October General Meeting

Wednesday, October 20

An Africa Bird Blitz
to
Kenya, Tanzania,
& South Africa
with Sue Smith

7 p.m. Social—7:30 p.m. Program

Sue Smith and three of her San Diego birding friends (Ann Hannon, Jan Nordenberg, and Betty Siegal) took a month-long birding safari to Africa in 2009. They traveled through three countries, at times braving harsh habitats, dangerous animals, extreme weather, and a few challenging meals and lodgings. Taking advantage of expert local birding guides and their own birding skills, Sue and her friends came away with an African bird list that, in a matter of weeks, rivaled the tallies of species they had each recorded in a lifetime of birding in North America. How did they do it, what were their challenges, and what did they see? Our October program will give us some answers and a close up view of a number of the birding highlights of the trip. Come to our October program and enjoy our free trip to Africa!

Sue Smith is a mostly-retired fishery research biologist, who worked for the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) laboratories at Tiburon and La Jolla, California, for over 30 years. She still does some consulting as a marine biologist, but seems to find herself spending much of her time pursuing her serious passion for birding. A former president of the San Diego Field Ornithologists and an almost everyday birder, Sue regularly discovers and reports rare or unusual birds in San Diego County.
Conservation Matters

I-5 Widening—How Much is Enough?

North County residents are being asked to comment on the draft environmental impact report for the widening of the I-5 freeway in North County. Currently, our freeway averages eight general purpose lanes (four in each direction) and two partial High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes (one in each direction) over the approximately 27-mile stretch from La Jolla to Oceanside. That represents a 132-foot-wide ribbon of concrete running along our coastline and through the middle of our coastal communities. Project alternatives under consideration would add either four or six additional lanes at a cost of around $4 billion. At the maximum-sized alternative under consideration, the expanded freeway would more than double in width to an almost unimaginable 282 feet. If it weren’t for all those cars to consider, you could almost fit in a Chargers football game from one side of the freeway to the other.

As BVAS reviews the proposals, we remain concerned that the solutions being proposed are short term fixes that offer little hope that our children and grandchildren won’t also be facing these same Faustian choices 20 or 30 years down the road.

Adding more lanes to the freeway will no doubt ease traffic congestion initially. But unless the paradigm of automobiles on freeways is changed, projected population growth will quickly fill up those extra lanes. Will we then be asked to support an even wider swath of concrete and traffic running through our communities? The default answer to traffic congestion over the years has always been more roads and more lanes. But that has only bought us a little more time, and come at great financial and environmental cost. Maybe it’s time to begin focusing on a more permanent solution.

Our Conservation Committee is currently reviewing this issue and will soon be weighing in with a detailed comment letter on the draft environmental report on the freeway widening project. Stay tuned for further updates.

—Andy Mauro

November 2 California Ballot Propositions

Vote for the Environment!

YES on Prop. 21

Provides State Parks Funding

Would provide a dedicated source of funding for state parks and an annual access pass for all registered cars.

Endorsed by Cal Audubon, Sierra Club, California League of Conservation Voters.

NO on Prop. 26

Polluters Relieved of Responsibility

Would change State Constitution to make it more difficult to require polluters to pay the bill for environmental, health, and safety hazards they cause.

Opposed by League of Women Voters, Sierra Club, California League of Conservation Voters, and a large coalition of health and safety organizations.

NO on Prop. 23

Overts Cali. Clean Energy Law

Would overturn California’s landmark clean energy law by indefinitely delaying its implementation.

Opposed by League of Women Voters, Sierra Club, California League of Conservation Voters.
Birding in October—Everyone’s Welcome!

Sat.—Oct. 2—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.-Mon.—Oct. 2-4—Deep Water Cruise. A 2-night trip out to the San Juan Seamount in search of tropicbirds, rare petrels, and Craven’s murrelets. SOLD OUT!

Sat.—Oct. 9—Storm-petrel Bonanza. A 12-hour day trip to the 9-Mile and 30-Mile banks. This is a great chance to finally add pelagics to your county list. For more information and details on booking your trip, visit the BVAS-sponsored pelagic birding website at: www.socalbirding.com.

Sun.—Oct. 10—8 a.m.—San Dieguito River and Polo Grounds. We plan to explore some areas along the San Dieguito River that might have missed your attention in the past. The polo grounds, practice fields, and adjacent lands in the vicinity of the intersection of El Camino Real and San Dieguito Road near Fairbanks Ranch offer a mixture of resident riparian, coastal sage, and grassland birds. We’ll also investigate some other nearby spots and be on the lookout for raptors and migrating species. Directions: Take I-5 freeway south to Via de la Valle; go east a short distance to the traffic light at San Andreas St.; turn right, drive to end of street and park. After checking the marsh area for birds, we’ll caravan over to the polo grounds. Leader: Steve Brad, 760-633-1639; stevebrad1@earthlink.net.

