Volume 40 Number 1 January 2011

Lagoon Flyer

Jón Baldur Hlíðberg

Buena Vista Audubon Society

January General Meeting

Wednesday, January 19

Pelagic Birding Off San Diego

(How, What, and When)

with Todd McGrath

7 p.m. Social—7:30 p.m. Program

Have you reached a plateau on your County bird list? Are you getting just a little tired of your steady diet of white-crowned sparrows and house finches? BVAS invites you to learn about the excitement and almost guaranteed rewards of pelagic birding in San Diego's near shore ocean waters. With the help of some amazing photographs and the friendly tips of one of California's most renowned pelagic birders, our January General Meeting will introduce you to and prepare you for a new world of birding.

Sabine's Gull

—Todd McGrath

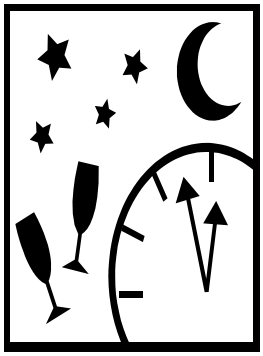
Todd McGrath has logged more than 365 days at sea leading pelagic trips in both the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans. He is co-author of the 2005 monograph, *Pelagic Birding in the Southern California Bight,* and of the 2010 scientific paper, *The Occurrence and Identification of Leach's Storm-Petrels off Southern California*. While those titles might sound a bit intimidating to the novice pelagic birder, Todd has a knack for speaking in everyday language and making people feel comfortable identifying potential new life species while on their first pelagic trip. In addition to seabirds, Todd is extremely knowledgeable about identification, status and distribution of marine mammals. He is the Senior Leader for all Audubon pelagic trips from Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara, and is a Senior Leader on many Buena Vista Audubon pelagic trips. He also leads trips into the Gulf Stream for Brian Patteson from Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, and Debi Shearwater out of Monterey, Half Moon Bay and Bodega Bay.

Come join us for our January program, and then sign up for our pelagic birding trip on January 29. It's about time you took the pelagic plunge!

BVAS's Annual Pelagic Trip

Saturday—January 29

(See Page 3.)



A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION for 2011

The start of a brand new year is a wonderful time to do something special for yourself and your community, like **volunteering one day a month at Buena Vista Audubon!** It's a fun way to get involved, meet new friends, and demonstrate your love of nature. A short training session is all you need to earn your flight feathers—no special experience necessary. Make this a satisfying and rewarding new year. Please call Mary Ellen for more information.

Volunteer, and Have a Happy New Year!

—Mary Ellen Marquand at 760-918-6622.

Conservation Matters

BVAS Conservation Co-Chair, Joan Herskowitz, has been busy commenting on several important environmental issues for BVAS in recent weeks.

Marine Life Protection Act. In December, the California Fish and Game Commission approved an expanded marine reserve system off the San Diego coastline, including newly-protected waters offshore from the San Elijo Lagoon and Cardiff Beach in Encinitas. BVAS had submitted comments urging adoption of the plan. We believe this is a balanced plan that will provide real benefits to our ocean and coast, as well as to the people who depend on healthy ecosystems for jobs, food and recreation. At the same time, it will keep potential short-term impacts on fishing to a minimum. The Marine Life Protection Act is seen as a rare opportunity to create a legacy of thriving oceans for our kids and grandkids.

I-5 Freeway Expansion Project. BVAS prepared and submitted an extensive comment letter to Caltrans in November on the draft EIR for this project. Most of the alternatives under consideration would have significant negative impacts on the environment, including increased greenhouse gas emissions. A number of quality-of-life issues would also be impacted, all without achieving meaningful long term transportation benefits. Our letter details the inadequacy of the DEIR and concludes that the plan should be revised to include transportation alternatives that will benefit, not degrade, our region.

