May General Meeting

Wednesday, May 19

The **Wild** Bird Photography of

Chris Mayne

7 p.m. Social—7:30 p.m. Program

Readers of the *Lagoon Flyer* are no strangers to the beautiful bird images that Chris Mayne has captured with his camera. Chris graciously allows BVAS to use his photos in its newsletter whenever the need arises. At our May meeting we’ll view some of Chris’ wonderful bird photographs up on the Nature Center’s big screen. We guarantee you’ll see some familiar birds in poses and displays that will simultaneously take your breath away and bring a smile to your face.

Chris Mayne initially bought himself a camera and a powerful lens to shoot photos of surfers from the beach in Encinitas. To practice and master his new equipment, he began visiting local lagoons and photographing the wildlife. He figured if he could get shots of fast-flying birds, a surfer shredding a wave would be no problem. As it turned out, his first bird shots were amazing, and soon it was the birds that became the primary focus of Chris’ camera lens.

Whether your interest is birds, beauty, or photography, come and experience an evening of rare accomplishment.

After the program, BVAS will host a book signing for Chris’s new book, “Inspirations With Wings”.

Don’t Miss this Special May Day Event!

**Camp Pendleton Bird Walk**

Saturday, May 1, 7:45 a.m.

(Meet at BVAS Nature Center and carpool to Camp Pendleton)

(See P. 3 for details)
Saturday, May 8

It’s Time for the BVAS Spring Birdathon!

Clean your binoculars and grab your field guide—it’s time to go birding! The annual BVAS Spring Birdathon will take place on May 8 this year, a day also being celebrated as International Migratory Bird Day. Birding hotspots throughout Oceanside will be alive with the sight and sounds of birds passing through on their spring migration, as well as those setting up local breeding territories and engaging in sometimes elaborate courtship activities. As in recent years, the first group of participants will gather at the Nature Center at 7 a.m., break off into teams headed up by designated leaders, and fan out to cover a number of birding hotspots within the city limits of Oceanside. A second group will consist of late risers, novice birders, and Tom Troy’s Beginning Birders class. All are invited to gather with Tom at 8 a.m. at the Nature Center and car-caravan on a birding loop around the lagoon. The group will visit six stops on the loop, with a goal of seeing at least 50 species. Birders of all skill levels are invited to participate. Everyone will gather back at the Nature Center later in the morning to compare notes and tally up lists. Our annual Birdathon total regularly tops 100 bird species, and always includes a few exciting surprises. Join us for a fun morning canvassing the parks and open spaces of Oceanside in our annual homage to birds and springtime.

Nature Center Open House—11 a.m.-3 p.m. The BVAS Nature Center will be a hubbub of activity on May 8, with walks, talks, new mounted specimens, nature crafts, and other fun stuff for the whole family. Children’s activities and light refreshments will be on tap from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

BVAS Fundraiser for the Nature Center. Whether or not you’re able to join in on the fun during our Spring Birdathon, please look for your Birdathon fundraiser letter in the mail and send in your contribution. Your financial support helps keep the Nature Center open and allows BVAS to continue to offer exciting birding excursions and nature programs throughout the year. Every dollar you donate goes directly to operations and programs—no executive bonuses or fancy retreats for us! Of course, you don’t need to wait for your letter—just use the donation form on Page 5 in this newsletter. We only make two fundraising appeals each year, and the donations received during the Spring Birdathon campaign represent an extremely important part of our annual operating budget. Thank you for your generous support!

Conservation Matters

In April, BVAS Conservation Chair Joan Herskowitz submitted comment letters on two projects in our community with potentially significant environmental impacts.

Final EIR and Amended South Coast Quarry Reclamation Plan. The final EIR and amended plan for this project has been improved over earlier versions, but BVAS identifies a number of continuing concerns in the design of the reclamation plan. Although severely degraded by many years of sand mining, the site is still considered a prime candidate for restoration and conservation. It is the site of El Salto Falls, contains the natural course of Buena Vista Creek, holds several fresh water springs and ponds, hosts a mix of coastal sage scrub, mixed chaparral, and riparian plant communities, and is a critical wildlife corridor.

