

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

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Oceanside Holds Second Place in Titanic Struggle

Dateline: A command bunker at an undisclosed location in Oceanside. The nation waits in breathless anticipation as cities across the country fight ferociously for the honor of becoming America's Birdiest City. The battles will continue to rage until May 31st. Will Oceanside keep its current place as the second birdiest small coastal city in America? Only time will tell.

According to birding's Geneva Convention, promulgated by Professor Phil Pryde of San Diego, the Marquis of Queensberry of birdwatching, the rules of engagement are simple. Cities choose any consecutive 72 hour period between April 1st and May 31st to hunt down every bird species within their city limits. Otherwise, no holds barred, fight to the finish.

With a ringing proclamation of support from Mayor Jim Wood to encourage the troops, Buena Vista Audubon (BVAS) sallied forth onto the battlefields of Oceanside Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 28th-30th. Strategy dictated those dates, for then BVAS could liase in joint maneuvers with its allied army, San Diego Audubon, to secure a grander objective: the securing of San Diego County as the birdiest COUNTY in all America

Audubon Adventures in 50 Classes!

BVAS will be providing full enrollment for 50 North County third-grade classes to participate in the Audubon Adventures nature education curriculum for the coming school year. The program provides the teacher with a monthly nature education lesson plan, educational posters and bulletin board information, and take-home newsletters for each student. In addition, teachers are invited to schedule a special field trip for their class to the Nature Center during the school year. **You can directly support this very worthwhile program by sponsoring a classroom.** Each \$50 donation to BVAS earmarked for the Audubon Adventures program will sponsor a third-grade class for the entire year. BVAS will designate an enrolled class in a school near your home, and send them a certificate identifying you as their generous sponsor. Simply send your \$50 check to BVAS and we'll take care of all the details. Your support of one or more classrooms will allow us to expand this program to additional classrooms in the year ahead.



June General Meeting

The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Social: 7pm Movie: 730pm

Following our May meeting that featured the wild parrots of Southern California, come this month for a screening of this acclaimed film dramatizing the lives and personalities of a flock of cherry-headed conures in San Francisco.

Follow Mark Bittner, dharma bum*, bohemian St. Francis and former San Francisco street musician as he leads us on a search for the meaning of life. Along the way he befriends this rambunctious flock of urban parrots and discovers that they will bring him all he needs.

"It is the emotional intensity of Bittner's experience with parrots, experiences so strong and moving that he himself wonders "how do you get so attached to an animal?" that forms one of the keys to Wild Parrots" appeal".

-- Kenneth Turan, *Los Angeles Times*

"A thoroughly absorbing portrait of one man's discipline and commitment - and, yes, spiritual transformation... Quite simply a beautiful film, in both form and content. You'll laugh, you'll cry. And your heart is guaranteed to soar".

--Ann Hornaday, *Washington Post*

Join us at the Nature Center for our last general meeting before we close down for the summer months of July and August. You will enjoy this intelligent documentary exploration of the deep relationships that can be formed between humans and other creatures.

Dennis Huckabay, Program Chair

*Dharma bum: poet Gary Snyder's "homeless seeker of truth".

Photo credit Mark Bittner

Continued from page 1 - Extra! Extra! Extra!

Feverish battle plans were prepared in the war room of the Nature Center. Experienced (or not) generals were assigned their battle stations: Andy (Old Hickory) Mauro to patrol the southern flank at Oak Riparian Park; your fearless leader (Don't fire until you see the whites of their throats - or the red of their rumps - whatever) yours truly to lead a charge on the eastern front at Guajome; John (Stonewall) Haddock to guard the northern perimeter at Whelan Lake; Joan (Surrender? Nuts!) Fountain to secure the western approaches along Buena Vista Lagoon. Undercover scouts Steve Brad and Andy Brumbaugh (the Bold and the Brave) to range deep into enemy territory, reconitering the harbor, pier, strand and lagoon mouth. Fifth columnists Lloyd and Irja Graham to foment an urban uprising in their backyard (they accounted for 12 species). The shock troops of Larry and Suzann (Remember the Alamo!) Spann to be held in reserve, plugging gaps where needed.

D-Day was set for Saturday morning, April 29th. The generals marshalled their squadrons at the Nature Center and set out to engage the enemy. The mother of all battles was joined.

Andy Mauro's intrepid warriors vanquished an impressive nine warbler species at Oak Riparian. Brave bands of brothers and sisters in arms, their binoculars locked and loaded, bagged Willow Flycatcher and Snow Goose at Guajome and Wood Ducks at Whelan. A Least Bittern was summarily dispatched at Buena Vista trying to slip through the lines undetected.