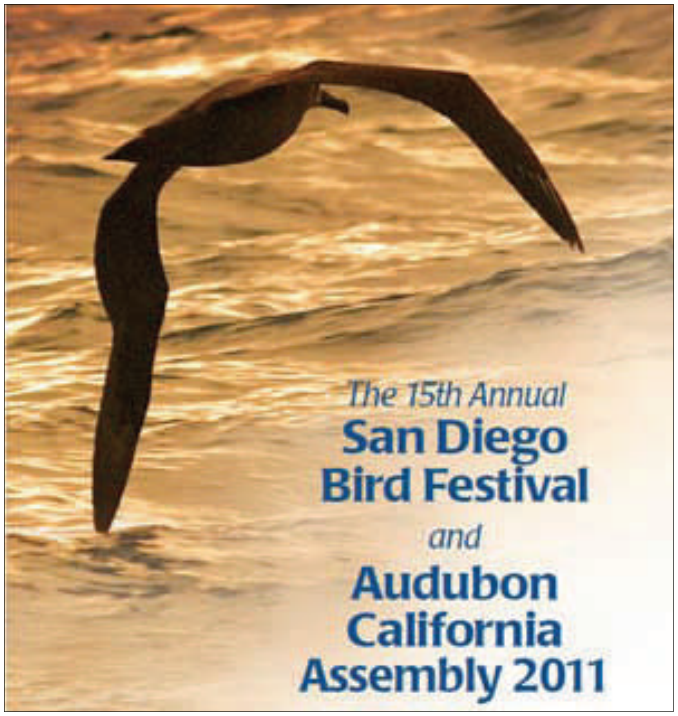
Melrose Avenue Extension Project. Our comment letter to the Oceanside Traffic Committee raised a series of issues with respect to this proposed street extension and concluded there is no need for a six-lane road extension under existing traffic levels and it is not clear if, or when, an extension of this artery will ever be needed.

Clapper Rail Returns from Ventura

A year-old female clapper rail, originally hatched in a captive breeding program at the Chula Vista Nature Center in 2009 and released at a coastal wetlands site near Ventura, made a surprise return visit to Chula Vista this fall. The rail made the 160-mile trip along the densely populated Southern California coastline, safely navigating freeways, airports, industrial zones, and several million human inhabitants. Clapper rails are not considered strong flyers and were not believed to migrate long distances from their territories. Biologists now plan to allow the rail to mate with a captive male she's bonded with since her return, and remain at the Nature Center.

Audubon Portfolio Sells for Millions

A prized edition of Audubon's "Birds of America" recently fetched a winning bid of more than $10 million at Sotheby's auction house, making it the world's most expensive published book. The rare complete edition of 435 hand-colored illustrations of birds drawn to scale is considered one of the best preserved editions of Audubon's 19th-century masterpiece. Because each individual illustration is so valuable, most of the original volumes were broken up over the years and sold as separate works of art.



March 3 through 6
Marina Village Conference Center
Mission Bay

Two Special Birding Events Together
Birding Trips, Workshops, Talks, Trade Show

For more information and registration materials:
www.sandiegoaudubon.org/birdfest
www.ca.audubon.org

Let's Go Birding—Everyone's Welcome!

Whelan Lake Monthly Bird Count

with John Haddock

Saturday—January 1—8 a.m.

Whelan Lake is a reserve with a freshwater lake and riparian edge habitat. **Directions:** I-5 to Hwy. 76 East, left at Douglas and continue to light at North River Rd., left on North River Rd. Meet at the cul-de-sac at the end of the road by the entrance gate. Leader: John Haddock, 760-941-7824.

Featured Bird Walk

Batiquitos Lagoon

with Steve Brad

Sunday—January 9—8 a.m.

