

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 Hlíðberg

Spring is Busting Out All Over!

Saturday, April 26th—Spring is in the Air

Audubon Spring Birdathon

It's Birdathon time again! Time to dust off those old binoculars and join us as we spread out over Oceanside in search of feathered friends. This is our chapter's annual springtime effort to raise funds in support of our Nature Center. This year our Birdathon also happens to fall on the birthday of our very own John James Audubon. What better way to honor his memory than to go out birding?

We've been having so much fun with our

Birdathon over the last few years, we've decided to repeat our winning

formula. Observers may bird separately or join in one of the group outings scheduled. Early-birders can choose to join a special early-morning team who will meet at the Nature Center at 6 a.m. and then go off to cover the Oceanside pier and beach area. The rest of us will meet at the Nature Center

at 8 a.m. to join groups headed for a number of the city's best birding locations. Birds counted must be seen or heard on April 26th within the city limits of Oceanside. Turn in your reports at the Nature Center, or email them to Dennis Huckabay at: jdhuckabay@sbcglobal.net.

Whether or not you're able to join us in the field, please send in your generous donation and help support our many wonderful programs.

Look for your special Birdathon flyer in the mail.



Song Sparrow —Steve Streit

Thursday, April 24

San Diego Birds and Wildfire

The Impact and The Recovery featuring Phil Unitt

7 p.m. Social—7:30 p.m. Program

Ornithologist Phil Unitt will present a special program at our April general meeting detailing the effect of large wildfires on bird populations in San Diego County. Are birds able to just fly away from the danger of wildfires? Where do they go, and when might they return to a burned-over area? Which species have been primarily affected? Are beneficial impacts from the wildfires also realized by some species?

Phil Unitt is well-known to all of us as the curator of birds and small mammals at the San Diego Natural History Museum, and the project manager and author of the San Diego County Bird Atlas. He is now in the seventh year of a comprehensive post-fire bird study, documenting the impact of wildfires on bird populations and their recovery times..

Come join us for an interesting and revealing look at the inter-relationship between wildfires and birds.

Pick Your Spot!

Pier and Shore

Whalen Lake

B.V. Lagoon

Oak-Riparian Park

Buddy Todd Park

Guajome Park

Your Backyard!

Come to our Nature Center Open House and help us celebrate

John James Audubon's Birthday Party!

*BVAS Nature Center *Saturday, April 26th *10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

*Birthday Cake, 12:30 p.m. *Kids' Crafts, and Storytime *Lion Sculpture Dedication, 1 p.m.

*Afternoon Workshops on Basic Birding, Binoculars, Backyard Bird Feeding, 1-4 p.m.

*Native Plant Garden Walk, 2 p.m. *New Exhibits on Audubon's Life and Local Archaeology



Bird News!

An Orchard Oriole in Oceanside

Steve Brad of Leucadia is, among other things, a serious birder, surfer, dog lover and Lakers fan. He often puts his passions together. For example when he surfs at Oceanside Harbor he's also checking out the rocks of the jetty for surfbirds, black turnstones, rarer ruddy turnstones and maybe one day a black oystercatcher.

On January 9th this year he was walking his dog in Oceanside's Buddy Todd Park. The park, overlooking the San Luis Rey Valley, is Oceanside's oldest, planted with pines back in 1929 and dedicated in 1946 to Oceanside's first serviceman killed in World War II. The mature pines now provide an island of habitat for migratory and vagrant birds that depend on conifers. Every spring Townsend's and hermit warblers can be found in Buddy Todd Park, stopping off on their spring migration from the tropics to the coniferous forests of the Pacific Northwest. Sporadically and unpredictably, Clark's nutcrackers and red crossbills – birds normally found up near timberline in the high mountains of the West – show up in Buddy Todd Park in the wintertime if their sole food source, conifer seeds, is in short supply in the mountains. So Buddy Todd Park is a good place to bird, which is why Steve Brad was walking his dog there in January. What he found there startled him.

Something brick-red and black, something that Steve had never seen before, flew up from the brush above North Barnwell Street. It was a male orchard oriole.

Orchard orioles are beautiful eastern songbirds that almost never venture west of the Rocky Mountains. The males are chestnut with black head, back and tail and sing with a rich lively warble. They spend only enough time on their eastern breeding grounds to raise a single brood before returning south to winter from southern Mexico down Central America and Panama to northern Colombia.