The tide of battle seemed to be turning in our favor as withering enfilades of effort caused species to fall all along the battle lines. But in the din of battle and fog of war, disturbing reports began to reach Central Command. Where were old, dependable comrades-in-arms? Meadowlark, Roadrunner, Loggerhead Shrike, Oak Titmouse - all AWOL for the duration. Platoons of sparrow, gull, duck and shorebird species deserted their positions without being accounted for.

After mopping up pockets of resistance on Sunday, your Commander-in-Chief announced "Mission Accomplished!". That was premature. Sound familiar? 146 species were taken within Oceanside's city limits, a respectable total. But even though we won the battle, we lost the war. Dauphin Island Alabama logged 170 species and an astonishing 26 different warblers!

This general predicts that we will withstand fusillades from the rear. Northern small cities, sniping latecomers to the action, will not be able to break Oceanside's lock on second place. Generals of course are often terribly wrong. We will have to wait until May 31st to see if we truly earned our Silver Star.

Until then, I'd like to thank all you merry warriors, named and unnamed, for serving above and beyond the call of duty. We done good, and doing so was great fun. The many warblers were wondrous and Western Tanagers at almost very flowering eucalyptus and bottlebrush bush were a joy to behold. The birding and the camaraderie make it a pleasure to be involved with BVAS.

We expect more heroics in next year's combat, mano-a-mano with Dauphin Island for the Medal of Honor. Join us next spring, again or for the first time, for a fun event. No boot camp required, beginning birders welcome. Uncle John James needs you!

Old soldiers are supposed to fade away, but the bugle is sounding one more call to action. America's Birdiest City Contest was the fun; the Birdathon - our annual spring fundraising effort - was the purpose behind the fun. If you have not yet sent in your contribution to Buena Vista Audubon's campaign to conserve, educate and advocate for Nature here in coastal North County, please do so now. We really do need your financial support.

Thank you all.

Your commander-in-chief doing double duty as embedded war correspondent,

-Dennis Huckabay



Nature Guides and Students Surprised by Uninvited Visitors!

If they look like ducks, walk like ducks and talk like ducks, it seems safe to say they were ducks. It all began as a class of about 20 children walked into the Nature Center on Tuesday May 16th. Two young ducks, still unable to fly, followed the children into the Nature Center auditorium. It was there one decided to "mark" his territory. Ellen Kindsvater and I knew we couldn't compete with the ducks for the children's attention so we herded them out the door (The ducks not the children!). As we left the auditorium for the nature walk, the ducks were waiting for us and fell right in line, following us everywhere we went, all the while loudly voicing their opinion of our nature stories. We walked them towards the water but after a brief drink they would have nothing more to do with the water

At the far end of the lagoon trail, we spotted a male mallard. We had grave doubts about his being thrilled to see them, but the young ducks ran towards him and we ran the other direction! We feel sure the class will remember the ducks long after they forget anything we told them during the walk.

Dave Dyer

June, July & August Field Trips

Sat - June 3 - 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. Leader: John Haddock, 760 941-7842

Sat - June 10 - 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

Sat - June 17 - 8:30am - Daley Ranch. Hwy. 78 to I-15 north. From I-15, exit El Norte Parkway east to La Honda Dr. Turn left (north) and follow La Honda to the entrance. We will meet in the parking lot there across from Dixon Lake entrance. Bring water, sunscreen, and hats. Porta-potties available at ranchouse. For carpool or more info: Mary Ellen, 760-918-6622

Sat - June 24 - 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 - June 24 - 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.

Sat - July 1 - 8:00 am - Whelan Lake Bird Count. - See June 3 trip for details. John Haddock, 760 941-7842

Sat - July 8 - 9:00 am - San Elijo Lagoon. See June 10 trip for details Leader: Andy Mauro, 760-753-1266

Sat - July 29 - 8:00 am - Buena Vista Lagoon Count. See June 24 trip for details. Joan Fountain 760-729-1379

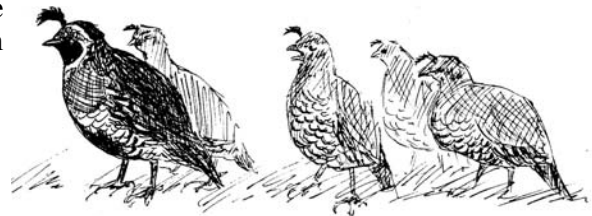
Sat - July 29 - 8:30 – 10:30 am Basic Birding Class at the Buena Vista Lagoon Landing. See June 24 class for Tom Troy 760-967-6915.

Sat - Aug 5 - 8:00 am - Whelan Lake Bird Count. - See June 3 trip for details. John Haddock, 760 941-7842

Sat - Aug 12 - 9:00 am - San Elijo Lagoon. See June 10 trip for details Leader: Andy Mauro, 760-753-1266

Sat - Aug 26 - 8:00 am - Buena Vista Lagoon Count. See June 24 trip for details. Joan Fountain 760-729-1379

Sat - Aug 26 - 8:30 – 10:30 am Basic Birding Class at the Buena Vista Lagoon Landing. See June 24 class for Tom Troy 760-967-6915.



