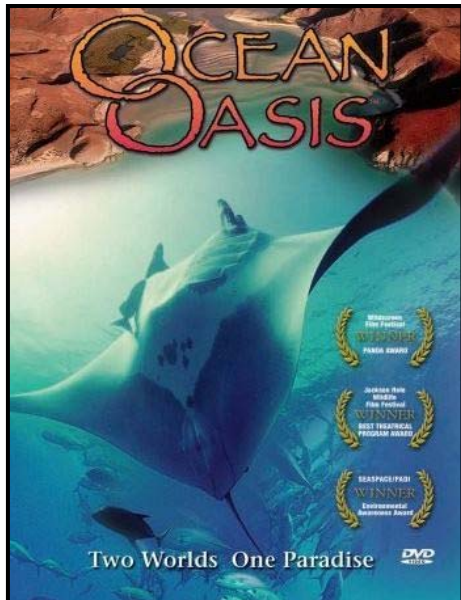


# Lagoon Flyer

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



June General Meeting

Wednesday, June 16

**6<sup>th</sup> Annual Buena Vista Audubon Film Festival  
featuring "Ocean Oasis"**

**On the Big Screen at the Nature Center**

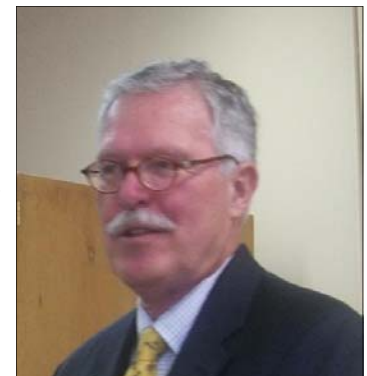
**Social at 7 pm, Movie at 7:30 pm**

Join us as we celebrate the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Buena Vista Audubon Film Festival on The Big Screen at the Nature Center with a showing of "Ocean Oasis". This film takes you on a fascinating journey into two remarkably different, but inextricably linked worlds—Mexico's Sea of Cortés and the Baja California desert. "Ocean Oasis" mesmerizes audiences as they witness the beauty of life in Baja California's rich waters and seemingly barren land. This multiple award winning film was produced by the San Diego Natural History Museum, Summerhays Films, and PRONATURA A.C., with sponsorship from Sempra Energy. Popcorn and drinks will be provided.

*A "Tip of the Hat" To Our Retiring President*

## June Election of BVAS Officers and Directors

This June, Dennis Huckabay will be giving up his gavel as BVAS President. Dennis has directed the BVAS ship continuously since 2005. He has led BVAS with a gentle touch, at times showing remarkable resourcefulness, resolute determination, and saintly patience. A hallmark of Dennis' style has been his skill for friendly persuasion. While it was sometimes difficult to turn down a request for help from Dennis, it was also true that Dennis was always willing to step in and shoulder the load. The Board and all of the BVAS family want to express their sincere appreciation to Dennis for his years of leadership.

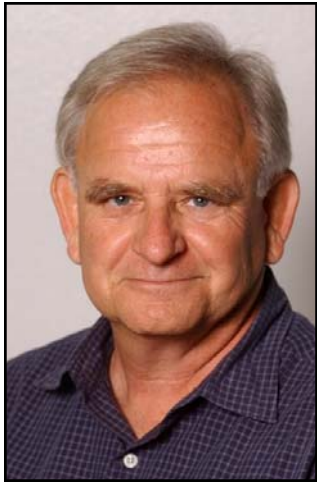


Dennis says, "Being involved with Buena Vista Audubon has definitely been one of the better things I've done in this life. We've accomplished a lot since I became President in 2005. I'm proud of the role we play as a respected advocate for nature education and conservation in North County. I can't take much credit for that. It's been my good luck to work with a hearty band of cheerful, dedicated Board members, volunteer receptionists and Nature Guides. Our successes – and there have been many – are theirs.

"Incoming President Dave Billings will have the opportunity to work with many of the same outstanding individuals I have enjoyed working with. Big things lie ahead: a redefined and redesigned Nature Center may be one. Buena Vista Audubon is in good hands, and I'm glad I can continue to contribute to the good work BVAS does as it begins, next year, its 60<sup>th</sup> year of focusing on birds and the conservation of their habitats for our benefit and the earth's."

