

# Lagoon Flyer

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



Jón Baldur Hlíöberg

## January General Meeting

### **Hooked on Hawks: The Spring Migration of Swainson's Hawks in Borrego Valley**

**Speaker: Hal Cohen**

**Wednesday, January 24, 2007**

**Social 7 p.m.—Lecture 7:30 p.m.**



**Swainson's Hawk**

Photo by Doug Backlund

Hal Cohen and his wife, recent migrants themselves from Chicago, nested permanently in Borrego Springs five years ago. Long involved in hawkwatches in the Midwest, Hal soon determined to set up a hawkwatch in Borrego. Plenty of hawks can be found in Borrego at various times of the year. Few offer such a spectacular sight as the spring migration of Swainson's Hawks as they return each year to the grasslands and farmlands of western North America from the pampas of Argentina. Borrego Valley lies on their migration corridor. Flying in from the south, they descend in the evenings to roost in the tamarisk windbreaks of the valley, departing northwards on the rising thermals of midmorning. Since 2003, Hal and Paul Jorgensen have organized daily or nearly daily springtime monitoring, and they were rewarded on the evening of March 25, 2004, with the arrival of a single concentration of 1,000-1,500 Swainson's Hawks. Join us at the Nature Center for our evening hawkwatching program on January 24th. Hal will share with us the pleasures of hawkwatching across America, tips on hawk identification, and plans for a new hawkwatch network for California. Then join us again a few weeks later for a weekend of hawkwatching in Borrego, March 17-18th. (Find more information about this special overnight birding trip on page 3). Travel with the Swainson's Hawk from southern South America to the plains of North America, one of the most extraordinary—and ever more endangered—bird migrations in the world.

—Dennis Huckabay

Message from the President....

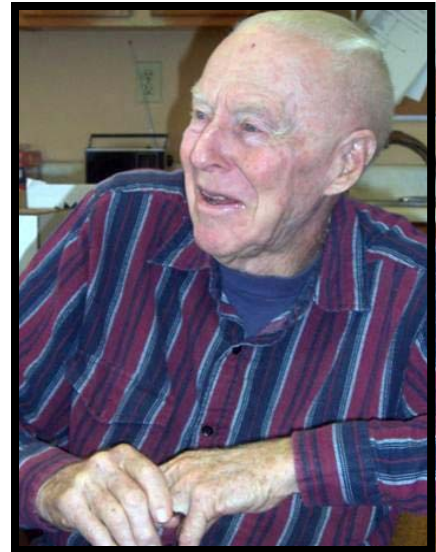
## PAUL GRIGSBY: AN APPRECIATION

Have you admired the fine community of California natives that has grown up along the nature trail behind the Center? Paul planted them in 1986 to landscape the grounds of the soon-to-be built Nature Center. Standing tall above Paul's California Sagebrush, Lemonadeberry, Laurel Sumac and Mountain Mahogany, in among some Coast Live Oaks, are Torrey Pines and California Sycamores. They're Paul's babies too. He installed the irrigation system, watered and weeded and watched over them for years. Paul told me recently that resource agencies officials, who have managed Buena Vista Lagoon as an ecological reserve since 1968, once refused to let him erect an Osprey pole and platform out in the lagoon; now Ospreys perch in the trees Paul planted twenty years ago.

Have you admired our Nature Center? For years Paul headed a committee of three—himself, Cora Wilson and Dave Rorick—to design the building. Paul insisted on lots of windows and wanted a deck, complete with mounted telescopes, at the entrance to observe the then open waters of the lagoon. The thickening tules have since obscured the view, but lagoon restoration efforts now gathering strength will hopefully restore the view that Paul planned for the Nature Center. When the money ran short, the building plans got shortened as well. Paul insisted on lengthening the building twelve feet to better accommodate school groups. When the Nature Center opened in 1988 it was the size Paul specified. Paul put in the partition between the auditorium and the display hall. From the San Diego Natural History Museum he obtained, trucked up to Oceanside, and installed our wall display cases. He helped us get our freestanding display cabinets from Torrey Pines State Reserve. He organized the paving of the parking lot. He built the shed at the end of the nature trail. He poured the cement walk along the north side of the building and put up the low wall there. He made portable Plexiglas nature boxes full of teaching aids for schoolteachers to check out for use in their classrooms. Once when the lagoon outlet was blocked, water was lapping at our driveway and ducks were about to swim into the Center, Paul Bunyan Grigsby grabbed a shovel and dug a channel to the ocean. He claims he had all but succeeded in draining the lagoon when the City of Oceanside brought in a bulldozer to finish the job. For years, whenever an odd job or repair was needed in or around the Nature Center it was always "call Paul". His bird paintings grace the receptionists' nook in the Nature Center. The last job he did that I know of, less than a year ago, was to build us a new donation box.