Sat.—Oct. 30—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 make another right turn onto Lagoon View Dr. Leader: Joan Fountain, 760-729-1379.

Sat.—Oct. 30—8:30-10:30 a.m.—Basic Birding Class at the Buena Vista Lagoon Landing. Novice birders are invited to join our monthly class for some informal, no-pressure birding. Your leader will share some friendly tips and help you build your bird identification skills. 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.


Nature Center Improvements

Perhaps you’ve noticed a number of improvements at the Nature Center this year. A grant from the City of Carlsbad provided funds for several projects which should make things a little more efficient at the Nature Center and easier for visitors. The $50,000 grant was primarily designed to help bring the Nature Center into compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act. Improvements included renovated restroom and kitchen facilities, a new reception desk and welcome center, a change in the layout of the gift shop, special curb cuts and restriping of the parking lot. While most of the projects were completed over the summer, BVAS is still working on plans for several additional improvements to be finished up before the end of the year.

BVAS is now seeking grant funding for a second-story observation deck which would offer views out over the lagoon. We’ll keep you informed of our progress.

A Note from the Center Manager

BVAS would like to thank Rodger Reese, Jr. from Cleanpoint Professional Cleaning Service (760-439-9062). Rodger has once again given the carpets at the Nature Center a professional cleaning, free of charge, as he has done in years past. The Nature Center was extremely busy this year, and it’s no surprise that nature lovers do tend to track in a little nature debris from time to time! Thank you, Rodger, for our much-needed cleaning.

Bob Crowell is also due a special thank you for stepping in to take care of problems that cropped up when the Center Manager was out of town on vacation.

—Annette Schneider

Genentech Workday at BVAS

A team of volunteers from Genentech will hold a late September workday at BVAS. Genentech encourages its employees to do a service project each year somewhere in the community, while still on the company clock. A number of Genentech employees have adopted BVAS for their service project in recent years. This year the team plans to work on the trails and clean up some of the unruly vegetation. Thank you, Genentech!
Buena Vista Native Plant Club
Sunday, October 17
2 p.m.—Nature Center
Hands-On Garden Design
Well, we weren’t sure about the Padres’ fate at the time we had to go to press with this newsletter. Perhaps they’ll be playing in game two of the National League Championship Series about the time we gather for our October Native Plant Club meeting on October 17. We hope so! In any event, we bet some of you would like a little relief from that nonstop sports action blaring away every weekend on your household’s television set. Here’s the plan—Bring a rough layout of your property down to the Nature Center and we’ll help you bring it all together with unifying concepts and a few big landscaping plays that are sure to score. We'll discuss sun/shade, dry/wet, and high use/low use situations, plus anything else that’s on your mind (except sports!). Rookies as well as seasoned pros are all welcome.

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 Huenefeld* 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 Huenefeld* 760-908-3453
Programs Dennis Huckabay* 760-757-6437
Publicity Kelly Devaney* 760-721-2441
Ruddy Duck Club —OPEN POSITION—
Volunteers Mary Ellen Marquand* 760-918-6622
Webmaster Larry Spann: E-mail: larry@spannweb.net

Preschool Nature Storytime
Monday, September 27, 10 a.m.
Do all owls hoot? Can an owl really turn his head all the way around? How are an owl's ears different from ours? Come find out more about these magnificent nocturnal birds at Nature Storytime on Monday, October 25, at 10 a.m. We'll have a special story and an owl craft to make and take home.
If you have any questions about Storytime, please contact Mary Ellen at 760-918-6622.

Bluebird Monitoring Update
Bluebirds Use BVAS Nest Boxes
Results are in for the first year of our western bluebird nest box monitoring program, and it has been a resounding success. The bluebirds found and quickly accepted many of the 16 nest boxes installed by BVAS earlier this year, first at Eternal Hills Memorial Park and later at El Camino Golf Course. A total of 15 baby bluebirds were successfully fledged at Eternal Hills, and an additional four birds fledged at the golf course. Coordinator Dennis Huckabay is expecting an even higher occupancy rate next season as more birds find these deluxe homes, individually hand-crafted by BVAS member Bill Jones. Interested in one of our special nest boxes for your yard? The BVAS gift shop still has a few available for sale.