Phil Unitt, author of the San Diego County Bird Atlas (and our General Meeting speaker this month), says that an orchard oriole appears in our county about once every other year, having taken a wrong turn somewhere around the Isth-

Orchard orioles are beautiful eastern songbirds that almost never venture west of the Rocky Mountains.

mus of Tehuantepec and traveled up the Pacific Coast instead of the Gulf Coast. Females of the species are easily overlooked because they look so much like female hooded orioles, much more common around these parts. But male orchard orioles are unmistakably distinctive. And when one shows up here, serious birders go all atwitter and flock to come see him so they can add him to their various lists (monthly, yearly, county, state, national or life). Nowadays news of a rare bird in San Diego County travels fast. Over 1,000 area "twitchers" report any



Orchard Oriole at Buddy Todd Park
—Photo by Tom Lindner

interesting birds seen in the county on SDBIRDS. (You can check out past sightings and learn how to subscribe by searching for "SDBIRDS" on the Internet.)

As soon as Steve got home he reported his sighting of the orchard oriole at Buddy Todd on SDBIRDS. Hundreds of birders immediately began flying to the open area at the southwest corner of the park above North Barnwell Street to see the bird. Our oriole cooperated by hanging out at the park for the next eight weeks.

What's the point of this ode to an oriole? One is that there are still many beautiful birds out there, some common, some rare, and many of them can be seen and enjoyed right close to home. All of us have attractive birding "hot spots", urban parks like Buddy Todd or other bird-rich open spaces close by. We need to cherish these more ordinary places – protect, maintain, enhance and enlarge them – just as we cherish such jewels as Yosemite and Yellowstone. We, our children, grandchildren – and the orchard orioles of this world – can't afford to bury these lands under development and toll roads.

The second point is that all you need to go birding is a good bird guidebook, binoculars, comfortable walking shoes and some patience, both with yourself and the birds. The orchard oriole at Buddy Todd typically followed a trap line of feeding sites along the canyon, and it sometimes took an hour or more for him to show up for his anxious fans. Buena Vista Audubon Society can help you get started. Visit our Nature Center at 2202 South Coast Highway in Oceanside for an enjoyable introduction to nature in coastal North County and to buy a birding guide. Join our Basic Birding Class on the last Saturday morning of each month with Tom Troy (visit www.bvaudubon.org or call 760-967-6915 for more information). Come out with us at Buena Vista Audubon now that the grass is green, spring is at hand, migratory birds are journeying north and resident birds are beginning to pair off and breed. Steve Brad just may be leading your field trip!

—Dennis Huckabay

Upcoming Field Trips/Events

Sat.—Apr. 5—8 a.m.—Whelan Lake Monthly Bird Count. Freshwater lake and riparian edge habitat. Directions: I-5 to Hwy. 76. East on Hwy. 76. Turn left at Douglas and continue to light at North River Rd. Turn left and meet at the cul-de-sac at the end of the road by the entrance gate. Leader: John Haddock, 760-941-7824.

Sat.—Apr. 12—9 a.m.—San Elijo Lagoon. Join BVAS members and San Elijo Lagoon docents on the regular monthly nature hike at this ecological reserve featuring tidal mudflats, coastal wetlands, and five other distinct plant and animal communities. Directions: I-5 to Lomas Santa Fe. West to N. Rios Ave. Right to cul-de-sac at end of road. No facilities.

Sat.—Apr. 19—10 a.m. - 2 p.m.—Earth Day Beach Walk and Clean Up at Tamarack Beach. This special event at Tamarack Beach in Carlsbad is sponsored by California State Parks and will feature educational booths by many environmental and resource groups (including BVAS), a beach walk, cleanup, and an opportunity to reintroduce native plants and seeds on the bluffs.

Sat.—Apr. 26—6 a.m. and 8 a.m.—2008 BVAS BIRDATHON.

Novice and expert birders alike are encouraged to take part in our 2008 Birdathon. Join one of our birding teams and help tally birds at one of Oceanside's birding hotspots. Early birders can meet Steve Brad at the Nature Center at 6 a.m., and then caravan off to the Oceanside Pier and nearby beaches in search of pelagic birds and shorebirds. The rest of us will gather at 8 a.m. at the Nature Center to join up with knowledgeable guides heading off to Guajome Park, Buddy Todd Park, Oak-Riparian Park, Whalen Lake, and Buena Vista Lagoon. After a fun morning of birding, all Birdathoners are invited to return to the Nature Center to compare notes, eat their picnic lunches, and enjoy a piece of cake at BVAS's day-long celebration of John James Audubon's birthday. (See page one for more information about our 2008 Birdathon and Audubon birthday party celebration).



NOTE: Our regular monthly bird count at Buena Vista Lagoon and the Basic Birding Class at Buena Vista Lagoon Landing will also take place on Saturday, April 26th, and results will be added to the Birdathon totals.

***Sat.—Apr. 26—8 a.m.—Buena Vista Lagoon Monthly Bird Count.** Freshwater coastal lagoon. Directions: I-5 to 78 East. Exit Jefferson. Turn right and take another immediate right onto Lagoon View Dr. Go to end of road. Leader: Joan Fountain, 760-729-1379.

