

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

September General Meeting

Wednesday, September 19

"BRING ON THE BIRDS"

with Bert and Sharon Kersey

7 p.m. Social—7:30 p.m. Program

Bird photographer Bert Kersey's entertaining and informative video about the birds of California is now being sold at several area nature stores. While "Bring On the Birds" was initially aimed at beginning and intermediate birders, it also has won rave reviews from the experts. At our Sep-



tember program, Bert will be showing excerpts from his video and presenting some fun facts about local birds. You'll also get a chance to see many of his favorite bird photos.

Bert and Sharon Kersey live in Fallbrook, and the majority of "Bring On the Birds" was filmed in San Diego County.



You will undoubtedly recognize many of the "cast of characters," and if you don't, each image is subtitled to help you learn the names as you watch.

Bert will be answering all your questions about the birds and how he got his shots. Come join us!

Sprucing Up the Nature Center

By the end of July the carpeting at the Nature Center is pretty dirty from all the classes and activities that have visited or taken place at the center through the year. For the past four years, Rodger Reese has made it his business to insure that our carpet is fully cleaned each summer, and at no charge to BVAS. BVAS would like to formally acknowledge our appreciation by recognizing Rodger with a special membership in the Ruddy Duck Club.

Rodger moved to Oceanside from upstate New York to start his business, Cleanpoint Professional Cleaning and Janitorial Service. He and his family came to the Nature Center shortly after moving here and noticed our need for his services. He offered to clean our carpet for free and has been doing it yearly ever since. Rodger is active in the

local community. He serves as a member of the Tri-City Medical Center Community Healthcare Alliance Committee, and is running for a seat on the Tri-City Board of Directors this November.

Wayne Larson is another Ruddy Duck Club member who regularly volunteers his company's services to help keep up the Nature Center. Wayne's company, I Love Life Window Cleaning, does a complete cleaning of all the windows and doors, inside and out, each summer, also at no charge.

Finally, we'd like to thank Mark Sabelis, with the City of Oceanside, for seeing to the repair of the rail fencing at the entrance to the Nature Center. We're not sure who caused the damage to the fence, but Mark and his colleague Charlie quickly put it back together for us, better than ever.

Thank you, one and all!

Conservation Matters

Buena Vista Lagoon Restoration—The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) took over as the new lead agent for the Buena Vista Lagoon Restoration Project Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in July. This encouraging move is expected to provide the push needed to restart the stalled project. A completed EIR should help make clear which of the plan alternatives under consideration would ultimately cause the least environmental impact and best meet the goals of the restoration project. The studies to date have suggested that restoring the lagoon to its historical state as a saltwater tidal estuary, open to the ocean, would maximize environmental benefits.

Save Open Space Campaign—The Carlsbad City Council has taken action to address demands that the city be more proactive in purchasing and preserving natural open space. The council voted in July to include a \$5 million line item in its new budget for acquisition of open space. Having acquisition funds officially designated in the operating budget now allows the city to begin actively searching for undeveloped parcels of land with high habitat val-

ues that might be available for purchase. Kudos go to the SOS group, led by BVAS member and Preserve Calavera president, Diane Nygaard, for its well organized and persistent campaign to bring this issue to the attention of the public and Carlsbad city officials.

Liberty Quarry Project Tries Again—In late July, Granite Construction submitted a slightly revised proposal for its Liberty Quarry project near Temecula. The company also was seeking fast-track consideration by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, hoping to avoid the requirement for a new EIR. The supervisors had voted down the company's original proposal following years of debate and opposition from the City of Temecula and a coalition of residents, conservation groups, and the Pechanga Tribe of Indians. Although not in San Diego County, the project has been closely followed by North County residents. Opponents are concerned that the slightly scaled-down quarry would have the same negative environmental and quality of life impacts as the original denied proposal. Approval of a quarry of any size might also open the door for an expanded quarry in the future, a "bait and switch" strategy the company appears to be using in San Diego County.

New Agreement with City

Whelan Lake Gets Its Water

Trustees of the Whelan Lake Bird Sanctuary and the City of Oceanside have reached agreement on a contract amendment that ensures continued delivery of reclaimed water to the lake for the next 20 years. Under the revised contract, the Oceanside Public Works Water Reclamation Plant will continue to provide water to the lake without charge each year. In exchange, the City will be able to utilize available Sanctuary land as a site for habitat restoration projects which might be required as mitigation for future road or other development projects undertaken by the City. The former contract called for the city to begin charging the reserve for its water use beginning in 2012. The new contract continues to allow the Water Reclamation Plant to use the lake as a temporary reservoir for any excess amounts of reclaimed water being produced.

