November General Meeting

Wednesday, November 14
Small Mammals
In San Diego County
with
Project Wildlife
7 p.m. Social—7:30 p.m. Program

The thought of mountain lions and bears might get our blood racing, but we're much more likely to encounter smaller and less fearsome mammals on our North County walks. Skunks, raccoons, opossums, rabbits, and the like, play a very important role in maintaining the balance of nature in our native open spaces and in our backyards.

Project Wildlife is a non-profit organization that cares for injured, orphaned, or sick native wildlife, returning rehabilitated animals back into the wild. Through their education programs they help foster a greater appreciation for these animals among the public, dispelling fears and misconceptions and teaching us to live in harmony with our native wildlife.

Our November program will focus on these small mammals of San Diego County that frequent our backyards. Project Wildlife volunteers will bring a surprise animal ambassador or two, live native animals whose circumstances prevent them from being released back into the wild. It'll be our chance to see these animals close up and hear about their life stories. We'll learn how Project Wildlife receives and rehabilitates its animal patients, and learn about other small mammal species that are native to San Diego.

Don't play 'possum. Hop like a bunny to our November meeting!

Oceanside Christmas Count Wants You!

The 2012 annual Oceanside Christmas Bird Count (CBC) will take place on Sunday, December 30, 2012. Nearly 100 North County birders and nature enthusiasts will take part in this once-a-year adventure sponsored by the Buena Vista Audubon Society. CBC results from all across North America are entered into the National Audubon Society’s database, providing scientists with a clearer image of wintering bird populations.

Participants in the Oceanside count will be assigned to teams based on their bird identification skill levels and endurance. Early in the morning on December 30, the teams will fan out to their assigned territories within the 15-mile count circle that includes parts of Oceanside, Vista, Carlsbad and Camp Pendleton. After the morning count, everyone will gather back at the Nature Center for a free chili luncheon and "The Sacred Reporting Of The Lists," where we compile and discuss the morning's results. Based on the totals in recent years, we can expect to tally more than 40,000 birds representing as many as 190 species during this year's CBC.

Fledglings Welcome: If you're a new or inexperienced birder and would like to help in the Christmas Count, please join Joan Fountain and Tom Troy on Buena Vista Lagoon that day. No experience necessary. See Page 3 for 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 holiday birding tradition.
Another Great Year for BVAS

The numbers are in, and they are looking good! Continuing its trend of steady growth in recent years, BVAS reached new highs in membership and program participation in the fiscal year ending June 30. And for those of you who like numbers, here are the stats. Almost 2,000 North County households representing over 3,000 individuals, an adobe house dating back to the original Mexican land grant, and Buena Vista Creek itself, with its rich natural resources that support the downstream lagoon.

Finally, BVAS volunteers took the show on the road with outreach programs touching a total of 4,400 people. Over half of this outreach was through the Native Plant Club and School Gardens programs headed by our intrepid Joan Bockman.

Many thanks to all the volunteers, committee members, directors, officers, and the dedicated BVAS staff for working so hard to make this past year such a success. Thank you also, to the BVAS general membership, BVAS Friends, and Ruddy Duck Club businesses whose membership dues, financial contributions, donated services, and enthusiastic participation in BVAS programs throughout the year contributed so greatly to the resources and energy that fueled such a successful year.

Unfortunately, a proposed mixed development project adjacent to the reserve is in its final stages of review and approval from the City of Carlsbad. The development as proposed would destroy much of the historic context and ecological significance of this priceless area.

Preserve Calavera will host the event, which will also include a guided walk in the reserve, special exhibits highlighting the cultural, historic and natural resources of the area, and a silent auction featuring unusual items.

Directions: Take College Ave. off-ramp from Hwy. 78. Go west on Haymar/Plaza Rd. past the Mossy Nissan car dealership to the end of the road. For more information contact info@preservecalavera.org, or call 760-724-3887.
Whelan Lake Bird Walk
with John Haddock
Saturday, Nov. 3 and Saturday, Dec. 1—8 a.m.
Christmas Count—Sunday, Dec. 30—8 a.m.

Whelan Lake is a bird reserve with a freshwater lake, riparian-edge habitat, grass-covered hillsides, and an oak grove. The varied habitat results in a nice assortment of bird species in all seasons. It is especially noted for its wintering duck populations and interesting sightings during fall and spring migrations.

2012 Oceanside Christmas Bird Count at Whelan Lake—
Participants on the December 30 Whelan Lake bird count will have their tally added to the official Audubon Christmas Bird Count. No prior registration required.