***Sat.—Apr. 26—8:30-10:30 a.m.—Basic Birding Class at the Buena Vista Lagoon Landing.** New birders and families interested in participating in the 2008 BVAS Birdathon are encouraged to join up with Tom Troy's Basic Birding Class. The class will observe birds at the Buena Vista Lagoon Landing and nearby areas, and then will caravan to the Nature Center to have their results added to Birdathon totals. Directions: I-5 to Hwy. 78. Exit Jefferson. Turn right and go to stoplight. Turn right and park in Landing parking lot on the right hand side of road. Contact person: Tom Troy, 760-967-6915.

Coming in May

May 16-19—Birding in Baja. Our four-day trip to condor country in Baja California will feature three nights at the historic Meling Ranch looking for free-flying condors and enjoying relaxed birding at the ranch and nearby locales. Cost of trip is \$300/person, including lodging and meals. Call Andy Brumbaugh, 760-434-3334, for more info and to inquire about space availability.

Is this your year to finally experience a grunion run?

Grunion Greeters Workshop

The Grunion Greeters Project will hold its 2008 volunteer's training workshop at the BVAS Nature Center on April 9th, from 6:30-8 p.m. You'll learn all about this charismatic little fish that breeds on our Southern California beaches. Become a part of this fun and fascinating project by learning how to monitor the grunion runs on local beaches this spring. For more information and to sign up for the free workshop, visit: www.Grunion.org.

GRUNION GREETERS WANTED!



And the winner is—

Backyard Bonanza in Encinitas

Steve Cameron had a great day of backyard birding last month, totaling 31 species on his residential property near the corner of Santa Fe Avenue and Crest Drive in Encinitas. His total was more than double our previously reported best count among BVAS members participating in the Great Backyard Bird Count. Steve had lots of good birds, including a flock of 14 cedar waxwings and a western bluebird he captured on film. Congratulations Steve!



Steve's Western Bluebird

Preschool Nature Storytime

It's that time of year when all the little pollywogs are starting to show up in our creeks and ponds. Soon their tiny legs will grow, their tails will disappear, and the new little frogs will move out of the water and on to the land. This month's Preschool Nature



Storytime will be on Monday, April 28th, at 10 a.m. We have some wonderful songs to learn and stories to read about our cute little frog friends, and a special project to make. Do you think we could learn to croak like a frog? —Mary Ellen 760-918-6622



Ribbit!

Volunteer at the Nature Center



It's Spring. Birds are singing, sun is shining, flowers are blooming. You've probably been thinking about this for a long time now, and maybe it's time you made your

move. Give Mary Ellen a call at 760-918-6622, come in for a short training session, and become a part of the Nature Center team. You'll be so glad you did, and so will we!

BVAS OFFICERS, BOARD* AND CHAIRS

President	Dennis Huckabay*	757-6437
Vice-President	Bill Jones*	944-1775
Secretary	Mary Jane Roberts*	231-8148
Treasurer	Douglas Schanzenbach*	390-8494
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Native Plant Club	Joan Bockman*	433-9401
Native Plant Garden	Joan Bockman*	433-9401
Newsletter	Andy Mauro*	753-1266
E-mail: akamauro@cox.net		
Programs	Dennis Huckabay*	757-6437
Publicity	Judi Wilson*	439-3649
Ruddy Duck Club	Tom Troy*	967-6915
Taxidermy	Joyce Anderson	746-3995
Volunteers	Mary Ellen Marquand*	918-6622
Webmaster:	Larry Spann:	E-mail: larry@spannweb.net

Cheap Thrills in Oceanside

Cruisin' 101



With The Ruddy Duck Club

Did your visitors from back East just arrive? Tired of the same old expensive options like Sea World and Legoland? Maybe you should just stay local, see the sights and do a little birding in Oceanside. And while you're at it don't forget to have breakfast or lunch at one of your favorite Ruddy Duck Club eateries along Coast Hwy.

Check out the heron rookery in the old pine tree at the harbor, then get a fish sandwich at **Harbor Fish and Chips**. Cruise down 101 to the Surfing Museum and get a smoothie next door at the **Longboarder Cafe**. Stop at the **101 Cafe** and soak up a little nostalgia as you dream about what Oceanside was like in the good old days.

Have a healthy breakfast at the **Beach Break Cafe** before birding Buena Vista Lagoon. Stop at **Cream of the Crop Market** for a deli sandwich to enjoy at the picnic tables in front of the Nature Center. End your day with happy hour at **Hunter Steakhouse** or **Mr. Peabody's**, or do a little wine tasting at **Vine to Glass**.

