



Band Tales

Palomar Audubon Society
 A Chapter of the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume XL
 No. 3

May-June
 2024

Editor
 Jack Peterson



Palomar Audubon Society Annual Picnic

Saturday, June 8, 2024
 12:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Hosted by Doug and Diane Walkley
 614 Braemar Terrace, Fallbrook, CA 92028, Gate Code: #7968
 Phone 310-387-8190

**COME AND JOIN US FOR *HE MANAWA LE'ALE'A IKAIKA*
 (A MIGHTY FUN TIME.)**

**It is a great chance to get caught up with old Friends and meet new ones.
 The theme is Hawaiian this year so pull out Hawaiian shirts and leis and
 partake in the luau.**

Ka papa kuhikuhi (the menu):

**Barbeque Ribs, Meatballs, Chicken Sliders and lots of salads to choose from.
 Vegan dishes available.**

Hawaiian *Pu'u* Rum (Rum Punch) and/or Non-Alcoholic Drinks

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 \$30.00 and get in free. What a deal!

Bring some cash to win a prize from our wonderful drawings!

*****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: June 1st, 2024

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A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Doug Walkley, President

I can't keep track of all the action PAS is involved with these days. Jim Beckman continues to organize his Saturday mornings walks, damn the weather, he's out there. Only once, just a few weeks ago, after half an hour of getting drenched did the four intrepid birders have to pack it in. Birders and leaders, better than I, are discovering more and more birds at these same Saturday locations that we go to regularly. And talk about interesting Guest Speakers Jim hauls in to enthrall us: Africa, Panama.... I want to pack my bags and in it I'll put... my binoculars and nothing else. Dianne Benham with a pen chance for detail just keeps rolling out these trips. I get tired just thinking about them. Within the past twelve months, PAS has organized trips to Salton Sea, Ohio, Arizona, Morro Bay and Minnesota. And coming up within the next few months is Texas, Eastern Sierras and Arizona again. We only wish our guides would accept more birders. The popularity of these trips inevitably leaves some birders behind until next time.



Along with this action is a heightened level of enthusiasm within PAS. Of course, it is always enjoyable to get out there with your binocs and find a bunch of birds. But now a days, I almost find it more interesting and satisfying to see others, especially those with cameras, racing around, whispering to each other, and finding those birds.

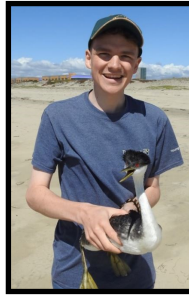
Birding is such a wonderful distraction from other things, possibly serious things, going on in one's life. I, as President, am pleased that I in some small way, along with such an energetic group of Directors, have been able to enhance the lives of our two-hundred plus members.

**REMINDER:
DEADLINE FOR THE
JULY-AUGUST ISSUE IS
JUNE 15.
SUBMIT COPY TO:
Jackdpete@gmail.com**

CONSERVATION NOTES

Trysten Loeffke, Conservation Chair

Many of us are familiar with the term “spark bird.” It is a term that is thrown around a lot in the birding community. A “spark bird” is that one special bird that started it all— the one that sparked our continuing love of birds. For some of us, it wasn't one “spark” experience with a single bird, rather, the slope was more gradual, slowly meandering down into the valley of full-blown birding. For others, that process may have begun so early on in our lives that we can't even remember it. Whatever our journeys have looked like, one thing that all of the paths have in common is meaningful moments with wildlife. It could have been one or it may have been many hundreds, but those meaningful moments with wildlife are what shape our birding experience.



Sometimes when we go birding, it can be easy to get caught up in listing. We want to see as many species as possible— that's part of the fun of birding— but one of the things that makes our Saturday field trips at PAS unique is that we take it a little slower. We allow time to experience those meaningful moments with wildlife. Having worked in biological education, I have seen first-hand the power of making meaningful connections with wildlife— it is an essential part of building that passion for wildlife. Whether you're watching a House Finch at your feeder, searching for an Antpitta in the tropics, or even staring at a slide of algae under the microscope in a lab, you can and are bolstering your connection with the natural world. I would encourage you to take more time to develop those meaningful connections. One of the key elements of making a meaningful connection is observation. Observations can help us to hone in on these moments and come to truly understand the natural world. Taking the time to truly observe will not only enhance our birding experience by strengthening those connections, but that same time spent making observations will also improve our identification skills, making us better birders.

