

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



INTRODUCTION TO GULL IDENTIFICATION

Instructor: Herb Young

February 12-13, 2005

9 am - 1 pm

A course to end your confusion about gulls. On Saturday, we will spend the first hour in class for a short lecture, then head out for three hours in the field looking at gulls up close. The entire class on Sunday will be spent in the field. We will try to see eight species of gulls, but we will use the four common winter gulls, Western, California, Ring-billed, and Heermann's, to illustrate the plumage progression from juvenile to adult. Course material includes a reference booklet for further study and checklists to record the ages of each gull that we see. Completion certificates will be presented to all graduates. Bring binoculars and snacks; leave field guides in your car. Birders of all skill levels will find this class very helpful.

Students will meet at the BVAS Nature Center for the lecture portion of the class and then continue to some local gull hotspots for the remainder of the class. Call the Nature Center at 760-439-2473 for additional information and to sign up for this class. Course fee \$25

General Meeting

Wednesday, February 23, 2005

Social 7 pm Lecture 7:30 pm

Speaker: Dr. Phil Unitt, Curator of Birds and Mammals, San Diego Natural History Museum

Presentation: Changing Environment, Changing Birdlife: Stories from the San Diego County Bird Atlas

Hear some of the stories that went into the making of the brand new atlas (just out in January 2005) and some of the stories that came out, pointing new directions of change for the county with the richest birdlife in the entire United States.

Copies of the atlas will be available for purchase (hardbound, 648 pages/468 color photographs, \$80) and signing by Phil.

Dennis Huckabay

Volunteer Orientation

February 17, 2005 - 10 am

We are in desperate need of volunteers to host the Nature Center. Recently, we have been unable to keep the center open during regularly scheduled hours because we don't have enough volunteers. If you are interested in hosting, or in of the other volunteer opportunities we have, please drop by the Nature Center on the 17th at 10 am. Annette Schneider, Center Manager, will be on hand to explain what is involved and to answer your questions. It's fun and easier than you think! For more information, call 439-2473.

CNPS Native Plant Sale

March 5, 2005

The San Diego chapter of the California Native Plant Society will hold their annual spring plant sale at Tree of Life Nursery on March 5. The nursery is located at 33201 Ortega Hwy, 7 miles east of San Juan Capistrano on Ortega Hwy (Hwy 74). Enter at the green gate on the north side of the highway. Sale hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Be sure to get there early for the best selection! www.treeoflifeny.com, or 949-728-0685 for more information.

INVASIVE PLANTS

by Carolyn Martus

This is the first of a series of monthly columns on invasive non-native plants. It will start out with an introduction to invasive non-native plants and present the reasons why it is important to **NOT** use invasive non-native plants in horticulture or your garden at home.

Non-native plants are not from California and I'm sure everyone, including myself, has many non-native plants in our garden. *Invasive* non-native plants are plants that escape cultivation, spread into natural areas, dominate the landscape, smother native plant populations, and do not provide food and shelter for our native wildlife. Some invasive non-native plants can dominate a landscape producing monocultures of one species, essentially type converting the landscape and dramatically reducing the biodiversity of a given piece of natural land. Essentially, invasive non-native plants are a form of biological pollution. Those are just a few characteristics of invasive non-native plants. Examples of common invasive non-native plants, some of which will be featured in future columns, are *Cortaderia selloana* (Pampas Grass), *Arundo donax* (Giant Reed), and *Caulerpa taxifolia* (Killer algae). The purpose of this column will be to educate Audubon members about invasive plants and to provide better information to enable you to make better decisions at the nursery. We will be featuring the 'horticultural' invaders, those pesky plants that have originated from the horticultural trade. There is another group of invasive plants called "wildland" weeds. These are typically weeds that spread from agricultural disturbances of the land or farming. Examples of wildland weeds are Yellow Star Thistle (*Centaurea melitensis* and *C. solstitialis*) and Perennial Pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*). Wildland weeds are not sold in the nursery trade so we will not discuss these weeds in this column.

If you can't wait for our monthly column and would like better information right away here are some resources to learn more about invasive non-native plants.

