



January 2005

Lagoon Flyer

Www.bvaudubon.org



A Message from your Board of Directors,

The holiday season is over, and as we pack away all the trimmings of the year just past, we take a brief moment to reflect upon what has been accomplished at Buena Vista Audubon, and count our blessings. Two major grants administered by the City of Oceanside in 2004 resulted in over \$130,000 of capital improvements at the Nature Center. Our new roof, repainted exterior, and the re-surfacing of the parking lot were all much needed improvements. The new native plant demonstration garden funded by the Metropolitan Water District has beautified the grounds and will help educate our community on the practicality and beauty of a natural landscape. The interior exhibits and gift shop were refurbished as well. These improvements followed similar progress made in recent years with projects funded by grants from the City of Carlsbad.

The driving force behind these changes and the source of energy and inspiration for our chapter over the last five years has been our president, Dennis Wysong. Dennis has an intense passion for our natural world, especially its birds. As this message is being written, Dennis and his wife Carol are enjoying a two-week birding excursion to Ecuador. They will return just in time for Dennis to oversee the Oceanside Christmas Bird Count in late December on behalf of BVAS.

The start of a new year is also the time when we look to the future and contemplate change. In the absence of other willing candidates, Dennis has graciously continued to serve as president of BVAS for the last five years. Last month, Dennis informed the Board he has finally come to the conclusion that by stepping down from the presidency, he might encourage someone else to step forward. We're thankful to report that he will continue to be a member of the Board, and be responsible for organizing and overseeing our two major birding events, the Christmas Bird Count and the April Birdathon.

The Board would like to publicly express to Dennis our sincere appreciation for all he has done on behalf of BVAS over the years. His energy, determination, creativity, and just plain hard work resulted in an impressive list of accomplishments during his stint as president. Over the last five years our chapter has experienced significant growth in: membership, financial assets, facilities / grounds, number of visitors to the Nature Center, school classes served by our Nature Guides, classrooms receiving our Audubon Adventures program, guided bird walks offered each year, featured public events at the Nature Center, and our working partnerships with resource agencies and municipalities.

This year promises to be one of exciting progress at BVAS as we continue to expand our programs and improve our Nature Center. We invite all of you to become more involved in BVAS. We always welcome new recruits to help serve as center hosts, nature guides, grounds maintenance volunteers, bird survey participants, committee members, members of the board, and officers of the chapter. We don't require prior experience—we've all learned on the job! Give the Nature Center a call and let Annette know if you're interested. We will do the rest!

Thank you for all your support over the year, and good birding!

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Wednesday, January 26, 2005 General Meeting

Social 7pm Lecture 730 pm

Speaker: **Tom Kaminski**

Presentation: **Hooked on Hummingbirds**

"Hooked on Hummingbirds" is a nature video revealing hummer behaviors that the naked eye never sees. Spectacular slow motion, freeze-frame and real time footage of 20 hummer species in the US and Costa Rica shows them flying upside down, catching insects, fighting, nesting, and being banded by hummer experts.

Rancho Palos Verdes-based **Tom Kaminski** is the owner/operator of the Avian Video Center, which produces nature and travel videos. He launched his business in 1997 after 30 years in broadcast journalism, college teaching, and corporate communications. He has presented "**Hooked on Hummingbirds**" to Audubon chapters throughout Southern California.

Join us for an evening of hummingbird ballet!

Buena Vista Native Plant Club News

Monthly cleanup with Carolyn Martus

Normally our clean-ups are the first Saturday of every month, but with the holiday, January's cleanup will be on the second Saturday, January 8th.

WHEN: Saturday January 8th, 2005 from 8am-10am

WHERE: Buena Vista Audubon Nature Center

WHAT: We will be picking up trash around the nature center and along the trails and along the road, mostly fishing line and cigarette butts. We will also do some hand weeding, depending on what's growing and how many people show up. If you like, bring your favorite weeding tools and work gloves.

WHY? To clean up the trash before it harms wildlife and to pull weeds so the native plants can thrive.

Bring: Yourself, hand gardening tools, and any of your favorite gardening tools, work gloves.

Wear sturdy shoes, hat and sunscreen. Bring a water bottle, too, and a friend.

NOVEMBER MEETING notes:

Over 50 people came out to hear Greg Rubin speak.

He was entertaining and informative as always. If you haven't learned about "Beer Watering" and the "lawn as freshwater marsh" - you have really missed out! We also had a mystery plant. It is *Pluchea odorata*, marsh fleabane. It is a beautiful purple bloomer that started to blossom because Carolyn Martus and crew got rid of the weeds. Clear the way and the natives will thrive!

New meeting ideas:

-I'm wondering if we should have an evening meeting for those folks who can't make daytime/weekends. Let me know if you'd be interested.

- We could also meet to "Beer Water" in the summer. I don't think I can advertise beer but we can play with the concept.

-The January meeting will be a discussion of the book "Safe Sex in the Garden." Pick up a copy at any bookstore. It is worth a read. The January meeting is the 3rd Sunday at 2pm.

