



Band Tales

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

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Editor
Arne Christiansen

ESCONDIDO CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, 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 123rd 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 Friday, December 23rd, 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 or visit our website www.palomaraudubon.org for details.

After November 15th, 2022, 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 after November 15th and join the fun!

CAMP COLORADO REVIEW

I just wanted to thank you again for giving Luca the opportunity to go to camp. He had an amazing time. He met so many interesting people, learned so many interesting things, and had an amazing birding adventure. I would have never imagined a year ago, that he would be off on his own at the American Birding Association Camp at 13 years old!

I get bits and pieces of his experience each day from him, as he tells me more and more about it, and I can see what a profound impact it has had on him.

I could thank you a thousand times more, I am just so thrilled that he was able to have this experience!

Blythe Wilson, Luca's Mom



(all the campers,
Luca far left in red jacket, Aedyn far right in yellow t-shirt)



A bird in the hand . .



.. is worth two on the ground!

(Birds of Camp Colorado)

Inside this Band Tales

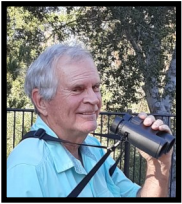
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A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Doug Walkley, President

What to write about, what to write about! Penny did such a good job of coming up with various themes.

Perhaps, for this month, I will just write about a few details of our recent reconnaissance trip to Idyllwild with Hal and Dianne Benham, taken in preparation for the club's upcoming overnight.



We are fortunate to have such a wonderful forested area with monstrous evergreens located just a couple hours away. Not only does it get us out of the hot summer heat but also provides a super opportunity for unusual birding opportunities. The thing about a trip to Idyllwild is that it passes through a number of ecosystems making it interesting to bird along the way.

The most poignant example of this is at Hemet Lake where you can see both the California Scrub Jay and the Stellar's Jay. This lake is the dividing point in elevation between the two and at this lake you may be lucky enough to see both. But there is yet another division of Stellar's Jay here. The Benhams were fortunate to snag at Silver Pines Lodge the "Great Outdoors Cabin" where its extensive balcony has an idyllic riparian view down below to Strawberry Creek. In the photo, you can see a particular type of Stellar's Jay enjoying happy hour. Of course, it didn't take long for a more humane (no, I mean human) type of happy hourer (there is such a word isn't there?) to kick him out. But to my point (did I have a point, I'm 74, I forget). Oh yes, take a look at this other guy in comparison! He/she is into the make-up with that white eyebrow and markings racing away from the bill. He is up here too, but not noticed on this outing (maybe that was because of our happy hour). Now, if this was BC, Washington or Oregon, I would tell you that Stellar's with white eyebrows (the Interior) would be found on the East side of the Coast Range and the plain inky black head Stellar's were on the West (the Pacific), but here in Southern California, it seems they mix it up, although it does not seem they interbreed.

Another impact elevation has, is the type of quail you discover. Idyllwild is a mile-high village: 5,760 feet. At this elevation, the California Quail peter out and the Mountain Quail becomes prevalent, although in my many experiences in and around Idyllwild, prevalent mean rarely seen. The most distinguishing difference is that Mountain Quail have a single long straight plume, whereas the California Quail has that floppy apostrophe sort of thing. Our reconnaissance found lots of California Quail, but, as usual, left us shy of any Mountain Quail.

Our tally, after this full day and a short morning, produced **fifty-one** species. Notable species seen or heard included White-headed Woodpecker, White Pelican, Olive-sided Flycatcher, White-breasted nuthatch, Pygmy nuthatch.... Let's see what the club's upcoming outing produces

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, 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

White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) *Aedyn Loeffke*

With fall fast approaching, one of the things I am most excited about is the return of my favorite wintering bird, the White-crowned Sparrow! It is time to start keeping an eye out for the first early arrivals as they begin to appear in our yards and local patches. It is always an exciting moment when you hear their unique song or catch a glimpse of the black and white striped head of the first returning White-crowned Sparrow. I like to keep track of when I see my first White-crown each fall and compare the arrival dates over the years.