Draft EIR for the Melrose Ave. Extension Project. Various road alignments being considered under this project plan would result in the loss of between 3.5 and 8.5 acres of Guajome County Park. In addition to the loss of dedicated parkland, there would be additional wetland and sensitive upland habitat loss from this growth-inducing project. BVAS believes these impacts are inadequately addressed in the EIR, and project alternatives with less impact should be considered.

See the full comment letters at www.bvaudubon.org.
**Birding in May—Everyone’s Welcome!**

**Sat.—May 1—7:45 a.m.-noon—Camp Pendleton Bird Trip.** BVAS has arranged a special bird tour of the Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base, led by Jeff Coker, USMC, and Beth Forbus, base wildlife biologist. We’ll be touring several different sites on the base, including a grassland/riparian area where cactus wrens are known to nest, and Lake O’Neil and the adjacent campground. Expected trip birds include warblers, vireos, grosbeaks, raptors, and woodpeckers, with a mix of migrating and nesting species. Please bring a picture ID and, if driving, bring your driver’s license, current registration, and proof of insurance. We’ll gather at the BVAS Nature Center at 7:45 a.m. and organize into a car pool to proceed up to the base as a group. BVAS leader: Steve Brad, 760-633-1639; stevebrad1@earthlink.net.

**Sat.—May 1—8 a.m.—Whelan Lake Monthly Bird Count.** 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.

**Sat.—May 8—7 a.m./8 a.m.—BVAS Spring Birdathon.** Come join the fun at our annual BVAS Spring Birdathon. The first group will gather at the Nature Center at 7 a.m., sort into teams, and go off to bird a number of birding hotspots within Oceanside. Late risers and novice birders are invited to join Tom Troy’s Beginning Birders group at 8 a.m. at the Nature Center. Tom’s teams will car caravan on a 3-hour birding loop around Buena Vista Lagoon in search of 50 species. See P. 2 for details.

**Sat.—May 15—8 a.m.—Buena Vista Lagoon Birding Loop.** We will be car-caravanning on a 3-hour birding loop around Buena Vista Lagoon, with stops planned at six key locations. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Nature Center. Leader: Ian Lyne, 619-384-2686.

**Sat./Sun./Mon.—May 15-17—Pterodroma and Tropicbird Weekend.** This exciting deep-water pelagic birding trip offers an excellent opportunity to add a few rare birds to your life list. The boat leaves the dock on Saturday, May 15, at 7 a.m., and returns on Monday, May 17, at 3 p.m. For details, see box below. Fee: $325. Visit www.socalbirding.com for more information.

**Sat.—May 29—8 a.m.—Buena Vista Lagoon Bird Count.** 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 by performing a little citizen science. 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 go to stoplight, turn right and park in Landing parking lot on the right-hand side of road. Leader: Tom Troy, 760-420-7328.

**May 2010 Lagoon Flyer     Page 3**

Visit www.socalbirding.com for full pelagic birding information.    
Bird Trip Info Line: 760-688-0660

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**May 15-17, 2010**

**Pterodroma and Tropicbird Weekend**

Join BVAS for an exciting double-overnight boat trip out beyond the continental shelf in search of seldom seen pelagic bird species. Key target species include Murphy’s and Cook’s petrels, Laysan and black-footed albatross, red-billed tropicbird, plus a host of other deep-water pelagics. We’ll head directly west to explore the bird-rich 9-Mile Bank, then head west, spending the day looking for birds among the life zones of “The 182”, the 30-Mile Bank and the 60-Mile Bank. By sunset we should be 5 miles south of Pyramid Cove on San Clemente Island where, weather permitting, we’ll turn on a northwesterly course towards the San Juan Seamount. We plan to awaken Sunday morning at the edge of the continental shelf and continue northwest over the deep water between the Patton Escarpment and the San Juan Seamount.

The boat departs the dock Sat., May 15, at 7 a.m., and returns on Mon., May 17, at 3 p.m. Advance reservations are $325 for the 3-day, 2-night trip. For reservations, call Point Loma Sportfishing at 619-223-1627, and tell them you are interested in the May 15-17 birding trip on board the Grande. Visit www.socalbirding.com for more information.
**Preschool Nature Storytime**

**Monday, May 24, 10 a.m.**

Spring is here with many changes occurring in our natural world. Come learn about the wonderful journey that a caterpillar takes to become a beautiful butterfly. Can you make a butterfly that flies? Yes, you can!