Although Dennis is stepping down as president, he will continue to coordinate the monthly programs for BVAS and will stay on the Board in the position of vice-president.

The BVAS June General Meeting will begin with a short business meeting to elect Buena Vista Audubon Society officers and directors for 2010/11. We are pleased to announce that our four current officers have agreed to stay on board for another year, although as indicated above, there will be a slight rearrangement of positions. *(continued on page 4)*



## Andy Mauro

### *Our Conservation Hero*

In 2008 the Trust for Public Land (TPL) and Cox Enterprises launched the San Diego Cox Conserves Heroes Award “to honor individuals who work to create, preserve and enhance the shared outdoor spaces in our communities”. By showcasing these heroes, TPL and Cox hope to inspire more people to take an active role in neighborhood conservation.

Buena Vista Audubon has nominated our hero and inspiration, Andy Mauro. He has been a member since 1995 and on the Board since 2001, in a variety of capacities: Treasurer, Conservation Chair, and Lagoon Flyer editor. BVAS has benefited from Andy’s leadership and wise counsel time after time in many different situations, as many of you know well.

Andy has lent his talents to other North County conservation groups too. Andy saw to it that BVAS together with California Audubon raised almost \$20,000 to help Preserve Calavera purchase 134 acres of Buena Vista Valley upstream from our lagoon as dedicated open space forever. Andy has just retired from the Board of the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy after many, many years of active service with them too. Thus all three conservation groups – Buena Vista Audubon Society, Preserve Calavera, and San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy – have nominated Andy as their San Diego Cox Conserves Hero!

So far we think we have been successful in keeping all this a secret from Andy; we hope he will first learn of his nomination when he reads about it here. The procedure for choosing a Hero works like this:

Six finalists – three under 18 and three 18 and over – are chosen by the Heroes Judging Circle, a panel of civic leaders active in San Diego County conservation. Finalists were announced May 31<sup>st</sup>. The Flyer went to press before then so at the time of writing we don’t know if Andy is a finalist or not. If not, we tried our best and there’s no justice in this world.

But assuming that Andy has been chosen, he along with the other finalists will be profiled on the Cox Conserves Heroes website and in local media. The public is asked to vote on their two favorite finalists, one in the under 18 category and one in the adult category. Voting will take place between May 31<sup>st</sup> – June 19<sup>th</sup>, concluding at 5:00 p.m. June 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Visit [www.coxconservesheroes.com](http://www.coxconservesheroes.com) to vote.** Individuals are permitted to vote once for one candidate in each category. At the conclusion of voting, finalists with the most votes will be selected as San Diego’s 2010 Heroes. Winners will be announced June 29<sup>th</sup> at an on-field event at the San Diego Padres game.

A total of \$35,000 in prize money is being awarded. First, second and third-place winners in each category will receive \$10,000, \$5,000 and \$2,500 respectively to donate to the local environmental non-profit organization of their choice.

**BE SURE TO VOTE, ENCOURAGE YOUR FAMILY AND ALL YOUR FRIENDS TO VOTE TOO AND LET’S HOPE OUR ANDY IS THE WINNER!**

Dennis Huckabay, President

**Vote for Andy!**

***Vote for Andy Mauro,  
Our Conservation Hero!***

- **Go to [www.coxconservesheroes.com](http://www.coxconservesheroes.com) to vote.**
- **Voting will be May 31—June 19**
- **Vote and encourage friends and family to vote!**

## BVAS Camp Pendleton Bird Trip—Recap

Over 40 birders had a great time birding Camp Pendleton on May 1, seeing and hearing a total of 65 bird species. Our first stop was at one of the restricted-access training areas that has been hosting pairs of nesting coastal cactus wrens and red-tailed hawks. In addition to the wrens and hawks, highlights included greater roadrunner, hooded and Bullock’s orioles, yellow-breasted chat, blue grosbeaks, and lazuli buntings.

