



Coastal Cactus Wren Monitoring at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park Biodiversity Reserve, Spring 2025:

A Collaborative Effort with SDMMP, USGS, SDZWA, and Palomar Audubon

Dec 9 2025

Photo by Isabelle
Davignon

Mary Jo Hayes
Tsaiwei Olee, Ph.D



Palomar Audubon Society



- Founded in 1994, part of the nearly 500 nationwide chapter network of the National Audubon Society
- Chapter member number: 255
- Our focus remains on local areas, Palomar Audubon has been actively engaged in efforts to acquire and preserve strategically important areas of natural open space in Inland North San Diego County.



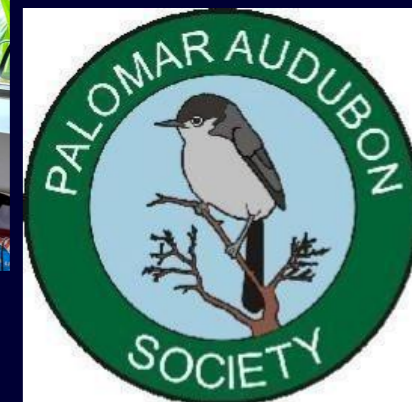


- Local Field Birding Trips: every Saturday morning at 8 AM.
- California: Irvine, Riverside, Huntington Beach, Salton Sea, Morro Bay, Eastern Sierra
- Out of State: Arizona, Ohio, Texas, Maine
- International: Baja California Mexico, Panama, Costa Rica





- PAS is running birding education programs for children ages 5 and up at branch library locations. Currently is at the Mission Hills-Hillcrest/Knox Branch Library.
- We went to local schools to introduce birds to students and teachers.
- Daley Ranch, Escondido Creek Conservancy, Palomar Mtn State Park

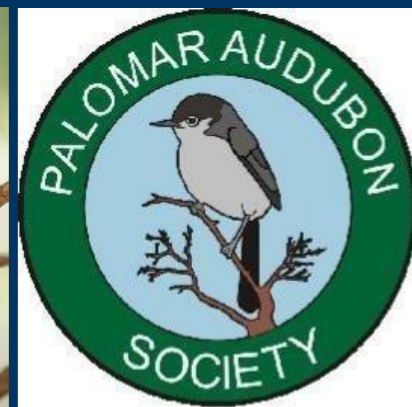


Palomar Audubon Society Young Birder Scholarship

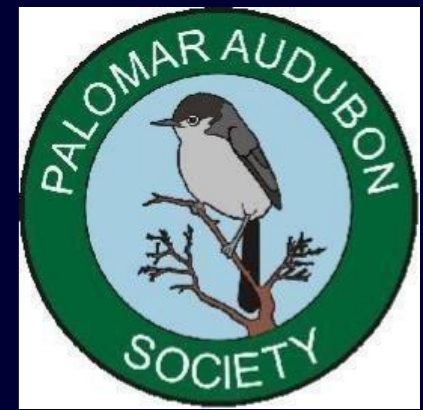
| Year | Name | Age | Young Birder Camp |
|------|-----------------|-----|-------------------------|
| 2004 | Mark Billings | 16 | Kern River Valley, CA |
| 2006 | John Morgan | 14 | Ft. Collins, CO |
| 2008 | Cheryl LaBelle | 16 | Minot, ND |
| 2009 | Kenny Kimbrough | 14 | San Diego, CA |
| 2010 | Kenny Kimbrough | 15 | Colo. Springs, CO |
| 2011 | Kody Fluck | 14 | Southeast Arizona |
| 2013 | Kody Fluck | 16 | Colo. Springs, CO |
| 2014 | Ryan Andrews | 14 | Estes Park, CO |
| 2014 | Trysten Loeffke | 14 | Estes Park, CO |
| 2016 | Max Leibowitz | 17 | Estes Park, CO |
| 2016 | Ryan Andrews | 17 | Selva Verde, Costa Rica |
| 2017 | Trysten Loeffke | 17 | Audubon Hog Island, ME |
| 2017 | Alex Bairstow | 17 | Estes Park, CO |
| 2019 | Aedyn Loeffke | 14 | Audubon Hog Island, ME |
| 2022 | Luca Cinus | 13 | Estes Park, CO |
| 2022 | Aedyn Loeffke | 17 | Estes Park, CO |
| 2023 | Luca Cinus | 14 | Audubon Hog Island, ME |
| 2024 | Faith Barton | 15 | Camp Colorado |
| 2025 | Justin Hartsel | 14 | Audubon Hog Island, ME |



- North county Multiple Species Conservation Plan (North County Plan) environmental coalition meeting
- Dr. Barbara Kus (USGS)
- Dr. Kris Preston (SDMMP)
- Dr. Charlie de la Rosa (SDZWA)