Directions: 1-5 to Hwy. 76 East, left at Douglas, continue to 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.

Basic Birding Class and Buena Vista Lagoon Bird Count
with Joan Fountain and Tom Troy
Saturday, Nov. 24 and Sunday Dec. 30—8 a.m.

Are you interested in learning a little more about the birds of our lagoon? Join the friendly group of fledgling birders that regularly turn out for our basic birding class and bird count at Buena Vista Lagoon each month. Everyone is invited to join the class for some informal, no-pressure birding and lots of friendly tips.

We’ll meet at the Nature Center at 8 a.m. and then caravan around the lagoon to a series of selected stops to observe birds, discuss bird behavior, and record the number of species we see.

2012 Oceanside Christmas Bird Count for Fledglings—
Join us on our December 30 count and be an official participant in the 2012 Audubon Christmas Bird Count. After our walk we’ll return to the Nature Center for the chili lunch and count compilation with all the other birders (See P. 1).

Directions: Meet at the BVAS Nature Center parking lot, 2202 South Coast Hwy., Oceanside.
Leaders: Joan Fountain, 760-729-1379.
Tom Troy, 760-420-7328.

New Year’s Day Pelagic Bird Trip
Tuesday, January 1, 2013

Forget the hangover, the Rose Bowl parade, the endless stream of football games on television—the San Diego birding community has a different and, dare we suggest, a healthier and more energizing way to start out your New Year. This year will mark the San Diego Field Ornithologists’ 28th annual New Year’s Day Pelagic Bird Trip. The birding is casual, although there are plenty of experts aboard to call out the sightings.

Welcome in 2013 with a cleansing dose of fresh air and nature. It’s a good chance to make some new friends, and a sure bet to get your annual bird list off to a good start. The trip is economically priced, generally blessed with sunny skies and calm seas, and gets you back on land in time for lunch and whatever else you have in mind for later in the day.
SDFO members get a head start on reserving a spot on the trip, but there is always room for a number of non-members. The trip generally sells out, so it pays to act quickly as soon as open reservations are being accepted. Go to the BVAS pelagic birding website (www.sdbirding.com) for the latest updates on cost and reservation information.

2012 Oceanside Christmas Bird Count
Whether you’re an experienced or fledgling birder, a long-time CBC veteran or a newbie, you are invited to be a part of this fun holiday birding tradition. Anyone can participate by joining one of our regular BVAS bird counts at Whelan Lake or Buena Vista Lagoon on December 30 (see notices on this page). More experienced birders are invited to contact Oceanside CBC coordinator Terry Hunefeld (thunefeld@gmail.com) to be assigned to a group leader who will fill you in on when and where to meet.

Visions of Birdhouses Dancing in Your Head?
It’s not too early to start planning that special birdhouse you KNOW you want to make for the 2013 BVAS Birdhouse Auction. March is just around the corner!
Preschool Nature Storytime
Monday, November 26, 10 a.m.

We celebrate Thanksgiving this month, the perfect time for us to talk a little turkey! The turkey has always been a part of our nation’s lore, whether because of its place of honor on many Thanksgiving dinner tables, or its reputation as a smart and resourceful resident of the fields and woods of our backcountry, including right here in San Diego. Our November Storytime will teach us about this beloved bird with stories, songs, and crafts. Please join us!

If you have any questions or need more information about Preschool Nature Storytime, please call Mary Ellen: 760-918-6622.

Audubon Magazine Collection
Sixty Years of Birding History

BVAS has received a treasured donation of sixty years of Audubon Magazine from the Palomar College Library. Dating back to 1943, the collection of magazines spans an era marked by tremendous gains in the science of ornithology, in the techniques and skills associated with field identification of birds, and in the popularity of birding as an American avocation.

Palomar College Library was seeking an appropriate home for the magazines as it was clearing space for more recent publications. The periodicals were offered to BVAS, and the board quickly agreed to accept the donation. The collection will be included in the chapter’s extensive reference library and made available for on-site review by BVAS members and researchers.

Audubon Magazine was first published in 1941, the successor to Bird Lore. In 1966 its name changed to Audubon. Articles in the magazine document the post-war history of birding in America, and provide a unique look back at some of America’s most famous birders.

From 1952 to 1962, Audubon Magazine published “Bird’s Eye View,” a column written and illustrated by Roger Tory Peterson, perhaps America’s most famous ornithologist next to John James Audubon.