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

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**Buena Vista Native Plant Club**

**Sunday, May 16**

**2 p.m. — Nature Center**

**Lawn Today—Gone Tomorrow!**

Come to the BVAS Native Plant Club meeting in May and learn how to take that first important step in breaking your dependency on that big grass lawn. It’s a gardening relic from the past! Sure, you may need a small patch of lawn for a play yard or dog run. But have you ever considered how liberating it would be to eliminate most of that touchy, high maintenance, thirsty old sod you’ve been harboring in your back yard for all these years? Come and let’s talk about your true feelings, and maybe explore the best techniques for lawn replacement.

_The Buena Vista Native plant club meets at the Nature Center at 2 p.m. on the 3rd Sunday of the month._

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**Buena Vista Audubon Nature Center**

_{Tue.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.}  
_Sun. 1 p.m.-4 p.m._  
_Closed Mon._

760-439-2473

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

**Website:**  
www.bvaudubon.org

**E-mail:** bvaudubon@sbcglobal.net

**Field Trip Hotline:** 760-688-0660

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**Key BVAS Volunteer Is On the Move**

Doug Schanzenbach and his wife, Beth, will be moving from Oceanside this summer to live full time at their home in Kern County near Lake Isabella. At BVAS, Doug has been one of those invaluable volunteers whom organizations just can’t live without. Whatever the need, Doug was always ready to lend a hand. He was a Nature Guide, developed and taught a raptor class to area teens, spearheaded the BVAS Nature Art and Garden Sale, participated in numerous work parties, manned the “BVAS Road Show” display at area festivals, was a board member and committee chair, and even served a stint as BVAS Treasurer. The Board extends its sincere appreciation to Doug for all the dedicated work he has done on behalf of BVAS, and wishes him all the best as a dedicated “man of leisure”.

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**New Nature Center/Facilities Chair**

Board member Danny DiMento is the new Chair of the BVAS Facilities and Exhibits Committee, responsible for overseeing the ongoing program to maintain and upgrade the Nature Center. The committee is currently studying the feasibility of a major facilities renovation project which would include a second story observation deck at the Nature Center. Danny takes over the committee chairmanship from retiring board member, Doug Schanzenbach.

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**BVAS OFFICERS, BOARD* AND CHAIRS**

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Dennis Huckabay*</td>
<td>760-757-6437</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice-President</td>
<td>Dave Billings*</td>
<td>760-753-7925</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Kathy Billings*</td>
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<td>Sandy McMullen*</td>
<td>760-944-5690</td>
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<td>Audubon Adventures</td>
<td>Ruth Gransbery</td>
<td>760-729-2240</td>
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<td>Center Manager</td>
<td>Annette Schneider</td>
<td>760-945-8891</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas Bird Count</td>
<td>Terry Hunefeld*</td>
<td>760-908-3453</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Danny DiMento*</td>
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<td>Joan Herskowitz*</td>
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<td>Ellen Kindsvater</td>
<td>760-433-8097</td>
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<td>Nancy Miller</td>
<td>760-704-6479</td>
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<td>Danny DiMento*</td>
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<td>Andy Brumbaugh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newsletter</td>
<td>Andy Mauro*</td>
<td>760-753-1266</td>
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*E-mail: akamauro@cox.net

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**Pelagic Birding**

Terry Hunefeld* 760-908-3453

**Programs**

Dennis Huckabay* 760-757-6437

**Publicity**

Judi Wilson* 760-439-3649

**Ruddy Duck Club**

—OPEN POSITION—

**Volunteers**

Mary Ellen Marquand* 760-918-6622

**Webmaster**

Larry Spann: E-mail: larry@spannweb.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: $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.

Support the Spring Birdathon!
Please participate in our spring fundraiser and support our Nature Center. Look for your spring letter in the mail and send in your contribution form, or just clip out this form. BVAS is a non-profit organization and all financial gifts are fully tax-deductible.

