October General Meeting

TUESDAY, October 14

Birds of the Sierra Nevada

with Ed Pandolfino

6:30 p.m. Social—7 p.m. Program

Our October program will take us on a virtual trip across the Sierra Nevada range, from the oak savanna of the foothills, through the serene conifer forest belt, up across the majestic alpine regions of the High Sierra, and down the steep eastern escarpment to the pinyon/juniper woodlands and open steppes of the Great Basin. Along the way we'll see and hear the stunning diversity of birds that make the Sierra their home. We'll learn about how they use the various habitats in the Sierra and about which birds are in decline and which are expanding and increasing. We'll also address a few unknowns surrounding some Sierra bird species, and how birders can help ornithologists solve the mysteries.

Ed Pandolfino is President of Western Field Ornithologists, a Regional Editor for Northern California for North American Birds, and has published more than two dozen articles on status and distribution of western birds. He co-authored, with Ted Beedy, Birds of the Sierra Nevada: Their Natural History, Status, and Distribution, illustrated by Keith Hansen and published by U.C. Press in May 2013. His book will be available for purchase and signing before and after the program.

Check Out the Remodeled Nature Center!

The first chance for the public to see the new observation deck at the Nature Center will be at the October 14 General Meeting. While there will still be many finishing details of the remodel to attend to, guests will be able to get a preview peek at what we did on OUR summer vacation. Please join us for this interesting program (and no hard hats required!).
Nature Center On Track for October Reopening?

The actual date for the much-anticipated reopening of the Nature Center will be subject to the usual end-of-project finishing details. At this time, BVAS is expecting to regain access to the Nature Center in early October, although it will still be several weeks before it will be ready for the public. Interior painting, new carpeting, and signage will need to be completed. Many of the familiar exhibits are being moved into new locations, and several new display areas will need to be filled. The relocated library and gift shop will require restocking, and files and supplies will need to be brought back out of storage. Then, of course, there will be the need to test out the various features of the new venues to insure that everything works as planned.

If all goes as expected, members and the general public will be able to get an early peek at the remodeled Nature Center on Tuesday, October 14, as BVAS temporarily reopens its doors for the October General Meeting (see P. 1). Please join the Board and cross your fingers that everything goes according to plan!

Announcing the 2015 Flight Schedule

BVAS Migrating Birders

Have you been dreaming about taking an exciting bird trip in 2015? The BVAS Migrating Birders have scheduled a “Spring in Southern Florida” trip for April 19-29, that will include a float plane excursion to the Dry Tortugas! Maybe Canada in early summer is more to your liking? From June 24-July 5, the Migrating Birders will be touring the boreal forest on their “Summer in Northern Alberta” trip. The two destinations on opposite corners of the continent were chosen to highlight different habitats and seasonal distributions in order to maximize the diversity of species seen on the combined trips.

Both trips will offer beautiful scenery, comfortable accommodations, regional cuisine, friendly company, and, of course, wonderful birds. The excursions will be full-service packages led by Steve Shunk of Paradise Birding. Steve is one of our favorite guides, having previously led BVAS trips to Mexico, Oregon, and Texas.

Trip flyers are at the Nature Center or on the Paradise Birding website (www.paradisebirding.com). For questions call BVAS coordinator Janine Free (760-908-7334), or Steve Shunk (541-408-1753). Space is limited (only 6 spots for Florida, 10 for Canada), so don’t delay!

The BVAS Ridgway’s Rail Society?

Earlier this year, just about the time the BVAS Board was launching its fundraising campaign to purchase two wetlands parcels in Oceanside, ornithologists were putting the finishing touches on a name change for one of Buena Vista Lagoon’s signature bird species.

In June, BVAS announced a new group, the Clapper Rail Society, designed to recognize donors to the new BVAS land acquisition fund. A pair of endangered clapper rails were known to breed in the cattails along the edge of the lagoon parcel being sought. Several years ago, “Clara the Clapper Rail” was the emblem of the community’s campaign to prevent a hotel and restaurant from being developed on that site. The Clapper Rail Society seemed like the perfect name for the new group.

But it turns out that the American Ornithologists’ Union had been puzzling for a number of years over the classification of clapper rails. New genetic analysis confirmed that western clapper rails didn’t quite match up with either the clapper rails or the king rails found in the eastern U.S. In fact, it was concluded that the rails in California were a totally unique species, all on their own. In July, it all became official. What formerly had been known as clapper rails in California are now identified as a new bird species called Ridgway’s rails, named for Dr. Robert Ridgway, an ornithologist who focused on proper species identification and classification at the turn of the century. Just to be precise, it should be noted that Ridgway’s rails are further divided into three subspecies in California, and our “Clara” is most properly called a light-footed Ridgway’s rail.

