April General Meeting

Breeding Bird Behavior

Speaker: Claude Edwards

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Social 7 p.m.—Program 7:30 p.m.

Are birds nesting in your yard? April is that special time of year when bird courtship and nesting activities take center stage. Our program this month focuses on the fascinating topic of breeding bird behavior. Wildlife biologist and birding expert Claude Edwards will present a slide program featuring some of our favorite birds. He’ll be discussing specific methods used during the San Diego County Bird Atlas to detect and identify breeding behaviors. A handout will provide highlights of his program, and tips on how to find those nests.

Claude is an officer of S.D. Audubon, and over the years has conducted numerous bird-oriented public walks, presentations, and classes. In addition to his many volunteer activities on behalf of nature organizations in San Diego County, Claude is an independent wildlife biologist who performs surveys for protected bird species.

Celebrate Earth Day Weekend with Buena Vista Audubon Society!

Join the Fun on Saturday and Sunday, April 21st and 22nd

Saturday, April 21st—Spring is in the Air

Audubon Spring Birdathon

Once again, it’s time for the Buena Vista Audubon Birdathon, our annual springtime effort to raise funds in support of our mission of environmental conservation, education and advocacy. Saturday, April 21st, birders of all stripes are invited to join us as we spread out over the City of Oceanside in an attempt to beat our record of 150 species of birds spotted within the city limits during one 24-hour period.

And since this is a major fundraising event for the chapter, we also have set a goal of raising at least $2,000 to help support programs at the Nature Center. Observers may bird separately or join in any of the group outings scheduled. To join groups headed for the city’s birding hotspots, be at the Nature Center on Saturday, April 21th at 8 a.m. Birds counted must be seen or heard by an observer within the city limits of Oceanside. Turn in your reports to the Nature Center or email them to 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.

Sunday, April 22nd—Meet Your Local Wildlife

Earth Day Open House

Come to the BVAS Earth Day Open House, Sunday, April 22nd, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and meet some of the native animals and plants of the Buena Vista Lagoon. Special activities and displays will include live animals, native plant garden tours, children's nature art activities, insect hunt, lagoon water life exploration, and special refreshments.

Programs throughout the day will feature presentations by Sky Hunters (with their live hawks), and Bat Rescue (with all that you can imagine about our only mammals that truly fly). There will be a number of examples of aquatic life, including the fish and invertebrates of Buena Vista Lagoon. We’ll be looking at samples of lagoon water under magnifying glasses to see what signs of microscopic life we can discover. Experts will be on hand to answer questions and share fascinating tidbits about the lives and nature of these wonderful creatures that live here in our community. Members of the Native Plant Club will be showing off our native garden, which should be in full bloom display for the weekend. Bring the whole family and celebrate our wonderful world of nature!

Happy Earth Day!
Grunion Update!
Tuesday, April 4th
Grunion Greeters Workshop
6:30-8:30 p.m.
and
Grunion Hunt — 10 p.m.

Sign up for this two-hour Grunion Greeters Workshop, then come to the Nature Center to learn how you can participate in the Grunion Greeter research program. Free pizza and grunion monitoring kit to all participants. Check out the Grunion Greeter website for registration and more information: www.Grunion.org

Everyone (workshop participants and non-participants alike) is invited to join BVAS later in the evening as we go on a grunion hunt at a local beach. Meet again at the Nature Center at 10 p.m. for instructions and directions. With any luck, we’ll all experience firsthand the fascinating spawning behavior of this remarkable fish.

Pelagic Report:
An Amazing Day at Sea

Last month’s pelagic trip out of Oceanside Harbor proved to be quite an adventure. Over 120 participants were treated to sightings of eight different species of gulls, and had a truly memorable day at sea. The boat was surrounded by hundreds of gulls for the entire two hours, but the highlight of the trip was coming upon a spectacular feeding frenzy, worthy of a nature documentary. Thousands of birds were concentrated across a one-square mile area of ocean above a massive school of anchovy. Hundreds of Short-beaked Common Dolphins were pushing the anchovy to the surface, and perhaps 10,000 birds were feeding on them. Included with the gulls were a number of other bird species, like Black-vented and Short-tailed Shearwaters, and a large number of Parasitic and Pomarine Jaegers. The jaegers were actively hunting, tearing through the teeming throngs of gulls and terns and forcing them to give up their fish. The trip was also a successful fundraiser, bringing in over $1,000 to support BVAS nature education programs. What a great day!