With their stunning black and white crown stripes that give them their name and that bright orange bill, it's hard not to like the adorable little White-crowned Sparrow. Their bold nature and habit of visiting backyard feeders have endeared them to many people across the country, but who the White-crowned Sparrows like is a different story entirely. Studies have shown that White-crowned Sparrows will willingly share their territories with Fox Sparrows but will aggressively chase away Chipping Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos, pestering them relentlessly until they leave their territories. Who knew they could be so picky with their friends! Luckily for us, these birds don't hold territories here in their wintering grounds and can often be seen sharing their favorite feeders with their sparrow cousins.

As small as White-crowned Sparrows are, they still fly thousands of miles each year in order to come back to spend the winter at our feeders. White-crowns that breed in Alaska migrate around 2,600 miles to finally make it back down to us here in Southern California and a single bird was tracked to have flown three hundred miles just in a single night during migration!

The oldest recorded White-crowned Sparrow was actually a California resident and was over thirteen years old when it was found back in 1942.

So get your binoculars ready and start your vigil for another one of our amazing local birds!



(White-crowned Sparrow)

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

Dan & Linda Allen
Jeff & Monica Border
Laurilyn Burson
David Clark
Jennifer Falconer
Matthew Gilsdorf
Tracy Henchbarger
Alice Holmes
Dan & Shelly Jones
Keith Klingler
Chelsea Klingler
Loretta LaBianca
Anna Marie Lea
Karen Matthews
Susan Smith
Peter Thomas
Tom Trowbridge
Adam Weiner
Tzung-Horng Yang
Perron Yang

AND WE APPRECIATE OUR DONORS VERY MUCH

Jennifer Falconer
Tracy Henchbarger
Judie Ann Jackson
Cathy Jain
Elaine & Ed Kenniston
Peggy Kiefer
Chelsea Klingler
Keith Klingler
Anna Mrie Lea
Max Leibowitz
Corrine Lines
Joan Falcon/Nabih Mansour
Karen Matthews
Terri Oba
John Rogers
Robyn Shultz
Adam Weiner
Perron Yang
Tzung-Horng Yang

PAS Annual Picnic: An Oktoberfest Celebration

Sunday, October 23rd at 3 P.M.

The Palomar Annual Picnic will once again be held at the popular Lawrence Welk private picnic area on October 23rd. Thanks to member Cindy Rippee for making the arrangements.

This year's BBQ will be provided by PAS members and will include grilled Bratwurst in the Oktoberfest tradition and chicken sausages for those who prefer chicken. No need to make a choice; have some of each should you wish. Dinner includes German potato salad, Red Cabbage and Sauerkraut plus Three bean salad. PAS will provide wine, beer and soft drinks as usual and something yummy for dessert. Don't forget to bring fruit for the famous PAS Friendship Salad.

Please fill in the form below and a check for \$25 per person to make your reservation; mail it to Sunny Christiansen, 26739 Red Ironbark Drive, Valley Center, 92082 by October 15th.

We sure appreciate volunteers and suggestions on how to make this the best picnic yet so please call Sunny at 760-297-3096 or Penny at 760- 746-8315 or check off a box on the reservation form below if you can assist with the picnic.

Bring your own BEER STEIN for your beer and to be entered into a contest for the biggest stein, funniest stein or the most attractive stein. Prizes will be awarded. Those who do not have a stein, check out the thrift shops. Or bring a CARVED PUMPKIN for the Pumpkin contest. Prizes will be awarded!



DRIVING DIRECTIONS

FROM THE SOUTH:

Go 1-15 to Deer Springs/Mountain Meadows Rd. exit. Turn right after Deer Springs Rd. exit Take the first left onto Champagne Blvd.

Go 2.1 miles

Turn right on Champagne Village Dr.

(Someone will open the gate for PAS members)

Turn right immediately on Live Oak Lane Park will be on the left.

FROM THE NORTH:

Go 1-15 S to Gopher Canyon/Old Castle Rd. exit. Turn left onto Gopher Canyon Rd. Take the second right onto Champagne Blvd.

Go 5.5 miles

Turn left on Champagne Village Dr.

(Someone will open the gate for PAS members)

Turn right immediately on Live Oak Lane Park will be on the left.