The varied habitats at Batiquitos Lagoon and several adjacent sites provide excellent winter birding opportunities. We'll begin at the Batiquitos Nature Center where a nice assortment of ducks and shorebirds can be expected. A short jaunt over to the Aviara Resort should yield close-up looks at more ducks and chances for a variety of warblers, sparrows, raptors, and other birds in the nearby trees and grassy fields. We'll end our morning with a stop at a newly-acquired site at the northeast edge of the reserve. The 50-foot ridge-top of this chaparral-covered hillside provides a nice overview of the lagoon. We'll scope through the many water fowl that frequent this end of the lagoon, and pick up a number of chaparral species along the trail to the viewpoint.

Directions: From I-5 in Carlsbad, take Poinsettia Ln. east. Turn right on Batiquitos Dr., then right on Gabbiano Ln. Park at the cul-de-sac. We'll meet a short distance down the trail at the Nature Center. Leader: Steve Brad, 760-633-1639; stevebrad1@earthlink.net.

BVAS January Pelagic Boat Trip

On board the "Grande" out of

San Diego's Fisherman's Landing

Saturday—January 29—8 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

The Buena Vista Audubon Society's Fifth Annual Whale, Marine Mammal and Seabird outing takes place on Saturday, January 29, in the heart of gray whale migration. We've decided to go out of San Diego Harbor this year to be closer to the productive waters surrounding the Point Loma and La Jolla kelp beds. This trip will be fun for birders and non-birders alike. Save $20 with your early bird registration (deadline January 10). Go to the BVAS pelagic birding website for more info, including tips on taking a short boat ride, what birds and mammals to expect, and how to register: www.socalbirding.com.

Buena Vista Lagoon Bird Count

with Joan Fountain

Saturday—Jan. 29—8 a.m.

Join the regular monthly bird survey team and get to know the Buena Vista Lagoon. Have the satisfaction of contributing to the ongoing bird database and knowledge of the birds of our lagoon. We always record a nice assortment of freshwater wetland and marsh species on this easy-paced monthly excursion. **Directions:** I-5 to I-78 East, take Jefferson St. exit, turn right and make another right turn onto Lagoon View Dr. Leader: Joan Fountain, 760-729-1379.

Basic Birding Class at the Buena Vista Lagoon Landing

with Tom Troy

Saturday—January 29—8:30 a.m.

Novice birders are invited to join our monthly class for some informal, no-pressure birding. We'll share friendly tips and help you build your bird identification skills.

Directions: I-5 to I-78 East. From I-78, take Jefferson St. exit and go right to the light on Jefferson St. Turn right again and make an immediate right turn into the BV Landing parking lot. Leader: Tom Troy, 760-420-7328.

Kern River Valley Trip in 2011

BVAS is planning a return trip to the Kern River, Lake Isabella, and a few desert oases birding sites April 8-10, 2011. We'll be guided around the Kern River Preserve by birder/naturalist Alison Sheehey. The trip will be limited to 10 participants. Trip fee: $100. Visit the BVAS website at www. bvaudubon.org for more details. Contact Andy Brumbaugh for more information and to reserve your spot. Phone: 760-434-3334; e-mail: andybbirder@yahoo.com.

Every Saturday in January and February

Ramona Hawk Watch

Wildlife Research Institute is again offering its popular Hawk Watch program each Saturday during January and February from 9 a.m. to noon. This free event allows visitors to see many of the raptor species that use the grasslands and wooded areas around Ramona for breeding or wintering grounds. Join guides on a raptor field trip, see a hawk banding operation at close hand, and view displays in the WRI nature center. **Location:** WRI headquarters, 18030 Highland Valley Rd., Ramona. For more info: 760-789-3992.

Buena Vista Native Plant Club

Third Sunday of the Month

2 p.m.—Nature Center

January 16—Native Plant Propagation

Our January meeting will focus on native plant propagation, an economical way to add to our native garden landscapes. Native plant propagation can be complicated and frustrating, especially for certain species. But it can also be quite simple and rewarding. We'll try some different techniques, fill the BVAS nursery with potted cuttings, and set you on your path to enlightenment with some newly-potted plants to take home! Bring some used quart- or gallon-size containers if you have them. For basic info and tips about native plant gardening, check out the Native Plant Club site at: www.bvaudubon.org.

