



Band Tales

**Palomar Audubon
Society**
A Chapter of the
**NATIONAL AUDUBON
SOCIETY**

**Volume XXXVII
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**July-August
2022**

**Editor
Arne Christiansen**

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Aedyn Loefke
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PRESIDENTIAL FAREWELL
Penny Hernandez

What a wonderful surprise I got at my last board meeting as President of Palomar Audubon. Besides everyone wanting me to stay on the board as a Director, I got the most wonderful thank you gift. I understand that Alice was the leader of the gift committee, well she did a great job as you can see by the picture of the fountain I received. I took it home and set it up right away, on the front porch where everyone passing by can enjoy it with me.

Thank you all again for your support thru the years!



(Snowy Plover Chick)



(Snowy Plover—Aedyn Loefke)



(Snowy Plover nesting—Aedyn Loefke)

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A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Doug Walkley, President

Hello Fellow Birders! It is my privilege to now represent the Palomar Audubon as President. It has been a long time since I had a similar position. In fact, it was 1979 when I was President of the North Okanagan Naturalist Club. No, we did not parade around in the nude. This Canadian organization expands their level of interest to include all forms of flora and fauna. The club, in a small Okanagan community of twenty thousand, had many very active members, so much so that at the monthly meeting we often ran out of goodies, although we would always purchase enough for four hundred. I eventually ended up with this position, because in my early 30s, just a block away from our home was a high school that offered an ornithology course. What could be handier? This old character, who even had a great horned owl that roamed freely and permanently in his home, ran the program (the character, not the owl). Every week he would haul out a dozen or so stuffed roadkills out of his collection of a few hundred. It was from this introduction that I really got my interest in birds.

But my roots and interest in nature go back much further than that. I was just three when my father, a professional forester, started traipsing me around all the beautiful backroads of the Kootenays, an area in the Rockies, bordering the US at the 49th parallel. Maybe at one of our monthly meetings I will take you back to the late '50s with a slideshow of my area.

We, however, are in 2022, and we are told North America has lost about 30% of its bird life since 1970 because of habitat degradation, urbanization and the use of toxic pesticides. As the years roll by one by one, we do not feel this loss. In fact, as the country warms, we come to accept new species to our neighborhood such as the Scaley-Breasted Munia, the Turkey Vulture, and the Great-tailed Grackle. So we need to be made constantly aware of the ongoing attrition, and within the confines of our organization we must help reduce such attrition, be it through community and youth education or fundraising to help secure environmentally sensitive land. That's objective number one (#1) in my books.

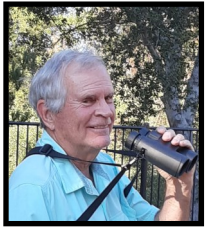
Then there are more fun objectives (#2), like sending teens to birding camps. They come back with a confidence and a challenge to become leaders in saving our universe. I'm for that! Let's hope we have a never-ending crop of enthusiastic youths who will aspire to such goals.

This is for the birds... and us. Let's get out there have some fun (#3) and find some birds. Year after year Jim Beckman has done an excellent job of organizing our Saturday Morning Walks. This is really quite the achievement, something that no other chapter in

Southern California manages! And aren't they fun. No serious sourpusses in our group. We get to know and enjoy each other, although from time to time for the sake of the birds we do have to keep our constant din down a bit.

And then there are our trips to points unknown (#4). To discover a lifer or two or three. Let's do more of this, regardless as to whether our adventurers are four or forty strong. We now know the Salton Sea and the Eastern Sierras pretty well. Let's see if we can include a few more, like finding an Elegant Trogon in New Mexico, a Magnificent Hummingbird in Arizona or a Peregrine Falcon at Morro Bay. Let's consider further afield adventures to Maine, Mexico or the sky that is the limit.

So, after many years the gavel is passed to me. Penny Hernandez has done a wonderful job over the course of more than a decade. What an accomplishment! While other directors have come and gone, there's Penny leading at the helm. These are mighty big boots to fill, but I will do my best.



Elegant Trogon



Magnificent Hummingbird



Peregrine Falcon

CONSERVATION NOTES

Trysten Loeffke, Conservation Chair

We have all heard the Transportation Department's mantra to "share the road," but have you heard of Audubon's *Share the Shore* initiative?