Name: _____

Number of People _____ Phone _____

Do you prefer beer, _____ soft drinks , _____ water or _____ wine _____

I would like to help with setup, _____ cleanup _____ or bartending _____



**NOTE: PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING A PIECE OF FRUIT
FOR THE FRIENDSHIP SALAD.**

Also, please bring a digital camera or smart phone so you can send picnic photos to arnec@juno.com.

We'll include as many of them as we can along with a picnic recap in the next issue of Band Tales.

FIELD TRIPS

Jim Beckman

Whether a seasoned birder or a beginner, you are welcome to join us. Our field trips are free and open to the public. For more information call the trip leader shown below. Heavy rain at the meet-up location 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, September 3, 8:00 am.

Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve

Rancho Penasquitos

(1189-C7) Rating: 2

We will meet at the Rancho de los Penasquitos 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 and continue west to the end of the road at the Adobe Ranch House parking lot. **Expect warm weather.**

Leader: Jeff Ebright

858-484-3932

Saturday, September 10, 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. Turn left to the parking area. **Expect warm weather.**

Leader: Jim Beckman

858-205-2819

Saturday, September 17, 8:00 am.

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: Gerry Baade

858-231-9876

Saturday, September 24, 8:00 am.

Kumeyaay Lake Campground

Mission Trails Regional Park,

Santee

(1230-G6) Rating: 2

From North County, take I-15 south to CA-52 east. Take exit 13 (Mast Blvd.) and turn left on to Mast. Take the first right onto West Hills Pkwy. Take another right onto

Mission Gorge Rd. and then make a very slight right onto Father Junipero Serra Trail. At the 4-way stop-sign, make a right onto Bushy Hill Dr., 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, October 1, 8:00 am.

San Elijo Lagoon

Solana Beach

(1167-E6) Rating: 2

Take I-5 to Lomas Santa Fe Drive. Go west to North Rios Avenue. Turn right (north) and go all the way to the end of North Rios Avenue. Park and meet at the end of the street near the barricade. This is a good spot to view wintering waterfowl and shorebirds.

Leader: Hal Benham

858-679-7904

Saturday, October 8, 8:00 am.

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. It's 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 Ave. West. Continue west approximately 6 miles to Pacific Coast Hwy. Turn left (south) and drive about 1 mile (making a U-turn) to the Reserve parking lot on the east side of Pacific Coast Hwy. 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: Jim Beckman

858-205-2819

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

Saturday, October 15, 8:00 am.

La Jolla Cove & Coastline

La Jolla

(1227-E6) Rating: 1

From Hwy 52 driving west exit at La Jolla Blvd. West (formerly Ardath Road). Continue on this road, which will merge with Torrey Pines Rd for about ¾ mile, then turn right on Prospect. Continue on Prospect to Coast Blvd. Meet on the ocean-side in front of the Bridge Club and restrooms. Parking is all along Coast Blvd and adjacent residential streets. **Arrive extra early for the best parking spots. Make sure to park at the first available parking space located.**

We will be looking for shorebirds, gulls, and seabirds.

Leader: Gerry Baade

858-231-9876

Saturday, October 22, 8:00 am.

Whelan Lake Bird Sanctuary

Oceanside

(1066-F7) Rating: 2

From Hwy 78 west, exit north on El Camino Real and continue to Douglas Drive. From I-5 north exit east on Hwy 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 Rd. to the entrance gate at the end. **NOTE: The caretaker has again offered to have the gate open at 7:30 am 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, October 29, 8:00 am.

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 near-by Famosa Slough.

Leader: Jeff Ebright

858-484-3932

Saturday, November 5, 8:00 am

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 entrance gate near the restrooms. Meet at the trail-head kiosk.

Leader: Tom Trowbridge

760-743-1052

A Note About Communication Within The Club.

Doug Walkley

Should you wish to send out information to club members, be it for events coming up, experiences you have had, exciting birds you have just seen or showing off a photo or two, then the email address you need to do so is:

birding@palomaraudubon.org.

You will not receive such emails if you have not signed up. To do this send a short email to:

palomaraudubon@gmail.com.

