

Lagoon Flyer



Jón Baldur Hlíöberg

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

From the President's Chair

As I write this it's early August, warm and humid, and you're much more likely to find your new president snoozing in his hammock out under the magnolia tree than alert in my chair. Well, there are surely some warm summer-like days still ahead of us, but it's time to shake off the summertime sloth and start up again at Buena Vista Audubon Society. During my tenure as your President, I'd like us to continue to do what we already do so well: promote environmental education and awareness. We have - we are - an outstanding group of volunteers, well able to accomplish our goals.

We welcome new members who have volunteered to serve on our Board. Andy Brumbaugh is one, who led me over last Memorial Day weekend in successful search of painted redstarts, caracaras, masked bobwhites and other such southeastern Arizona specialties. Susan Fischer has agreed to join us as Secretary. Her husband Bill, already on the Board, has been investigating how best to spend some grant money we have to improve our cabinet storage space and countertop display areas. We're also pleased to have long-time Nature Center volunteer Nestor Ramos come onboard as our new Treasurer, taking over from Andy Mauro. Andy becomes our new Vice President and will continue as our hard-working Conservation Chairperson. Andy wasn't dozing this summer: as you'll see elsewhere in this newsletter, he and fellow Board Member Tom Troy were instrumental (with some help from Nestor, Ros Dong and myself) in preparing Buena Vista Audubon's response to a proposal to build a 90 room hotel, snarl traffic, and encroach on lagoon wetlands across Coast Highway from our Nature Center. *(Continued on Page 2)*

General Meeting

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

Social 7pm, Lecture 730pm

Speaker: Phil Pryde, Professor Emeritus of Geography, San Diego State University

Topic: New Zealand Birds: Past, Present and Future

Phil Pryde is well-known to many of us in Buena Vista Audubon Society as a long-time stalwart of San Diego Audubon and a founder of "America's Birdiest City" competition. At SDSU since 1969, he has studied environmental policy relating to water resources, land use planning, energy resources, preserved natural areas, and environmental impact analysis. He has also had a long-standing interest in environmental problems and protected natural areas in the republics of the former USSR and was a visiting Fulbright Fellow at the University of Auckland in New Zealand.

A prominent local environmentalist, Phil has in addition to all his work with San Diego Audubon chaired the San Diego County Planning Commission and been a board member of the San Diego County Water Authority, San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority, San Diego Sierra Club, Chula Vista Bayfront Conservancy Trust, and friends of the Santa Margarita River.

Special Treat: Phil will have copies of the latest edition (the fourth, published last year) of his book San Diego: An Introduction to the Region for signing and sale. Plan to come; Phil will have a lot of interest to talk about!

Dennis Huckabay

21st Annual California Coastal Cleanup Day

September 17, 2005

10 am – 12 pm

The Nature Center will be one of the numerous North County sites where volunteers will be joining thousands of volunteers in San Diego County to remove trash and debris from our ecosystems. By taking part in this event, you will be helping make a difference in the health of our beaches and waterways. For more information, see the CCD website, www.cleanupday.org. To register for this event, sign up at the CCD website or call 1-800-237-BLUE.

From the President's Chair *(Continued from page 1)*

Thousands of schoolkids continue to enjoy the free nature programs we offer, thanks to the dedication of our Nature Guides working under the direction of Sue Sharon and Nancy Miller. Mary Ellen Marquand and Doug Dunn, as his work obligations permit, will continue to provide us with outstanding birding opportunities on the field trips they organize each month. We've had some interesting and well-attended monthly meetings recently; for example our June showing of "Winged Migration" attracted a full house of 70 people. As Program Chair I'll try hard to ensure that our evening programs continue to be informative and enjoyable. Dennis Wysong will continue to take charge of our annual Christmas Bird Count and Spring fundraiser, the Birdathon. He has also taken on the organization of a Beginning Birders' class next April and hopefully will lead us in a successful effort next year to make Oceanside the "birdiest" city of its size in America. Bill Jones has spent hours sorting out our bird slide collection and is about to catalog and scan them into digital format. With the eminent demise of Robinson's-May stores, Ros Dong is moving smartly to position our Gift Shop to fill the gap. Joan Bockman and her intrepid carpal of native plant gardeners (should that be her pistil of planters?) continue to grace the grounds of our Nature Center.

Our computer whiz Suzann Spann continues to track our expanding membership roll and edit so very ably each month's "Lagoon Flyer". Peggy Dyer, as she has done for so many years, leads a dedicated group of volunteers to ensure that the "Flyer" quickly circulates to our 1200+ members. Librarian Norma Handy has made our Nature Center Library much more user-friendly and often informs us in our monthly newsletters about interesting accessions (such as Pulitzer Prize winner Richard Rhodes' 2004 biography of Audubon and Mark Obmascik's The Big Year: a Tale of Man, Naure and Fowl Obsession). Carol Roberts makes sure the local press publicize our field trips and meetings and her mother-in-law Mary Jane brings to our board meetings the wisdom and insights garnered from many years of service to Audubon in Orange County. If we didn't have Annette Schneider, our Nature Center Manager, to keep us ticking from day to day the whole show would fall apart. She's the one who sets the stage for all the rest of us poor players to strut and fret our hour's -worth.