For many people, the summer months represent the most popular time of year to visit the beach. People crowd to our shores in their thousands, enjoying the sun, sand and surf that our Southern California beaches have to offer. However, these peak months for enthusiastic beach-goers also happen to coincide with shorebird nesting season. Shorebirds nest on the ground, usually creating nothing more than a small scrape in the sand in which they deposit their precious— and often highly camouflaged— eggs, and as you might imagine, nesting in the sand of a busy beach puts the reproductive success of these birds in great peril.



Two of our local ground-nesting birds are particularly vulnerable to threats from beach-goers, the Snowy Plover and the Least Tern. Our California populations of these two species have

declined greatly and both are now protected at both State and Federal levels. These birds nest in the sand above the high tide line and simply being aware that they are nesting there and looking out for them can have a big impact. It is also important to share this information with others in order to keep these birds safe. On many of our beaches where it is known that Least Terns and Snowy Plovers are nesting, you will probably notice areas that are cordoned off by simple string fences. These are to keep people out of the nesting areas in order to give the birds the best chance of a successful breeding season. However, there are a few things that these simple fences certainly don't keep out, one of which is dogs.

For any dog owners out there, if you do take your dog with you to the beach, one of the most important things you can do is to keep your dog(s) on a leash. Off-leash dogs cause extraordinary amounts of damage to ground-nesting birds, especially when there are eggs or young chicks.

On my most recent seaside birding trip, the Snowy Plovers already had their first batch of chicks and the Least Terns were setting on their large eggs. I also invariably see dogs off-leash... So please, if you do take your dogs, keep them on their leashes.

One of our larger plover species, the Killdeer, is famous for its distraction display of feigning an injured wing in order to lure would-be predators away from their nests. Our tiny Snowy Plovers also perform a similar display, so if you see a Snowy Plover acting like it has an injured wing, the chances are it means you are too close to its nest and you should give it some space.

For more information on what you can do to better *Share the Shore*, please visit Audubon.org or simply Google "Share the Shore".

Species Profile

Snowy Plover

(*Charadrius nivosus*)

Aedyn Loeffke

When we head to the sandy beaches of San Diego County, one of the most exciting sights we can see is the tiny little birds dancing across the sand. They are so well camouflaged that we sometimes don't even notice them until they move. I am, of course, talking about Snowy Plovers.

Snowy Plovers are one of the few shorebird species that live here in San Diego County year-round, so you always have a chance of seeing them, but I think we can all agree that the best time to see them is when they have their adorable little chicks. Hatchling Snowy Plovers are incredibly tenacious little birds and they leave their nests within only three hours of hatching. At this point, the chicks are fully mobile and capable of foraging on their own, but they remain with their parents in order to brood to stay warm and to be warned of coming danger.

Despite the young chicks' desire to stay close to their parents, female Snowy Plover can sometimes be notoriously neglectful parents. Female Snowy Plovers will often leave their mate and their chicks as soon as they hatch in order to head off and start a new nest with a different mate, leaving the male to care for the newly-hatched chicks all on his own.

Snowy Plover nests are easy to miss because they are simply small depressions in the sand, often lined with shells or small pebbles, containing anywhere from two to six very well-camouflaged eggs. Plover eggs are what are known as "pyriform" eggs, meaning that they have a narrow pointed end at the top and a wide, rounded base. This is a very adaptively significant shape for an egg because it means that if the eggs get bumped they are more likely to stay in the nest, and if the eggs do get knocked out of the nest, the pointed end will make the egg roll in a short arc so that it doesn't make it far from the nest.

Until just a few years ago, the Snowy Plover was considered to be a single, worldwide species, but DNA studies have now shown that it is in fact two species. The species was split, and our New World species retained the name Snowy Plover and the Old World species was given the name Kentish Plover. Our now strictly New World Snowy Plovers range from here in North America all the way down the western coast of South America. So, when you're out visiting the beach this Summer, be sure to keep your eyes peeled for a tiny Snowy Plover, and you may even spot one of their little chicks!

FIELD TRIPS

Jim Beckman

Whether a seasoned birder or a beginner, you are welcome to join us.

For more information call the trip leader. Heavy rain cancels trips.

Locations in Thomas Guide Coordinates are shown in parenthesis as (Page-Column Row).

Saturday, July 2, 8:00 am.

Lake Murray

La Mesa

(1250 E6) Rating: 1-2

Take I-8 east to Lake Murray Boulevard. Exit with right turn at light, and proceed 1 mile north to Baltimore Drive. Turn left and drive about 1 mile to Jackson Drive. Turn left again, proceed ¼ mile and make another left turn on Golfcrest Drive. Continue about 1 mile on Golfcrest Drive to the Mission Trails Regional Park entrance on the left. Meet in the parking lot near the softball field bleachers. This location is on the northwest end of Lake Murray. **Expect warm weather.**

Leader: Jim Beckman

858-205-2819

Saturday, July 9, 8:00 am.