Books:

Invasive Plants of California's Wildlands. 2000. Carla C. Bossard, John M. Randall, and Marc C. Hoshovsky, editors. University of California Press. This is the best single source of information on the worst of California's invasive plants. You can view the entire book online, or purchase a copy from Cal-IPC at http://groups.ucanr.org/ceppc/Publications/Invasive_Plants_of_California_Wildlands.htm

Weeds of the Global Garden. 1996. J. Marinelli, ed. Brooklyn Botanic Garden Handbook 149. A national overview of weeds in laymen terminology.

Websites:

University of California Cooperative Extension County of San Diego, Regional Advisor on Invasive Plants <http://cesandiego.ucdavis.edu>. The website provides information on controlling invasive weeds, protecting agriculture and natural resources.

- **Santa Margarita and San Luis Rey Watersheds Weed Management Area** <http://smlsrwma.org> The Santa Margarita and San Luis Rey Watersheds Weed Management Area was formed to provide support, coordination, and funding for management of invasive plants within the Santa Margarita and San Luis Rey watersheds in San Diego and Riverside Counties. The website provides information about target plants as well as distribution maps, control projects, and control methods in order to organize eradication efforts and ensure that control sites are not re-infected by upstream sources.

- **University of California Cooperative Extension Weed Research and Information Center (WeedRIC)** <http://wric.ucdavis.edu> Housed on the UC Davis campus, the Weed Research and Information Center's mission is to foster research in weed management and facilitate distribution of knowledge gained for the benefit of agriculture and the preservation of natural resources.

- **California Invasive Pest Plant Council (Cal-IPC)** <http://cal-ipc.org> Based in Berkeley, the California Exotic Pest Plant Council (CalEPPC) is dedicated to finding solutions to problems caused by non-native pest plants invading the state's natural areas.

Invasivespecies.gov <http://invasivespecies.gov> This is a gateway to Federal and State activities and programs for all types of invasive species -- plants, animals, and other organisms (e.g., microbes such as the West Nile virus).

Carolyn Martus, author. Carolyn works to remove invasive plants from natural areas and restore them with native plants. She is also on the board of the San Diego Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, www.cnpsd.org. Feel free to get in touch if you have questions or would like to know more about invasive plants.

Volunteer Needed for Gift Shop

We are looking for an individual to take responsibility for the Nature Center Gift Shop. Responsibilities include ordering merchandise, pricing items and restocking shelves. The job only requires a few hours each month. Training will be provided. If you are interested, please call 439-2473.

February Field Trips

Sat - Feb 5 - 8:00 am - Whelan Lake Monthly Bird Count. A wonderful chance to see many species. East on 78 to Douglas. Turn left and continue to North River Rd. Turn left and meet at end of cu-de-sac by the entrance gate. Leader: John Haddock 760-941-7824



Ring-necked Duck
by Steven D'Amato

Sat & Sun - Feb 12-13 - 9:00 am - Gull Identification Glass with expert Herb Young See Page 1 for Details.

Sat - Feb 12 - 9:00 am - San Elijo Lagoon. I-5 to Lomas Santa Fe, west less than one mile to Rios Ave. Turn right and proceed to end of road. Andy Mauro, Leader 760-753-1266

Sat - Feb 19 - 8:00 am - Del Dios at Lake Hodges. For morning birding and lunch at Hernandez' Hideaway. Take I-5 south to Via De La Valle/CR-S6 exit. Follow CR-S6 east for approximately 11 miles, traveling through Rancho Santa Fe, to Rancho Road. Turn right and continue for 2 blks until you see Hernandez' Hideaway on left. Park across the street in dirt lot for hikers and bikers, and meet there. There will be hiking on narrow dirt trails and sometimes dirt road. Moderately strenuous. No restrooms along trail. Lunch afterwards at Hernandez' Hideaway for those interested. Mary Ellen 760-918-6622

Sat - Feb 26 - 8:00 am - Buena Vista Lagoon Count. Come help count and actually SEE the west part of the lagoon after the fire! Take I-5 to Jefferson exit. Turn right and take immediate right on to Lagoon View Way where we meet. Leader: Joan Fountain 760-729-1379

SPECIAL EVENT COMING IN MARCH *For Bird and Native Plant Lovers Alike*

A trip to the Anza-Borrego Desert is being planned for March 12. We will be observing plants, many of which should be in full bloom, and birds in the area's various canyons, washes, and flats. Arrangements will be made for those wanting to spend the night and return home on Sunday, March 13. This is a wonderful opportunity for our BVAS Plant Club and our bird-watchers to share their knowledge in a fun experience. Look for more details in the March newsletter. Contact person: Mary Ellen Marquand 760-918-6622.