We also visited the Lake O’Neil where we were treated to courtship displays of Clark’s and western grebes, nesting tree swallows, and an Anna’s hummingbird sitting on a nest. Other highlights included: eared grebes, ruddy duck, common moorhen, green herons, white-faced ibis, sora, Allen’s hummingbirds, Vaux’s swifts, and a late-season yellow-rumped warbler. Thanks to my co-leaders, Beth Forbus and Steve Brad. *Jeff Coker*



*Red-tailed hawk feeding chicks*

—Steve Brad

## Summer Birding—Everyone's Welcome!

**Sat.—June 5, July 3, and Aug. 7—8 a.m.—Whelan Lake Monthly Bird Count.** Whelan Lake is a reserve with a freshwater lake and riparian edge habitat. Directions: I-5 to Hwy. 76 East, left at Douglas and continue to light at North River Rd., left on North River Rd. Meet at the cul-de-sac at the end of the road by the entrance gate. Leader: John Haddock, 760-941-7824.

**Sun.—June 13—8 a.m.—Palomar Mountain St. Park.** Lazuli Bunting, Olive-Sided and other flycatchers, woodpeckers, swallows, and, with some luck, Purple Martin, nuthatches, and orioles. It's a great month to be in SD high country. Bring a lunch for a picnic. Directions: 78 to 15 North to 76 East, then 20.6 miles to the Palomar Mountain State Park sign. Go up the hill to S-7 at top, turn left and then another immediate left at corner store. Go 3 miles to park entrance, pay day use fee and proceed short distance to picnic area on the left. We'll gather there. Car poolers meet at 6:50 at La Costa Park and Ride. Leader: Steve Brad, 760 633-1639 [stevebrad1@earthlink.net](mailto:stevebrad1@earthlink.net)

**Sat.—June 26, July 31, and Aug. 28—8 a.m.—Buena Vista Lagoon Bird Count.** Join the regular monthly bird survey team and get to know the Buena Vista Lagoon. Have the satisfaction of contributing to the ongoing bird database by performing a little citizen science. We always record a nice assortment of freshwater wetland and marsh species on this easy-paced monthly excursion. Directions: I-5 to I-78 East, take Jefferson St. exit, turn right and make another right turn onto Lagoon View Dr. Leader: Joan Fountain, 760-729-1379.

**Sat.—June 26, July 31, and Aug. 28—8:30-10:30 a.m.—Basic Birding Class at the Buena Vista Lagoon Landing.** Novice birders are invited to join our monthly class for some informal, no-pressure birding. Your leader will share some friendly tips and help you practice your bird identification skills. Directions: I-5 to I-78 East, take Jefferson St. exit, turn right and go to stoplight, turn right and park in Landing parking lot on the right-hand side of road. Leader: Tom Troy, 760-420-7328.

**Sat—Aug 8—8 a.m.—San Diego River.** Expected birds include south-bound migrants and early-arrival wintering sandpipers. For those interested, we'll be working on identifying the juveniles, terns, and wading birds including little blue heron and clappers. It should be quite birdy! If there's interest we'll go to lunch at a restaurant on the bay. Directions: I-5 South to Sea World Drive. Follow Sea World Drive to the traffic light at South Shores Park. Turn left at the light, then make an immediate right on the road that runs along the river. Park on that road. We will bird this section and some other areas later. Leader: Steve Brad, 760 633-1639 [stevebrad1@earthlink.net](mailto:stevebrad1@earthlink.net)



### BVAS-Sponsored Summer Pelagic Birding Boat Trips From San Diego

**Sun.—June 27—7 a.m.-4 p.m.—Summer Lazy-Daze Pelagic Boat Trip.** This 9-hour trip departs Point Loma Sportfishing at 7 a.m. to explore the bird-rich 9-Mile Bank from the comfortable 85-foot *Grande*. On our way out of San Diego Harbor we'll motor slowly by the live bait tank barges for super-close-ups of lounging sea lions, several hundred Brandt's cormorants, several species of gulls, and dozens of shorebirds, egrets and herons. On our way out of the harbor we'll check for oystercatchers amongst the cobbles of Ballast Point. On this trip we expect to see two to four species of dolphins and numerous seabirds including phalarope, fulmars, shearwaters, auklets, murrelets, and jaegers. Last year this trip found two black-footed albatrosses and had a humpback whale surface close to the boat. Cost of the trip \$70 (Early bird discount price \$60 if purchased before June 11). For reservations, call Point Loma Sportfishing at 619-223-1627, and tell them you are interested in the June 27 BVAS birding trip on board the *Grande*.