—Photo by Bob Drew

Sign up now!
Kids Art & Nature Camp 2007

Camp Ruddy Duck: Ages 5-6; July 9-13; 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Camp Crawdad: Ages 7-8; July 16-20; 9-11:30 a.m.
All camps are taught at the Nature Center.

Neat stuff to do, like cork snakes, nature weavings, leather nature journals, docent-led nature walks....

"This is the best camp ever! I'm going to buy it so it will never go away!"—Robert, Age 7 (Kid’s Art and Nature Camp, 2006)

For fees and more info, call the Nature Center, 439-2473, or e-mail: kids.art.nature.camp@gmail.com

At the Nature Center....
Looking For A Few Good Eagle Scout Projects

Over the years, several Eagle Scout projects have been completed around the Nature Center and grounds, resulting in much-needed improvements which have been greatly appreciated by the membership and the visiting public. A new program is now in place at the Nature Center to develop ideas for future Eagle Scout projects. The goal is to help candidates for the Eagle Scout award find a project they might like to accomplish. We welcome your suggestions for possible Eagle Scout projects at the Nature Center!

Volunteer Nature Guide Steve Scarano is a member of the Eagle Scout Board of Review, which evaluates the service projects of candidates for the Eagle Scout award. An Eagle Scout himself, Steve has helped design a simple form which guides BVAS members in writing up their suggestions for possible Eagle Scout projects. Each proposal will be reviewed by the BVAS Board and "pre-approved". The file will be available for Eagle candidates who are looking for a project.

To read about what type of projects might be appropriate, and to file your suggestions, check out the "Proposal for Eagle Scout Project" file folder in the BVAS office. (Ask Annette or the host on duty for help in finding the folder.) Acceptable projects require that the Eagle candidate assess a need, identify and procure necessary materials and manpower, and demonstrate leadership as the project manager. A new Eagle Scout project is presently in the start-up phase at the Nature Center. This much-anticipated project will result in the construction of terraced and irrigated potting shelves for the Native Plant Club at the northwest end of the parking lot.
April and Special Field Trips

Wed—Apr. 4—10 p.m.—GRUNION HUNT! Following the Grunion Greeter’s Workshop at the Nature Center we will regather at the Nature Center at 10 p.m. and then head off to a local beach to view the exciting spawning run of this fascinating fish. Workshop participants and non-participants alike are invited to join in the hunt. Refreshments at the Nature Center. Leader: Andy Mauro, 760-753-1266.

Sat—Apr. 7—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 cul-de-sac at the end of the road by the entrance gate. Leader: John Haddock, 760-941-7824.

Sat—Apr. 14—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. 21—8 a.m.—BIRDATHON! Join one of our Birdathon birding teams as we cover the City of Oceanside in our attempt to break our one-day city record of 150 species. We’ll meet at the Nature Center at 8 a.m., pick our local destinations, and then go off in search of migrating tanagers, grosbeaks, buntings, crossbills, warblers, and other species of delight. We’ll gather back at the Nature Center about 1 p.m. to compare notes and picnic. (Some refreshments will be on hand, but bring your own lunch!) Birdathon beginners are invited to join in the fun, either by joining one of the teams at the Nature Center or joining Tom Troy’s Basic Birding Class (see below).

Note: The regular monthly Buena Vista Lagoon Count and Basic Birding Class at the Buena Vista Lagoon Landing will be moved up a week this month only and included in the Birdathon and Earth Day weekend. Data collected will be reported in the monthly count and also included in the Birdathon data. See below for directions.

