

Band Tales

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

Volume XXXVIII
No. 3

May-June
2023

Editor
Arne Christiansen



Palomar Audubon Society Annual Picnic

Saturday, June 3, 2023

12:00 – 4:00 p.m.

(Food Provided by Wrangler Barbecue (Finger-lickin' good))

Hosted by Doug and Diane Walkley

614 Braemar Terrace, Fallbrook, CA 92028, Gate Code: #7968

Phone 310-387-8190

COME AND JOIN US FOR A MIGHTY FUN TIME.

**It is a great chance to get caught up with old Friends and meet new ones.
The theme is Western this year so pull out any gear that you have around your
home and partake in the festivities.**

For Palomar Audubon Society (PAS) members there is no cost for the picnic. For non-members there is a nominal admission fee of \$10.00 per person (pay at the door if registered) or you can join the PAS chapter (see website or newsletter for application) for a membership fee of \$25.00 and get in free. What a deal!

*****Looking Forward to Seeing You*****

Reservations Required since they are needed for planning purposes!

Please email Jack Peterson @ jackdpete@gmail.com or call/text @ 858 437-3240 with your name and whether a PAS member or not and the number of people coming.

Deadline: May 26, 2023

Inside this Band Tales

A Bird's Eye View.....page 2
Conservation Notes.....page 2

Field Trips..... pages 4-5
Programspage 7

A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Doug Walkley, President

What a wonderful time of the year: Spring. The return of friends not seen for as much as six months. But here is something I have never understood. Why do migrating birds nest in the Spring? When they fly South in the Fall, they are returning to an amenable environment for nesting, so why not nest then? Another thing, we always refer to these migrants as returning home. Now, if you lived in Santiago, wouldn't you think that all the residents there were happy to see "their" birds returning "home" in the fall? Which is it, or both? And then there are the birds that migrate from the Southwest Corner of Africa to the West Coast of America. Why? Surely there is a much shorter migration route to get the birds to suitable habitat! Well, 140 million years ago, Gondwana separated, creating Africa and the Americas. These migrating birds originally were going directly North in their spring migration, but over a period of time, well-ingrained habits found them flying right over the Atlantic Ocean. A couple of such birds are the Northern Wheatear and Pomarine Jaeger. Both travel from Africa, migrating over 7,000 miles to arctic Alaska.

We welcome Spring at our home with the consistent appearance of the Hooded Oriole, who again appeared on March 20th. An unusual guest for us came yesterday with the appearance of female Phainopepla at our bird bath. We had not seen her since 2009. She was so out of place; it took me a long time to identify her. She approached very cautiously with her tail bobbing, went in for a short dip and a drink. Then we watched as she disappeared far into the horizon. I'd say it was a long way to come for a drink.

Until next time, I'm flyin' high,

President Doug



(Northern Wheatear)



(Pomarine Jaeger)



CONSERVATION NOTES

Trysten Loeffke, Conservation Chair

In keeping with my theme this year of drawing attention to the more arcane aspects of conservation, I'd like to talk to you today about fish. When I say that there is a connection between birds and fish, there are a few things that will immediately jump to most birders' minds: An



Osprey plunging into a lake to snag a large trout, an Atlantic Puffin bringing a beak full of Sand Lances back to its pufflings in the burrow, a Clark's Grebe offering a small minnow to its downy young who are riding on its mate's back, or even Emperor Penguins diving into the cold Antarctic waters in search of cod. You get the idea. Once you start thinking about it, it's easy to make dozens of connections between birds and fish; and

yet, not many people focus on the fish.

Birds rely on fish for a variety of reasons; one of the biggest being as a source of food. Fish also play an integral role in regulating the ecosystems that even non-piscivorous birds rely on. A large number of insects spend their larval stage as aquatic nymphs, living in our lakes and streams, and these aquatic larvae just so happen to be one of the primary food sources of many fish species. If something happens to the fish numbers, the insect numbers are affected and so are the birds. Birds such as swallows, flycatchers, and even poorwills are all greatly impacted by fish. Fish also occupy key roles in nutrient cycling and other ecological processes that keep our planet balanced.