Guajome Regional Park

Oceanside

(1067-D7) Rating: 2

From Highway 78 in Oceanside, exit north on College Boulevard curving left and drive 4.4 miles to Highway 76. Make a right turn and continue east about ½ mile to Guajome Lake Rd. Turn right (south) and drive up the hill past the park entrance. We usually convene on this road beyond the park entrance since we gather well before the park opens. **Expect warm weather.**

Leader: Doug Walkley

310-387-8190

Saturday, July 16, 8:00 am.

Tijuana Estuary & Slough

Imperial Beach

(1349-F1) Rating: 2

Travel south on I-5 from San Diego and exit west on Coronado Avenue, which becomes Imperial Beach Blvd. Continue west and turn left on 3rd Street to Caspian Way, turn left again and then turn right into the Tijuana Estuary Visitor Center parking lot.

Leader: Gerry Baade

858-231-9876

Saturday, July 23, 8:00 am.

Tecolote Canyon Park

San Diego

(1268 F2) Rating: 2

Depending on your starting location, travel to the I-5 freeway. From the I-5 in San Diego, exit east at the Seaworld Dr./Tecolote Rd. off-ramp – away from Mission Bay. Continue on Tecolote Rd. to the end and park at the visitor's center. This is a great spot for finding both resident and migrating birds. Rarities often show up here. **Expect warm weather.**

Leader: Jack Friery

619-218-7342

Saturday, July 30, 8:00 am.

Robb Field/San Diego River Tidal Mud Flats

San Diego

(1267-J5) Rating: 1

We will visit two locations along the San Diego River Floodway to look for early migrant and returning shore-birds, often still in breeding plumage, and post-breeding dispersal Elegant Terns. From North County, take Hwy. 163S to I-8W and drive toward Ocean Beach. Make a slight left at Sunset Cliffs Blvd. and then stay in the right lane. Turn right onto W. Point Loma Blvd. and then right at Bacon St. Drive straight ahead to the Robb Field parking area near the tennis courts at the east end. Bring a scope if you have one. We may also visit the nearby San Diego River Flood Control Channel and/or Famosa Slough.

Leader: Jeff Ebright

858-216-5623

Saturday, August 6, 8:00 am.

Stonewall Mine & Cuyamaca Lake ALWAYS A BIRDER FAVORITE !

Julian

(1176-E6) Rating: 2

From San Diego, take I-8 east and exit north on Hwy 79. Continue north approx. 15 miles along Hwy 79 to just north of the Paso Picacho Campground. From North County, take Hwy 78 (or Hwy 67) to Ramona, and then continue on Hwy 78 just past Julian, to Hwy 79. Take Hwy 79 south approx. 8 miles. The mine itself is off a small state park road that is well-signed in both directions and to the east of Hwy 79. **There is a California State Park day-use parking fee. Carpooling is recommended.** Meet in the parking lot. Bring a lunch for an after-walk picnic. **Expect warm weather.** We should see mountain birds as well as waterfowl at the lake.

Leader: Hal Benham

858-679-7904

Saturday, August 13, 8:00 am.

Santee Lakes

Santee, CA

(1231-A5) Rating: 2

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

Leader: Tom Trowbridge

760-522-8519

Saturday, August 20, 8:00 am.
Dairy Mart Pond/Tijuana River Valley
 San Diego
(1350-D5) Rating: 2

From North County, take I-15 south and merge with the I-5 south to the Dairy Mart Road Exit. Turn right on Dairy Mart Road (south). Meet just past the concrete bridge next to the large "TJRV Park" sign and 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 Gardens where we might see the elusive Black-throated Magpie Jay. Leader: Jim Beckman
 858-205-2819

Saturday, August 27, 8:00 am.
Kit Carson Park
 Escondido
(1150-C1) Rating: 1

From I-15 in Escondido, exit east on Via Rancho Parkway and drive about one mile northeast on Bear Valley Rd. to the Park Road entrance at the stoplight (fire station on left). Turn left and proceed west on Park Road about ¾ mile to the Amphitheater parking lot on the right. Woodland, riparian, and open-area habitats will usually get us a nice list of resident birds. **Expect warm weather.**

Leader: Gerry Baade
 858-231-9876

Saturday, September 3, 8:00 am.
Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve
 Rancho Peñasquitos
(1189-C7) Rating: 2

We will meet at the Rancho de los Peñasquitos Adobe Ranch House parking lot and explore trails through grasslands and riparian woodland. Take I-15 and exit at Mercy Road going west. Turn right onto Black Mountain Road and drive a short distance to Canyonside Park Drive (first stop light). Turn left & continue west to the Adobe Ranch House parking lot. **Expect warm weather.**

Leader: Jeff Ebright

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.