So what do you think? Should we now recognize donors to the land acquisition fund with lifetime charter membership in the “BVAS Light-footed Ridgway’s Rail Society”? We’re sure you have an opinion on the issue. Just send in your donation along with your preference, and we’ll be sure to tailor-make your certificate accordingly.

BVAS Ridgway’s Rail Society Fund

Name____________________  Amount $________
Address___________________  Check □ or Credit Card □
City; ZIP__________________  #____________________
Phone/E-mail:_________/_________  Exp. Date_____; CVR___

Donations are fully tax-deductible and will be placed in the BVAS Ridgway’s Rail Society Fund to be used for future land acquisitions and related expenses, habitat restoration projects, and on-going habitat management costs.

I would like to discuss this further. Please contact me. □
**Birding with BVAS**

**Whelan Lake Bird Sanctuary Walk**
with John Haddock—Saturday, Oct. 4—8 a.m.

It’s the beginning of fall at Whelan Lake—time for the flocks of American widgeons and northern shovelers to return to their wintering grounds.

**Directions:** 1-5 to Hwy. 76 East; turn left at Douglas Dr.; continue to the light at North River Rd.; go left on North River Rd. Pass through the entrance gate and follow the signs to the lake.

Leader: John Haddock, 760-941-7824.

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**October Surprise Walk**
with Steve Brad—Wednesday., Oct. 8—8 a.m.

Join our once-a-month weekday surprise-location bird walk. Where we go is based on recent reports and Steve’s personal surveying. If you’d like to get on the monthly Surprise Walk notification list, please send an e-mail with your name, phone number and e-mail address to:

stevebrad1@earthlink.net.

Leader: Steve Brad, 760-633-1639.
Day-of-trip cell phone, 760-274-5256.

**October birding**—Migrating water fowl can be seen flying overhead, and showing up in great numbers on San Diego’s lakes and lagoons. Our winter-only raptors, like the ferruginous hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, and merlin, begin to appear. Look for osprey snatching fish from the surfaces of lagoons and inland lakes. Raptors that breed in San Diego County, like the kestrel, red-tailed hawk, and red-shouldered hawk, are joined by others of their species who migrate in from the north for the winter.

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**Upcoming BVAS Pelagic Bird Trips**
—Oct. 4 and Nov. 1—

A few seats are still left on the Oct. 4 12-hour pelagic trip. We’ll be going out as far as the 30-Mile Bank. An 8-hour trip on Nov. 1 will close out the year. Please register early to insure your spot and take advantage of Early Bird pricing.

For schedules, fees, and all pelagic birding info, visit: www.socalbirding.com.

Sign up at Pt. Loma Sportfishing: 619-223-1627.

**San Dieguito River Park Bird Walk**
Saturday
Oct. 18—8 a.m.
with John Haddock

**Directions:**
San Andres Dr. Trailhead—From I-5, take Via de la Valle east; turn right (south) on San Andres Dr. and go to end of road.

Leader: John Haddock, 760-941-7824.

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**2014 Oceanside Christmas Bird Count**
The BVAS-sponsored Oceanside Christmas Bird Count, generally one of the top 12 CBCs in the country, is scheduled for Sat., Dec. 27. If you didn’t participate in last year’s count but would like information on getting involved this year, please send an e-mail to the coordinator, Andy Mauro, at akamauro@cox.net.

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**Encinitas Bird Walk**
Cottonwood Creek/Moonlight Beach
with Steve Brad—Sunday, Oct. 5—8 a.m.

Our regular monthly bird walk will be on the first Sunday this month because of a conflict with the Western Field Ornithologists conference scheduled for the second week in October. We’ll be birding Encinitas, visiting upper and lower Cottonwood Creek Park and nearby Moonlight Beach.

**Directions:** From I-5, go west on Encinitas Blvd., turn right onto Vulcan Ave. and take first right into parking lot.

Leader: Steve Brad, 760-633-1639.
Day-of-trip cell phone, 760-274-5256.

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**Buena Vista Lagoon Bird Count**
and

**Basic Birding Workshop**
Saturday, Oct. 25—8 a.m.
with Joan Fountain and Tom Troy

Join the BVAS birders for our basic birding workshop and bird count at Buena Vista Lagoon. No experience necessary. We meet at the Nature Center at 8 a.m. and then caravan around the lagoon to a series of selected stops for some friendly, informal, no-pressure birding.