Roger Tory Peterson

Location:
2202 South Coast Hwy.
Oceanside, CA
(East side of street on north shore of lagoon)

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 480
Oceanside, CA 92049

Phone: 760-439-2473

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. 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___________________________

*Send me my newsletter by e-mail.

Please bill my credit card:
Card #_______________________
CRN______

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

Create A Lasting 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 info.

Send me info about the BVAS Legacy program _____

Buena Vista Native Plant Club
Sunday, Nov. 18 and Dec. 16
2 p.m.

The Buena Vista Native Plant Club meets at the Nature Center at 2 p.m. on the third Sunday of the month. Everyone’s welcome, regardless of their native plant knowledge or gardening expertise. Club members will answer your questions and help solve your gardening issues, as well as offer tips for native gardening activities appropriate for the season. And there’s always an opportunity to get a little “hands-on” experience among the native plants in the demonstration gardens or along the trails at the BVAS Nature Center. For more info, follow the Native Plant Club link at www.bvaudubon.org.

It’s easy to get started on your native plant garden. Stop by the next Native Plant Club meeting, or take part in one of our garden work parties at the Nature Center every Monday morning at 9 a.m.

Monday Morning with the Natives

Interested gardeners are invited to the Nature Center on Monday mornings at 9 a.m. for some casual gardening and friendly chatter.

Gift Shopping at BVAS

The BVAS Gift Shop has a nice selection of nature-oriented gifts for all the naturalists on your list, young and old. And most items are less than $20. Youngsters may enjoy an Audubon plush bird that sings its bird song when it gets a gentle squeeze. Lots of species are available. We also have children’s books, nature games, and smaller items just right for the stocking. Gifts that might appeal to the older folks on your list include a wide variety of nature guides, tee shirts, bird boxes, and other items. Remember—all BVAS members get a waiver of the sales tax on all their purchases. All Gift Shop sales go to support the Nature Center.

Upgrades Set for Nature Center Trail

The Nature Center Trail is due for some important upgrades. Recent high water levels put much of the trail underwater, even briefly submerging much of the raised wooden trail bridge installed two years ago that was expected to provide year-round access to the loop trail. BVAS Nature Guides have been unable to lead nature walks along the loop trail for several months, much to the disappointment of the students who visit the Nature Center on class tours.

BVAS has received approval from the Department of Fish and Game to raise the general level of the trail with an overlay of soil, and several local companies have offered to donate the proper material. The project is expected to be completed prior to March 1. It will be overseen by landscape contractor and BVAS board member Danny Dimento. The trail viewing decks will also be re-leveled and trail vegetation trimmed back as part of the project.

Annual Appeal—Your BVAS 2012 Annual Year-end Appeal letter will be arriving in your mailbox in late November. We know you receive solicitations for help from many worthy organizations at this time of year. Your generous support of BVAS helps provide the funds necessary to keep the Nature Center open and offer our many nature education programs.

Thank You!
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Oceanside

In early October, Oceanside resident and birder Mike Martin was surprised to find a scissor-tailed flycatcher foraging behind the Fresh and Easy Market on Oceanside Blvd. This distinctive flycatcher is more commonly seen in Texas and Oklahoma, with only a handful of fall sightings recorded in San Diego County. Despite being continually harassed by the local mockingbirds and Cassin’s kingbirds, the wayward flycatcher hung out along Oceanside Blvd. for several weeks, long enough for many San Diego birders to travel up to Oceanside to add it to their county lists. It just goes to show—BVAS birders don’t have to travel far to get a good bird!

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher —Steve Brad

Happy Holidays!

Printed on Recycled Paper
History in Our Own Backyard
Come and see the historic Buena Vista Valley before it is lost forever to 656 more homes

Saturday, Nov 10, 2012
2-4 pm

Free community event with something for everyone ~

View ~ Sacred Waterfall, Heritage Trees, Student Artwork
Tour ~ The Adobe, one of 12 most endangered historic sites in San Diego County
Walk ~ The Historic Buena Vista Valley
Win ~ Silent Auction
Learn ~ Culture, History, Wildlife, Open Space, Watershed

Google Map:  http://goo.gl/Aj44Z
Directions: College exit off 78, to frontage road south of freeway: Turn west on Haymar/Plaza (76 gas station & Mossey-Nissan Dealer are to west). Drive 7/10th mile to end of Haymar Dr. Park in cul-de-sac; enter gates to adobe.

Preserve Calavera •  http://www.preservecalavera.org • 760-724-3887
Buena Vista Audubon Society
2012 Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

Thank You!