☐ **Membership, \$25**

(payable to Palomar Audubon Society)

☐ **Contribution** _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

100% of Chapter Membership dues supports projects locally.

Octoberfest Anyone?

Palomar Audubon Society is planning an Octoberfest themed barbecue/picnic on October 23rd at the Lawrence Welk Picnic area. We have postponed the picnic for the past two years due to COVID-19 but hope everyone is ready to get together and have some fun.

Please contact Penny Hernandez at 760-746-8315 or Sunny Christiansen at 760-297-3096 if you would like to help plan the picnic or even if you just have some ideas about food items to include, etc. See the next issue of **Band Tales** for more information. Meanwhile, good Birding and we hope to see you all soon!

Here's a great big THANK YOU to Fred and Jill Weber for producing sixteen wonderful issues of **Band Tales**. You stepped up to help PAS when the help was sorely needed, also serving on the Board of Directors. Good luck and good birding at your new home in Palm Desert, and "y'all come back real soon!"

***PALOMAR AUDUBON
SOCIETY WELCOMES
NEW AND RENEWING
CHAPTER-ONLY
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Mike and Lisa Amantea
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DONORS VERY MUCH!***

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Thank you Palomar Audubon Society members. Your generous response to our solicitation for donations has been terrific. We will be working hard to find ways to spend this money locally to enhance our members' birding experiences. If you haven't yet donated and wish to do so there is still time to make a difference.

2022 Teen Scholarship Award

Palomar Audubon Society has a multifaceted mission, including a community outreach program with several special initiatives. One of these initiatives is our teen scholarship program which PAS has sponsored since 2004. Because of delays associated with the COVID pandemic, this year we will provide two 100% scholarship awards for a week-long educational summer camp on birding conducted by the American Birding Association at Camp Colorado. Camp Colorado is located at Estes Park, Colorado, and is near the Rocky Mountain National Park. The recipients of our 2022 Scholarship awards are **Luca Cinus and Aedyn Loeffke**.

Luca Cinus is 13 years old and started birding at age 10. His favorite birds are the Green Heron and the Summer Tanager. He first saw the Green Heron at Lake Skinner which is close to his Temecula home, and Lake Skinner is also his favorite local birding location. He tries to go birding every weekend at birding hotspots in either San Diego or Riverside Counties. Luca frequently sends his field trip reports to the eBird website.

Aedyn Loeffke is 17 years old, lives in Valley Center, and really got hooked on birds eight years ago when he was 9 years old. At that time, Aedyn vividly remembers a PAS field trip to Kumeyaay Lake in Santee where a beautiful male Summer Tanager was found. His favorite birds are the Greater Roadrunner and California Quail. Recently, Aedyn has become an excellent bird photographer, and his photographs will be featured on the new Multicultural Interpretive Trail at Daley Ranch. Also, Aedyn frequently sends his field trip reports to the eBird website.

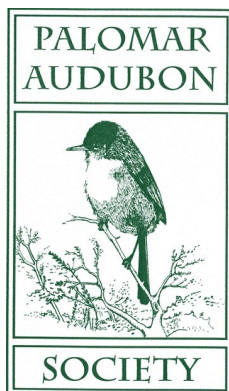
Congratulations Luca and Aedyn!



Band Tales

July-August, 2022

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palomaraudubon@gmail.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

NO BOARD MEETINGS IN JULY OR AUGUST

Meetings will resume on September 1st.

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

QUICK CALENDAR

July 2

July 9

July 16

July 23

July 30

August 6

August 13

August 20

August 27

September 3

Lake Murray Walk

Guajome Regional Park Walk

Tijuana Estuary & Slough Walk

Tecolote Canyon Park Walk

Robb Field/San Diego River Tidal Mud Flats Walk

Stonewall Mine & Cuyamaca Lake Walk

Santee Lakes Walk

Dairy Mart Pond/Tijuana River Valley Walk

Kit Carson Park Walk

Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Walk