So what's my main point here? If we want to protect birds, we can't just focus on protecting birds. Bird conservation, in its truest form, must take on a more holistic approach. We have to protect the entire ecosystem, which means focusing more efforts on protecting things like fish. What good does restoring nesting habitat do if there are no fish for the birds to feed their young? We can protect all the nesting areas we want for birds like our endangered California Least Terns, but it doesn't do a shred of good if we don't also protect the fish that they rely on— and we as bird conservationists often overlook that. Freshwater fish are under threat from drought and habitat loss; marine fish are under threat from unsustainable fishery practices and pollution. Fish across the world are facing major conservation threats. In 2020, the Smooth Handfish (*see next page*) was declared extinct, making it the first marine fish to go extinct in modern times, and others are headed in that direction. But here's the problem— I've mentioned this before— people only protect what they know. How many of us can honestly say that we know much, if anything, about fish? My challenge for you this month is to take some time to do a bit of research about one of our native fish species. Learn its name, learn what it looks like, what it eats, and

how it lives. You might just be surprised by the interesting lives that fish lead; and next time you see a piscivorous bird, you might just have gained a greater appreciation for the complicated web that all comes together to keep our birds going.

Tiny red handfish hatchlings a lifeline for world's rarest fish



(by Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies)

Fifty newborn red handfish are giving IMAS scientists an opportunity to help save the last known populations of the world's rarest fish.

The tiny red handfish hatched in an IMAS aquarium this month from two egg masses collected at one of the last remaining sites in Southern Tasmania where fewer than 100 adults survive.

IMAS researcher Dr. Jemina Stuart-Smith said keeping the juveniles in a safe environment during their vulnerable early stages would protect them from predators and environmental risks.

"These juvenile red handfish will play a vital role in ensuring the species continues to survive in the wild," Dr. Stuart-Smith said.

"We plan to release them back into their remaining habitat when they are around one-year old, to help rebuild the population at one of the two known sites that has been compromised by range of impacts—including habitat loss.

"Raising them in a controlled environment is a conservation strategy known as headstarting, designed to improve their chances of surviving to maturity and eventually reproducing.

"Little is known about red handfish biology, reproduction and early growth, and these juveniles will also allow critical research that can help us to ensure this is not the last generation of their species," Dr. Stuart-Smith said.

IMAS Ph.D. student Tyson Bessell said handfish lay eggs on upright stalks of vegetation on the seafloor and the

mother stays with them until they hatch.

"The fish at IMAS were just 3-4 mm long when they hatched and would be almost impossible to find and study in the wild, where they shelter under seaweed on shallow reefs," Mr Bessell said.

"This is the second group of red handfish that have hatched in captivity after a similar egg mass was collected last year, and hatched at CSIRO.

"The 2018 batch of 16 juveniles has provided important insights and will soon be released after surviving their crucial first year at Seahorse World near Launceston, where they are currently on public display," Mr Bessell said.

IMAS research into the red handfish is being carried out in collaboration with the CSIRO under the auspices of the National Handfish Recovery Team, which has successfully brought the Spotted handfish back from the brink of extinction.

To help raise funds to support the research, profile pages on the Handfish Conservation Project website have been created for the 100 known surviving adult red handfish.

So far 17 individuals and organizations have donated \$1,000 each for the opportunity to name one of the fish and numerous smaller donations have also been received from across Australia and around the world.

Palomar Audubon Society welcomes these new and renewing Chapter-only Members

Gerry & Linda Baade
Rose Coslett
Harlynn Geisler
Char Glacy
Gary & Cheryl Grantham
Mary Jo & Patricck Hayes
Robert Hites
Edmund Kasner
Raymond & Virginia LaChance
Connie & Jack Lee
Sharon Nachison
Scott Pallais
Chereyl Spink
Linda Wolf

And we very much appreciate the generous support from these Donors:

Gary & Cheryl Grantham
Mary Jo & Patricck Hayes
Rustom Jamadar
Edmund Kasner
Connie & Jack Lee
John & Connie Moore
Sharon Nachison
Dawn Nowlin
Scott Pallais

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, May 6, 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: Hal Benham

858-326-6911

Saturday, May 13, 8:00 am.