**Directions:** Meet at the Nature Center parking lot, 2202 South Coast Hwy., Oceanside.

Leaders: Joan Fountain, 760-729-1379; Tom Troy, 760-420-7328.

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**This month marks the 30th anniversary of the Buena Vista Lagoon Bird Count, first organized and conducted by BVAS founder and former president, Cora Wilson, in October, 1984.**
New Studies Highlight Birds

State of the Birds—2014—Bird science, conservation groups, and federal agencies have come together to publish State of the Birds 2014—the most comprehensive review of long-term trend data for U.S. birds ever conducted. The full report can be found at stateofthebirds.org.

State of the Birds assessed population trends in seven key habitats and found bird populations declining in arid lands (deserts and sagebrush), grasslands, and eastern and western forests. Birds in fragile arid land habitats showed the steepest population declines in the nation with a 46 percent loss in the population of these birds since 1968. Habitat loss and fragmentation, energy development, hydrological alteration, overgrazing and conversion to agriculture were the largest threats. Some encouraging news showed several key habitat types benefiting from targeted conservation efforts.

Audubon Birds and Climate Change Report—Audubon scientists have released a new study predicting how climate change could affect the ranges of 588 North American birds. The work defines the climate conditions birds need to survive, then maps where those conditions will be found in the future as the Earth’s climate responds to increased greenhouse gases. The report can be found at: climate.audubon.org.

BVAS Land Acquisition Speaker’s Bureau

Do you have a service club, homeowner’s association, hobby group, or just a bunch of friends and neighbors who might like a little more information about the BVAS land acquisition efforts and the Ridgway’s Rail Society? Maybe you’re wondering just why these properties are so precious? BVAS would be happy to have a member of the Board speak to your group. Give Andy Mauro a call at 760-753-1266 and let him know of your interest. He’ll arrange a private meeting for your group at the Nature Center, Whelan Lake, or at your own location. No obligation, of course. Yes we can! (With your help.)

Preschool Nature Storytime

Monday, October 27, 10 a.m.

Who loves Halloween? Baby owls, that’s hoo! Owls and Halloween just seem to be made for each other. We’ll read a story, visit with our puppet owl friend, sing some songs, and do our craft. Sounds like a real treat! Questions? Please call Mary Ellen: 760-918-6622.

BVAS Land Acquisition Speaker’s Bureau

BVAS has several committee chair positions available. (See listing this page.) Several committee chair positions, including gift shop manager, also include membership on the Board of Directors. If you think you might like to get more involved, no matter what your area of interest or expertise, there’s always a place for you at BVAS. Please give volunteer coordinator Bob Crowell a call at 760-207-3884 for more info.
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 programs will receive 100% of my contribution. Minimum donation suggested: $25. My donation: $ 25 ____ $50 ____ $ 100 ____ Other: ___ **I want to preserve sensitive habitat in North County. Please designate my contribution to the Ridgway’s Rail Society.

Name____________________________________
Address__________________________________
City, State, ZIP __________________________
Phone______________________________ *E-mail________________________
*Please send me the digital edition of the Lagoon Flyer by e-mail each month. It’s a week earlier, in full color, has extra features, and saves BVAS and the environment the cost of printing and postage. Sign me up!
*Please send me my newsletter by e-mail.

**Double Your Impact!
The first $100,000 of tax-deductible donations received by BVAS to support the acquisition and restoration of sensitive lands in North County will be doubled as a result of matching fund pledges from Preserve Calavera and North County Advocates. Wow!

Please bill my credit card:
Card ________________________ Exp. Date:________ CRN_____
Make Checks Payable to: Buena Vista Audubon P.O. Box 480 Oceanside, CA 92049

BVAS Native Plant Club

Monthly Meeting, Sunday, Oct. 19—2 p.m.
The Buena Vista Native Plant Club support group meets at the Nature Center at 2 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month. Everyone’s welcome, regardless of native plant knowledge or gardening expertise. Club members answer questions and help solve gardening issues, as well as offer tips for native gardening activities appropriate for the season. We always spend time among the native plants in the gardens or along the trail.

Volunteer for school garden days—Come have some fun in the dirt at our BVAS-sponsored school native plant gardens. Garden times are 2 p.m. Mondays at South Oceanside, 9 a.m. Wednesdays at Mission and 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays at Laurel. Joan Bockman and the kids find bugs and discuss important things like scat and decomposition. Cool!

