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.

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!

Sabine’s Gull
—Todd McGrath

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.

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, turn right and make an immediate right turn into the BV Landing parking lot. Leader: Tom Troy, 760-420-7328.

Buena Vista Audubon Society 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.

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.

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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.
**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: ___

Name____________________________
Address__________________________
City, State, Zip _________________
Phone___________________________
E-mail___________________________

Send me my newsletter by e-mail.

Please Bill My Credit Card:
Card #_________________________
CRN______

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

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**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.

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**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.

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**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.
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.
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.

Ross’ Goose at Aviara

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.

Printed on Recycled Paper
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