Jeff Ebright, does a super job of maintaining this list. It's a wonderful way to communicate



[Popular Backyard Birds of California \(With Pictures\) - Birdwatching Tips](https://birdwatchingtips.com/birds-of-California/)

[https:// birdwatchingtips.com/birds-of-California/](https://birdwatchingtips.com/birds-of-California/)

IDYLLWILD TRIP — (EASY WALKING) — SEPTEMBER 18TH-19TH, 2022

Time to make your Sunday night reservation at [Silver Pines Lodge](#). Use link to the left or phone 951/659-4335. Silver Pines Lodge has an historic group of cabins and rooms representative of most of Idyllwild accommodation: comfy, rustic and old. Choose the room that suites your personality and needs best. We do not recommend the Bear's Den in that it is just too narrow. Rates, before tax, run from \$100 to \$140 per night. Silver Pines also has rooms half a block away at Silver Pines Village, should you wish an only so slightly more modern style. Check-in for both is at Silver Pine Lodge. Your registration for this trip is \$15. This covers entrance to Idyllwild nature center and a contribution towards Sunday night's pizza and nappies (bring your own refreshments). Please Zelle \$15 per person to dswalkley@aol.com to hold your spot. This way we know how many people are coming and who to watch for at the starting point. We do need to have a manageable group, and although we do not anticipate an overflow of registrations, we still ask that you send your registrations in quickly. CARPOOLING IS ENCOURAGED. Some stopping spots are small and the fewer vehicles the better. Please note on your Zelle payment if you can give a ride or want a ride. I will then email everyone a list of those participants wanting or offering carpooling including their phone numbers. Please note on your Zelle payment if you can give a ride or want a ride. We can also consider consolidating vehicles at our meet-up point, Dripping Springs Campground parking lot, since we all return through that spot.

What to bring: bag lunch for Sunday; refreshments to have with happy-hour and with dinner; fixin's for Monday breakfast (check to see what facilities your room has).

Our 8:00 am meeting point will be at the parking lot of [Dripping Springs Campground](#). Use Google or your GPS to get you there, and to figure out your timing. You will already have had breakfast and are fat, happy and ready for a fun filled couple of days. After birding the campground by car, we will parse out vehicles, a few at a time, to a small location a few miles up the highway where we are almost guaranteed Rock Wrens. A couple of miles further is [Stagecoach Inn](#) (unfortunately it does not open until nine) for a walk up and down a fence-line where in the past we have picked up as many as ten species. Then off again towards [Lake Riverside Estates](#). If we slow down enough (or stop) when the highway climbs for several miles, we may to our left see Cactus Wrens or California Quail. [Lake Riverside Estates](#) will provide us with a large number of shorebirds and waterfowl. Next stop is the [Cahuilla Casino](#) for the opportunity to quickly lose ten bucks, buy a cheap tank of gas, or have a pee-break. Twenty-minutes later we will find ourselves at the [Ramona Trailhead](#) where we have been blessed on a couple of occasions by both the White-headed Woodpecker and flocks of Pinyon Jays. Are we there yet, Mommy? Not Quite. Just before the turn off to Lake Hemet, we will slow down for cliff swallows that circle a

highway culvert. At [Lake Hemet](#) we will keep our eyes peeled for the Bald Eagle, Osprey, Black-crowned Night Heron and White Pelicans, amongst other species. What's next: the Idyllwild Nature Center. But we will probably fit in lunch beforehand. Time will be the determinant.

As you can easily tell, with this outing we collect a lot of bird species as we travel up and towards [Idyllwild Nature Center](#). If you just show up at the nature center on the chance of finding the crowd, your timing will probably be off, and you may be missing half the birds we see. At the nature center, we will however, have another good chance to see the White-headed Woodpecker, along with being almost guaranteed to see the Pygmy and White Breasted Nuthatches, Band-tailed Pigeons, Oak Titmice and Brown Creepers. Who knows, one day again, we may see the Mountain Quail, but don't bet on it!

After a very full day, we check in and retire briefly to our rooms at Silver Pines Lodge. Happy Hour (and bird listing) will start at 5:30 in a large fascinating social room. Pizzas will start to arrive about 6:00. Bring your own beverages. If anyone like to play the piano, maybe we can get a sing-along with old time favorites. Now what decade would that be these days: 50s, 60s, 70s...?