SAN DIEGO BIRD FESTIVAL **FEB 9-13**

The 9th annual San Diego Bird Festival will be held at the Marina Village Conference Center, 1936 Quivira Way, San Diego. The festival offers birding trips, classes, speakers and vendors. For more information, see the festival website or call the festival organizers. www.sandiegonaturefestivals.org or 619 516-0139

Anyone interested in helping man a Buena Vista Audubon table at the festival on Saturday and Sunday, please call the nature center to sign up. 760-439-2473

8th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count **February 18-21, 2005**

Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon invite you to take part in the 2005 Great Backyard Bird Count. The data collected will be combined with the Christmas Bird Count and Project FeederWatch data to provide an immense picture of winter birds. Last year birders across North America submitted 42,500 checklists with 554 species observed. All you need is basic knowledge of bird identification, access to the internet, and as little as 15 minutes to watch the birds in your backyard or a neighbor park. After you submit your results, you can watch as the results are tallied online. You can view the results in several ways – maps, top ten lists, state tallies, detailed reports. To take part in the count, go to www.birdsource.org/gbbc.

BVAS Receives Major Donations

Special thanks go out to the following individuals for supporting Buena Vista Audubon with major donations. Generous donations such as yours ensure the continued operation of our Nature Center and educational programs.

Walter & Else Epprecht
Carolyn Lundberg

NATURE STORYTIME

Story and craft time for preschoolers continues on the 4th Monday of each month. Hope to see you on Feb 28th at 10:00 am. Call the Nature Center for more information. 760-439-2473.

Shop for your Valentine at the BVAS Gift Shop!

BUENA VISTA NATIVE PLANT CLUB**February Meeting**

The Buena Vista Native Plant Club is discussing "Safe Sex in the Garden" by Thomas Ogren. Plants are growing and love is in the air. Consider the controversial VOC chapter while dining on left-over Valentine's Day candy. Sunday, Feb 20, 2pm. Buena Vista Nature Center, 2202 South Coast Hwy, Oceanside. 760-439-2473

BVNPC Members Make Major Donation

We received a very generous donation from BVNPC members John and Terry Gross of Oceanside. This money will be used to further our library and book store outreach efforts and to fund speakers for our monthly meetings. THANK YOU John and Terry!

Monthly cleanup with Carolyn Martus

WHEN: Saturday Feb 5th, 2005 8am-10am
WHERE: Buena Vista Audubon Nature Center
WHAT: Maintenance, trash removal and weeding
BRING: Yourself, hand gardening tools

Tuesday Gardening

Join us at the Nature Center every Tuesday at 1:30 in the afternoon for some light gardening and stimulating discussion.

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

Education Committee Report

We're off to a busy start this year, with requests from new and returning teachers, and the recent rains have not helped in our scheduling! Bobier Elementary School, Vista, reserved all of the Fridays in January, 40 kids at a time (the first Friday was postponed to the following Wednesday because of the downpours)! The entire school is participating in a wetlands project - The Mare Project - and we have most of the third grade classes scheduled for tours, during which we'll talk about Buena Vista Lagoon, animal adaptations to the area, fresh vs. salt water ecosystems. With 4 guides working together, we can handle these large groups, though normally we have 20-30 kids in a group, and that is definitely preferred! Thanks again to the Nature Guides for your help!

Sue Sharon

Nature Center Cub Scout Guide Now Available

This manual is intended to inform Nature Guides and Scout Leaders about the Cub Scout requirements that can be met at the Nature Center. The Nature Center has all of the materials and training to meet the requirements for badges and advancements that are listed in the manual. Over the holidays, 3 Webelos I Scouts achieved the Naturalist Badge. Copies of the Manual are available in the files under Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts. Boy Scout and Girl Scout requirements are being researched for future manuals.