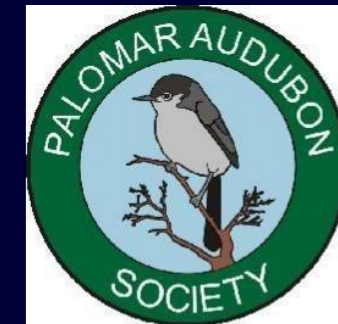


Biodiversity Reserve CACW Survey Sign up Volunteers and Schedule



| | | Team 1 Surveyor 1 | Team 1 Surveyor 2 | Team 2 Surveyor 1 | Team 2 Surveyor 2 | On Call | On Call | Bring Scope |
|-----------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Audrey Eisele | | | | | | | | |
| Tsaiwei Olee | 4/14/25 | Audrey Eisele | Mary Jo | Gerry Baade | Linda Baade | Christina | | Mary Jo |
| Linda Baade | 4/21/25 | Tsaiwei | Tracy | Maddy P. | Mary Jo | | | |
| Gerry Baade | 4/28/25 | Tsaiwei | Tracy | Christina | Mary Jo | Tsaiwei | | |
| Mary Jo Hayes | 5/5/25 | Gerry Baade | Linda Baade | Tsaiwei | Jennie | Isabelle | | Mary Jo |
| Beth Pearson | 5/12/25 | Tracy | Jennie | | | | | |
| Tracy Henschbarger | 5/19/25 | Audrey Eisele | Christina | Tsaiwei | Isabelle | Jennie | | |
| Isabelle Davignon | 5/26/25 | Tsaiwei | Mary Jo | Jennie | Isabelle | Beth | | |
| Christina Kidd | | | | | | | | |
| Denise Riddle | 6/2/25 | Jennie | Tracy | Denise Riddle | Tsaiwei | | | Mary Jo |
| Gail DeLalla | 6/9/25 | Audrey Eisele | Gail | Tsaiwei | Isabelle | Tsaiwei | Beth | Mary Jo |
| Jennie Johnson-Patel | 6/16/25 | Gerry Baade | Linda Baade | Mary Jo | Tracy | | | Tsaiwei |
| Mac West | 6/23/25 | Tsaiwei | Denise Riddle | Mary Jo | Jennie | | | |
| | 6/30/25 | Beth | Christina | Mac West | Tsaiwei | | | |

Cactus Wren Data Sheet for Safari Park Habitat Restoration Plot Surveys



Cactus Wren Data Sheet for Safari Park Habitat Restoration Plot Surveys

Plots Surveyed (Plot IDs): SBP 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1

Date: May 5, 2025

Survey Team: Gerry Baade, Linda Baade, Charlie

Weather range (clouds, temp, wind): 54°F, overcast, still

| Plot ID | Photo ID | Photo Longitude (X coordinate) Approx. | Photo Latitude (Y coordinate) Approx. | Photo Direction | Plot Survey Time Start | Plot Survey Time Finish | Wren Observation Longitude (X coordinate) | Wren Observation Latitude (Y coordinate) | Time Detected | # of Wrens by Age Class (Adult, juvenile, fledgling, unknown) | Status (pair, single, family, unknown) | # of Nests/ Breeding Nest? | Notes (breeding behavior, territorial interactions, juveniles observed, vegetation, etc.) |
|---------|----------|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------------|---|--|---------------|---|--|----------------------------|---|
| 5 | 073524 | 116.9864884 | 33.0903528 | N | 7:36 | 8:01 | 33.0908567 | 116.9862286 | 7:37 | 1 | unknown | | Brief sighting then dropped behind a bush |
| 4 | 073105 | 116.986246 | 33.091117 | N | 7:32 | 8:01 | 33.091588 | 116.990151 | 7:52 | 1 | unknown | | spotted at the top of the ridge singing atop a prickly pear cactus |
| 3 | 081524 | 116.98693 | 33.091905 | NE | 8:14 | 8:30 | | | 8:16 | 1 | unknown | | heard to the NE beyond the plot |
| 2 | 084452 | 116.98704 | 33.092742 | E | 8:44 | 9:05 | | | | | | | no observations or vocalizations |
| 1 | 084314 | 116.98704 | 33.092742 | N | 8:43 | 9:05 | | | | | | | no observations or vocalizations (heard a mocking bird imitating a cactus wren) |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Pre-survey Training at the biodiversity Reserve



Photo by Audrey Eisele



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Cactus Wren Survey at the Biodiversity Reserve



Photo by de la Rosa 06232025

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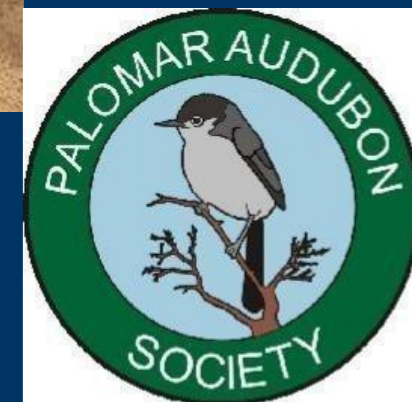
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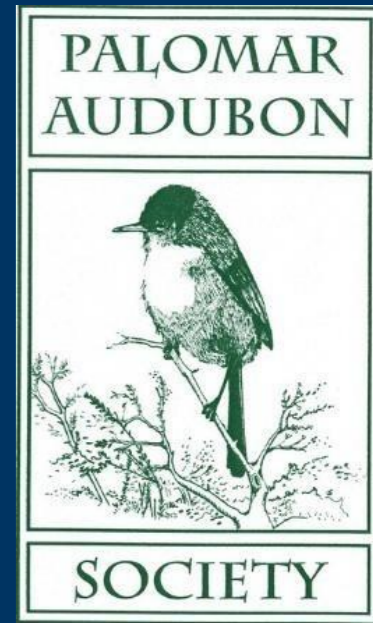




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- Established protocol and great support from Drs. Preston and Kus.
- On site survey training before the project started
- Dedicated support from San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance
- Experienced and enthusiastic birders from Palomar Audubon Society