Sat—Apr. 21—8 a.m.—Buena Vista Lagoon Count. Directions: I-5 to 78 East. Exit Jefferson. Turn right and take another immediate right onto Lagoon View Dr. Leader: Joan Fountain, 760-729-1379.

Sat—Apr. 21—8:30-10:30 a.m.—Basic Birding Class at the Buena Vista Lagoon Landing. Directions: I-5 to 78. Exit Jefferson. Turn right and go to stop light. Turn right and park in Landing parking lot on the right hand side of road. Contact person: Tom Troy, 760-967-6915.

Upcoming Trips

May 19—8 a.m.—Camp Pendleton Bird Walk. See May newsletter for trip details.

May 21-26—Southeast Arizona Birding Trip. Note: TWO SPOTS STILL AVAILABLE! A six-day birding trip covering many of the popular areas where Arizona specialties are regularly spotted. Call to reserve your spot. Cost of trip is approximately $520, and includes five nights of lodging, van, local guides. For information and reservations, call Andy Brumbaugh, 760-434-3334.

Heavy Rain Cancels

Birders of all skill levels are always welcome to join us!

Hawkwatch!—Wildlife Research Institute Director, Dave Bittner, holds an American Kestrel during a banding session on a recent BVAS field trip to the Ramona grasslands. Over the course of the morning, the group saw eight different species of raptors, including Golden Eagle, Ferruginous Hawk, and Burrowing Owl.

—Photo credit: Alice Dillon

High School Students Study Lagoon

Forty-seven high school students and their instructors braved soggy conditions on a late February field trip to experience wetland biology firsthand at the Buena Vista Lagoon. Center Manager Annette Schneider, and volunteers Dave Dyer and Steve Lacey, met with students from the Oceanside School of Business and Technology for a full day of environmental studies at the lagoon. The students learned about ecology, the history of the lagoon, plans for lagoon restoration, and explored such topics as food chains and the dynamic interaction of creatures in the lagoon ecosystem. Along with some classroom time, the students had a chance to get outdoors and get a little wet.

Students examine a sample of lagoon water during their recent class trip to the Nature Center.
The Fifth Annual Native Garden Tour is April 15th. Join this one mile walking tour and visit over 10 residential California native plant gardens in the historic Seaside Neighborhood of Downtown Oceanside. Meet at 2 p.m., Sunday, April 15th at St. Mary's School, 515 Wisconsin St., Oceanside. The guided walk is free and kids will be selling lemonade and cookies along the route. St. Mary's School is one block east of the 101 Cafe at Coast Highway and Wisconsin St. This annual event is sponsored by the Buena Vista Native Plant Club and the Oceanside Coastal Neighborhood Association. For more info, contact the Buena Vista Native Plant Club at BVNPC@sbcglobal.net or call the Buena Vista Nature Center at 760-439-2473.

Monthly Nature Center Grounds Cleanup
Join us on the 1st Saturday of the month from 8-10 a.m. as we tend the gardens at the Nature Center. Bring your work gloves and gardening tools.

Preschool Nature Storytime
Please join us with your preschooler on the fourth Monday, April 23rd at 10 a.m., for more nature storytime adventures.

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*     726-3531
Audubon Adventures JoAnne Schontzler         431-0953
Center Manager     Annette Schneider        945-8891
Christmas Bird Count Dennis Wysong            754-1264
Conservation       Andy Mauro*             753-1266
Circulation        Mary Jane Roberts*        231-8148
Director           Doug Dunn*              781-1227
Education (Co-Chair) Renee Racine            635-0867
Education (Co-Chair) Nancy Miller           929-2869
Field Trips        Andy Brumbaugh*          434-3334
Gift Shop          Rosalyn Dong*           806-1430
Library            Norma Handy             634-2120
Membership         Elle Schubert            729-4061
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

Buena Vista Audubon Nature Center

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

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: ___

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

Friends Membership: New ____ Renewal ___

I would like to make a special donation to the BVAS Conservation Fund to help support land conservation and the fight against ill-conceived development projects.
Amount: $ __________

Special Instructions: __________________________

Thank You!

