

Lagoon Flyer



Jón Baldur Hlíöberg

B u e n a V i s t a A u d u b o n S o c i e t y

Endangered Species Act in North County

Why is the Endangered Species Act under attack? The 1973 law, passed under a Republican administration with full bipartisan support, is considered the cornerstone of the modern conservation movement. It's described as one of the world's most significant environmental laws. The ESA has been wildly successful in preventing the extinction of endangered wildlife in America. It has accomplished this by making it illegal to kill listed species and by establishing recovery plans which set aside critical habitat. Approximately 1,300 species have been listed for protection over the last 30 years, and over 99% are still with us today. That success story includes such well-known species as the Grizzly Bear, Timber Wolf, Bald Eagle, American Alligator, Peregrine Falcon, and California Condor.

Despite its success, some in Washington want to drastically change the ESA. Backers of current efforts to amend the ESA seem to assign no social value to preserving America's plants and animals as a legacy for future generations. Their version of a new ESA would have political appointees evaluating the threat of extinction for a species, instead of trained biologists. In essence, their new ESA would make complying with the law a voluntary decision by landowners, requiring the government to pay those who choose not to kill our endangered species. The proposed changes would effectively eliminate wildlife conservation from the American agenda.

(Continued on Page 2)



Nature Guides to the Rescue

During a recent Nature Guide's meeting, it was brought to their attention that a white pelican was entangled in fishing line and injured. The guides rushed outside and freed the bird from the line. Douglas Schanzenbach, pictured above, helped ready the pelican for delivery to Sea World where it is expected to make a full recovery.

General Meeting

THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT: BROKEN OR ABUSED?

Speaker: Fred Roberts

Wednesday, February 22

Social 7pm, Lecture 730 pm

Least Bell's vireo, snowy plover, thread-leaved brodiaea, and San Diego button-celery: what do these species all have in common? They are listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act, and they can all be found within Oceanside or close by. The landmark Endangered Species Act is now over thirty years old. Over 1,000 species have received protection since the Act was passed by Congress in 1973, many right here in San Diego County. With only a handful of obvious successes, some have called for an overhaul. But is the Act broken, or simply abused? In this presentation we will learn about some of our local listed species as well as various workings of the Endangered Species Act: listings, critical habitat, biological opinions, and habitat conservation plans.

Fred Roberts will provide us with his perspective of the Federal Endangered Species Act based on his experiences with conservation in southern California. Fred Roberts worked as an assistant curator of the Museum of Systematic Biology, at the University of California, Irvine during the 1980's, and as a botanist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Carlsbad, during the 1990's. He is currently an independent consulting botanist and the Rare Plant Coordinator for the San Diego Chapter of the California Native Plant Society.

Fred is also an artist specializing in watercolor and acrylic painting. He will be bringing some of his endangered species artwork and note cards to the meeting.

(Cont'd from page 1) **Endangered Species Act**

The ESA is important to San Diego. We have more endangered and threatened species than any other county in the continental U.S. As an alternative to enacting numerous individual species recovery plans, San Diego is using a new approach to wildlife conservation--the creation of Multiple Habitat Conservation Plans. An MHCP preserves the large connected parcels of habitat needed for the survival of numerous sensitive species. At the same time it also insures landowners receive fair returns on their holdings, including guaranteed development rights on portions of their property. Large parcels of quality wildlife habitat are being set aside, while lands more suitable for development are being identified for expedited permitting. Everyone wins.

We're blessed in North County to have several ecological reserves which offer a protected home to many sensitive species of wildlife. Many of the plants and animals of the coastal salt marsh, one of our state's most threatened habitats, still exist today in large part because of the protections afforded by the ESA. In 2006, a walk at the San Elijo Lagoon still offers the chance for a glimpse of as many as ten different species of critically endangered or threatened birds.

It's not just our native wildlife that benefits from the ESA. As we protect the last remaining nesting sites of the gnatcatcher we also preserve large swaths of natural open space, enhancing our own quality of life. When we help nature, we help ourselves.