And of course we should remember those who brought us here: Buena Vista Audubon stalwarts such as Dave Rorick, Cora Wilson, Paul Grigsby, Petey Tade, Bill Daugherty, Karen Messer, and so many others over the years. Our efforts were their efforts: to promote environmental education and awareness, to nurture wild bird populations and preserve what natural habitat we can for future generations. The struggle continues, and I thank you all for volunteering in that effort.

Let me close this president's message on a political note. I didn't care much for President Ronald Reagan's politics but I admired his management style. He smiled a lot, took afternoon naps and basked in the accomplishments of the talented individuals he surrounded himself with. It's time now for my nap.

Dennis Huckabay

Education Committee

Would you like to volunteer as a docent at the Nature Center? The Education Committee hosts lower elementary grade classes (mostly K-3) throughout the school year. Your schedule is up to you - we're very flexible. If you can help once a week or every other week, that's fine! You'll receive a guide notebook and hands-on training. So - call Sue (760-757-6461) or Nancy (760-929-2869) for details. Our first meeting this school year will be on Wednesday, Sept. 7, 10 AM at the Nature Center. Come and see what we're about!

Sue Sharon

BVAS Gift Shop

What's new at the BVAS gift shop? Plenty. You are invited to stop by to browse and shop. Some of the new items include T-shirts for the serious birder and for humming bird lovers. Several items suitable for gift giving are also available. You'll find nature themed note cards, plush Audubon birds with authentic songs, a variety of children's books and puzzles and more. The book A Birder's Guide to Southern California is now in stock. If there is something you'd like to see in the gift shop, call Rosalyn Dong at (760) 806-1430 or leave me a message at the Nature Center. I will continue to add more items to the gift shop as space allows.

Volunteer Recruitment Workshop

Thursday, September 8th, 10:30 a.m

Ever thought about getting more involved at the nature center but don't know where to start? Then this workshop and orientation are for you. Fall is the beginning of a new Audubon year at the center and we can always use some new smiling faces to keep the center open and greet our many visitors. Come by and meet some of our seasoned veterans and explore ways that you could make a unique contribution to our on-going programs. Volunteering at the center is fun, easy, and requires only a few hours a month. Call the center today to sign up for this workshop!! 760-439-2473

September Field Trips

Sat - Sept 10 - 8:00 am - Whelan Lake Monthly Bird Count. East on 76 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

Sat - Sept 10 - 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 - Sept 17 - 8:00 am - Santee Lakes. East on 52. Exit Mast Blvd. on ramp that goes under the hwy. Turn right on Mast and continue to Carlton Oaks Dr. Turn left and go about a mile to the lakes where entrance is on the left. Possible birds: Osprey, variety of ducks including resident wood ducks, swallows, flycatchers and other passerines. Leaders: Our field trip guides. Contact: Mary Ellen 760-918-6622.

Sat - Sept 24 - 8:00 am - Buena Vista Lagoon Count. Take I-5 to 78 East. Exit Jefferson and turn right. Take an immediate right onto Lagoon View Dr. where you will meet. This birding experience is a great way to learn all the best birding spots on our lagoon and the birds that frequent them. Leader: Joan Fountain 760-729-1379

Sat - Oct 1 - 8:00 am - Whelan Lake Monthly Bird Count. East on 76 to Douglas. Turn left and continue to North River Rd. Turn left and meet at end of cu-de-sac by the entrance gate. Migrating birds will begin passing through or staying for the winter at Whelan. From October on, the birding will get more exciting with each monthly visit. Leader: John Haddock 760-941-7824



*Hooded Merganser
by Daniel S. Kilby*



FIELD NOTES...

From some of our trips just before summer break...

Batiquitos Lagoon revealed many song birds as well as shore birds. Our picture perfect moment was spotting two Black Phoebe fledglings sitting on a limb side by side. Evidently they were waiting for mom to bring the food because we had lots of time to get them in the scopes for postcard looks.

Our trip to Camp Pendleton gave us an opportunity to see over 40 birds. Besides the many Bell's Vireos, we were delighted to watch two Western Grebes perform their breeding dance and take off side by side running across the water. Yup, just like the nature movies.

The elusive Grasshopper Sparrow only appeared to a privileged few on our Mission Gorge Dam trip, but we all were highly entertained by the noisy antics of the Hooded Orioles flying from tree to tree...and we hadn't even left the parking lot!!