California Quails by Kirsten Munson

Heavy rain cancels field trips.

Birders of all skill levels are invited to join us!

Field Notes...

Kern River Valley Trip Nets 98 Species!

An enthusiastic group of 15 birders from Buena Vista Audubon met at the Lake View Motel on Lake Isabella in the Kern River Valley for a week end of birding on May 21-23. Our well-respected guide from the area, Bob Barnes, took us on a wild and successful birding excursion. On Sat., we birded the Sierra Way Bridge, the Migrant Corner Trail, and some of the newly acquired land of the Kern River Preserve. On Sun., we headed for the desert area near Galileo Hill to the Silver Saddle Ranch Club and Park. All in all, we saw approximately 98 different birds. Thanks to the wonderful hospitality of Doug Schanzenbach and Beth, we enjoyed a barbecue dinner at his home in Squirrel Valley on Sat. where we could relax and enjoy each other's company after a long day of birding. Thank you to all the participants involved who made this trip such a memorable experience.

Mary Ellen Marquand

BVAS Birders Enjoy Grunion Hunt

Over 70 people showed up for our first ever Grunion Hunt the evening of April 28th. Everyone shared in some coffee, hot chocolate, and cookies at the Nature Center, while we did a quick question and answer session about the grunion. Then we split up, one group heading north to the Oceanside Pier and the rest going south to Carlsbad Beach by the Encina Power Plant. It was a pleasant night and spirits were high. It took awhile, but just about everyone who stuck it out was rewarded with the sight of grunion, with the Carlsbad group having a bit better luck in terms of numbers of fish seen. They do exist!

Andy Mauro

BUENA VISTANATIVE PLANT CLUB

"Summer" Gardening?

Southern California "winter" is in August and September. What? That's right; our dormant season is defined by drought, not cold. The growing season starts in the fall and goes until June or July. Weren't the blooms spectacular at the Nature Center this spring?

Watering in the summer keeps the harmful diseases and insects going. So, many Californians believe they need pesticides and thus begin a never ending and futile exercise. The key is less water not more chemicals. The Nature Center garden will only be watered once a month during this time so that we get the advantage of the season. Come talk about it Sunday June 18th, at 2pm at the Nature Center.

Fire is a concern during our "winter." The plant club will discuss firescaping on Sunday, July 16 at 2pm at the Nature Center.

August is the start of our annual pruning. Come help out and learn how to prune. 2pm Sunday, August 21 at the Nature Center.

September is our garden planning month. Come work out your plan for installation in the fall.

Monthly Nature Center Grounds Cleanup

The monthly grounds clean up will continue throughout the summer months. Join us on the 1st Saturday of each month from 8-10am as we do hand weeding and trash removal at the Nature Center. Remember to bring your hat, gloves, sunscreen and hand gardening tools.

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

BVAS Nature Guides Acquire Artifacts

On April 26th, several native American artifacts, including hammerstones, pestles, grinding stones (metate and mano), and pottery sherds were formally loaned to BVAS by the San Diego Archaeological Center, which is headquartered in the San Pasqual Valley. The materials are representative of the type of tools used by the Luiseno and Kumeyaay who frequented the Buena Vista Lagoon in the Late Prehistoric (Holocene) Period, 3,000 to 300 years ago.

The artifacts will be used in a new education program being developed by a group of Nature Guides for elementary school students who visit the Nature Center.

Steve Scarano



Pictured from left to right are Buena Vista Audubon Board Member and Nature Guide Rosalyn Dong, San Diego Archaeological Center Program Director Annmarie Cox, and BVAS volunteer Nature Guide Steve Scarano.

BVAS OFFICERS, BOARD AND CHAIRS

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Vice-President	Andy Mauro	753-1266
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Director	Bill Jones	944-1775
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Audubon Adventures	JoAnne Schontzler	431-0953
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Flyer Editor & Membership	Suzann Spann*	231-9709
Nature Center	email: suzann@cox.net	439-2473

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:

PO Box 480
Oceanside CA 92049-0480

www.bvaudubon.org

RARE BIRD ALERT 619-688-2473

* Board Members

Conservation Corner

Audubon At Home

The BVAS Open House in May featured information on how we can make our own backyards into small nature reserves. We heard presentations about attracting birds and butterflies to our yards, incorporating native plants into our landscapes, and recognizing and appreciating the role of beneficial insects in our gardens.