So what does all of this have to do with conservation? I think that Baba Dioum, a forester from Senegal, put it beautifully. “In the end, we will only conserve what we love, [and] we will love what we understand...”

My encouragement for you this month is to take the time to create more of those meaningful connections with wildlife. You may be surprised at just how much

time can be spent in quiet observation. Even if it is a species that you are already intimately familiar with, I can promise you that if you spend enough time with it, making observations, you will learn something new about it, something that you have never noticed before. As we come to understand the natural world better, we will come to love it even more, and as our love for wildlife grows, we will feel more inclined to do what it takes to protect it.

2024 PAS 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. This year we will provide a 100% scholarship award for a week-long educational summer camp on birding conducted by the American Birding Association at Camp Colorado. The 2024 Young Birders Camp Colorado is located at Allenspark, Colorado, which is near the Rocky Mountain National Park. The recipient of our 2024 PAS Scholarship Award is **Faith Barton**.

Faith Barton is 15 years old, lives in Spring Valley, and is a sophomore at Liberty University Online Academy. She really got hooked on birds four years ago when she was just 11 years old. During the pandemic restrictions, she was doing some backyard birding and saw a nice bright-colored male Hooded Oriole. The Hooded Oriole has become her "spark bird". Her main interest now is avian photography. In 2023, three of Faith's photos were selected by the National Audubon Society's annual Photography Top 100 awards. **Faith Barton's photos are #15, #30, & #42.** https://www.audubon.org/news/2023-audubon-photography-awards-top-100?ms=digital-web_nas_ap100_curtain_20230600 Also, Faith has formed a faith-based birding group through her Jamul Community Church called the Early Birds. Once a month, Faith leads the Early Birds on a local San Diego County field trip. Faith has also led several paddle-boarding birding field trips with the annual San Diego Bird Festival. She is truly deserving of this award.

Congratulations Faith!

A Quest For The Great Grey Owl Ended Up With a Northern Hawk Owl

By: Jack Peterson

Two PAS members, Jack Peterson and Stephen Gabbert, had the crazy idea to join a birding trip run by the Toledo Zoo to Sax Zim Bog in Northern Minnesota in early February 2024 to see the birds of the area and most importantly the Great Grey Owl. After 3 full days of traversing the bog the only owl seen was the Northern Hawk Owl who was fortunately most cooperative and a delight to behold. Numerous other birds such as; Rough-legged Hawk, Boreal Chickadee, Canada Jay, Pine Grosbeak, Black Billed Magpie, and Black-backed Woodpecker made the trip worth while. The unseasonably warm weather which was in the mid 30s during the day with very little snow on the ground seemed to be the reason the Great Grey Owls were not showing up at their usual places along the roads. The Northern Hawk Owl however hunts during the day and seemed to have no problem making itself visible. This was very much appreciated by the birders. All in all it was a very good trip.

Northern Hawk Owl



The closest we got to seeing a Great Grey Owl at Sax Zim Bog.



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.

May - June 2024 Field Trips

Saturday, May 4, 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/Dixon Lake" signs and turn left on La Honda Drive. Continue north toward Dixon Lake and on to the **free** Daley Ranch parking area on your left. Meet at the trailhead kiosk.

Leader: Mary Jo Hayes
760-505-6675

Saturday, May 11, 8:00 am.

Lindo Lake

Lakeside

(1232-B3) Rating: 2

From North County, take I-15 south to Hwy.52 east to Mission Gorge Rd. Turn left and continue east to Woodside Ave. Go under the Hwy 67 overpass staying on Woodside Ave (into Lakeside) to end at the Lindo Lake County Park. From San Diego, take I-8 east to Hwy 67 north, and take the Riverford Rd. exit. After exiting, turn left on Woodside Ave (into Lakeside) and continue north-east to the Lindo Lake County Park. Stay on Woodside a short distance, turn right on Chestnut St. 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 18, 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 ¾ mile to the Amphitheater parking lot on the right. Woodland, riparian, and open-area habitats usually gets us a nice list of resident birds.