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

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 Gransbery	760-729-2240
Center Manager	Annette Schneider	760-945-8891
Christmas Bird Count	Terry Hunefeld*	760-908-3453
Conservation Co-Chair	Danny DiMento*	858-688-6891
Conservation Co-Chair	Joan Herskowitz*	760-942-5167
Circulation	Lisa Hart	760-945-9601
Education Co-Chair	Ellen Kindsvater	760-433-8097
Education Co-Chair	Nancy Miller	760-704-6479
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	Norma Handy	760-634-2120
Membership	Harvey Hart*	760-945-9601
Native Plant Club	Joan Bockman*	760-433-9401
Native Plant Garden	Joan Bockman*	760-433-9401
Newsletter	Andy Mauro*	760-753-1266
	E-mail:	akamauro@cox.net
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	Mary Ellen Marquand*	760-918-6622
Webmaster	Larry Spann: E-mail:	larry@spannweb.net

Preschool Nature Storytime

Monday, January 24, 10 a.m.

Brr! These winter nights are cold, and Little Bear is ready to hibernate. Can he find a good place to sleep through the cold winter nights? Come find out at our storytime on January 24 at 10 a.m. We will read a story, sing some songs, and make a special craft to take home. Hope to see you then to welcome in our New Year and learn more about "hibernation".

If you have any questions about Storytime, please contact Mary Ellen at 760-918-6622.

Cal Audubon's Bird of the Year

Molly, the barn owl, has done it again. Riding Molly's feathertails of celebrity, the barn owl was voted Cal Audubon's Bird of the Year for 2011. It appears the vote was heavily influenced by a groundswell of internet support from fans of Molly, the San Marcos owl. Molly gained fame and captured our hearts as we watched an owl box webcam of Molly and her mate raising their chicks this last year. Owls were the big winners in this year's contest, with the endangered grey owl placing second in the balloting.

Location: 2202 South Coast Hwy. Oceanside, CA (East side of street on north shore of lagoon)	**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 480 Oceanside, CA 92049-0480 **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 **Field Trip Hotline:** 760-688-0660

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: ___

I'm interested in the BVAS Legacy Donor 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.) (BVAS will send a Ruddy Duck Club membership packet and certificate.) Fill in the contact info on this form.

Please Bill My Credit Card:

Card #_____
CRN_____

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

Buena Vista Audubon Society

Fundraiser and Open House
February 26 2011
Buena Vista Audubon Society Nature Center
2202 S. Coast Hwy, Oceanside

BIRD HOUSE AUCTION

Mark your calendar! BVAS is hosting a special fundraising event on February 26 at the Nature Center. A gala open house with wine, food, and live music will culminate in an auction of bird houses, bat houses, and bird feeders, hand-crafted and donated to BVAS by artists, woodworkers, architects, school classes, and just plain folks like you and me. It promises to be an exciting and interesting mix of the exotic and the practical as we attempt to resolve that age-old debate between form and function. We expect to have a wide variety of auction items, representing all schools of artistic expression as well as all price levels. Of course, proceeds will go to support the Nature Center and the many BVAS programs offered throughout the year.

Entry Deadline: January 15. Those interested in expressing their creative and handcrafting talents can pick up entry forms at the Nature Center or download them from the BVAS website at www.bvaudubon.org. A limited number of unfinished bird houses suitable for additional decoration are available at the Nature Center, or participants can build and decorate their own creations using their own imaginations. To enter, fill out and submit your entry form by January 15. Completed projects can be dropped off at the Nature Center the week of the auction.