Paul was born and raised in the Lynwood/Compton area of Los Angeles, went to college in Santa Barbara and taught at South Gate Junior High School for five years before moving south in 1955. He taught drafting and shop classes at Oceanside's brand new Jefferson Junior High School for five years and then moved across town as one of the founding faculty of Lincoln Junior High School, where he stayed for twenty-five years.

If I remember correctly, Oceanside was a town of less than 20,000 when Paul arrived in 1955. He says he "moved to the country" when he bought the land along Ivy Road on Fire Mountain where he lives to this day. In those days it was unincorporated county land, mostly avocado groves, and more commonly called North Carlsbad. He built his house there himself—and most of his furniture too! His home is surrounded by hundreds of palm trees of dozens of different species.



*Paul Grigsby*

(Continued, page 4)

*Looking for a weekend outing?*

### Ramona Hawkwatch

Join expert guides to see multiple species of migrating and resident raptors at the Ramona Grasslands on Saturdays from 9 a.m.-noon during January and February. The Wildlife Research Institute in Ramona is presenting its free winter educational program on the county's hawks. Nineteen different species of raptors have been recorded at this raptor hotspot.



*Golden Eagle, Juv.*  
by Daniel S. Kilby

Location: 18030 Highland Valley Road,  
Ramona, CA. Phone: 760-789-3992

**NOTE: BVAS has arranged to have an exclusive Ramona Hawkwatch tour for BVAS members and friends on Sunday, February 18th, led by Wildlife Research Institute Director and raptor expert, Dave Bitner. See field trip schedule on p. 3 for details.**

### PRESCHOOL NATURE STORYTIME

During our last storytime we were talking about the differences between deciduous and non-deciduous trees. One little boy informed us that "evergreens" have "needles" instead of leaves that will fall off in autumn. Pretty sharp preschoolers nowadays!

After our story about a fir tree that sheltered the forest animals, we decorated paper stand-up Christmas trees to take home. A reminder: January, 2007, has five Mondays but we will meet, as always, on the fourth Monday of each month at 10 a.m. (January 22, 2007).

Happy 2007 to all,

—Mary Ellen (760-918-6622)

**Paul Grigsby Appreciation....**

(Continued from page 2)

Paul joined Buena Vista Audubon Society, founded in 1951, in 1955 or '56, making him our longest-serving member by far. Looking through old BVAS minutes, the earliest mention I could find of Paul was when he was nominated to represent the chapter at an Audubon Nature Camp in Squaw Valley in the summer of 1962. By 1963 he was vice president and program chair; he would go on to hold many other board positions, including president. In those days before the Nature Center, BVAS meetings were held in the big house on Highland Drive in Carlsbad belonging to Ruth Coats (heiress to the Coats thread company fortune), upstairs above a savings and loan branch in Vista, in the Vista Women's Club, and at the Army and Navy Academy in Carlsbad. Paul thinks there were sixty-five members of Buena Vista Audubon when he joined in the mid-50s. Now, fifty years later, we are some 1,200 strong.

We are where we are today thanks in large part to Paul's efforts over the years. Each year we are able to provide nature education to thousands of people, young and old and in between, at our beautiful Nature Center set in natural surroundings which Paul did so much to plan, build, landscape, maintain and repair. Paul and his wife Barbara have also left a generous bequest to the Nature Center in a charitable trust to enable our efforts to educate and protect nature here in North County to continue for many years to come.

