Our November program considers the natural interrelationship between the chaparral plant community and seasonal wildfires. Chaparral is California’s most characteristic wilderness. It is a semi-arid, shrub-dominated association of plants shaped by summer drought, winter rain and intense wildfire. Rick Halsey is a thoroughly engaging and entertaining speaker. His talk will provide a fascinating description of California's unique chaparral ecosystem, its many myths and mysteries, its wonderful diversity of plant and animal life, and its fragile relationship with fire. Can we adapt to California's fire-prone environment and still preserve this important part of California’s natural heritage?

Richard W. Halsey, a trained Type II wildland firefighter, is the director of the California Chaparral Institute, a research and education organization focusing on the ecology of California’s shrubland ecosystems and the dynamics of wildland fire in both natural and human communities. He has taught biology and natural science for over thirty years in both public and private schools. His current research focus includes the investigation of variables that determine wildfire behavior, the impact of increased fire frequency on chaparral and other shrubland ecosystems, and the importance of local communities connecting with their surrounding, natural landscapes. The second edition of his most recent book, *Fire, Chaparral, and Survival in Southern California*, was published in 2008.

Calling All North County Birders!

**Oceanside Christmas Bird Count**

The 2008 Oceanside Christmas Bird Count will take place on Saturday, December 27. More than a hundred North County birders and nature enthusiasts will leave the comfort of a warm house or apartment to take part in this once a year and one-of-a-kind adventure sponsored by BVAS.

Participants armed with binoculars, bird guides and checklists will be fanning out in the early morning hours to count birds in a 15-mile diameter area that includes parts of Oceanside, Vista, Carlsbad and Camp Pendleton. Last year, thousands of volunteers across North America counted nearly 60 million birds. The results of past Christmas Bird Counts were pivotal to the Audubon's "Common Birds In Decline" report, which revealed the impact on America’s birds of such challenges as loss of habitat and global climate change.

After a morning of counting birds, participants will gather at the Nature Center to share a traditional chili lunch followed by the "reporting of the lists.” The luncheon is always a festive event, with old and new friends meeting and exchanging information on the more than 15,000 birds and nearly 200 species expected to be tallied in the count circle.

**Fledglings Welcome:** If you’re new to birding and would like to join in the Christmas Count, please join Tom Troy's Basic Birding Class. No experience necessary. See page 3 for directions and more information.

**Experienced Birders:** Contact Terry Hunefeld at thunefeld@gmail.com to be assigned to a group leader who will fill you in on when and where to meet. Become a part of this fun and very rewarding holiday birding tradition.
Project FeederWatch Helps Birds and People

Studies show that getting closer to nature reduces stress and promotes a feeling of well-being in children and adults. So, filling feeders and counting the birds that visit may be just what the doctor ordered! The 2008-09 season of Project FeederWatch gets underway November 8 and runs through April 3. Participants count the numbers and kinds of birds at their feeders each week and send their information to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Project FeederWatch welcomes participants of all ages and skill levels. To learn more and to sign up, visit www.feederwatch.org or call the Lab toll-free at: 800-843-2473.

Genentech Rocks! The good folks at Genentech gathered on the grounds of the Nature Center last month to collect trash, clean trails, dig up non-native plants, prune overhanging branches, and purchase and install a new “watering rock” for wildlife in the native plant demonstration garden. They even supplied the dumpster! A big Ruddy Duck Club salute to them all!

Limited Chance to Kayak the Lagoon—By Pre-Reservation Only

Kayak Cleanup Slated for Buena Vista Lagoon

BVAS, in association with the California Department of Fish and Game, will be conducting a special kayak cleanup event at the Buena Vista Lagoon. A small number of BVAS Friends will have the opportunity to launch their personal kayaks into the lagoon on Saturday, November 15, from 9-11 a.m., to help gather fishing tackle and assorted paper trash that has found its way into the waters of the ecological reserve. A maximum of 20 BVAS Friends will be able to participate in this unique chance to paddle out into the lagoon, which is normally closed to all boating activity. Participants will be selected by reservation on a first-come basis. Contact Andy Mauro at akamauro@cox.net to reserve your spot and for more details.