Gardening to attract wildlife introduces an exciting new dimension to that common pastime. The gardening year begins to revolve around notable events--that first swallowtail butterfly that flits through the yard in the spring, the house wren that moves into the bird house the family put up last summer, the fence lizard the kids discover sunning on the boulder out by the back fence. Our backyards are our private spaces, but also part of a larger landscape we share with our human and wildlife neighbors. We all can do simple things to create a healthier place to live for our families, our communities, and birds, plants, and other wildlife.

The Audubon At Home program is about taking personal conservation action to improve the environmental health and habitat quality of our yards and neighborhoods. As our community becomes more urbanized, our backyards become increasingly important in providing needed habitat and wildlife corridors for certain species, as well as buffers against the more densely developed areas of the city. Together, our actions can have a substantial effect.

Other national conservation organizations have similar programs. The native plant garden at BVAS Nature Center was recently certified in the National Wildlife Federation's Backyard Wildlife Habitat program. Like Audubon At Home, this program encourages homeowners to engage in conscientious landscaping and sustainable gardening practices so that "wildlife may find quality habitat—food, water, cover, and places to raise their young."

Explore the Audubon At Home web site for the information, and inspiration, to make conservation actions a part of your everyday life - at home and in your community. It's a lot of fun!

For more info: http://www.audubon.org/bird/at_home/index.html

--Andy Mauro, Conservation Chair

Nature Storytime for Preschoolers

Little Bear Woke Up!

Hooray! Little Bear woke up to a beautiful spring day. He got into a little bit of mischief by exploring the Nature Center on his own. The children had a hard time finding him, but at last located him making friends with our Great Horned owl. Please join us on June 26th for our last storytime before summer break. We will begin again on September 25th at 10am and the following 4th Monday each month thereafter. Have a wonderful and safe summer enjoying nature's wonders.....*Mary Ellen Marquand*

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 receive tax free purchases from the Nature Center gift shop.

Jeanette Maggay
Colleen O'Hara
Dave & Betty Dyer
Karen Hutchinson
Elizabeth Schmidt
Beverly Fox
Peg Yount
Deborah Stillman
June Ginger
Joan Fountain
Lucile Davis
Lloyd & Irja Graham
Mary Jane Roberts
Judy Wilson

Mary Ellen Marquand
Melody Wagner
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Jeanine Dreifuss
Paul Trester
Eric & Suellen Lodge
Dave & Kathy Billings
Mary Miller
Mary Bellefontaine
Kathy & Andy Mauro
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Gillman
Jeanne Mielcarek



Volunteers With Computer Skills Needed!

We currently have a desperate need for volunteers with various computer skills. We are looking for people who have experience using word processing, desktop publishing, database and spreadsheet programs. If you are interested, please call the Nature Center and leave your name and phone number. 760-439-2473

BOARD AND NATURES GUIDES SAY

"THANK YOU!" TO SUE SHARON

After serving several years of the chair of the Education Committee, Sue Sharon is stepping down. Sue has done a fantastic job and both the BVAS Board and the members of the Education Committee want to express our appreciation. Under her leadership, the BVAS educational programs for children – of all ages – have continued to expand in both the range of programs offered and the number of attendees. We are very proud of the program – it's one of the things that set BVAS apart from most chapters. Thanks again to Sue for serving as chair!

Renee Racine, currently a Nature Guide, will be replacing Sue. We would like to welcome her as chair and all look forward to working with her.

Lagoon Flyer



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QUICK CALENDAR

June 2	Board Meeting 9 am
June 3	Whelan Bird Count 8 am
June 3	Garden Clean-up Day 8 am
June 5	Nature Guides 10 am
June 10	San Elijo Walk 9 am
June 17	Daley Ranch Bird Walk 8:30
June 18	Native Plant Club 2 pm
June 24	Buena Vista Lagoon Count - 8 am
June 24	Basic Birding at the Landing - 9 am
June 26	Nature Story Time 10:00 am
June 28	General Membership Meeting Social 7 pm / Lecture 7:30 pm
July 1	Whelan Bird Count 8 am
July 1	Garden Clean-up Day 8 am
July 8	San Elijo Walk 9 am
July 16	Native Plant Club 2 pm
July 29	Buena Vista Lagoon Count - 8 am
July 29	Basic Birding at the Landing - 9 am
Aug 5	Whelan Bird Count 8 am
Aug 5	Garden Clean-up Day 8 am
Aug 12	San Elijo Walk 9 am
Aug 20	Native Plant Club 2 pm
Aug 26	Buena Vista Lagoon Count - 8 am
Aug 26	Basic Birding at the Landing - 9 am

Kids Art & Nature Camp 2006

Camp Ruddy Duck

Ages 5 - 6
July 10 - 14 9:30 am - 11:30 am

Camp Crowdad

Ages 7 - 8
July 17 - 21 9:30 am - 11:30 am

Art projects and nature programs for all campers.
Call the nature center or visit our website for details.

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Moving?

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

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