The Whelan Lake Bird Sanctuary is a private, nonprofit entity, governed by a volunteer board of trustees. It was established following a bequest from the Whelan family, who had formerly operated a dairy on the site for many years. It is not directly affiliated with BVAS, although BVAS has long conducted bird counts and led bird walks at the lake. BVAS board member Andy Mauro recently joined the Sanctuary's board of trustees.

The Sanctuary and the adjacent Oceanside Public Works Water Reclamation Plant have worked closely together over the years. The new contract represents an extension



of formal agreements between the entities that have spanned over 50 years.

There have been some recent changes at the Sanctuary. In January, Greg Stewart was named caretaker for the Sanctuary, and a new caretaker's trailer and enhanced landscaping around the parking area have been installed. Trail and habitat maintenance at the reserve has been upgraded, and written policies regarding public access and use have been established. Birders wishing to visit the reserve are asked to call at least a day ahead to make arrangements with the caretaker. The number is 760-722-4887.

A link to a special webpage of info about the Whelan Lake Bird Sanctuary will soon be posted on the BVAS website (www.bvaudubon.org). For the last eight years, John Had-dock has led the BVAS monthly bird walk at Whelan Lake on the first Saturday of each month (See P. 3.).

September Birding—Join Us!

Whelan Lake Bird Walk

with John Haddock

Saturday, September 1—8 a.m.

Whelan Lake is a bird reserve with a freshwater lake, riparian-edge habitat, grass-covered hillsides, and an oak grove. The varied habitat results in a nice assortment of bird species in all seasons. It is especially noted for its wintering duck populations and interesting sightings during fall and spring migration.

Directions: I-5 to Hwy. 76 East, left at Douglas, continue to light at North River Rd., go left on North River Rd. Pass through the entrance gate and follow the signs to the lake.

Leader: John Haddock, 760-941-7824.



Birding San Dieguito Park and East San Elijo Lagoon

with Steve Brad

Sunday, September 9—8 a.m.



San Dieguito Park provides a wonderful mix of native chaparral and urban park landscaping, attracting a large variety of birds. We'll spend some time birding along the Eucalyptus-wooded edge of the lower park, an area generally good for warblers, woodpeckers, wrens, and finches. The nearby sycamore trees and open grassy expanses of the park are popular feeding areas for bluebirds, fly-

catchers, and other species. The two small ponds attract a variety of ducks, including hooded mergansers on occasion. By mid-morning, we'll be ready to caravan over to one of the trailheads that service the eastern side of the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve. Here we'll be looking for birds that frequent the coastal sage scrub and freshwater marsh habitat. We should end up with a nice variety on our bird list.

Directions: From I-5, take Lomas Santa Fe east. Proceed about 3 miles and turn left (north) on El Camino Real. Drive about 1 mile to the entrance to lower San Dieguito Park (on your left). The park doesn't open for cars until later, so park outside of the entrance along El Camino Real (no charge).

Leader: Steve Brad, 760-633-1639, stevebrad1@earthlink.net. (Cell phone will also be turned on Sept. 9: 760-274-5256.)

Wildlife Extraction

Wildlife Extraction is a service provided by Project Wildlife to assist in the humane removal of wildlife from around the home.

Call 619-692-9453, or visit:

www.WildlifeExtraction.com.



Basic Birding Class and Buena Vista Lagoon Bird Count

with Joan Fountain and Tom Troy

Saturday, September 29—8 a.m.

NOTE: BVAS is now combining the Basic Birding Class and the Buena Vista Lagoon Bird Count. We'll meet at the Nature Center at 8 a.m. and then caravan around the lagoon to a series of selected stops to observe birds, discuss bird behavior, and record the number of species we see.



Are you interested in learning a little more about the birds of our lagoon? Join the friendly group of fledgling birders that regularly turn out for our basic birding class at Buena Vista Lagoon each month. Everyone is invited to join the class for some informal, no-pressure birding and lots of friendly tips. The class will also officially record the different bird species seen at the lagoon. This monthly bird survey has been conducted by BVAS for many years, and our extensive database of bird sightings will be a factor for consideration as officials continue to study the best approach for managing, maintaining, and restoring this ecological reserve.

Directions: Meet at the BVAS Nature Center parking lot, 2202 South Coast Hwy., Oceanside.

Leaders: Joan Fountain, 760-729-1379.

Tom Troy, 760-420-7328.

Pelagic Birding in September

Sept. 3-7—Five-Day Pelagic Birding Trip

This extended deepwater pelagic birding trip visits the Channel Islands, San Juan Seamount, and the Continental Shelf in search of a wide variety of pelagic birds not normally found in nearshore waters.