We realize this represents more than just one cruise down the highway. So much the better! All of these local eateries have generously supported our Nature Center and we are very grateful. For a list of all Ruddy Duck Club members please go to www.bvaudubon.org.

For more information about becoming a Ruddy Duck Club member, contact Tom Troy at 760-967-6915.

Buena Vista Audubon Nature Center

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

Sunday 1 p.m.-4 p.m.

Closed Monday

760-439-2473

2202 South Coast Hwy., Oceanside, CA
East side of street just north of lagoon crossing

Mailing Address:

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

Website: www.bvaudubon.org

E-mail: bvaudubon@sbcglobal.net

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 ___ \$50 ___ \$ 100 ___ Other: ___

Friends Membership: New ___ Renewal ___

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Please bill my VISA or MC

Card # _____ CRN # _____

I'd like to make a special pledge for the 2008 BVAS Birdathon.
Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Make Checks Payable to:
Buena Vista Audubon Society
P.O. Box 480
Oceanside, CA 92049

Thank You for Supporting the 2008 Birdathon!

BUENA VISTA NATIVE PLANT CLUB

April 20th, 2 p.m. at the Nature Center

The native plant demonstration garden around the Nature Center is in full bloom and looking great! On Sunday April 20th, we'll have our regular third Sunday meeting to revel in the beauty, do a few touch-up chores, and discuss spring garden tips. Join us—no experience necessary!

On Saturday, April 26th, we'll host an informal walk and talk from 2-3 p.m. as part of the Nature Center Open House activities. Come visit the Nature Center for a preview of the sixth annual Oceanside Native Garden Tour scheduled for April 27th (see side article for details).

For more information regarding the Native Plant Club or the Spring Native Garden Tour, e-mail Joan Bockman at: BVNPC@sbcglobal.net, or call the Nature Center at 760-439-2473.

Oceanside Native Garden Tour

Sunday, April 27, 2 p.m.

St. Mary's School
515 Wisconsin Street
Oceanside, CA

Join this one-mile walking tour and visit over ten residential California native plant gardens in the historic Seaside neighborhood of Oceanside. We'll meet at St. Mary's School (one block east of Coast Hwy. and Wisconsin St.), and then break into smaller groups to go off on an easy walk to nearby native plant gardens. We'll see gardens in various stages of development and get lots of ideas and inspiration for our yards. The guided walk is free but be warned—kids will be selling lemonade and cookies along the route!



Toyon

This very popular annual event is sponsored by the Buena Vista Native Plant Club and the Oceanside Coastal Neighborhood Association.

Legacy and Memorial Gifts



Over the years, BVAS has received bequests from members who wanted to help the chapter continue its programs long into the future. Our endowment is funded by these thoughtful gifts, and its earnings have allowed us to greatly expand our programs in recent years. Have you ever thought about your own personal legacy? There are many easy ways to establish your memorial gift. Our president, Dennis Huckabay, would be pleased to meet with you for a confidential discussion of your interests. Please give him a call at 760-757-6437.

Monthly Nature Center Grounds Cleanup

Join us on the first Saturday of the month from 8-10 a.m. as we tend the gardens at the Nature Center. Bring work gloves and gardening tools.

Saturday, April 5th



*And Spring arose on the garden fair,
Like the Spirit of Love felt everywhere;
And each flower and herb on Earth's dark breast
Rose from the dreams of its winter rest.*

—Percy Bysshe Shelley, "The Sensitive Plant"

Lagoon Flyer



BUENA VISTA AUDUBON SOCIETY
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Happy Birthday!



John James Audubon

QUICK CALENDAR

Fri. Apr. 4—Board Meeting—9 a.m.
Sat. Apr. 5—Whelan Lake Count—8 a.m.
Sat. Apr. 5—Nature Center Garden Clean-up—8 a.m.
Mon. Apr. 7—Nature Guides—10 a.m.
Sat. Apr. 12—San Elijo Walk—9 a.m.
Sat. Apr. 19—Tamarack Beach event—10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Sun. Apr. 20—Native Plant Club—2 p.m.
Thur. Apr. 24—General Meeting—7 p.m.

Sat. Apr. 26—Audubon's Birthday Party / Birdathon

*Birdathon—6 a.m. (early birds); 8 a.m. (late risers)
*Buena Vista Lagoon Count—8 a.m.
*Basic Birding at BVL Landing—8:30 a.m.
*Audubon's Birthday Party
& Nature Center Open House—10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Sun. Apr. 27—Oceanside Native Garden Tour—2 p.m.
Mon. Apr. 28—Preschool Nature Storytime—10 a.m.

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The Printery, Carlsbad, CA

Spring Birdathon and Audubon's Birthday Party

Saturday, April 26th
See page 1.



Oceanside Native Garden Tour

See page 5.