Lindo Lake

Lakeside

(1232-B3) Rating: 2

From North County, take I-15 south to Hwy.52 east to Mission Gorge Road. Turn left and continue east to Woodside Avenue. Go under the Highway 67 overpass staying on Woodside Ave (into Lakeside) to end at the Lindo Lake County Park. From San Diego, take I-8 east to Highway 67 north, and take the Riverford Road exit. After exiting, turn left on Woodside Ave (into Lakeside) and continue northeast to the Lindo Lake County Park. Stay on Woodside a short distance, turn right on Chestnut Street, which then becomes Lindo Lane. Park in the small parking lot on the left, next to the VFW hall at 12650 Lindo Lane.

Leader: Jim Beckman

858-205-2819

Saturday, May 20, 8:00 am.

Kit Carson Park

Escondido

(1150-C1) Rating: 1

From I-15 in Escondido, exit east on Via Rancho Parkway (which becomes Bear Valley Parkway) and drive about 1 mile to the Park Road entrance on your left – at the fire station. Proceed on Park Road about $\frac{3}{4}$ 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: Jim Beckman

858-205-2819

Saturday, May 27, 8:00 am.

Sweetwater River Gorge

Rancho San Diego

(1271-J6) Rating: 2-3

From I-5, I-805, or I-15, take Highway 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 lunch at close-by Rubio's Coastal Grill after birding.**

Leader: Jeff Ebright

858-216-5623

Saturday, June 3, 8:00 am

A Fallbrook Adventure!

Live Oak County Park/Los Jilgueros Preserve /

Annual PAS Picnic

Fallbrook

(1028- C5) Rating: 1-2

Take I-15 north to the Fallbrook/East Mission Exit 51. Cross over the freeway and turn left on to Old Highway 395 located at the stoplight immediately after the I-15 South Freeway exit. Proceed 1 mile south to Reche Road. Turn right and proceed 2.2 miles up Reche Road to Live Oak County Park located immediately after Gird Road. Meet in the parking lot. There is a small parking fee at all SD County Parks, but free with a Senior Parking Permit. Our target birds here are the Band-tailed Pigeons and Wood Ducks. Lewis's Woodpeckers have also been seen here at this time of the year. Afterwards, we travel to Los Jilgueros Preserve for winter riparian species. Continue up Reche Road until it dead-ends onto Old Stagecoach Road. Turn left and proceed until it dead-ends into S Mission Road. Turn right, proceed through the next traffic light and within 100 yards, turn right into Los Jilgueros Preserve. **Afterwards, the Annual PAS picnic is being held just two minutes away at the Walkley's. See the newsletter or the PAS website for registration details.** A word of caution: several GPS models do not work well in the Fallbrook area. It is best to follow these instructions. Expect warm weather. Always a favorite field trip!

Leader Doug Walkley

310-387-8190

Saturday, June 10, 8:00 am.
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 Picacho Campground on the left. From the North County, take Highway 78 (or Highway 67) to Ramona, and then continue east on Highway 78 to just past Julian, to Highway 79. Take Highway 79 south approximately 10 miles to the campground on the right where we will meet.

Note: The State of California has recently increased the day-use parking fee. Carpooling is highly recommended. Bring a lunch for an after-walk picnic. Expect warm weather.

Leader: Hal Benham

858-326-6911

Saturday, June 17, 8:00 am.

Agua Dulce Creek

Laguna Mountains

(430-B5) Rating: 2-3

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 and Laguna Mountain Recreation Area. Go north on Sunrise Highway. (S-1) approx. 8 miles to Wooded Hill Road, the first road on the left and directly across the road from Morris Ranch Road. Continue on Wooded Hill Road to the end. Restrooms, picnic tables and water are available in the Lagunas near the General Store at Burnt Rancheria Picnic area. A Forest Service Adventure Pass is required for day-use parking and is available locally in San Diego County at major sporting goods stores and at the Laguna General Store. Bring a lunch for an after-walk picnic. Expect warm weather.