Joan Bochman

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Flyer Editor	Suzann Spann	231-9709
	email: suzann@cox.net	

Nature Center 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

www.bvaudubon.org

* Board Members

RARE BIRD ALERT 619-688-2473

FRIENDS OF BVAS – 2005

The following people have joined the Friends of BVAS for 2005. 100% of your donation goes to support local nature programs. Thanks for your support - we couldn't do it without you!

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Dr. Paul Kratka | Elle Schubert |
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| Kathy & Andy Mauro | Bob & Stephanie Williams |
| Kenneth Bunyard | (To be cont'd in March <i>Flyer</i>) |

From the editor...

For the last few months many of you have received a postcard listing BVAS events instead of the *Lagoon Flyer*. Recent National Audubon policy changes regarding dues sharing have resulted in a significant reduction in the percentage of member's dues that comes back to the chapter. To offset this loss, many chapters are exploring alternatives to the publication and distribution of their newsletters – one of the largest expenses for chapters. Last year, Buena Vista Audubon started mailing the postcard to the general membership. Members of Friends of BVAS (those donating a minimum of \$20 per year directly to support local BVAS programs) continued to receive the newsletter. After trying this for a few months, the Board of Directors felt that the postcard was not large enough to provide adequate information to the members. While it did result in a savings of approximately \$100 per month, the postcard didn't serve to keep our members apprised of the activities of the chapter. Therefore, beginning with this edition, we will discontinue the postcard and resume sending the newsletter to the entire membership.

Also beginning with this edition, you will notice that I am returning as editor of the *Lagoon Flyer*. The Board joins me in thanking Dana Fore for stepping up and taking on the responsibilities of newsletter editor for the last half of 2004. Dana will continue to be webmaster for the chapter and, together, we will make every effort to provide you with the latest news of the chapter.

Suzann Spann

BVAS Board Welcomes New Member

The Buena Vista Audubon board of directors wishes to welcome our newest member, Mary Jane Roberts. Mary Jane was very active in the South Coast Chapter in San Clemente before moving to Oceanside. Her experience and enthusiasm are sure to be assets to BVAS.

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Includes Membership in the Buena Vista Chapter)

Membership in the National Audubon Society includes subscriptions to *Audubon Magazine* as well as to the *Lagoon Flyer*, the Buena Vista Chapter newsletter. Pay by check or credit card. Make checks payable to BVAS. Please return this application to:

**Buena Vista Audubon Society
P.O. Box 480
Oceanside, CA 92054**

*INTRODUCTORY MEMBERSHIP
1 YEAR - \$20*

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Lagoon Flyer



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QUICK CALENDAR

- Feb 4 Board Meeting 9 am
- Feb 5 Garden Clean-up Day 8 am
- Feb 5 Whelan Bird Count 8 am
- Feb 7 Nature Guides Meeting 10 am
- Feb 9-13 San Diego Bird Festival
- Feb 12 San Elijo Lagoon Walk 9 am
- Feb 12-13 Gull ID Class 9 am
- Feb 17 Volunteer Orientation 10:00 am
- Feb 19 Del Dios Bird Walk 8 am
- Feb 20 Buena Vista Native Plant Club 2:00 pm
- Feb 23 General Membership Meeting
Social 7 pm / Lecture 7:30 pm
- Feb 26 Buena Vista Lagoon Count 8:00 am
- Feb 28 Nature Story Time 10:00 am

The *Lagoon Flyer* is published nine times a year.
Annual non-member subscription is \$10.00.

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



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UPCOMING FESTIVALS

Winter Migratory Waterfowl Tour
Chico CA
1/1/2005- 3/1/2005
Contact the Chico Chamber of Commerce
530-891-5556

San Diego Bay Bird Festival
Feb 9 - 13, 2005
619-516-0139
www.sandiegonaturefestivals.org

Salton Sea International Bird Festival
Imperial CA
Feb 18-21, 2005
760-344-5359
www.newriverwetlands.com/saltonsea.html

Buena Vista Audubon online
www.bvaudubon.org