 1 mile and turn left on North River Road. Continue west on North River Road to the entrance gate at the end. **NOTE: Greg has again offered to have the gate open at 7:30 a.m. for Early Birds and leave it open until 8:45 to accommodate latecomers. From the gate proceed straight ahead on the less traveled road to the Sanctuary. Disregard the "No Trespassing" Signs. For those interested in lunch, we will be dining at "The Pitstop", located beside the police station, at 3825 Mission Avenue, Oceanside 92058, just a couple of blocks west of Douglas Drive. It's loaded with 50's atmosphere, automobile memorabilia, and serves at least twenty different styles of sandwiches, all at reasonable prices.**

Leader: Doug Walkley
310-387-8190

Saturday, November 2, 8:30 a.m.
(NOTE: New Fall/Winter Start Time)

Daley Ranch
Escondido

(1110-C3) Rating: 2-3

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 up the hill toward Dixon Lake and on to the Daley Ranch free parking area on your left. Seniors can also park free inside the adjacent Dixon Lake gate near the restrooms. Meet at the Daley Ranch trail-head kiosk.

Leader: Tom Trowbridge
760-743-1052



Burrowing Owls are one of the many California species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Photo: Peter LaTourrette

BACKYARD BIRDS IN VALLEY CENTER

As many of you know, Arne and I moved to Valley Center nearly 4 years ago after living in Rancho Bernardo for 47 years. I was curious and a little worried that we wouldn't see the same birds or butterflies we enjoyed in RB. Well, I was correct in thinking that we wouldn't see those creatures that came to our yard in RB, but after developing a bird and butterfly friendly garden and putting out seed and hummingbird feeders we have been rewarded with an abundance of birds and at least six species of butterflies.

Some of our more interesting birds include Dark-eyed Juncos, Says Phoebes and Spotted Towhees. Ash-throated Flycatchers nested in one of our birdhouses. Greater Roadrunners are frequent visitors as they try to pick off Lesser Goldfinches from the feeders. The most recent visitor is a California Thrasher who is quite at home cleaning up spilled seed from the feeders. Up to four Red-winged Blackbirds eat at the feeders and occasionally a small flock of Cowbirds. If anyone has suggestions as how to run off the Cowbirds without frightening the other birds give us a call. We have at least thirty birds on our backyard list including the Zone-tailed Hawk who flew back and forth in the canyon several times before landing in our large old oak tree to rest.

I hope you have enjoyed reading about our backyard birds and that you share your experiences in future newsletters.



Ash-throated Flycatcher



Hooded Oriole



Black-headed Grosbeak



Cooper's Hawk



Yellow-rumped Warbler

FATE OF THE TRICOLORED BLACKBIRD

*Ventura, Calif. (Published April 19, 2018
on Audubon California's website)*

Responding to an alarming drop in the rare bird's numbers, the California Fish and Game Commission today listed the Tricolored Blackbird as Threatened under the California Endangered Species Act.

Representatives of Audubon California, which has fought to protect Tricolored Blackbirds for more than a decade, supported the move, pointing to studies showing that the bird's population has declined 55 percent since 2008.

"It's not good news when any bird goes on the endangered species list, but today's decision by the California Fish and Game Commission provides a necessary tool in the fight to stave off extinction for Tricolored Blackbirds," said Sarah Rose, executive director of Audubon California. "Now we can chart a course for this unique bird's rebound and eventual removal from the list."

Biologists from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife told the commission in February that the best available science warrants listing, and this recommendation weighed heavily in the commission's final decision.

The Tricolored Blackbird lives almost entirely in California and once numbered in the millions in the 1930s, but its population has declined to a fraction of what it once was. Habitat loss and breeding colony disruption are considered to be the main causes of its decline.

In recent years, Audubon California has partnered with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and dairy trade associations to strike agreements with dairy farmers to delay harvests to allow the young birds to fledge. These agreements with farmers have saved many thousands of Tricolored Blackbirds. These activities were strengthened in recent years under emergency listings and temporary listings put in place while the Fish and Game Commission considered formal protections under the California Endangered Species Act.

Because of the loss of their traditional wetland habitat, Tricolored Blackbirds often create their huge colonies on dairy farm forage fields. This puts them at risk when the farmer needs to harvest the field before the young birds have fledged.

"Without the support of the NRCS and the cooperation of these farmers this bird would likely be even closer to extinction," added Rose. "We will continue to work closely with these partners to find solutions that work for both the birds and the farmers."

Audubon California is building a better future for California by bringing people together to appreciate, enjoy and protect our spectacular outdoor treasures. Audubon California is a field program of Audubon, which has more than 350,000 members and supporters in California and an affiliated 48 local chapters dedicated to protecting birds, wildlife and the habitats that support them.