Leader: Gerry Baade

858-231-9876

Saturday, June 24, 8:00 am.

Palomar Mountain State Park

San Diego County

(409-G7) Rating: 2

This field trip will start from the parking lot at Doane Pond. Leave the Escondido area before 7 am. 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. **Note: The State of California has recently increased the day-use parking fee. Carpooling is highly recommended.** Proceed 1.5 miles to the Doane Pond/School Camp Area parking lot. Bring a lunch for an after-walk picnic. Expect warm weather.

Leader: Sally Sanderson vcwillow@aol.com

760-749-6995 760-638-9912 cell

Saturday, July 1, 8:00 am

Wm. Heise County Park/Santa Ysabel Mission
 Julian

(1156-C5) Rating: 2-3

From Escondido take Highway 78 east (from San Diego, take Highway 67 east) to Ramona, then Highway 78 east toward Julian, past Santa Ysabel. After the town of Wynola, start looking for the sign on your right for William Heise County 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 another 2 miles to the park entrance. We will meet in the parking lot. There is a parking fee, but free with a Senior County pass. We will also drive to the Santa Ysabel Mission to look for orioles and other spring/summer migrants. Bring a lunch for an after-birding picnic at the Mission. Expect warm weather.

Leader: Jim Beckman

858-205-2819



FIELD TRIP CHECKLIST

- ◆ Comfortable shoes or hiking boots
- ◆ Hat, sunscreen, insect repellent
- ◆ Road map, Full fuel tank
- ◆ Drinking water, snacks and lunch
- ◆ Binoculars/Scope, field guide and notebook
- ◆ Call leader for last minute cancellations or changes



At Last, a Real Possibility to Avoid Catastrophic Climate Change

After decades of minimal action, Congress passed the largest and most comprehensive piece of climate legislation in U.S. history. Will we make the most of this opportunity?

*By Eve Andrews
Winter 2022*

Birds Tell Us to Act on Climate

If you were a bird soaring over the American landscape in 2022, you would be hard-pressed to find any part untouched by climate change. A Western Sandpiper, in its journey down the Pacific Coast, would have suffered through a historic heat wave in California that brought triple-digit temperatures to the Hollywood Hills. A Burrowing Owl hunting under the red buttes of Arizona and Utah may have noticed that years of drought have driven Lake Powell and Lake Mead to dangerously low levels. In the relentless summer rains that flooded central Appalachia, an Indigo Bunting might have fled an inundated Kentucky holler for higher ground. A Bald Eagle pair in southern Florida could have found their nest blown away from Hurricane Ian's ferocious winds.

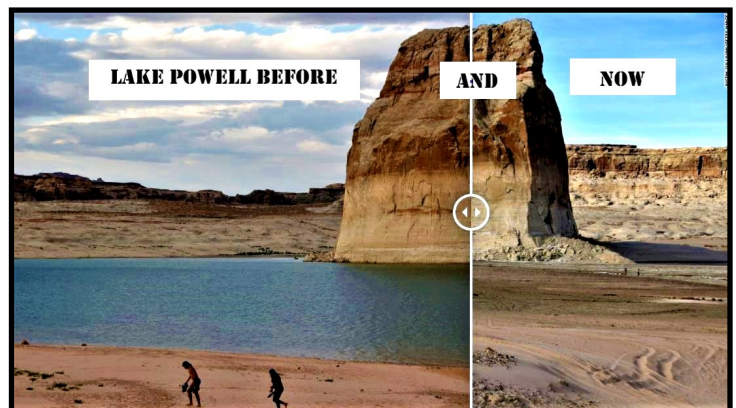
These disasters, which killed hundreds of people and cost billions of dollars in damage to homes and critical infrastructure, are bleak portents of a future ruined by runaway greenhouse-gas emissions. But finally, after many years of tireless activism, lobbying, and campaigning, we have an opportunity to stave off that fate—the **Inflation Reduction Act** (IRA), the largest and most comprehensive piece of climate legislation in this nation's history. It's as American a law as one could imagine: forged in great drama and spectacle, challenged and weakened by corporate interests, and in the end a far-from-perfect behemoth pieced together with many unsatisfying compromises. And its success remains uncertain, hinging on the hard work and smart decisions of state governments and local communities and pitted against the same powerful, moneyed interests that have delayed meaningful climate policy until now.