On Sunday, before breakfast, at 6:30 am, we will head five minutes away to Black & Decker Meadow (otherwise known as Kwikset Meadow), where just a week ago we tallied up 21 species, including four woodpecker species. After a couple hours of very easy trail walking (or viewing from the vehicles and street) we will return to Silver Pines Lodge to make our own breakfast. There are outside tables where we might again socialize. At 11 am, we are on our own checking out and [Heading Out the Highway](#) towards home.

Got lost?

Phone 310/387-8190 or 310/375-7968. Highlighting and Googling blue underlined writing should give you clickable links for details about locations. To send an email to Doug Walkley copy dswalkley@aol.com into your email address line.



(Idyllwild Happy Hour)

PROGRAMS

*Please join us for our very interesting monthly program and refreshments at the **Remington Club II Retirement Center, 16916 Hierba Drive, Rancho Bernardo.** This location is very near and south of Carver's Steak & Chops Restaurant. There is a social period beginning at 6:30 pm with the meeting and program getting underway promptly at 7:00 pm.*

Thursday, September 22, 2022, 6:30 pm

Neil Solomon

A JOURNEY TO GRIMSEY ISLAND, ICELAND

Iceland is known for its glaciers, waterfalls, and the millions of breeding seabirds and migratory birds that call Iceland home from May to mid-August. Although Iceland is perceived to be an "Arctic" country, only Grimsey Island, located 40 km north of the north coast of Iceland, touches the Arctic Circle. It just so happens that some of the best cliffs in the world for viewing and photographing the Atlantic Puffin are located on Grimsey. So journey with him from Reykjavik, north through the Snaefellsnes Peninsula to Akureyri and on to the ferry from Dalvik to Grimsey Island. Along the way we will see a sampling of the bird life that a summer in Iceland, has to offer.

This is Neil's 12th PAS Presentation. Neil has been photographing birds for 20+ years. His travels in search of birds to photograph, have taken him from Patagonia and the Falklands in the South to Alaska and Arctic Norway in the North and many locations between. His favorite shooting locations are probably the far North and Central/South America. The last few years he has been concentrating on photographing birds in flight. You can see his images on his website www.nsolomonphoto.com.

Mark your calendars!

Don't miss this fantastic presentation!

Thursday, October 27, 2022 6:30 pm

Nancy Christensen

ANTARCTICA!

Nancy will present slides of her recent trip to the white continent. Nancy and her husband Russ traveled to Antarctica with Linblad/National Geographic in January 2019. They visited multiple locations along the Antarctic peninsula and in the Weddell Sea. Several locations had never been visited by National Geographic, including the recently discovered Adélie Penguin colony in the Danger Islands, so it really was an exploration expedition. This was truly a trip of a lifetime.

Nancy Christensen is a native of San Diego County, born and raised in Chula Vista. Nancy attended UCSD, studying Art (painting and photography) and Anthropology. These two subjects combined in a 1979 project with the San Diego Museum of Man,

photographing a collection of Inca bones showing signs of disease. Approximately 1400 of her photos were published in the "Hrdlicka Paleopathology Collection". Nancy's primary interest was always wildlife, and for a few years she spent time painting extinct species of birds and mammals after studying skins at the San Diego Natural History Museum and other museums in the southwest United States. She also wrote and illustrated articles for various publications including Zoonooz. Photographing wildlife was a major part of Nancy's life for a number of years, and for a time she had two agents that marketed her work in various places. The Cedar Fire in 2003 destroyed her paintings as well as the collection of photographs she had accumulated, and ended her small career as a wildlife photographer. Today Nancy watches birds, photographs birds, chases birds, and basically enjoys birds. She started eBird listing in 2011 and is happily wallowing in the joys of being a "birder". Nancy is also the current president of the San Diego Field Ornithologists group.

Mark your calendars! Don't miss this very interesting presentation!

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.

PALOMAR AUDUBON 2022 & 2023 TRAVEL FIELD TRIPS

Our PAS Birding Trips/Travel Committee is up and running and we have some great trip ideas for you! Our PAS committee members, consisting of Dianne & Hal Benham, Steve Ellis, Steve Gabbert, and Doug Walkley have been communicating frequently via email to discuss possible travel trips for the coming year. Here are some trips we are discussing and would like feedback from you before we proceed. After reading the following list, please send an email to me at diannebenham@me.com to let me know which trips you will be likely to attend if the trip goes forward. We will make a checklist of each trip location and based on the number of interested participants we will move forward with our plans.