Thanksgiving Bird Count

If your usual Thanksgiving Day bird count tally can be summed up as “one big turkey”, perhaps it’s time you took a look at this longstanding tradition for well-fed birders. The official Thanksgiving Bird Count is an abbreviated version of the Audubon Christmas Bird Count. Participants are asked to find a birdy spot at some point on Thanksgiving Day, draw a 15-foot circle around the spot, and count all the birds that visit the circle within a one-hour period of time. This sounds like fun—a nice excuse to pull away from the table or the TV and get outside, if only for an hour. Dr John Hewston runs the count in the west, and can be reached at 707-822-5288 for more info. More information and copies of the count form are available at the Nature Center.
Upcoming Trips—November and December

Sat.—Nov. 1 and Dec. 6—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 the cul-de-sac at the end of the road by the entrance gate. Leader: John Haddock, 760-941-7824.

Sat.—Nov. 8 and Dec. 13—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.—Nov. 15—8 a.m.—Birding Oceanside Hotspots. Join well-known, enthusiastic bird guide Claude Edwards as he visits key locations in Oceanside known for producing rare or unusual wintering birds. Learn from an expert how to find and identify those special birds you might encounter at the Christmas Bird Count. Meet at the I-5/La Costa Ave. Park and Ride at 7:30 a.m. for carpooling, or at Guajome Park at 8 a.m. (intersection of Guajome Lake Rd. and Old Ranch Rd.). Leader: Claude Edwards.

Sat.—Nov. 22—7 a.m.-4 p.m.—Pelagic Trip to Los Coronados Islands. (See notice below.)

Sat.—Nov. 22 and Dec. 27—8 a.m.—Buena Vista Lagoon Monthly Bird Count. Freshwater coastal lagoon. Directions: I-5 to Hwy. 78. Exit Jefferson. Turn right and take another immediate right onto Lagoon View Dr. Go to end of road. Leader: Joan Fountain, 760-729-1379. Note: The December 27 Buena Vista Lagoon count results will be included in Christmas Bird Count totals.

Sat.—Nov. 22 and Dec. 27—8:30-10:30 a.m.—Basic Birding Class at the Buena Vista Lagoon Landing. Directions: I-5 to Hwy. 78. Exit Jefferson. Turn right and go to stoplight. Turn right and park in Landing parking lot on the right hand side of road. Leader: Tom Troy, 760-967-6915. (See “Christmas Bird Count with the Basic Birding Class” notice below.)

Sat.—Dec. 27—OCEANSIDE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. (See page 1.)

Sat—Dec. 27—8:30-10:30 a.m.—Christmas Bird Count with the Basic Birding Class. Novice birders and family groups are invited to participate in the 2008 Audubon Christmas Bird Count by joining this special Basic Birding Class. Tom Troy and other guides will help everyone identify and count the birds at Buena Vista Lagoon and then prepare the tally list for inclusion in the official Christmas Bird Count totals later at the Nature Center. After the morning of birding, participants are invited to join the rest of the birders at the Nature Center for our chili luncheon and the announcement of the 2008 count results. Loaner binoculars and bird guides will be available. We’ll meet at the Buena Vista Lagoon Landing. See the Nov. 22 class description above for directions. Leader: Tom Troy, 760-967-6915.

Sign Up Now to Reserve your Spot

Birding in Jalisco, Mexico—April 1-7, 2009

Join Buena Vista Audubon's trip to Western Mexico, an area of exceptional bird diversity which includes many endemic species. Rancho Primavera, a guest ranch 30 miles south of Puerto Vallarta, will be our base for the 6-night/7-day trip. The ranch offers comfortable rooms with breakfast and evening meals prepared by our hosts, Pat and her daughter, Bonnie (a nutritionist). The ranch is quiet and relaxing, with excellent on-site birding. Each day we’ll venture out to diverse habitats, including coast, mangrove, lowland thorn scrub, deciduous forests, and pine-oak woodland.