The Greening of North County

Ruddy Duck Club

We're pleased to announce that BVAS Board member Kelly Deveney is the new chairperson of the Ruddy Duck Club. Kelly is already a busy volunteer for BVAS, serving as Publicity Chair and spearhead of the February Bird House Auction fundraiser. Over the next few months she will be contacting current and prospective members to discuss sponsorship opportunities for 2011. But don't wait for Kelly's call! Your business can show its commitment to the community and join our special group of local companies who sponsor Buena Vista Audubon programs at the Nature Center, by sending in an annual donation of $100 or more. For more information, please contact Kelly at 760-721-2441.

BVAS Nature Center

Is Looking for a Few Good

VOLUNTEER GREETERS

* Work a 3-hour shift once
or twice a month hosting at the Nature Center.
* Keep a regular schedule each month
or flex your schedule.
*Need to take time off for travel or sickness?
No problem.
* Training will be provided.
Just bring a friendly smile and we'll
teach you the rest.

**For more information or to volunteer,
phone Mary Ellen Marquand, 760-918-6622.**

Pelagic Birding Trip

January 29

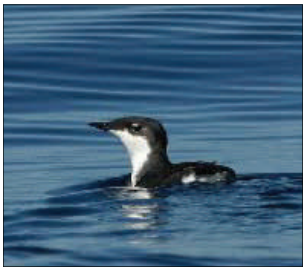
(See Page 3.)

Black-vented Shearwater
—T. Blackman

Pelagic Birding Talk

January 19

(See Page 1.)



Xantus Murrelet
—M. Sadowski

Lagoon Flyer

BUENA VISTA AUDUBON SOCIETY
P. O. BOX 480
OCEANSIDE, CA 92049-0480

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Quick Calendar for January

Sat. Jan. 1—Whelan Lake Walk—8 a.m.

Mon. Jan. 3—Nature Guides Meeting—10 a.m.

Fri. Jan. 7 —Board Meeting—9 a.m.

Sun. Jan. 9—Batiquitos Lagoon Bird Walk—8 a.m.

Sun. Jan. 16—Native Plant Club—2 p.m.

Wed. Jan. 19—General Meeting: "*Pelagic Birding"*—7 p.m.

Mon. Jan. 24—Nature Storytime—10 a.m.

Sat. Jan. 29—Annual BVAS Pelagic Boat Trip—8 a.m.

Sat. Jan. 29—Buena Vista Lagoon Count—8 a.m.

Sat. Jan. 29—Basic Birding at B.V. Landing—8:30 a.m.

Printed on Recycled Paper

Ross' Goose at Aviara

—Steve Brad

A Ross' goose was found and photographed at one of the ponds at the Aviara Resort in Carlsbad in November by BVAS trip leader, Steve Brad. This is the same area where he found a tundra swan last year at this time. Steve will be leading a bird walk in January to check out the ponds as well as the nearby Batiquitos Lagoon. (See Page 3 for more information.) Join Steve to see if any other unexpected visitors might have flown in for a day or two at the spa.

Buena Vista Audubon Society

Fundraiser and Open House
February 26 2011
Buena Vista Audubon Society Nature Center
2202 S. Coast Hwy, Oceanside

BIRD HOUSE AUCTION

All proceeds benefit the Buena Vista Audubon Society, a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation dedicated to fostering an appreciation for the plants and animals of our community.

Calling all artists, craftspeople, and nature loving people of all ages: Buena Vista Audubon Society is soliciting donations of signature birdhouses, bat-houses and birdfeeders for our **1st Annual Birdhouse Auction**. Entries may be decorative or functional and can be submitted by teams or individuals. Prizes will be awarded for the top three vote getters. A limited number of undecorated birdhouses are available free of charge to help you get started. The use of sustainable, recycled and repurposed materials is encouraged.

Registration forms can be downloaded at
www.bvaudubon.org
or picked up at the Nature Center.
Deadline for registering is January 15, 2011.

bvaudubon@gmail.com ✳ **760-439-2473** ✳ **www.bvaudubon.org**