--Andy Mauro
Conservation Chair

**Natural History Courses offered by
Batiqitos Lagoon Foundation**

The Batiqitos Lagoon Foundation will present an eight-week educational course covering the natural history of the Batiqitos Lagoon beginning Saturday, January 28, 2006 and continuing until March 25, 2006. The Saturday morning sessions will be held from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon at the Batiqitos Lagoon Nature Center located at 7380 Gabbiano Lane in Carlsbad. The fee for the series is \$65 and includes presentations by local experts on plants, birds, insects, geology and other topics related to the lagoon and coastal habitats. For more information, call 760-931-0800.

**Dr. Howard Reeder
Memorial Donations**

Buena Vista Audubon has recently received donations from the following in memory of Dr. Howard Reeder of Fallbrook.

Craig & Jillian Cubberley
Blank Rome, Counselors at Law

Education Committee Report

Many local students are learning a lot about our lagoon and its surroundings! In addition to visits by many elementary school classes, we've also been host to Ocean-side High School of Business and Technology as well as several scout groups and homeschool groups. Fliers describing our program have been delivered to approximately 9 local schools, and several local schools are the recipients of our Audubon Adventures Kits. We're adding information to our existing lessons about the history and culture of Native Americans that lived in our area. In that regard, we had a wonderful presentation by a local Native American, Al Cerda. During the coming months, we will be putting together a scrapbook of letters received from thankful students - look for it when you visit the Center.

With the growing number of schools requesting visits, we can always use new volunteers. Just call Nancy (929-2869) or Sue (757-6461) for information about helping out. At this time, we are almost booked for March and April visits, thanks to the professionalism and hard work of our Nature Guides.

Sue Sharon



**New Hummingbird Feeder an Instant
Success**

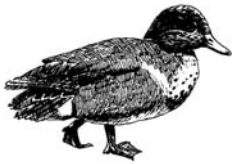
The hummingbird feeder has recently been installed in the back garden just outside the window. To the delight of everyone, a female Anna's took a break from her nest building and stopped by as soon as it was filled and hung. Look for the nest in the upper left of the tree behind the feeder.

**Nature Storytime
for Preschoolers
Monday, Feb 27th at 10am
BVAS Nature Center**

BVAS offers this free program for preschoolers on the 4th Monday of most months. The popular program includes a nature related story plus, craft projects, hand puppets and various other activities. For more information, call Mary Ellen. 760-918-6622.

Into to Gull Identification

Gull expert Herb Young will instruct this class which is offered by the San Diego Natural History Museum and Buena Vista Audubon. Class dates are Feb 4, 5 and 12. For more information, call Dee Parks, SDNHM 619-255-0204 or email dparks@sdnhm.org.



Green-winged Teal
Steven D'Amato

February Field Trips

Sat - Feb 4 - 8:00 am - Whelan Lake Monthly Bird Count. - I-5 to 76. Turn left at Douglas and continue to light at North River Rd. Turn left and meet at end cul-de-sac by entrance gate. A great place to see a wonderful diversity of birds! Leader: John Haddock, 760 941-7842

Sat - Feb 11 - 9:00 am - San Elijo Lagoon. I-5 to Lomas Santa Fe. West to N. Rios Ave. Turn right and proceed to end of road. Leader: Andy Mauro, 760-753-1266

Thurs - Sun Feb 9 - 12 - San Diego Bird Festival. Fieldtrips, classes, and more. Keynote Speaker: Pete Dunne. www.sandiegoaudubon.org/birdfest.htm or call 619-682-7200

Sat - Feb 18 - Mesa Grande Rd./Lake Henshaw. Meet at Santa Isabel Bakery at 8:30am. I-5 to 78 East. Take 78 to Ramona. Turn left on 67 (Ramona's main street) and take 67 to Santa Isabel. Contact person: Mary Ellen, 760-918-6622

Sat - Feb 25 - 8:00 am - Buena Vista Lagoon Count. I-5 to 78 East. Exit Jefferson. Turn right and take another immediate right onto Lagoon View Dr. Leader: Joan Fountain 760-729-1379

Sat - Feb 25 - 8:30 - 10:30 am Basic Birding Class at the Buena Vista Lagoon Landing. I-5 to 78. Exit Jefferson. Turn right and go to stop light. Turn right and park in Landing parking lot on the right hand side of road. Contact person: Tom Troy 760-967-6915.