Please Bill My Credit Card:
Card #______________CRN___
Make Checks Payable to:
Buena Vista Audubon Society
P.O. Box 480
Oceanside, CA  92049

Friends Membership: New ____ Renewal ____

Departed Members Fondly Remembered
Joyce Page-Breyer passed away in April. She was a dear friend to many of us at Buena Vista Audubon and her contributions to our organization were many. She was both a volunteer receptionist and a Nature Guide; she was chairperson of the Nature Guides from 1996-2000. She served on the BVAS Board from 1995 to 1998 and with Helen Garcia, coordinated our art camps during the summers of 2000 to 2004. Most recently she was active in the fight (so far successful) against the hotel/restaurant/condo complex alongside Buena Vista Lagoon and right across Coast Highway from our Nature Center. She made many more people aware of nature, and we miss her.

A service for Joyce will be held on Saturday, May 8, at 2 p.m., at Pilgrim Church (2020 Chestnut Ave., Carlsbad). All of her friends at BVAS are invited. Joyce told her family that in lieu of flowers at her memorial, she would prefer that those wishing to mark her passing consider making donations to the Buena Vista Audubon Society or the Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation.

Many BVAS members will remember Freeman Hall, who also passed away in April. Freeman was an avid birder at BVAS, coordinating the Christmas Bird Count, leading walks, and giving talks on many occasions. Freeman and his wife moved to Morro Bay along the Central Coast several years ago, where he continued to actively volunteer.

Barbara Hock passed away in March, following the 2008 death of her husband, BVAS stalwart Paul Grigsby. In April, BVAS received an exciting $50,000 bequest to the endowment from the Grigsby estate. The gift helps assure the continuation of many programs and provides much-needed support for the Nature Center.

BVAS and its Nature Center was built and then nurtured over the years by the hard work of a dedicated core of individuals. Many of these early BVAS leaders became legacy donors. Their dreams and passions still live on today as new members discover BVAS and develop their own appreciation and love for nature. Please give Dennis Huckabay a call at 760-757-6437 if you would like to discuss the possibility of including a gift to BVAS in your estate plan.

Sign-up Now for Summer Fun at the Nature Center

Buena Vista Lagoon Nature Camp

Camp Crawdad: Ages 8-10; July 5-9; 9 a.m.-noon
Camp Tadpole: Ages 6-7; July 12-16; 9 a.m.-noon
Camp fee: $75/child for each five-day session

*Walks & Talks *Plants & Animals
*Crafts & Games *Music & Stories

Drop by the Nature Center or visit the BVAS website (bvaudubon.org) for applications or more information.
Quick Calendar for May

Sat. May 1—Whelan Lake Walk—8 a.m.
Sat. May 1—Camp Pendleton Bird Walk—7:45 a.m.
Mon. May 3—Nature Guides Meeting—10 a.m.
Fri. May 7—Board Meeting—9 a.m.
Sat. May 8—BVAS Spring Birdathon
Sat. May 15—BVL Birding Loop—8 a.m.
Sat.—Mon. May 15-17—Three-Day Pelagic Bird Trip
Sun. May 16—Native Plant Club at N. Center—2 p.m.
Wed. May 19—General Meeting—7 p.m.
Mon. May 24—Nature Storytime—10 a.m.
Sat. May 29—Buena Vista Lagoon Count—8 a.m.
Sat. May 29—Basic Birding at B. V. Landing—8:30 a.m.

It Must Be Spring!

A pair of black-necked stilts cuddle up at San Elijo Lagoon.

Photo: Chris Mayne
Saturday, May 8

It’s Time for the BVAS Spring Birdathon!

Clean your binoculars and grab your Sibley’s field guide, it’s time to go birding! The annual Buena Vista Audubon Society Spring Birdathon will take place on May 8 this year, a day also being celebrated as International Migratory Bird Day. As a member of the Flyway Cities Coalition, BVAS helps foster awareness and appreciation for the importance of conserving bird habitat in cities like Oceanside that are situated along the Pacific Flyway. Birding hotspots throughout Oceanside will be alive on May 8 with the sight and sounds of birds passing through on their spring migration, as well as those setting up local breeding territories and fully engaged in courtship activities.