Thank you, Paul, from all of us—past, present and future—here at Buena Vista Audubon.

—Dennis Huckabay

**Buena Vista Native Plant Club**

The Native Plant Club will hold its regular second Sunday meeting at the Nature Center on January 14th at 2 p.m. All gardeners, expert and novice alike, who are interested in learning about working with native plants are invited to attend.



**RUDDY DUCK CLUB**

*The following businesses are supporters of BVAS through their membership in the Ruddy Duck Club. Help us show our appreciation by stopping by and saying "Thanks for supporting BVAS".*

*If you would like to become a member of the Ruddy Duck Club, please contact Tom Troy at 760-967-6915.*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Anderson's La Costa Nursery</b>       | <b>North County Radiology</b>                      |
| <b>Beach Break Café</b>                  | <b>North County Times</b>                          |
| <b>Bob Baker Volkswagen-Subaru</b>       | <b>Oceanside Photo &amp; Telescope</b>             |
| <b>Carlsbad Paddle Sports</b>            | <b>Pelly's Fish Market and Cafe</b>                |
| <b>Carlsbad Inn Beach Resort</b>         | <b>The Printery</b>                                |
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| <b>Hunter Steak House</b>                | <b>Seth R. Sharon, Prudential CA Realty</b>        |
| <b>I Love Life Window Cleaning</b>       | <b>Wild Bird Center - Encinitas</b>                |
| <b>Jón Baldur Hlíðberg Art</b>           | <b>Wild Birds Unlimited - Carlsbad</b>             |
| <b>Longboarder Café</b>                  | <b>Worldwide Express</b>                           |
| <b>101 Café</b>                          |  |

**Monthly Nature Center Grounds Cleanup**

Join us on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month from 8-10 a.m. as we do hand weeding and trash removal at the Nature Center. Bring your hat, gloves, sunscreen and gardening tools.

*For more info on any Native Plant Club activity or event, call the Nature Center and leave a message for Joan Bockman.*

**BVAS OFFICERS, DIRECTORS\*, AND CHAIRS**

President	Dennis Huckabay	757-6437
Vice-President	Bill Jones	944-1775
Secretary	Mary Jane Roberts	231-8148
Treasurer	Douglas Schanzenbach	726-3521
Audubon Adventures	JoAnne Schontzler	431-0953
Center Manager	Annette Schneider	945-8891
Christmas Bird Count	Dennis Wysong	754-1264
Conservation	Andy Mauro*	753-1266
Circulation	Mary Jane Roberts*	231-8148
Director	Doug Dunn*	781-1227
Education (Co-Chair)	Renee Racine	635-0867
Education (Co-Chair)	Nancy Miller	929-2869
Field Trips	Andy Brumbaugh*	434-3334
Gift Shop	Rosalyn Dong*	806-1430
Library	Norma Handy	634-2120
Membership	Elle Schubert	729-4061
Native Plant Club	Joan Bockman*	433-9401
Native Plant Garden	Joan Bockman*	433-9401
Newsletter	Andy Mauro*	753-1266
	E-mail: akamauro@cox.net	
Programs	Dennis Huckabay	757-6437
Publicity	Judi Wilson*	439-3649
Ruddy Duck Club	Tom Troy*	967-6915
Taxidermy	Joyce Anderson	746-3995
Volunteers	Mary Ellen Marquand*	918-6622
Webmaster	Larry Spann	E-mail: larry@spannweb.net

**Buena Vista Audubon  
Nature Center**

Tue-Sat 10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Sun 1 p.m.-4 p.m.  
Closed Monday

760-439-2473

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

**Mailing Address:**

P.O. Box 480  
Oceanside, CA 92049-0480

**Website: [www.bv Audubon.org](http://www.bv Audubon.org)**

**Email: [bv Audubon@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bv Audubon@sbcglobal.net)**

## January and Upcoming Field Trips

**Sat—Jan 6— 8:30 a.m.—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 of cul-de-sac by entrance gate. Leader: John Haddock, 760-941-7824.