Participants on this 5-day, live-aboard trip will enjoy the well-appointed accommodations of *The Searcher*, which offers comfortable berths, showers, excellent food and snacks. Pelagic birding guru Todd McGrath and a host of expert guides will help with identifications and provide natural history notes on the abundant sea life typically seen on this trip. Cost of the trip is \$1,125 for early registrants. Call Searcher Expeditions at 619-226-2403 for registration. A daylong birding excursion to the Salton Sea on Sept. 2, also led by Todd McGrath, is being offered as a special add-on to participants in the pelagic trip. This Salton Sea birding trip is being offered as a benefit for BVAS, and all proceeds from the \$75 trip fee will be donated to BVAS.

Sept. 22—Dana Point Pelagic Trip



This 6-hour pelagic birding trip out of Dana Pt. Harbor by Sea and Sage Audubon has a \$50 fee. Call 949-261-7963 for info.

Preschool Nature Storytime

Monday, September 24, 10 a.m.

Have you ever walked through a spider web? An inconvenience for us is a bigger problem for the spider! Why do spiders make these webs? How do they help our environment? We hope to answer these questions at this month's Nature Storytime. Come hear a story and make your own spider web. Questions? Call Mary Ellen: 760-918-6622.



Summer Fun at Nature Center



Nature Summer Camp

A lot of happy campers got a head start on summer fun for two weeks in late June. The Nature Center was abuzz with the sound of happy youngsters working on nature art and crafts, listening to stories, investigating critters, and doing other fun things. We can't wait until next year!

Taking Nature on the Road



BVAS Nature Guide Pam Green and friend Fran Mac-Neel took BVAS on the road to Camp Pendleton in April. Close to 1,000 military family members passed by the BVAS booth to learn about the Nature Center and examine the nature finds.

In June, Dave and Kathy Billings manned the BVAS booth at the Carlsbad Beach Fest, greeting beach goers and inviting them to visit the Nature Center.



Children's Day at Buena Vista Lagoon

The Lagoon Day event at the Nature Center in July attracted an excited group of kids and their parents. There were neat things to do, like examining dragonfly nymphs and other aquatic life netted from the lagoon. We also had a special edition of Nature Storytime, had a tracking table, went on a Scent Walk, and lots more. Thanks to the many BVAS friends who helped out.

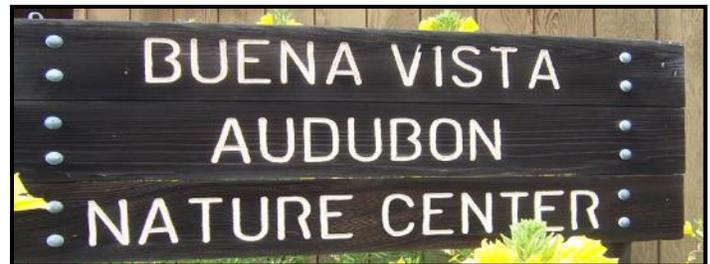


BVAS OFFICERS, BOARD*, AND CHAIRS

President	Dave Billings*	760-753-7925
Vice-President	Dennis Huckabay*	760-757-6437
Secretary	Kathy Billings*	760-753-7925
Treasurer	Sandy McMullen*	760-944-5690
Audubon Adventures	Ruth Gransbury	760-729-2240
Board Member	Jacques Domerq*	760-583-1961
Center Manager	Annette Schneider	760-945-8891
Christmas Bird Count	Terry Hunefeld*	760-908-3453
Conservation Co-Chair	Danny DiMento*	858-688-6891
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Education Co-Chair	Carol Riker	

E-mail: carol.riker25@Gmail.com

Education Co-Chair	Ellen Kindsvater	
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	C. J. DiMento	760-231-9096
Membership	Harvey Hart*	760-945-9601
Native Plant Club	Joan Bockman*	760-433-9401
Native Plant Garden	Joan Bockman*	760-433-9401
Nature Storytime	Mary Ellen Marquand	760-918-6622
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Pelagic Birding	Terry Hunefeld*	760-908-3453
Programs	Dennis Huckabay*	760-757-6437
Publicity	Kelly Deveney*	760-721-2441
Ruddy Duck Club	Kelly Deveney*	760-721-2441
Volunteers	Bob Crowell*	760-207-3884
Webmaster	Larry Spann E-mail: larry@spannweb.net	



Location:

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

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 480
Oceanside, CA 92049

Phone: 760-439-2473

Hours:

Tuesday-Saturday —
10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Sunday—1 p.m.-4 p.m.
Closed Monday

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. The BVAS Nature Center and its educational programs will receive 100% of my contribution. Minimum donation suggested: \$25.