Notes from the field...



Our recent fieldtrip to Blue Sky Canyon Reserve on Nov. 19 was attended by 11 birders ready to explore the trails ahead. The lower-creek trail revealed a lot of bird movement, and, with much determination to identify our flitting feathered friends in the dense growth, we were able to identify the Wren-tit, Yellow-rump Warbler, Orange-crown Warbler, Oak Titmouse, Spotted Towhee and Hermit Thrush. The California Thrasher, Scrub Jay and Northern Flicker were some of our larger birds of the day. Much to our surprise, a rustling in the undergrowth proved to be a family of deer passing by a few yards from us!

On Dec. 17, Doug Dunn led a group of us around Kit Carson Park. We encountered the Acorn Woodpecker, Yellow-rump Warbler, White-crowned Sparrow, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Scrub Jay and the ever-present Crow. To our delight we were able to observe Cedar Waxwings flocking and feasting in the trees. At the pond, many ducks were enjoying their freshly dredged surroundings. Among which were Ruddy duck, Bufflehead, Mallard, Ring-necked Duck, and a Spotted Sandpiper and Green Heron.

Mary Ellen Marquand

KERN RIVER VALLEY BIRDING TRIP April 21-23, 2006

Come join us in April for an opportunity to bird the Kern River Valley. A well-known birder from the area, Bob Barnes, will be our guide. We will be birding the Kern River Preserve and surrounding area. This region is considered a prime environment for a variety of birds, particularly in the spring. The cost of the trip is \$160 per person. This includes a 2 night stay at the motel, our guide's fee, and a special barbecue dinner Saturday night at one of our member's home. (There will be an added \$50 for a single occupancy rm.).

Transportation will be on your own or in a carpool with \$25 compensation to the driver. Space is limited on this trip so please plan ahead if you are interested. A \$50 non-refundable deposit is due by March 24 with the remainder of the fee due April 14. For more information contact Mary Ellen Marquand, 760-918-6622.

To learn more about the Kern River Preserve, see <http://kern.audubon.org/about.htm>.

San Diego Bird Festival February 9 - 12, 2006

619-682-7200 www.sandiegoaudubon.org/birdfest.htm for information

BUENA VISTA NATIVE PLANT CLUB

The Plant Club will meet on Sunday, February 19, at 2pm for the regular monthly meeting. The club meets the 3rd Sunday of each month at the BVAS Nature Center. The meetings are free and open to the public.

Monthly Nature Center Grounds Cleanup

Join us on the first Saturday of every month from 8-10am. We will do hand weeding and pick up trash around the Nature Center and along the trail. Bring your hat, gloves, sunscreen and hand gardening tools. We'll look forward to seeing you on February 4th.

For more information on any Native Plant Club events, call the Nature Center and leave a message for Joan Bockman 760-439-2473.

**California-Friendly Plants
for Your Landscape**

Workshop At BVAS Nature Center

Feb 18, 10:30am-12pm

2202 South Coast Hwy. 101, Oceanside, CA

Speaker: Becky Wilbanks, National Wildlife Federation
Habitat Stewardt

- Discover native plant selection for a healthy garden
- Learn about water-wise plants
- Explore healthy alternatives to pesticides

Workshop sponsored by the Solana Center. In addition to the native plant workshop, the Solana Center offers workshops on 3 other topics relative to reducing pesticides in home gardens: Citrus Pests, Beneficial Insects and Composting. Call for details and dates of future workshops, 760-436-7986, x211, or www.solanacenter.org.