*Redhead, by Daniel S. Kilby*

**Sat—Jan 13—9 a.m.—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.

**Sat—Jan 20— 8 a.m.—San Diego River.** This is a good area for birds not usually seen on North County lagoons: Little Blue Heron, Brant, Loons, Scaups, Mergansers, among others. Take I-5 to Sea World Dr. Exit at Ingraham St. Go North 1/4 mile to 1st exit, West Mission Bay drive. This will loop back over Ingraham. After making loop take first exit to the left which is Quivira Rd. Turn left. Road changes to Quivira Way. Continue until it ends at berm of river channel. Meet in parking lot. There will be a ramada with a red tile roof and rest room next to parking lot.

**Sat—Jan 27—8 a.m.—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—Jan 27—8:30-10:30 a.m.—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.

**Sat—Feb 3—8 a.m.—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 of cul-de-sac by entrance gate. Leader: John Haddock, 760-941-7824.

**Sat—Feb 10— 9 a.m.—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.

### Upcoming Special Birding Trips

**Sun—Feb 18—9 a.m.—Wildlife Research Institute Hawkwatch.** Good opportunity to see a large variety of resident raptors and migrating hawks on this special Hawkwatch trip arranged for BVAS members and friends. Chances for multiple species of raptors, including Golden Eagle, Ferruginous Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Merlin, and Burrowing Owl. Leader: Dave Bittner, Dir., Wildlife Research Institute. See next month's Flyer for directions.



*Merlin, by Daniel S. Kilby*

**Sat and Sun—March 17-18—Borrego Birding Weekend.** Swainson's Hawks will be in migration. We anticipate birding Clark Dry Lake for Le Conte's Thrasher and migrating warblers, Lower Willows (road conditions permitting) and other desert areas. Be aware rooms need to be reserved several months in advance. I have made some reservations for us. Call Andy Brumbaugh for further info, 760-434-3334. For meeting place and more info see

### **Arizona Birding Trip Filled Up!**

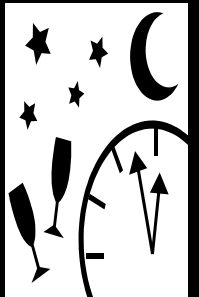
Our Southwest Arizona birding trip scheduled for May 21st-May 26th quickly filled up within a few weeks of its announcement. Those of you who were hoping to make the trip but lost out, take heart! Field trip coordinator Andy Brumbaugh will be looking into the possibility of scheduling an equally exciting trip in early Fall, 2007. We'll keep you posted.



*by Kirsten Munson*

***Heavy rain cancels  
field trips.***

***Birders of  
all skill levels are always  
welcome to join us.***



### ***A NEW YEAR RESOLUTION for 2007!***

The start of a brand new year is a wonderful time to do something special for yourself and your community, like **volunteering one day a month at Buena Vista Audubon!** Signing up for just one three hour shift a month at the Nature Center is a great way to serve and to keep our Center open for visitors. A short training session is all you need to get started. Please call us for more information, and **"Have a Happy New Year"!**

—Mary Ellen Marquand at 760-918-6622, or BVAS Nature Center at 760-439-2473—

## FRIENDS OF BUENA VISTA AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$75 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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*Please bill my VISA card*

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**Make Checks Payable to:**

**Buena Vista Audubon Society**

**P.O. Box 480**

**Oceanside, CA 92049**

*Thank You!*

## CONSERVATION CORNER

### Oceanside's Loma Alta Creek

We all get a little anxious when we read about the latest threat to one of our beloved National Parks. Fortunately, there are a lot of people and numerous organizations who make it their business to look out for those national treasures. Sometimes, it's that seemingly insignificant little slice of nature that we pass by each day that needs our help the most.

Loma Alta Creek in Oceanside is one of those places. The creek is only about seven miles long, and runs from Melrose Drive in Vista to Buccaneer Beach in Oceanside. This narrow stream is flanked with Arroyo Willow, California Sycamore, and other native riparian plants. It provides habitat for numerous species of animals, and a protected corridor for animals to safely move from one part of our community to another.