Conservation Corner

Rancho Guejito—The campaign by local conservation groups, politicians, and other parties interested in preserving intact the unspoiled landscape of the 21,000-acre Rancho Guejito continues to gain momentum.

“This is one of California’s best kept secrets, situated on an elevated plateau privately owned with only one narrow winding private road for access. It is situated north and above the San Pasqual Valley with the San Luis Rey River, Mount Palomar, and Lake Henshaw and Mesa Grande on its north and east sides and Lake Woldorf to the west. An actual hidden valley, truly the land time forgot.” —www.sohosandiego.org

Rancho Guejito c. 1984, An Old California landscape — Courtesy of Save Our Heritage Organization (SOHO)

Buena Vista Lagoon Restoration—A scoping meeting to discuss issues for consideration in the EIR phase of the Buena Vista Lagoon Restoration Plan will be held at the City of Carlsbad’s Faraday Building, 1635 Faraday Avenue, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday evening, April 18th. The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will cover all restoration alternatives under consideration. Speak up for your lagoon!

“Coastal Lagoon Hotel” Update—BVAS and the Friends of Buena Vista Lagoon have filed an appeal with the Coastal Commission of the City of Oceanside’s February approval of a controversial hotel/condo/restaurant project. The 3.8-acre parcel of land is located adjacent to the lagoon. The marsh plant community extends onto the property, and wildlife from the reserve regularly forages over the site. Its low elevation, soil type, plant community, and direct connection to the ocean, all make this an ideal candidate for wetlands restoration. This land is needed by the State to provide critical mitigation for much-needed freeway improvements. Scarce wetlands buffer lands like this must remain in open space for the success of the future lagoon restoration effort and the long-term health of the lagoon.

Tax-deductible donations to help fund this appeal should be made out to “BVAS”, (notation: “for legal fees”). Mail to: BVAS, POB 480, Oceanside, CA, 92049.

Write the Coastal Commission expressing your opposition to the “Coastal Lagoon Hotel” project:
California Coastal Commission
San Diego Coast District Office
7575 Metropolitan Drive Ste 103
San Diego, CA 92108-4402

Endangered Clapper Rails at Buena Vista Lagoon

Eight pairs of Light-footed Clapper Rails live and breed within the Buena Vista Lagoon, according to a survey recently released by the Department of Fish and Game. The rail is a State and Federally listed endangered species that is only resident in certain coastal wetlands in Southern California and Baja California. Only 408 pairs of this rare bird species exist in the state. The survey covered the 2006 breeding season, and the eight pairs discovered at Buena Vista Lagoon represent the highest number of rails ever recorded at the lagoon.

Name______________________________
Address_____________________________
City, State, Zip ______________________
Phone_______________________________
Please bill my VISA or MASTERCARD 
Card Number ________________ CRN # __________
Expiration Date ________ Special Instructions: __________________________

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

Friends Membership: New ____ Renewal ___

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

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QUICK CALENDAR

Wed. Apr. 4—GRUNION WORKSHOP AND HUNT
Fri. Apr. 6—Board Meeting—9 a.m.
Sat. Apr. 7—Whelan Bird Count—8 a.m.
Sat. Apr. 7—Nature Center Garden Clean-up—8 a.m.
Mon. Apr. 9—Nature Guides—10 a.m.
Sat. Apr. 14—San Elijo Nature Walk—9 a.m.
Sun. Apr. 15—NATIVE PLANT GARDEN TOUR
Sat. Apr. 21—BIRDATHON—8 a.m.
Sat. Apr. 21—Buena Vista Lagoon Count—8 a.m.
Sat. Apr. 21—Basic Birding at the Landing—8:30 a.m.
Sun. Apr. 22—EARTH DAY OPEN HOUSE
Mon. Apr. 23—Preschool Nature Story Time—10 a.m.
Wed. Apr. 25—General Meeting—7 p.m.

Grunion Hunt!
Wednesday, April 4th

Spring Birdathon!
Saturday, April 21st

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Breeding Bird Behavior
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