Leader: Gerry Baade
858-231-9876

Saturday, May 25, 8:00 am.

Sweetwater River Gorge

Rancho San Diego

(1271-J6) Rating: 2-3

From I-5, I-805, or I-15, take Hwy 94 east; stay on Hwy 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: Beth Pearson
760-716-6804

Saturday, June 1, 8:00 am.

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park

Julian

(429- L3) Rating: 2-3

From San Diego, take I-8 east and exit north on Hwy 79. Continue approximately 12 miles to the Paso Picacho Campground on the left. From the North County, take Hwy 78 (or Hwy 67) to Ramona, and then continue east on Hwy 78 to just past Julian, to Hwy 79. Take Hwy 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. Car-pooling is highly recommended. Bring a lunch for an after-walk picnic.** Expect warm weather.

Leader: Hal Benham
858-386-6911

Saturday, June 8, 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/E 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 15, 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 Hwy. (S-1) approx. 8 miles to Wooded Hill Road, the first road on the left and directly across the S-1 Hwy from Morris Ranch Road. Continue on Wooded Hill Road to the very end. Restrooms, and picnic tables are available here. 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 22, 8:00 am

Wm. Heise County Park/Santa Ysabel Mission

Julian

(1156-C5) Rating: 2-3

From Escondido take Hwy 78 east (from San Diego, take Hwy 67 east) to Ramona, then Hwy 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 \$3 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. Always a PAS favorite.

Leader: Jim Beckman
858-205-2819

Saturday, June 29, 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 Rd. 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: Mary Jo Hayes
760-505-8875

Saturday, July 6, 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

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

TRIP REPORT: Big Morongo Canyon Preserve

By: Gerry Baade

We previewed Morongo preserve on the 19th of April and camped at Black Rock Canyon in Joshua Tree to allow us easy access to the preserve. We did not know about the storm damage to the site (which disappointed us) prior to our arrival so Linda and I scoured the entire available area to find the best birding opportunities for our group. Fortunately the opportunities and birds provided were adequate and cooperative enough to make it a fruitful day of birding. I was very pleased with the participation from the Palomar Audubon members who seemed to enjoy the trip. Vermillion Flycatchers were on their nest and posing for us and were showing off their beautiful selves at the entrance to the boardwalks. We saw an Olive Sided Flycatcher, a Greater Roadrunner, Costa's Hummingbird, and a Verdin among others. Standing on one of the available platforms, someone exclaimed "red bird alert" and some of the group got a glimpse of the Summer Tanager. We found the Great Horned Owls (two fledglings and one adult this time) which are always a group favorite. The next morning members who spent another night at the campground went back to Covington Park and saw both adult Great Horned Owls with the Owlets and with the help of another birder found a Barn Owl nestled in the cavity of a Cottonwood. Thank you Big Morongo Preserve and Covington Park for attracting and providing for so many migrants and locals alike. I am glad that some of the group saw some life birds.



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, \$30
(payable to Palomar Audubon Society)

Contribution _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **ZIP** _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

100% of Chapter Membership dues supports projects locally.

PAS WELCOMES THESE NEW AND RENEWING CHAPTER-ONLY MEMBERS

Jo Casterline

Anne Marie Duquette

Char Glacy

Gary & Cheryl Grantham

Mary Jo & Patrick Hayes

Betsy Miller

Christine Miller

Susan Newlin

Scott Penwell

Stephanie Schoenberger

Ed & Judy Sherman

Devin Stidham

AND WE APPRECIATE OUR DONORS VERY MUCH!

Anne Marie Duquette

Gary & Cheryl Grantham

Mary Jo & Patrick Hayes

Edmund Kasner

Betsy Miller

Christine Miller

Susan Newlin

Barbara Orr/Mark Mercer

Devin Stidham

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.

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 underway promptly at 7:00 pm.

Thursday May 23, 2024 6:30 pm

Rustom Jamador

“Birds of Magee Marsh”

The Palomar Audubon Society arranged a birding trip to Magee Marsh, Ohio, in May 2023 to coincide with the annual spring Warbler Migration.