Larry Liese, a Tucson-based birding guide, will be leading the trip. Larry has led 11 trips to Jalisco in addition to numerous Copper Canyon trips and recent trips to Belize. The trip is limited to eight participants. Cost for the trip is $1,500 (single occupancy add $150). The trip includes six nights’ lodging, breakfast and evening meals at the ranch, lunches at local restaurants, snacks, and all local transportation. A $500 deposit is required to lock in your spot.

A complete description is posted on the BVAS web-site: www.bvaudubon.org. For further info, a bird list from previous trips, or to sign up for the trip, contact Andy Brumbaugh at 760-434-3334 or by e-mail: andybbirder@yahoo.com.

Birding for Boobies—Here’s your chance for boobies and oystercatchers. Terry Hunefeld has added another boat trip to Los Coronados on Saturday, November 22, a week BEFORE the Thanksgiving Day weekend. For schedules and reservations for all upcoming pelagic birding trips in Southern California go to: www.socalbirding.com

BVAS Field Trip Info Line
Call the BVAS recorded line for last-minute changes or special information about scheduled field trips.

760-688-0660
Preschool Nature Storytime

Come join us for our Preschool Nature Storytime during the holiday season. We’ll have lots of fun activities, songs, and crafts for the children to enjoy.

**Monday, November 24, 10 a.m.**
We’ll learn about seeds and all the wonderful foods that grow from them. With Thanksgiving that week, we’ll have a horn of plenty to talk about!

**Monday, December 22, 10 a.m.**
Do you have a tree in your living room this month? We’ll learn about trees (particularly evergreens) and how they help nature’s woody animals. —Mary Ellen—760-918-6622

“Audubon Adventures” Volunteer Needed

After many years of dedicated volunteer service for BVAS, JoAnne Schontzler is stepping down from overseeing the distribution of Audubon Adventures nature education program kits to area classrooms. This is your opportunity to get more involved! Are you interested in a new “adventure”? We’ll help you with all you need to know. Please call Mary Ellen or JoAnne. (See numbers below.)

Holiday Shopping at the Club

**Ruddy Duck Club**

Is it time to start thinking about finding something special for a nature lover on your Christmas list? If so, some of the local businesses that have supported the Nature Center with their Ruddy Duck Club memberships would be a great place to start.

**Anderson’s La Costa Nursery** is conveniently located between I-5 and Highway 101 on La Costa Avenue, and offers a wonderful array of flowering plants to decorate the house for the holidays. Be sure to visit their “Secret Garden” in the back of the nursery for inspiration and a fine selection of special holiday gifts.

The **Wild Bird Center** in Encinitas or **Wild Birds Unlimited** in Carlsbad are great places to shop for such things as new binoculars, a life list journal, a hummingbird feeder, a birdbath, or perhaps the latest hi-tech bird identification software. Who wouldn’t be delighted to find one of these nature-oriented gifts under their Christmas tree?

Of course, there are plenty of other Ruddy Duck Club businesses ready to serve you over the holidays. Check out the list of members on our website: bvaudubon.org, For more information about joining our local business sponsors and becoming a Ruddy Duck Club member, please contact Tom Troy at 760-967-6915.

**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 just north of lagoon crossing

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: $25.

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

Friends Membership: New ____ Renewal ____

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

Please bill my VISA or MC: Card # ________________CRN # _____

I’d like to get my Lagoon Flyer a week earlier, in full color, and save BVAS the cost of printing and postage. Please e-mail me the monthly digital edition of the newsletter.

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

Thank You!

Buena Vista Native Plant Club
November 16 and December 21
2 p.m.—Nature Center

Sunday, November 16—Spring is here!
Sometimes we have to remind ourselves that the spring growing season is not a uniform spot on the calendar across the United States. In our neck of the woods the primary growing season for native plants is just around the corner. It’s time to plant! Flowers planted now will be spectacular in April. Don't wait until the eastern garden media tells you that “Spring has sprung”. Come to our November meeting for a little inspiration.