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

Send me info about the BVAS Legacy program ___

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

*Send me my newsletter by e-mail.

Ruddy Duck Club Membership

My business would like to join the Ruddy Duck Club. Enclosed is our check for \$_____. (\$100/year min.) Please send me a Ruddy Duck Club membership packet and certificate.



Please bill my credit card:

Card # _____
CRN _____

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

Buena Vista Native Plant Club

Sunday, September 16

2 p.m.

The Buena Vista Native Plant Club meets at the Nature Center at 2 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month. Everyone's welcome, regardless of their native plant knowledge or gardening expertise. Club members answer your questions and help solve your gardening issues, as well as offer tips for native gardening activities appropriate for the season. We always spend time among the native plants in the demonstration gardens or along the Nature Center trails.

Monday Mornings with the Natives

On a recent Monday, Tina and Arleen started pruning the Hooker's primrose—the seeds had been taken by the birds and the plants were starting to look pretty ragged. A boy on a skateboard rode into the parking lot, chasing his neighbor's runaway dog. All hands on deck! Greg, Dina, John and Letitia sprang into action, chasing it down the trail back and forth, with lots of near catches. Finally, Hank snagged the dog, and Eagle Scout Bo fashioned a harness of rope. Whew! Later, a Carlsbad fire truck came in and circled the parking lot, delighting the Easter Seals gardening crew. The bucket brigade made sure the plants put in this past winter were each given a gallon of water to make it through the dry season. Coraline dropped by to let us know she is watering the native plants we planted last year at the cemetery entrance. Meanwhile, a tree trimmer was cutting down the Eucalyptus trees next door. Yay—More room for the Torrey pines!



—Joan Bockman

Interested gardeners are invited to the Nature Center on Monday mornings at 9 a.m. for some casual gardening and friendly chatter.

Memorial Donations

We remember our special friends who are no longer with us. Like an early morning sun they embraced us with their spirit, and the memory of that special warmth lives on.

BVAS has received a donation from Bob and Marylyn Clague of Escondido in memory of Stanley Albert Snitkin of Medford, Oregon.

We continue to receive donations honoring the memories of Arla Stadler and Joyce Page, two special BVAS members we lost in 2011. Arla was remembered with a gift from her sister, Doris Cheney, and Joyce was honored with a donation from Rita Martinez.

Schedule a Class Visit to Nature Center

BVAS Education Co-Chair, Carol Riker, handles scheduling for all groups or classes wishing to visit the Nature Center. For questions or to request a docent-led tour and program at the Nature Center for your group or classroom, please contact Carol by email at: carol.riker25@Gmail.com.



Kid's Corner At the Nature Center

Joey's and Johnny's Clubhouse

Kids and parents are invited to stop by the Nature Center for some informal nature fun.

Sunday, September 16

1-4 p.m..





“Bring on the Birds”

A “back-to-school” primer on birds in San Diego County

Wednesday, September 19, 7 p.m.



Lagoon Flyer



BUENA VISTA AUDUBON SOCIETY
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BVAS September Calendar

- Sat. Sept. 1—Whelan Lake Bird Walk—8 a.m.
- Mon./Fri. Sept. 3-7—Five-Day Pelagic Birding Trip
- Fri. Sept. 7—Board Meeting—9 a.m.
- Sun. Sept. 9—San Dieguito Park Bird Walk—8 a.m.
- Fri. Sept. 14—Nature Guides Meeting—10 a.m.
- Sun. Sept. 16—Native Plant Club Meeting—2 p.m.
- Sun. Sept. 16—Joey’s and Johnny’s Clubhouse at N.C.—1-4 p.m.
- Wed. Sept. 19—General Meeting , “Bring on the Birds”—7 p.m.
- Mon. Sept. 24—Preschool Nature Storytime—10 a.m.
- Sat. Sept. 29—Basic Birding and Lagoon Bird Count—8 a.m.



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Mexican Feather Grass Alert!

Mexican feather grass is a very popular and readily available ornamental grass that should not be planted in our area. It can be beautiful, but unfortunately, it spreads at an alarming rate and can quickly take over a landscape, much like the white fountain grass now prevalent



Mexican Feather Grass

along our freeways and roads. Feather grass is planted sometimes by those mistaking it for a native grass, but it quickly crowds out true natives. A better choice for our natural ecosystem is the



beautiful deer grass, available at Las Pilitas or Tree of Life nurseries, or at the Balboa Park Native Plant Sale coming up on Saturday, October 13.

Native Deer Grass