The fact that the bill was passed by Congress and not issued by the president as an executive order is something to celebrate in itself, because it fortifies

the IRA's commitment of federal climate action against future administrations that might seek to weaken it. Its basic numbers are impressive and unprecedented: \$369 billion invested in energy and climate change programs, an estimated 40 percent reduction of 2005 greenhouse-gas emissions levels by 2030, and \$60 billion to support environmental justice communities. Millions of American households are eligible for significant incentives to decarbonize their homes—their own private networks of stoves and cars and furnaces.

"Congress did its job by passing the Inflation Reduction Act, the president signed it, but the real work happens at the state level," says Sarah Rose, Audubon's vice president of climate. "Infrastructure development, new renewable resources, new transmission, transition to a new energy grid—that is all state action and that happens on the ground." Local public utility commissions, for example, will need to approve clean energy projects and ensure that permitting processes exist to allow those developments to connect to the grid. "What we've learned over the past 20 years of development is that the science has gotten better, clean energy project footprints have gotten smaller, technology has improved, and so there are a lot of opportunities for us to think more intentionally and carefully about how to site and position new clean energy facilities and transmission to limit the impacts on habitats," says Rose. That requires being smart and selective in addressing the threats that certain siting decisions pose to bird populations, such as ensuring that a new solar project doesn't overlap with a nesting site or important migratory stopover.

There is hope yet that in 5, 10, or 20 years, birds in flight might witness something very different from fires and floods: interconnecting ribbons of trains and buses and roads dotted with electric vehicle charging stations, many millions of homes enjoying clean air and green energy, and, all throughout, a whole nation of living things breathing a deep sigh of relief.



Programs

Please join us for our interesting monthly program and refreshments. There is a social period beginning at 6:30 pm with the meeting and program getting under way promptly at 7:00 pm.

Thursday, May 25th 6:30 p.m.

Rustom Jamador

"Birds of Australia"

Last September, Rustom went on a tour of Australia. While on the tour, he did some birding, which turned out to be a very fun experience. Rustom will share that experience with us at the PAS meeting on May 25th. Most of you have met Rustom, either at one of his presentations or on a bird walk. He has been a member of PAS and the neighboring Audubon groups for about a decade and enjoys the association. Please join us for Rustom's fifth PAS presentation.

Mark your calendars for this very special and entertaining presentation!

PLEASE NOTE:

OUR MAY MEETING WILL BE HELD IN OUR "OLD" MEETING ROOM IN THE REMINGTON2 BUILDING, 16919 HIERBA DRIVE, RANCHO BERNARDO.

SEE YOU THERE!

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.



(Australian Ringneck)



(Norfolk Island Kaka)



(Laughing Kookaburra)



(Emu)

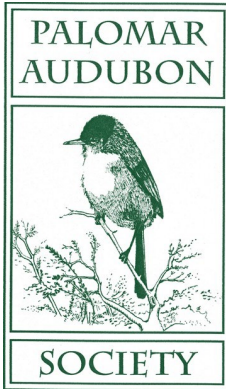


(Black Swan)

Band Tales

May-June, 2023

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.



Band Tales
Palomar Audubon Society
 P.O. Box 2483
 Escondido, CA 92033-2483

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palomaraudubon@gmail.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

TBA

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

QUICK CALENDAR

May	6	Dairy Mart Pond/Tijuana River Valley Walk
May	13	Lindo Lake Walk
May	20	Kit Carson Park Walk
May	25	General Meeting: "Birds of Australia"
May	27	Sweetwater River Gorge Walk
June	3	Live Oak County Park/Los Jilgueros Preserve Walk
June	3	Annual PAS Picnic
June	10	Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Walk
June	17	Agua Dulce Creek Walk
June	24	Palomar Mountain State Park Walk
July	1	Wm. Heise County Park/Santa Ysabel Mission Walk