**Mon.—Aug. 16—Wed. Aug. 18—Storm-Petrel & Tropicbird Extravaganza.** Join BVAS on a mid-week, multi-day pelagic boat trip in waters at the southern edge of the ABA area. Our purpose on this mid-August trip is to spend two days on the ocean looking for Mexican exotics, tropicbirds, Craveri's murrelets, and southern hemisphere pterodroma species that might be straying up into U.S. waters. We'll go beyond the 9-Mile Bank out to underwater ridges and domes 100 miles offshore. We'll depart Point Loma Sportfishing onboard the comfortable *Grande* on Monday at 7 a.m., and return on Wednesday at 7 a.m. Cost of the trip is \$315 (Early bird discount price is \$285 if purchased before July 30). For reservations, call Point Loma Sportfishing at 619-223-1627, and tell them you are interested in the Aug. 24-26 BVAS birding trip on board the *Grande*.

Visit [www.socalbirding.com](http://www.socalbirding.com) for full pelagic birding information.

**Bird Trip Info Line: 760-688-0660**

**BVAS May 8th Spring Birdathon Recap** —Tom Troy's Beginning Birders went out and around Buena Vista Lagoon and spotted most of the usual suspects, 39 species in total, including the resident South Oceanside Lilac-crowned Parrots. Another group led by Steve Brad went to Guajome, the San Luis Rey River and on to Prince of Peace Abbey. They spotted 66 species including three vireos (Least Bell's, Warbling and Cassin's). Between the two groups 77 species were seen. Back at the Nature Center volunteers were on hand for bug walks and nature activities for any and all visitors.

Our Spring Birdathon is held each year to remind our members and friends of the rich diversity of birds to be seen here at this time of year and also to raise funds for our BVAS nature education and awareness programs. If you haven't yet responded to our annual Spring Appeal, we look forward to hearing from you!

## Buena Vista Native Plant Club

### Summer Meetings



#### June 20 — Come See the Blooms!

We have a fantastic collection of plant photos. We'll go through the archives and talk about any plant you want to discuss.

#### July 18 — Fire Season Gardening.

The rains have stopped and fire season is in full swing. A firefighter who loves native plants will help us learn how to protect our homes. We'll watch the Rick Halsey chaparral video and then discuss his book "Fire, Chaparral, and Survival in Southern California", 2005, published by Sunbelt.

#### August 15 — Winter in August?

If you are still thinking like an Easterner, it is time to learn the true seasons. Plants are going dormant and we need to start pruning. Bring gloves and tools.

*The Buena Vista Native Plant club meets at the Nature Center at 2 p.m. on the 3rd Sunday of the month.*

### BVAS OFFICERS, BOARD\* AND CHAIRS

|                |                  |              |
|----------------|------------------|--------------|
| President      | Dennis Huckabay* | 760-757-6437 |
| Vice-President | Dave Billings*   | 760-753-7925 |
| Secretary      | Kathy Billings*  | 760-753-7925 |
| Treasurer      | Sandy McMullen*  | 760-944-5690 |

|                       |                   |              |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Audubon Adventures    | Ruth Gransbery    | 760-729-2240 |
| Center Manager        | Annette Schneider | 760-945-8891 |
| Christmas Bird Count  | Terry Hunefeld*   | 760-908-3453 |
| Conservation Co-Chair | Danny DiMento*    | 858-688-6891 |
| Conservation Co-Chair | Joan Herskowitz*  | 760-942-5167 |
| Circulation           | —OPEN POSITION—   |              |
| Education Co-Chair    | Ellen Kindsvater  | 760-433-8097 |
| Education Co-Chair    | Nancy Miller      | 760-704-6479 |
| Facilities/Exhibits   | Danny DiMento*    | 858-688-6891 |
| Field Trips           | Andy Brumbaugh    | 760-434-3334 |
| Field Trip Leader     | Steve Brad*       | 760-633-1639 |
| Gift Shop             | Rosalyn Dong*     | 760-806-1430 |
| Library               | Norma Handy       | 760-634-2120 |
| Membership            | Harvey Hart*      | 760-945-9601 |
| Native Plant Club     | Joan Bockman*     | 760-433-9401 |
| Native Plant Garden   | Joan Bockman*     | 760-433-9401 |
| Newsletter            | Andy Mauro*       | 760-753-1266 |