Sunday, December 21—Let’s make some plants!
We’re all looking for a way to stretch our gardening dollars. There are many plants that can be started from cuttings. Come help out and take a few pots to grow at home.

Free Compost—The good stuff!
The El Corazon Compost Facility located at 3210 Oceanside Blvd. offers a variety of natural compost mixes, excellent for use as soil amendments or mulches in your yard. It’s available free for Oceanside residents, and for a modest fee for others. For more information, call: 760-439-9138.
The Native Plant Club meets on the third Sunday of every month. Everyone is welcome, whether or not you have a green thumb. For more information about native plant gardening visit our website: www.bvaudubon.org.

Monday Mornings with the Natives
Joan Bockman and Debra Buroughs invite any gardeners interested to join them on Monday mornings at 9 a.m. for some casual gardening and friendly chatter at the Center.

Proceeds Benefit Nature Center

Nature Art and Garden Sale
Saturday, December 6, 2008
8 a.m.-noon—BVAS Nature Center

Don’t miss the BVAS Nature Art and Garden Sale on Saturday, December 6. This fun sale will feature a full range of nature art objects representing all media, as well as other choice offerings for nature and garden lovers.

Wonderful things for nature lovers!
Shop for paintings, sculptures, mounted specimens, bird carvings, decoys, bird baths, feeders, nature books, garden tools, and more. A special exhibit will highlight original art of the Buena Vista Creek Valley.

If you have sale items to donate please drop them off at the Nature Center. Need more information or someone to pick up your donations? Call Annette Schneider (760-945-8891) or Doug Schanzenbach (760-390-8494).

“Art is man’s nature. Nature is God’s art”
—Philip James Bailey

Art of the Buena Vista Creek Valley
Preserve Calavera is sponsoring “Art of the Buena Vista Creek Valley” as part of the BVAS Nature Art and Garden Show. This special show will feature original art depicting natural scenes along Buena Vista Creek a few miles upstream from the lagoon. Fifteen nature artists and photographers will exhibit and sell their art. The show will include “Walk in the Valley”, an art installation of revolving images accompanied by Native American flute music.
QUICK CALENDAR

Sat. Nov. 1 and Dec. 6—Whelan Lake—8 a.m.
Mon. Nov. 3—Nature Guides—10 a.m.
Fri. Nov. 7 and Dec. 5—Board Meeting—9 a.m.
Sat. Nov. 8 and Dec. 5—San Elijo Lagoon—9 a.m.
Sat. Nov. 15—Kayak Cleanup—(Reservation required.)
Sat. Nov. 15—Birding Oceanside Hotspots—8 a.m.
Sun. Nov. 16 and Dec. 21—Native Plant Club—2 p.m.
Thurs. Nov. 20—Chaparral & Fire Ecology—7 p.m.
Sat. Nov. 22—Los Coronados Pelagic Trip
Sat. Nov. 22 and Dec. 27—B.V. Lagoon Count—8 a.m.
Sat. Nov. 22 and Dec. 27—Basic Birding—8:30 a.m.
Mon. Nov. 24 and Dec. 22—Nature Storytime—10 a.m.
Sat. Dec. 6—Nature Art and Garden Sale—8 a.m.-noon
Sat. Dec. 27—Oceanside Christmas Bird Count

Sandhill Crane at San Elijo Lagoon

Local nature photographer Chris Mayne was busy capturing close-up images of a western sandpiper catching flies in the shallow waters of the San Elijo Lagoon on October 15, when he became aware of a much larger bird flying overhead. As he glanced up he identified it as a sandhill crane, a very unusual sighting for coastal San Diego County. Chris quickly turned his camera on the crane and was able to document the sighting for all to see.

Oceanside Christmas Bird Count

December 27, 2008

See page 1.