Trail walkers—A dedicated group of volunteers is turning turns walking the trail most days to make sure the trail remains educational and safe. If you would like to join this effort, just walk the trail and make a note on the clipboard so we know you were there. Numbers to call to report problems are posted at the trail kiosk near the picnic tables, so don’t hesitate to let us know of any concerns.

Garden Work Party: Every Monday—10 a.m.
Monday Morning with the Natives—Interested gardeners are invited to join the gardening group at the Nature Center every Monday at 10 a.m. for some casual gardening and friendly chatter.

Ridgway’s Rail Society Fund Donations

Over 35 individuals and couples have become charter members of the BVAS Ridgway’s Rail Society with donations ranging from $15 to $7,500. Shortly after the campaign was announced in June, members of the Rorick family banded together to send in a combined donation of $15,500 in honor of their patriarch, David Rorick, Jr. David was a BVAS founder and well-known Oceanside civic leader. Norma Sullivan, another fondly remembered long-time BVAS member, was honored with a donation from Jim and Linda Michael.

Ridgway’s Rail Society Charter Members
Organizational Grants/Pledges—BVAS ($30,000); BVL Foundation ($10,000); No.County Advocates ($50,000); Preserve Calavera ($50,000).
Individual Donations—Over $5,000—BVAS Board members; Elizabeth Venrick; Rorick family (in memory of David Rorick, Jr.).
$2,500-$4,999—Dave & Kathy Billings; Lauren R.A. Colvin; Andy & Kathy Mauro; David Rorick III; Nicholas & Sueanne Rorick; Sarah Rorick-Orlando.
$1,000-$2,499—Alexandra Athens; Leona & Joseph Hone; Diane & Dennis Nygaard; Julia Theresa Orlando; Dawson D. Rorick; Matthew Rorick.
$500-$999—Joan & Kevin Bockman; Paul Henkart; Sandy & Fred McMullen; Annette C. Waite.
$100-$499—Ellen Bartlett; Joletta Belton; Julie Hocking; Bentley Jenkins; John & Susan Lindow; Jim & Linda Michael (in memory of Norma Sullivan); Hans Ostro; Douglas Schanzenbach; Frank Wong.
$10-$99—Cheryl Bastian Alden; Shirley Bledsoe; Joni Ciarletta; Marion Foerster; Carolyn T. Jopes; Gregory McBain; Norma Mantyla; Marc Ordman; Shelly Thomsen; J. Willis.

Kids’ Corner At the Nature Center

Joey’s and Johnny’s Clubhouse
Third Sunday, October 19—1-4 p.m.

Kids and parents are invited to stop by the Nature Center for some informal nature fun.
BVAS Quick Calendar

Fri. Oct. 3—Board Meeting—9 a.m.
Sat. Oct. 4—12-hour Pelagic Birding Trip
Sat. Oct. 4—Whelan Lake Bird Walk—8 a.m.
Sun. Oct. 5—Cottonwood Creek Bird Walk—8 a.m.
    Note:  Rescheduled to the first Sunday this month.
Wed. Oct. 8—October Surprise Bird Walk—8 a.m.
    Note:  Rescheduled to the second Wednesday this month.
Fri. Oct. 10—Nature Guides Meeting—10 a.m.
Tue. Oct. 14—General Meeting—6:30 p.m.

“Birds of the Sierra Nevada”
Sat. Oct. 18—San Dieguito River Bird Walk—8 a.m.
Sun. Oct. 19—Joey’s and Johnny’s Clubhouse—1-4 p.m.
Sat. Oct. 25—Basic Birding and Lagoon Bird Count—8 a.m.
Mon. Oct. 27—Preschool Nature Storytime—10 a.m.

Coming in November:
Sat. Nov. 1—8-hour Pelagic Birding Trip.
TBA:  Dedication of the new Nature Center Observation Deck.

BVAS Birders Shadow Exciting Birds
Steve Brad’s September Surprise Bird Walk headed down to the South Bay to check out the brown boobies and large numbers of shearwaters and other pelagic bird species reportedly being spotted from shore. A spirited group of friendly folks made the trek and were rewarded with some great sightings on a beautiful day. Sue Smith snapped these images of the group, and we thought we’d share them with you. Check out the schedule of October birding outings on P. 3, and join us out in the field!