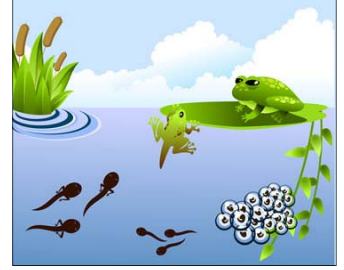
E-mail: akamauro@cox.net

|                 |   |              |
|-----------------|---|--------------|
| Pelagic Birding | Terry Hunefeld*                         | 760-908-3453 |
| Programs        | Dennis Huckabay*                        | 760-757-6437 |
| Publicity       | Kelly Deveney*                          | 760-721-2441 |
| Ruddy Duck Club | —OPEN POSITION—                         |              |
| Volunteers      | Mary Ellen Marquand*                    | 760-918-6622 |
| Webmaster       | Larry Spann: E-mail: larry@spannweb.net |              |

## Preschool Nature Storytime

Monday, June 28, 10 a.m.

What's all that croaking about? It seems to be coming from our pond. Tadpole to frog...how does that happen? We will be discovering lots of interesting things about this amazing amphibian at our Storytime on June 28 at 10 a.m. We'll also be making our very own tree frog to take home. If you have any questions about Storytime, please contact Mary Ellen at 760-918-6622.



### Continued from page 1. June Election

Our official slate of 2010/11 officer candidates will list Dave Billings (president), Dennis Huckabay (vice-president), Sandy McMullen (treasurer), and Kathy Billings (secretary). Despite the current continuity in our officer ranks, it is not at all unusual for BVAS to be seeking new volunteers to fill key committee positions from time to time throughout the year, and we are always happy to welcome new volunteers to our ranks. A key committee chair position, The Ruddy Duck Club, is open at this time. This position generally includes a seat on the Board. Our newsletter editor would love to have a co-editor getting ready to eventually take over the *Lagoon Flyer*. Other long-standing committee chairs would no doubt also welcome the help of a co-chair. If you are interested in helping out the chapter as a committee chair or co-chair, please contact Mary Ellen (760-918-6622) or Dennis (760-757-6437) for more information. Don't be shy—we'll help you ease into your new job. Being on the Board is a fun and rewarding experience!

### Buena Vista Audubon Nature Center

Tue.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Sun. 1 p.m.-4 p.m.

Closed Mon.

760-439-2473

2202 South Coast Hwy., Oceanside, CA  
(East side of street on north shore of lagoon)

#### Mailing Address:

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

Website: [www.bvaudubon.org](http://www.bvaudubon.org)  
E-mail: [bvaudubon@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bvaudubon@sbcglobal.net)  
Field Trip Hotline: 760-688-0660

## 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: \$25.

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

|   |
|---|
| Friends Membership: New ___ Renewal ___ |
|---|

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Send me my newsletter by e-mail.**

### Create Your Special Legacy

Join many of our founding members and make BVAS a part of your estate plan. Your legacy gift goes directly to the Endowment Fund, providing lasting support for our Nature Center. Please call Dennis Huckabay at 760-757-6437 for more information.

**Please Bill My Credit Card:**

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ CRN \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Checks Payable to:**

Buena Vista Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 480  
Oceanside, CA 92049

### *Conservation Matters*

### Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill

Since the April 20th blowout of the Deepwater Horizon oil well, and tragic loss of human life, oil continues to spill into the Gulf of Mexico. Some scientists are saying that it has the potential to bring environmental ruin to this treasured coastline. The well is situated at a depth of 5,000 feet and, although initial reports indicated that oil is discharging from the well at 5,000 barrels per day, that estimate is now being challenged suggesting that the actual discharge rate could be much higher, ranging from 20,000 up to 100,000 barrels per day. Since there appears to have been no adequate backup system, and no emergency plan to deal with it once it occurred, there is no way of knowing when the oil flow will be stopped and the ultimate extent of the environmental damage.