But the creek is constantly under assault from ill-conceived development proposals that threaten to shatter the health and sustainability of this fragile wisp of habitat in the midst of our community. One such project is the Robertson Concrete Batch Plant, now submitted for consideration to the City of Oceanside. The concerns about this project are too numerous to list in this short column. BVAS has recently sent a comment letter to officials, and a copy is posted on our website.

Fortunately, on another front, the city has recently launched an effort to enforce clean water regulations along Loma Alta Creek. We proudly note that new BVAS member, Nadine Scott, has been one of the catalysts in helping bring attention to the plight of Loma Alta Creek. She is a member of the Loma Alta Neighborhood Association, which is circulating a petition against the proposed concrete plant at the group's Web site, [www.lomaalta.org](http://www.lomaalta.org).

Are you involved in a local conservation issue? Let us know.

—Andy Mauro, Conservation Chair

### **Salton Sea**

The Draft EIR of the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program has been released for comment. A coalition of environmental organizations, including California Audubon, has reviewed the document and developed a plan which combines the best elements of the various alternatives considered. BVAS has submitted its comment letter endorsing the coalition's proposed solution for restoring this extremely important ecosystem.

More information is available at [www.SaltonSeaCoalition.org](http://www.SaltonSeaCoalition.org).

### **UPDATE:**

### **SHERMAN ACQUISITION GRANT**

We are happy to report that our grant from Cal Audubon in support of the acquisition of the 134-acre Sherman property along Buena Vista Creek came in at \$10,000, instead of the previously reported \$5,000. All told, BVAS was responsible for raising almost \$20,000 for the purchase of this new nature reserve, including a \$2,000 donation from one of our members who wishes to remain anonymous. Our next newsletter will include an update on the status of efforts to finalize the purchase of this property, which was scheduled to take place in late December.

### **Coming in February:**

### **2007 SAN DIEGO BIRD FESTIVAL**

San Diego Audubon Society's 2007 San Diego Bird Festival will run February 7-12. The Festival features a wide array of one-day and overnight birding trips to key spots in San Diego and Imperial Counties, Baja California, and near-shore pelagic waters. Classes and special program presentations include such topics as birding-by-ear, field sketching, butterfly observation, shorebird and gull ID, birding trade show, and much more.

For information and registration, log on at: [www.sandiegoaudubon.org](http://www.sandiegoaudubon.org), or call: 619-682-7200.

# Lagoon Flyer



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OCEANSIDE, CA 92049-0480

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## QUICK CALENDAR

Jan 5	Board Meeting 9 a.m.
Jan 6	Garden Clean-up Day 8 a.m.
Jan 6	Whelan Bird Count 8:30 a.m.
Jan 8	Nature Guides 10 a.m.
Jan 13	San Elijo Walk 9 a.m.
Jan 14	Native Plant Club 2 p.m.
Jan 20	San Diego River 8 a.m.
Jan 22	Nature Story Time 10 a.m.
Jan 24	General Membership Meeting 7 p.m.
Jan 27	Buena Vista Lagoon Count 8 a.m.
Jan 27	Basic Birding at the Landing 9 a.m.
Feb 2	Board Meeting 9 a.m.
Feb 3	Garden Clean-up Day 8 a.m.
Feb 3	Whelan Bird Count 8:30 a.m.
Feb 5	Nature Guides 10 a.m.
Feb 7-12	2007 SAN DIEGO BIRD FESTIVAL
Feb 11	Native Plant Club 2 p.m.
Feb 10	San Elijo Walk 9 a.m.
Feb 18	BVAS Ramona Hawkwatch 9 a.m.
Feb 24	Buena Vista Lagoon Count 8 a.m.
Feb 24	Basic Birding at the Landing 9 a.m.
Feb 26	Nature Story Time 10 a.m.

## **Hooked on Hawks: Swainson's Hawk Migration**

January 24th

See Page 1

## **Paul Grigsby Appreciation**

See page 2

## **Oceanside's Loma Alta Creek**

See page 5

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