Mission Statement: We exist to support the cultivation and enjoyment of Native Plants within north west San Diego County and to provide community education on the benefits of Native Plants.

BIRD NOTES -

Our recent trip to the **Salton Sea** and surrounding area on Nov. 20-21 was attended by 18 of our birders. **Bob Miller** was our knowledgeable guide. The masses of Snow Geese, Ross's Geese, White-faced Ibis, and Sandhill Cranes that have migrated south were a sight to behold. Among the 55 other birds we saw, we were most pleased to find a Zone-tailed Hawk flying among the Turkey Vultures. The Burrowing Owls were their usual delightful selves, and the shore birds we spotted as the sun set over the Salton Sea were as spectacular as the beautiful panorama of changing colors. We enjoyed a fun dinner at Lalo's and a night at the Brawley Inn before heading home on Sunday. The trek back over the mountains was almost as exciting as the birding, as we hit that erratic rain and snow storm that fell that week end!

SAN DIEGO BIRD FESTIVAL**Feb. 9-13**

Workshops and Fieldtrips and Vendors

Keynote Speaker: **Ted Floyd**Call (619)516-0139 or www.sandiegonaturefestivals.org**SAN DIEGO BIRD FESTIVAL SPECIAL BIRDING EVENT**

On Sat., Jan 15, we plan to attend the **Wildlife Research Institute's Hawk Watch** in Ramona. Hawk Watch begins at 9:00AM, but we have been advised to arrive by 8:30AM to obtain a good spot and set up scopes. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about raptors, see live demonstrations, and bird for these magnificent creatures. The WRI is located at 18030 Highland Valley Rd. **Directions:** Take Hwy 78 to Ramona. Turn right (South) onto 67 (Ramona's main street) and proceed to Highland Valley Rd. on the outskirts of town. Turn right onto Highland Valley. The WRI will be down the road a ways on the right hand side.

JANUARY BIRDING OPPORTUNITIES (Heavy rains cancel)

SAT., JAN. 8 - Whelan Lake, 8:00AM, w/John Haddock (760)941-7824
East Hwy. 78 to Douglas, turn left. Left at North River Rd. to gate at end.

SAT., JAN. 15 - Ramona Hawk Watch (See special event article)

SAT., JAN. 22 - A lesson on identifying shore birds and ducks with John Hazard
San Elijo Lagoon, 9:00AM I-5 to Lomas Santa Fe west. Right on Rios to cul-de-sac at the end.

SAT., JAN. 29 - Come help with the BVAS Bird Count at Buena Vista Lagoon, 8:00AM
1-5 to 78 Exit Jefferson. Turn right and take immediate right onto Lagoon View Way.
Joan Fountain (760)729-1379

Nature Story time for Preschoolers will resume on the 4th Monday each month in January.
More info: Mary Ellen Marquand (760)918-6622

January Statewide Birding Events

Winter Migratory Waterfowl Tour

Chico - CA

January 1 - March 1, 2005 Phone: 530-891-5556

Winter Migratory Waterfowl Tour, some of California's best birding can be found on the farmland wetlands of Butte County. Best viewing Dec. - Jan. for a brochure about the the Winter Migratory Waterfowl Tours contact the Chico Chamber of Commerce.

Morro Bay Winter Birding Festival

Morro Bay - CA

January 14-17, 2005 Phone: 800-231-0592

The Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival makes it a point to offer a variety of events for all levels of birders. Both local and state-wide birding experts will lead over 35 land, ocean-going, and bay field trips, plus discussions and presentations, social events and workshops focusing on everything from warblers to elephant seals. Field trips will include pelagic trips, birding by kayak, trips to see Sandhill Cranes and Bald Eagles, shorebird field trips, and the popular "Big Day" marathon field trip to see as many species as possible.

Contact: Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival c/o Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce, 880 Main St., Morro Bay, CA 93442

San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival

Vallejo - CA

January 21-23, 2005 Phone: 707-649-WING [9464]

The festival celebrates the return of over one million shorebirds and hundreds and thousands of waterfowl which migrate through our winter in San Francisco Bay. The home base is Building 897 on Mare Island in Vallejo, CA. The festival features 17 different short walks that range from scouting for mushrooms to a walk through the historic shipyard. There are also more than a dozen wetland and birding walks.

Contact: San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival, Building 897 Mare Island, Vallejo, CA 94592

Annual Snow Goose Festival

Chico - CA

January 28-30, 2005 Phone: 530-891-5559

Come join us for the 5th Annual Snow Goose Festival! Fun for everyone.

Contact: Chico Chamber of Commerce, 300 Salem Street, Chico, CA 95928



Education Committee Report: Thanks to the guides for their help with tours during the past season. One of our new guides, Fran McNeil, has put together some Native American craft projects for visiting elementary school students as well as a new lesson on Native Americans. This month, we had our 'Holiday Get-Together' at the Jolly Roger in Oceanside. Thanks to Joyce Page and JoAnne Schontzler for organizing the great luncheon. We've already received requests for visits from schools for January and February - if you're interested in helping out, call Sue at 757-6461 for information and materials. Here's to a great year for all of us!