-Mary Ellen Marquand

Old Mission Dam - Birding trip Report for 6/15/05

Seven Buena Vista Audubon folks had an interesting and enjoyable birding trip in this historic San Diego area. In

the parking area the Bullocks Orioles were busy with their young and a bit concerned about us watching them. We all had really good looks at those beautiful birds.

Also, Orange-crowned and Yellow Warblers were there. A bit further on and throughout the walk the House Wrens were everywhere. They too were concerned for their young and at least one pair buzzed us a number of times. The hilly fields west of the San Diego River hosted many Ash-throated Flycatchers and their young. Again, we had many opportunities for good looks at Ash-throateds. Along the way we saw one Grasshopper Sparrow, one Blue Grosbeak, a couple of Chats, a Tree Swallow nest with young and a Bell's Vireo. A total of 26 species were seen.

Fortunately the traffic from North County was not as bad as we had expected and most of us were 10-15 minutes early. The park area was not very busy this Wednesday morning which made the walk more enjoyable. Also, there are a number of nice picnic tables near the river and we could have had a nice after-walk lunch. The mid-week time and the Old Mission Dam area should definitely be considered for future walks, especially in the Spring (Apr).

- Bill Jones

BUENA VISTA NATIVE PLANT CLUB

Hello Buena Vista Native Plant Club!

The BVNPC regular monthly meeting is at 2pm on Sunday Sept 21. Meet at the Buena Vista Audubon Nature Center 2202 South Coast Hwy, Oceanside. There is a spectacular purple bloom on the *Pluchera odorata* (Salt Marsh FleaBane). We should all use this plant instead of the invasive Sea Lavender! See you there.

Monthly Nature Center Grounds Cleanup

Join us on the 1st Saturday of each month from 8 - 10 am for grounds cleanup at the Nature Center. We do some hand weeding and pick up trash around the Nature Center and along the trail. Bring hand gardening tools and don't forget your sunscreen.

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

Annual Native Plant Sale

California Native Plant Society -San Diego Chapter Saturday October 15, 2005

The annual plant sale opens to CNPS member at 9:15 am and to the public at 10 am and continues until 3 pm. The sale will be held at Balboa Par, Casa del Prado Courtyard (next to the Casa del Prada Theater). Books, posters, seeds and free advice will also be available. Cash or checks only. Contact the CNPS for more info. All proceeds benefit the San Diego Chapter of the California Native Plant Society.

info@cnpssd.org www.cnpssd.org
619-685-7321 (voice mail)

CONSERVATION CORNER

Boardwalk Project

BVAS has submitted a comment letter to the City of Oceanside regarding the Boardwalk Project, a hotel/condo/restaurant development proposed for the property directly across South Coast Hwy. from the nature center. BVAS believes the density of development being proposed would simply overwhelm the site and result in serious impacts to the habitat values of the adjacent Ecological Reserve. The traffic plan of the project as currently proposed would prevent southbound travelers from Oceanside to turn left into the nature center. A full copy of the BVAS comment letter is available for review in the nature center and on our website at www.bvaudubon.org. Thanks to members Diane Nygaard, Tom Troy, Dennis Huckabay, Roz Dong, Joan Bachman, and Nestor Ramos for their help on this issue.

--Andy Mauro, Conservation Chair

San Elijo Lagoon Day, October 8, 2005

The San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy is sponsoring "Lagoon Day" at the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve from 9am to 3pm on Sat., Oct.8, 2005. Lagoon Day consists of fun-filled activities for adults and children, and is designed to increase awareness and appreciation of the natural and cultural resources found in the coastal wetlands of North County. Lagoon Day features trail walks, discovery stations for birds and bugs, a nature treasure hunt for children, a hands-on archeology display, live animal exhibits, plein aire art exhibit and sale, and refreshments. Activities take place at the visitor center located on Manchester Avenue. Admission is free. For more information call 760-436-3944 or visit www.sanelijo.org.