Sensitive coastal areas of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida are all vulnerable to the growing spill which is occurring in a season when shrimp, alligators, and other marshland animals bear their young. Also, this time of year large numbers of birds converge on the marshes and beaches, some stopping to recharge after long flights over the Gulf from South America, while others remain and prepare to raise their young in nests on the marshes and beaches. There are 25 recognized Important Bird Areas that line the gulf coast, and it was just reported that oil has reached at least one of these, the Chandeleur Islands, a breeding habitat for Sandwich and Royal Terns, and Brown Pelicans. News photos have already documented oil-soaked birds and oil washing into Louisiana cordgrass marshes which could hold onto toxins for years.

When the spill is ultimately contained, there are many questions that must be asked. Why weren't precautions taken by BP to prevent the accident and where was the government oversight that is expected by the public? Why didn't the Interior Department's Minerals Management Service require a functioning backup shutdown system? Where was BP's plan to deal with a major spill and was an environmental analysis conducted prior to issuance of permits? Although accidents may be infrequent, if the risk of environmental damage is so high when one occurs, should we be permitting deep sea oil drilling? Why isn't there more emphasis by our government on energy conservation? We need answers and assurances that this doesn't happen again. National Audubon and the American Birding Association are organizing their staff and volunteers, and are taking donations, to assist with wildlife recovery efforts. See their websites for more information. ([www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org) and [www.aba.org](http://www.aba.org))

*-Joan Herskowitz*



Pictured—three of the many birds at risk due to the oil spill, American Oystercatcher, Reddish Egret, and Rosetta Spoonbill

*Photo Credit: Bill Stripling, courtesy of the National Audubon Society*



*Birding Camp  
Pendleton  
—Andy Mauro*

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆  
 ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆  
 ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆  
 ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆  
 ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆  
 ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆  
 ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆  
 ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆  
 ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆  
 ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆



***Vote for Andy Mauro,  
Our Conservation Hero!***

See Page 2 for Details!

# Lagoon Flyer



BUENA VISTA AUDUBON SOCIETY  
 P. O. BOX 480  
 OCEANSIDE, CA 92049-0480

DATED MATERIAL  
 Please Deliver Promptly

NON-PROFIT  
 ORG.  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 PERMIT #193  
 OCEANSIDE, CA

**Change Service Requested**

## Quick Calendar for Summer

- Fri. June 4—Board Meeting—9 a.m.
- Sat. June 5—Whelan Lake Walk—8 a.m.  
*Repeats July 3 and August 7*
- Mon. June 7—Nature Guides Meeting—10 a.m.
- Sun. June 13—Palomar Mt. Birding Trip—8 a.m.
- Wed. June 16—BVAS General Meeting—7 p.m.
- Sun. June 20—Native Plant Club Meeting—2 p.m.  
*Repeats July 18 and August 15*
- Sat. June 26—B.V. Lagoon Count—8 a.m.  
*Repeats July 31 and Aug. 28*
- Sat. June 26—Basic Birding at B.V. Landing—8:30 a.m.  
*Repeats July 31 and Aug. 28*
- Sun. June 27—Pelagic Birding Boat Trip—7 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Mon. June 28—Nature Storytime—10 a.m.
- July 5-9—Camp Crawdad—Ages 6-8—9 a.m.-noon.
- July 12-16—Camp Tadpole—Ages 6-8—9 a.m.-noon.
- Sat. Aug. 8—San Diego River Birding—8 a.m.
- Aug. 16-18—Pelagic Birding 2-Night Boat Trip

## Indigo Bunting



This beautiful indigo bunting was found and photographed on May 2 on Camp Pendleton by Steve Brad. It was the only indigo bunting found in San Diego County during this year's "America's Birdiest County and City" contest. Nice find, Steve!