Friends of BVAS

BVAS extends our sincere appreciation to the following "Friends" for their recent contributions. Because of your generous support, we are able to continue to offer our programs to thousands of visitors each year. Thanks for your support! We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

Be sure to identify yourself as a "Friend" to received tax free purchases from the Nature Center gift shop.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
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Tue - Sat 10 am - 4 pm
Sun 1pm - 4 pm
Closed Monday

2202 S. Coast Hwy, Oceanside CA
East side of street just north of lagoon bridge

Mailing Address:

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Oceanside CA 92049-0480

www.bvaudubon.org

RARE BIRD ALERT 619-688-2473

* Board Members

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As a Friend of BVAS, I will receive the chapter newsletter, be invited to special events just for Friends and receive a discount on BVAS Gift Shop purchases. 100% of my contribution will go to support the BVAS Nature Center and its educational programs. Minimum donation required - \$20

I would like to donate \$ 25 _____ \$ 40 _____ \$ 50 _____ \$ 100 _____ Other: _____

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Conservation Corner

Successful "Hunt" for Endangered Species at San Elijo Lagoon

Over 60 people participated in our successful hunt for rare species of wildlife at the San Elijo Lagoon in January. As we gathered for the walk, a pair of Light-footed Clapper Rails gave their clattering call from the reeds and willow thicket just below the trailhead. A number of Belding's Savannah Sparrows foraged among the dead grasses and low shrubs at the edge of lagoon. Brown Pelicans were making dramatic head-first dives into the ocean just off Cardiff Beach. The group moved east along the trail, where several California Gnatcatchers were seen flitting over the sagebrush in search of small insects, announcing their presence with their distinctive "mew" call. All of these species are listed as threatened or endangered under the California or U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Earlier in the week a team of observers had recorded two additional endangered bird species at San Elijo, Snowy Plovers grouped on the beach and a lone Peregrine Falcon hunting over the marsh in the eastern portion of the reserve. Dennis and Carol Wylson added to our endangered species hunt tally by venturing out to Lake Henshaw to record a pair of Bald Eagles building their nest. The Bald Eagles were the seventh endangered bird species recorded by BVAS during the week, strong evidence that the ESA is working.

At various times throughout the morning walk, an Osprey circled and hovered overhead, peering down into the lagoon in hope of finding a mullet fish swimming close to the surface. Like the Brown Pelican, Peregrine Falcon, and Bald Eagle, the Osprey is a species which has experienced a remarkable recovery as a result of the banning of the insecticide DDT and the additional habitat protections afforded by the ESA.

Co-hosted by BVAS and the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy, the hunt called attention to the importance and success of the ESA in protecting San Diego wildlife. The critical salt marsh habitat of the San Elijo Lagoon was saved, in no small part, because of the mandate and funding opportunities provided by the ESA.

--Andy Mauro, Conservation Chair

California Native Plant Society San Diego Chapter Upcoming events.

February 21, 2006 -7pm Casa Del Prado Balboa Park Room 104, Landscape Architect Dick Rol will discuss bioengineering and the use of California native plants.

March 11, 2006 - 9am – 4pm, Spring Native Plant Sale, Tree of Life Nursery, San Juan Capistrano, 33201 Ortega Highway

www.cnpsd.org, info@cnpsd.org or 619-685-6321. All events are free and open to the public

San Diego Area Environment Events Calendar

View the calendar online or sign up for email. www.sdeln.org

Volunteers Welcomed!

Got some spare time on your hands? Well, have we got a deal for you! Volunteering at BVAS is a very easy and rewarding way to spend a few hours each month. Opportunities include hosting the Nature Center, Nature Guides, gardening, various committee positions, table duty at local events, etc. To learn more, call 760-439-2473.

Do something for yourself and your community—become a volunteer at Buena Vista Audubon Society today!

Lagoon Flyer



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QUICK CALENDAR

Feb 1	Nature Guides 10 am
Feb 3	Board Meeting 9 am
Feb 4	Whelan Bird Count 8 am
Feb 4	Garden Clean-up Day 8 am
Feb 4,5,12	Gull ID Class
Feb 9-12	San Diego Bird Festival
Feb 11	San Elijo Walk 9 am
Feb 18	Lake Henshaw Birding 8:30 am
Feb 18	Native Plant Workshop 10:30 am
Feb 19	Native Plant Club 2 pm
Feb 22	General Membership Meeting Social 7 pm / Lecture 7:30 pm
Feb 25	Basic Birding at the Landing 8:30 am
Feb 25	Buena Vista Lagoon Count 8:00 am
Feb 27	Nature Story Time 10:00 am

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Moving?

Notify Suzann Spann for address changes
760-231-9709 Or email bvaudubon@cox.net

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www.bvaudubon.org

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