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

Barbara Anderson
Richard Blain
Arne & Sunny Christiansen
Toni Crisell
Bill & Myrna Eastwood
Alice Holmes
Mary Marquis
Karen Matthews & John Oldson
Patricia Pawlowski
Ken Weaver

AND WE APPRECIATE OUR DONORS VERY MUCH!

Joyce Anderson
Barbara Anderson
Terry & Lynn Badger
Richard Blain
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Corrine & Bill Lines
Marty Hale & Jim McKerrow
Joan Miller
Peter Minschel
Dawn Nowlin
Karen Matthews & John Oldson
Beverly Warburton



Tricolored Blackbird

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 6:30 p.m. with the meeting and program getting under way promptly at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 26

Krisztina Scheef

“Photographing the Spirit of Birds”

There is a thrill in capturing the exciting moment of a grebe running across the water’s surface, or that split-second shot of a baby bird poking its head from its nest. Renowned nature photographer Krisztina Scheeff of KS Nature Photography expertly photographs these moments. In this talk, Krisztina will delve into the stories of her favorite birds, the Grebes as well as the sweet Atlantic Puffins in Scotland.

Krisztina will also share useful tips for finding and photographing birds in the wild, including San Diego’s celebrities: the rushing Grebes of Lake Hodges. She will also be giving an update on the School Birding Project launched last year by Sundance Elementary School in Rancho Penasquitos with the help of the Palomar Audubon Society.

Growing up in Hungary as a young teenager, Krisztina spent her summers hiking, camping and learning about nature, wildlife and conservation. After moving to Southern California 20 years ago, she continued to enjoy and photograph the local wildlife and the natural beauty of her favorite spot, Lake Hodges in San Diego County. Today she spends her time between Lake Hodges and roaming Scotland, where she offers small group tours to the Highlands and Isle of Skye for nature photography.

Mark your calendars!

This will be a fantastic presentation!



Thursday, October 24

Benny Jacobs-Schwartz

“Feathers and Flight: A Journey to the New World Tropics”

Bird guide, naturalist and photographer, Benny Jacobs-Schwartz will take us on a gripping journey throughout the New World Tropics. Sharing his dazzling bird photos, captivating videos, and animated story telling, he brings a slice of the tropics to California.

Delving into topics of migration, tropical speciation, and drivers of bio-diversity, this media rich journey will share some of the fascinating and unique birds that inhabit the new-world tropics.

Sure to both educate and entertain, this presentation will certainly leave you with a deeper understanding of tropical ecology, and knowledge about where some of our backyard birds spend their winters!

Benny Isaac Jacobs-Schwartz owns and operates a bird guiding business and lifestyle brand called BIRDS by BIJS (pronounced Bee-jus). Working seasonally as a naturalist guide, expedition trip leader, and international bird guide, Benny works in a variety of locations. Most recently bringing him to such exotic places like coastal Alaska, Trinidad and Tobago, and the Ecuadorian cloud forest.

When not trip leading or following birds across the world he is at home growing his business. BIRDS by BIJS, initially begun in response to many requests for urban birding outings, the business has now grown to encompass; a nature inspired clothing line, bird photography and wildlife documentaries and of course, local and international bird watching tours.

Seasonally Benny or BIJS, is based in Los Angeles, where he leads public and private birding adventures to urban hotspots. He is also a passionate photographer, specializing in birds. He uses his impressive collection of content to leverage his prolific social media presence. Benny hopes his love of the natural world will inspire others to conserve the open spaces around them and look up more often from their phones!

Mark your calendars.

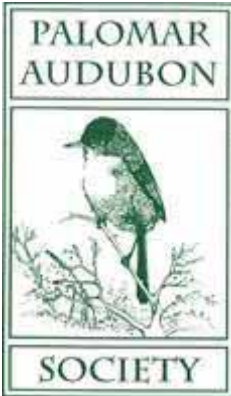
Don't miss this one!



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September-October, 2019

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-only membership.



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Board of Director's Meeting

*Thursday, September 5th
 Thursday, October 3rd*

**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

- September 5** Board Meeting
- September 7** Oak Hill Memorial Park Walk
- September 14** Batiquitos Lagoon Walk
- September 21** Kumeyaay Lake Walk
- September 26** General Meeting: "Photographing the Spirit of Birds"
- September 28** Lake Hodges Walk
- October 3** Board Meeting
- October 5** San Diego River Estuary & Famosa Slough
- October 12** La Jolla Coastline Walk
- October 19** Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve & Huntington Central Park Walk
- October 24** General Meeting: "Feathers and Flight: A Journey to the New World Tropics"
- October 26** Whelan Lake Bird Sanctuary Walk
- November 2** Daley Ranch Walk (NOTE: New Start Time)