Climb the mountains and get their good tidings.
Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves.
- John Muir

(See P. 1.)
Buena Vista Audubon Society Migratory Birders’ Association presents:

Spring in Southern Florida
Coast, Flatwoods, Everglades
& Dry Tortugas
April 19-29, 2015

Spring Migration and Florida Specialties
with Steve Shunk of Paradise Birding

Picture yourself on a large sand bar, with tired warblers at your feet and 1000s of screaming terns overhead. Welcome to the Dry Tortugas! Now, picture yourself on a winding boardwalk surrounded by Anhingas and alligators (at a safe distance). Welcome to the Everglades! And now, picture yourself enjoying such special birds as the White-crowned Pigeon, Black-whiskered Vireo, Mangrove Cuckoo, and Snail Kite. You are birding in southern Florida with the Buena Vista Audubon Society! BVAS invites you on this epic springtime adventure to the southernmost lands—and islands—of the Florida Peninsula. In addition to its plethora of North American endemic species, this region also hosts the highest concentration of “countable” exotic birds in the continental US, including: Egyptian Goose, Purple Swamphen, Nanday Parakeet, Red-whiskered Bulbul, and Spot-breasted Oriole.

TOUR ITINERARY:

April 19 (Sun)—Meet at motel for dinner and night in Fort Lauderdale.
April 20-22 (Mon-Wed)—Birding Lake Okeechobee, Lake Wales Ridge, Sanibel Island, Corkscrew Swamp and more; 3 nights in Fort Myers.
April 23-25 (Thu-Sat)—Birding Fakahatchee Strand, north and south Everglades, urban Miami, and Key Biscayne; 3 nights in Florida City.
April 26-28 (Sun-Tue)—Birding the Florida Keys, including float-plane flight and full day of birding at Dry Tortugas; 3 nights in Key West.
April 29 (Wed)—Morning birding in Key West and return to Miami.

TOUR INCLUDES:

Transportation – Ground transportation from Fort Lauderdale (FLL) and float plane tour to Dry Tortugas.
Lodging – Ten nights lodging, at single or double occupancy.
Food & Beverage – All meals, snacks & non-alcoholic beverages, from dinner on 4/19 to breakfast on 4/29.
Tour Fees – $4,950 single/$4,225 double; includes items above, plus guiding, park fees, and donation to BVAS.
Space is Limited! Space is limited to 6 participants, reserve early by contacting Steve Shunk of Paradise Birding:
541-408-1753 or steve@paradisebirding.com

Visit our web site www.paradisebirding.com for further details, photos, and complete bird list!
Buena Vista Audubon Society Migratory Birders’ Association presents:

Summer in Northern Alberta
Boreal Forest & Rocky Mountains
June 24–July 5, 2015

Breeding Season in Alberta with
Steve Shunk of Paradise Birding

BVAS invites you on a special trip to northern Alberta for some of the best breeding-bird diversity in North America. From the expansive boreal forest to the northern Rocky Mountains, more than 20 species of “eastern” warblers and up to 20 different sparrows breed in the region. We’ll also see many western birds that most of us only see in winter or migration, including: up to 2 dozen shorebird species and a dozen flycatchers, plus Jasper specialties such as Harlequin Duck, White-tailed Ptarmigan, Black Swift, “Timberline” Brewer’s Sparrow, White-winged Crossbill, and Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch. There are few places on the continent where you can study Alder and Willow flycatchers singing from opposite sides of the same marsh; Le Conte’s and Nelson’s sparrows buzzing from the same swamp; and Lesser and Greater yellowlegs nesting in the same bog. It’s a breeding-bird extravaganza!

TOUR ITINERARY:

June 24 (Wed)—Afternoon arrivals and night in Edmonton.
June 25-27 (Thu-Sat)—Birding Elk Island Nat’l Park, and Cold Lake Provincial Park; 3 nights in Cold Lake.
June 28-30 (Sun-Tue)—Birding Lac la Biche and Slave Lake Prov. Parks; 3 nights in Slave Lake.
July 1-4 (Wed-Sat)—Birding Swan Hills and Jasper National Park; 4 nights in Jasper.
July 5 (Sun)—Morning birding in Jasper, return to Edmonton.

TOUR INCLUDES:

Transportation – Ground transport from Edmonton, AB (YEG).
Lodging – Eleven nights lodging, at single or double occupancy.
Food & Beverage – All meals, snacks & non-alcoholic beverages, from dinner on 6/24 to lunch on 7/5.

Tour Fees - $5,160 single/$4,250 double; includes items above, plus guiding, park fees, and donation to BVAS.

Space is Limited! Space is limited to 10 participants, so reserve your spot early by contacting Steve Shunk of Paradise Birding:

541-408-1753 or steve@paradisebirding.com

Visit our web site www.paradisebirding.com for further details, photos, and complete bird list!