About 20 PAS members went on the trip, and from all accounts it was a memorable one, so we've arranged for one of the participants, Rustom Jamador, to give a presentation which showcases this wonderful place. If you have not been there, or would like to refresh your memories, do attend and see why Magee Marsh is one of the best places for birding.

UPCOMING EVENTS

PAS Adventures in Panama, 2025

How would you like to see a Harpy Eagle? Darién is a stronghold for Harpy Eagles and holds Central America's largest population of this rare and majestic bird. The Harpy Eagle is one of the largest raptors on earth, but despite its large size, with its 7-ft. wingspan, it can maneuver through the dense rainforest canopy and remain well-hidden. However, with the excellent, experienced guides from Canopy Family, we will have a good chance to see Panama's impressive national bird during a stay at the Canopy Camp!

Palomar Audubon Society is pleased to announce a most exciting opportunity! The Canopy Family has offered members of Palomar Audubon an invitation to visit Canopy Camp Darien for an amazing week-long tour beginning March 29, 2025, and ending April 5, 2025. In addition, there will be not one, but

two extension tours available to us! You may choose to add three days before the main tour, with a visit to Canopy Lodge, arriving March 26, 2025 through March 29, 2025; and/or you may choose to add three days at the end of the main tour with a visit to Canopy Tower April 5-8, 2025!

Believe me when I tell you that these dates were not easy to secure, as we are in competition with big name tour companies such as VENT and Field Guides, who secure their prime dates well over a year in advance! However, PAS is a friend to the Canopy Family, and with some creative juggling, they were able to make space for 8-10 PAS members to visit their lodges and experience a birding tour of a life-time!

PAS trip to Panama, 2025

Extension #1:

March 26th--Arrival day for extension #1. Journey to and explore Canopy Lodge

March 29th - Check out from Canopy Lodge and settle in at Crowne Plaza Airport Hotel/Urban Birding.

Main Tour:

March 29th—Arrival day for main tour. Check in to Crowne Plaza Airport Hotel and join friends from 1st extension.

March 30th – Meet your guide in the hotel lobby.

Journey to and explore Canopy Camp Darien

April 5 - Check out from Canopy Camp Darién and move to Canopy Tower for extension #2, or travel to the airport in Panama City for your flight home.

Extension #2:

April 5 - 8 Journey to and explore Canopy Tower

April 8 - Departure day

Here are the net rates for this trip:

Canopy Camp Main Tour US \$3,350.78 per person

Apply a single supplement (one person in a double tent) US \$181.50 per night

Canopy Lodge or Canopy Tower extension US \$1,110.26 per person, per lodge.

Please check out the website and watch the videos! You will be hooked! <https://canopytower.com>

Then text or email **Dianne Benham** to join this amazing adventure!

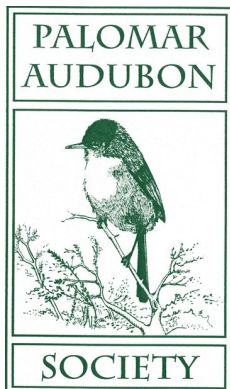
858 243 9665 or diannebenham@me.com

More information and a tentative itinerary will be provided when you register!

Band Tales

May-June, 2024

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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 Escondido, CA 92033-2483

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 2023-2024**

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- Vice-President**
 Jim Beckman858-205-2819
- Secretary**
 Penny Hernandez.....760-746-8315
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 - Tom Trowbridge760-522-8519

Web Page <http://www.palomaraudubon.org>
Webmaster: Jeff Ebright: 858-216-5623
palomaraudubon@gmail.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Saturday, April 27th

Noon following the Wilderness Gardens Preserve walk

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

QUICK CALENDAR

- May 4 Daly Ranch Walk
- May 11 Lindo Lake Walk
- May 18 Kit Carson Park Walk
- May 23 Birds of Magee Marsh Talk
- May 25 Sweetwater River Gorge Walk
- June 1 Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Walk
- June 8 Live Oak County Park/Los Jilgueros Preserve Walk
- June 8 Annual PAS Picnic
- June 15 Agua Dulce Creek Walk
- June 22 Wm. Heise County Park/Santa Ysabel Mission Walk
- June 29 Palomar Mountain State Park Walk
- July 6 Lake Murray Walk