As in recent years, the first group of Birdathon participants will gather at the Nature Center at 7 a.m., break off into teams headed up by designated leaders, and fan out to cover a number of birding hotspots within the city limits of Oceanside. A second group of late risers and novice birders will join Tom Troy’s Beginning Birders group and gather at 8 a.m. to car-caravan a birding loop around the lagoon with a goal of seeing at least 50 species. Birders of all skill levels are invited to participate. We’ll gather back at the Nature Center later in the morning to compare notes and tally up lists. Our annual Birdathon total regularly tops 100 bird species, and always includes a few exciting surprises. Come join us for a fun morning canvassing the parks and open spaces of Oceanside in our annual homage to birds and springtime.

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Directions: The BVAS Nature Center is located at 2202 South Coast Hwy., Oceanside, CA. For more information, call the Nature Center at 760-688-0660, or visit the BVAS website at www.bvaudubon.org.
Please join the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy in celebrating:

San Elijo Lagoon Day
Youth and You in the Lagoon

Saturday, May 15, 2010
10 am - 3 pm

At the New Nature Center
2710 Manchester Avenue, Cardiff
Discover the secret life at the Lagoon
Experience biodiversity up close
Enjoy exciting exhibits & vendors
Sample great food

Join the Fun!

Family activities include:
- Interactive games
- Story telling
- Face painting
- Guided walks
- Informational talks
- Fun crafts
- Animal ambassadors
- Nature treasure hunt
- Live music
- More!

San Elijo Lagoon CONSERVANCY

Your name and logo here!
Call 760.436.3944x705

Parking & admission FREE.
Details & directions:
www.SanElijo.org or (760) 436-3944

Program Sponsors

PARKS AND RECREATION
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
Where having fun is natural.
www.sdarks.org

Sponsorship info, contact geoffrey@sanelijo.org or 760.436.3944x705.
Printed on 100% recycled content, 100% post-consumer waste paper.
**MEDIA ADVISORY**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
APRIL 19, 2010

CONTACT: Nikki Weaver
PH: 760-804-1969

Agua Hedionda Lagoon presents:
Masters of the Wind: San Diego Seabirds
A special presentation on the Amazing and Curious World of our Far Ocean Flyers

WHAT:  A free public lecture on San Diego’s Ocean-Faring Pelagic Birds
Special guest speaker: Mike Matherly from SD Audubon Society

WHEN:  Wednesday, May 5th, 2010
7:00 – 8:30PM

WHERE:  Agua Hedionda Lagoon Discovery Center
1580 Cannon Rd (corner of Cannon & Faraday)
Carlsbad, CA 92008
(760) 804-1969
www.aguahedionda.org

Background Information:

Just over the western horizon is an avian world that few San Diegans ever see: the realm of pelagic birds. Designed for a life in the far ocean, these flyers do not touch land for years, travel immense distances, and even circumnavigate the globe. Wave-skimming shearwaters, abyss-diving auklets, and storm-tossed albatrosses who glide for days without a single wing beat, are just a few of the radically different-looking bird families that thrive in that far-flung Spartan world. Switching hemispheres in search of the endless summer, diving hundreds of feet below the surface, out-swimming their fish prey, and walking on water are but a few of their adaptive advantages. Southern California waters are host to tens of millions of these birds annually, more than any other region in the Pacific Ocean north of the equator. Why so many? How do pelagic birds go years without fresh water? And most importantly, what are their conservation prospects in the 21st century as global warming changes the very ocean they depend on?
Agua Hedionda Lagoon to Host Annual Migratory Bird Festival

Family-oriented event to focus on bird conservation and migration issues

WHAT: Migratory Bird Festival
- Live birds
- Bird crafts for the kids
- Bird photographic exhibition
- Bird calling show
- Bird hike and kayak tour of the lagoon
PLUS MUCH MORE!

WHEN: Saturday May 15th, 2010
10AM – 4PM

WHERE: Agua Hedionda Lagoon Discovery Center
1580 Cannon Rd (corner of Cannon & Faraday)
Carlsbad, CA 92008
(760) 804-1969
www.aguahedionda.org