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
## 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___________________________ | |

Create Your Special Legacy

Join many of our founding members and make BVAS a part of your estate plan. Your legacy gift goes directly to the Endowment Fund, providing lasting support for our Nature Center. Please call Dennis Huckabay at 760-757-6437 for more information.

| 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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### The Funding of BVAS

**Importance of Financial Support.** Financial support is a critical component of our chapter’s success. We rely on contributions from our members to provide us with most of the funds needed to meet our annual budget of about $30,000. Our budget covers the cost of general upkeep, utilities, supplies, printing, mailings, program costs, etc.

**NAS Dues.** Every member of BVAS contributes something to help us pay the bills. However, those whose only contribution to BVAS is through their National Audubon Society membership dues should know that their annual contribution to BVAS only amounts to around $3. The bulk of a person’s NAS dues stays with NAS.

**BVAS Friends.** Fortunately, many BVAS members become “Friends of BVAS” by also directly contributing to BVAS at various times throughout the year. (See the clipping coupon above.) Most of our contributions are for $100 or less, and are very much appreciated.

**Major Donors.** Occasionally BVAS receives a “major donation”, which we classify as $500 or more in a single check. The Board would like to give a special thanks to Anthony and Gillian Thomley, and Agnes Cralley, members who recently sent in major donations.

**Endowment Fund.** We mentioned in last month’s newsletter that estate gifts received by BVAS are deposited in our special Nature Center Fund, where the principal is invested and maintained and a portion of the annual earnings is used to cover about one third of our operating budget.

**Other Funding.** BVAS raises more operating funds through sales at the BVAS Gift Shop, fees charged for a few special programs, and occasional fundraising events. Finally, we seek grants to fund our non-budgeted special projects. Carlsbad, Oceanside, and the County of San Diego have all given BVAS grants in recent years. Cal Audubon has also awarded us several significant grants to fund conservation and education projects.

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### A Fond Farewell to Irja Graham

We were saddened to learn that long-time Buena Vista Audubon stalwart Irja Graham passed away in April after a long struggle with Parkinson’s disease. She and her husband Lloyd – married for 63 years – were regular volunteer receptionists every week at the Nature Center for more than 18 years. They were on duty a few years ago when a fire was started in the cattails in front of the Nature Center; they were the ones who called in the fire departments of Oceanside and Carlsbad before the fire could threaten the Nature Center. Irja and Lloyd were also regular participants in our annual Spring Birdathon and other birding events. In the last few years as Irja grew increasingly housebound, they continued to participate in the Birdathon, providing welcome reports of birds seen in their backyard on that day.

All of us at Buena Vista Audubon miss the good work Irja contributed to our organization over the years. Many of us will also fondly recall the Korean salad she always brought to the volunteers’ banquet! We are pleased that Irja and Lloyd passed on their interest in birds to their daughter, who is a keen birder. Our condolences and best wishes are with Lloyd and their daughter and son.

### Memorial Donations

Over the summer, BVAS received individual donations in honor of Joyce Paige and Irja Graham, two long-time BVAS members, volunteers, and friends, who passed away earlier in the year. The sadness of losing good friends like Joyce and Irja is perhaps partially eased with the knowledge that the values they held dear will live on in the next generation. Young children will continue to visit the Nature Center and leave as budding naturalists, delighted and excited with their first exposure to the wonders of nature. We thank our donors for their thoughtful remembrances.
Out in Africa
(Wherein Four San Diego Friends Go On An Africa Bird Blitz)

Quick Calendar for October
Fri. Oct. 1—Board Meeting—9 a.m.
Sat. Oct. 2—Whelan Lake Walk—8 a.m.
Sat.-Mon. Oct. 2-4—Deep Water Cruise (SOLD OUT)
Mon. Oct. 4—Nature Guides Meeting—10 a.m.
Sat. Oct. 9—Storm-petrel Bonanza Birding Cruise
Sun. Oct. 10—Polo Grounds Bird Walk—8 a.m.
Sun. Oct. 17—Native Plant Club Meeting—2 p.m.
Wed. Oct. 20—General Meeting—7 p.m.
Sat. Oct. 23—BVAS Volunteer Luncheon—11:30 a.m.
Sat. Oct. 30—Buena Vista Lagoon Count—8 a.m.
Sat. Oct. 30—Basic Birding at B. V. Landing—8:30 a.m.

Waiting for the Fall Migration
The birding hotline for San Diego has documented a noticeable level of grouse this season, but don’t go running off for your game bird guide. We’re just referring to the complaints being lodged by frustrated birders about the relative lack of migrating birds being seen around San Diego. Things may be looking up. This prairie warbler spotted in Point Loma in mid-September by Sara and Keith Mayers just might be the harbinger of a late flush of fall migrants.

Prairie Warbler
—By Vic Murayama