September 18-19, 2022 Idyllwild, CA: This birding field trip, which has typically been a one-day trip in past years, will now debut as an overnight Sunday/Monday Idyllwild Adventure! See the article in this newsletter about the trip.

December 6-9, 2022, Sandia Crest and Bosque del Apache, New Mexico: This trip can be done with Wildside Nature Tours \$1,350 pp or we may organize our own trip for less cost. We expect to see all three Rosy Finches and the amazing spectacle of Sandhill Cranes and Snow Geese.

January 6-9, 2023, Morro Bay, CA: This Friday to Monday trip includes two days with an expert professional guide. The area is prolific with local and migrating birds this time of year. You can expect to see well over 100 species of birds!

February 3-5, 2023, Salton Sea Trip, Brawley, CA: This Friday to Sunday trip has long been a favorite of PAS members, and we are excited to offer it once again.

Late April/Early May, 2023 (Possibly April 28-May 2) Eastern Sierra: The highlight of this trip is seeing the mating ritual of the Greater Sage Grouse on the lek. Truly an unforgettable sight to see! If you've never participated in this field trip, you must consider going!

April 22-23, Big Morongo, Yucca Valley, CA: This is the best weekend in the year to see Yellow-breasted Chat, Summer Tanager, Western Tanager, Long-eared Owls, Verdin, Ladderback Woodpecker, Vermillion Flycatcher, Green-tailed Towhee, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Lawrence's Goldfinch. Make your reservations now because we have competition from other birding groups. We have put on hold a limited number of rooms at Americas Best Value Inn in Yucca Valley.

May 14-19, Magee Marsh, Ohio: Our PAS participants on this trip will fly into either Detroit or Cleveland and share a rental car with others in our group. We will stay in the same motel and use our shared rental cars for day trips around the area. We are planning 4 to 4 ½ days of birding, two days with a private guide and the other two, mainly on the boardwalk, on our own. Because this is such a popular event, we must make our reservations as soon as possible.

Dianne Benham, Travel Committee Chair
diannebenham@me.com

See palomaraudubon.org for more details on these trips.

So, that's our lineup for 2022-2023! I hope you will be as excited about our plans as we are! Please let us know the trips you would like to take with us so we can plan accordingly. If we don't have enough interest in some trips we will cancel them, and if we have too many that want to go on some trips we may have to limit the number of participants. Remember, this is just an interest survey and not an application. We will announce the trips that have enough interest at a later date.

FROM MEMBERS

Here is a shot of a partially leucistic Turkey Vulture that was perched in my yard yesterday morning. The location was at the intersection of Purer Road and Vista de la Cresta overlooking Lake Hodges in Escondido. It's not here this morning though.

Tracy Henchbarger



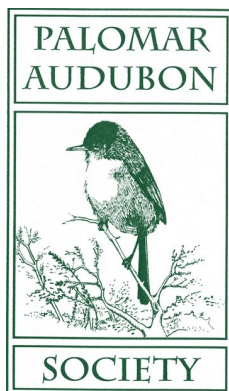
... and a response from Phil Unitt:

The vulture with the gray head is a juvenile. The bird with white feathers is partially leucistic, as happens from time to time in almost any species of bird. On 28 August, 1908 Harry Swarth was at Hemet and wrote in his field notes, "Mr. Morse told us that a white Turkey Buzzard with a black ring around his neck had been seen about town a number of times."

Band Tales

September-October, 2022

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Band Tales
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QUICK CALENDAR

September 3 Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Walk

September 10 Oak Hill Memorial Park Walk

September 17 Batiquitos Lagoon Walk

September 22 General Meeting: "A Journey to Grimsey Island"

September 24 Kumeyaay Lake Campground Park Walk

October 1 San Elijo Lagoon Walk

October 8 Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve & Huntington Central Park Walk

October 15 La Jolla Cove & Coastline Walk

October 22 Whelan Lake Bird Sanctuary Walk

October 23 Picnic: "Oktoberfest"

October 27 General Meeting: "Antarctica!"

October 29 San Diego River Estuary & Famosa Slough Walk

November 5 Daley Ranch Walk

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