BVAS OFFICERS, BOARD AND CHAIRS

President	Dennis Huckabay	757-6437	Publicity	Carol Roberts	439-6244
Vice-President	Andy Mauro	753-1266	Taxidermy	Joyce Anderson	746-3995
Secretary	Susan Fischer	435-0046	Volunteers	Petey Tade	438-1058
Treasurer	Nestor Ramos	598-7248	Webmaster	Larry Spann	231-9709
Director	Dennis Wysong	754-1264	Audubon Adventures	JoAnne Schontzler	431-0953
Director	Bill Fischer	435-0046	Flyer Editor &	Suzann Spann*	231-9709
Director	Bill Jones	944-1775	Membership	email: suzann@cox.net	
Director	Nestor Ramos	598-7248	Nature Center		439-2473
Director	Tom Troy	967-6915		Tue - Sat 10 am - 4 pm	
Director	Mary Jane Roberts	231-8148		Sun 1pm - 4 pm	
Director	Andy Brumbaugh	434-3334		Closed Monday	
Center Manager	Annette Schneider	945-8891		2202 S. Coast Hwy, Oceanside CA	
Conservation	Andy Mauro	753-1266		East side of street just north of lagoon bridge	
Circulation	Peggy Dyer	945-2163		Mailing Address:	
Education	Sue Sharon	757-6461		PO Box 480	
Education	Nancy Miller	929-2869		Oceanside CA 92049-0480	
Field Trips	Doug Dunn*	781-1227		www.bvaudubon.org	
Field Trips	Mary Ellen Marquand*	918-6622		* Board Members	
Native Plant Club and Garden	Joan Bockman*	433-9401			
Gift Shop	Rosalyn Dong*	806-1430			
Library	Norma Handy	634-2120			

RARE BIRD ALERT 619-688-2473

Nature Storytime for Preschoolers

Our monthly storytime for preschoolers will resume on Monday, Sept.26 at 10 am and will continue on the 4th Monday of each month throughout the rest of the school year. We welcome preschoolers and their parents to come and hear stories about our natural world and its inhabitants. Our storytime is enhanced with songs, flannel boards, puppetry and a craft that relates to the story that day. Many parents and children enjoy walking our trail and having a picnic in our outside area afterwards. Please contact Mary Ellen at 760 918-6622 if you have any questions about our program.

BVAS Thanks Carolyn Lundberg

Buena Vista Audubon gratefully acknowledges the generous donations received from Carolyn Lundberg. We want to thank Carolyn, a longtime BVAS volunteer and supporter, for making a significant contribution towards the funding of our free nature programs and the operation of the Nature Center.

FRIENDS OF BVAS

BVAS welcomes the following new Friends and extends our sincere appreciation for their recent contributions in support of our nature center and programs. We couldn't do it without you! Thanks for your support!

- Helen Cromer
- John Wigmore
- Karin Kupka
- Jane Mullins
- Dennis Martinek
- Muriel Kaplan
- Andy Mauro
- Melody Wagner
- Gjon Hazard

Your Help Needed to Save Arctic Refuge!

The fight over the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is heating up -- YOUR HELP NEEDED IN SEPTEMBER! Audubon is making a big push to save the pristine wilderness in Alaska from destructive oil drilling, and you can help!

After 25 years of fighting, our last best chance to protect the refuge will be in the House of Representatives on a vote quickly approaching in September. All Audubon chapters and Audubon members around the country will be using this opportunity to weigh in with their members of Congress and fight at this critical time for one of the most pristine places left in America!

Senator Dianne Feinstein (CA-051)

United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0001
(202) 224-3841

Senator Barbara Boxer (CA-051)

United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0001
(202) 224-3553

Representative Darrell Issa (CA-049)

United States House of Representatives
211 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0001
(202) 225-3906

Representative Randy Cunningham (CA-050)

United States House of Representatives
2350 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0001
(202) 225-5452

Log on to Audubon's special "Protect the Arctic" website – accessed via www.audubon.org , or contact Desiree Groves in Audubon's public policy office in Washington, DC at 202-861-2242, x. 3038 (dgroves@audubon.org) to find out more about how you can help!

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 _____ \$ 40 _____ \$ 50 _____ \$ 100 _____ Other _____:

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Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

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Buena Vista Audubon Society
P.O. Box 480
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Lagoon Flyer



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QUICK CALENDAR

Sept 3	Garden Clean-up Day 8 am
Sept 7	Nature Guides 10 am
Sept 8	Volunteer Reception 10:30 am
Sept 9	Board Meeting 9 am
Sept 10	Whelan Bird Count 8 am
Sept 10	San Elijo Lagoon Walk 9 am
Sept 17	Santee Lakes Bird Walk 8 am
Sept 17	Coastal Cleanup Day 10 am
Sept 18	Native Plant Club 2 pm
Sept 24	Buena Vista Lagoon Count 8:00 am
Sept 26	Nature Story Time 10:00 am
Sept 28	General Membership Meeting Social 7 pm / Lecture 7:30 pm
Oct 1	Garden Clean-up Day 8 am
Oct 1	Whelan Bird Count 8 am
Oct 8	San Elijo Lagoon Day 9 am
Oct 15	CNPS Native Plant Sale Members 9:15 am Public 10 am

(NOTICE - Due to the Labor Day holiday, some events are not occurring on the normal dates.)

Inside this Issue.....

	Page
• General Meeting - Phil Pryde	1
• Coastal Cleanup Day	1
• Volunteer Reception	2
• Field Trips	3
• Conservation/Proposed Boardwalk	4
• San Elijo Lagoon Day	4

...and much more

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Moving?

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

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www.bvaudubon.org

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