

BUENA VISTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

LAGOON

FLYER



VOLUME 44 / NUMBER 9 / NOV-DEC 2015

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Belted Kingfisher
—C. Mayne

BIRDS OF THE COASTAL WETLANDS with Chris Mayne

Wednesday, November 18

6:30 p.m. Social—7 p.m. Program

The BVAS November program will feature some of the amazing bird images recently captured by award-winning photographer Chris Mayne. With remarkable patience, persistence, skill, and sometimes a little hard-earned good fortune, Chris is able to capture some of the most dramatic moments in a bird's life. Chris' pictures document such things as courtship behavior, territorial defense, birds capturing prey and feeding young. Reminiscent of some of John James Audubon's famous paintings, Chris' photos are able to transport the viewer directly to that special moment, almost as if one were physically present at the scene. His November program will focus on an array of birds found in the coastal wetlands of San Diego, from foraging sandpipers to soaring raptors. We hope to see you there.

NOTE: As is our custom, there will be no general meeting or program in December, as we take a break for the holidays and conduct the annual Christmas Bird Count. Following November, our next general meeting will be in January, 2016.

2015 Oceanside Christmas Bird Count

Sunday, December 27

Sponsored by BVAS Since 1950



BVAS MIGRATING BIRDERS

France and Spain Birding Trek—April/May, 2016

Hurry! The BVAS France and Spain Birding Treks scheduled for April/May, 2016 are filling up fast, so please act now to reserve your spot. The southbound trip will leave Paris on April 22, arriving in Barcelona on May 2. A second group will depart Barcelona on May 6, traveling north to arrive in Paris on May 16. This will be small-group birding, just six birders traveling together in one van. We'll stay in small country inns, visiting a variety of different habitats in southern France and northern Spain. An optional 4-day extension into the Pyrenees Mountains and down to the Spanish coastline will be offered from May 2-6 for birders on both the southbound and northbound treks. The price will be about \$2,800 a person, which will include 11 nights of lodging, food, van transportation, air travel back to either Paris or Barcelona at the end of your trek, and an excellent professional guide. To support these programs, participants are also expected to



Hoopoe

make a \$100 contribution to BVAS. Transportation to and from Europe, alcoholic beverages, and the cost of the optional extension are not included. To request the detailed itinerary and reserve your spot, please email Andy Mauro at: akamauro1@gmail.com.

BVAS MIGRATING BIRDERS

Cape May Birding Trip—May 15-20, 2016 with ROAD SCHOLAR

One of North America's best birding locales is Cape May, New Jersey. The Cape is a well-known "migrant trap" for birds moving along the Atlantic Flyway. In the spring it is the first landfall for northward-bound warblers and other songbirds after the crossing of Delaware Bay. Protected beaches, ponds, marshes, fields and coastal forests offer a diverse set of habitats close by a charming seaside town with Victorian architecture and a scenic lighthouse.



Cape May Warbler

This birding trip is offered as part of the Road Scholar travel program, and is open to the general public. If BVAS can sign up at least 11 participants, our chapter will receive a \$50 donation for each participant from Road Scholar.

Leader Mark Garland is a naturalist with New Jersey Audubon Cape May Bird Observatory and author of *Watching Nature: A Mid-Atlantic Natural History*, published by the Smithsonian Press. Maximum size of the group is 14. The price of \$949 includes 5 nights of accommodation (double occupancy) and 14 meals (5 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 5 dinners). Contact Dennis Huckabay at jdhuckabay@sbcglobal.net or at 760-757-6437.

2015 Oceanside Christmas Bird Count

Sunday, December 27

The date is set for this year's Oceanside Christmas Bird Count! BVAS has been sponsoring the Oceanside CBC for as long as we can remember, making it a cherished holiday tradition. Last year's Oceanside tally was 192 species. In addition



to its high species total (generally within the top 12 counts in the nation), the Oceanside count is known for its high level of participation. Over 130 birders joined in the effort last year.

For those new to this game, here's a quick summary. The Audubon Society CBC was begun in 1900, when a group of friends in New York City decided that, rather than participate in a Christmas Day "Side Hunt" of birds, it might be more enjoyable and beneficial to the birds they treasured to go out and count the number of species they could identify in a day. The Christmas count quickly spread to other neighboring cities and states, and now has become an international phenomenon with over 2,500 individual CBCs conducted worldwide last year. To be considered an official CBC, it must be registered with the National Audubon Society and must be conducted during one 24-hour period between December 14 and January 5. An official center point for the count is selected, and a 7-mile radius is drawn around the center to determine the count circle. All sightings must be recorded within the boundaries of that count circle.

The Oceanside CBC count circle is divided into different sectors, each with its own leader and team of birders. Each team meets early on the day of the count and goes off to survey its area. After a full morning of birding, the teams begin gathering at the Nature Center to turn in their results, compare notes, and enjoy a luncheon of Annette's famous chili. At 2 p.m., "The Reading of the List" commences. As the coordinator goes down the list, team members shout out whether they observed that particular species in their area. There are always a few unexpected sightings worthy of exclamation, as well as notable "no-shows" from among the list of expected birds. Once the overall tally is completed, participants head home with a warm glow of accomplishment from time well spent and a job well done.

Everyone is invited to participate in the Oceanside CBC, regardless of their level of expertise. If you're interested, please send an email to Andy Mauro at: akamauro1@gmail.com. Please include your name, address, phone number, and a sentence or two to indicate your general level of birding experience. Join us!

WHELAN LAKE BIRD SANCTUARY WALK

Saturday, November 7—8 a.m.

Saturday, December 5—8 a.m.

Join BVAS for our regular monthly walk and bird survey. The freshwater lake, adjacent riparian forest, and grassy upland hills provide an exciting array of bird species throughout the year, making it a favorite place to go birding.

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

Leader: John Haddock, 760-941-7824.

SECOND THURSDAY SURPRISE WALK

Thursday, November 12—8 a.m.

Join our weekday surprise-location bird walk on the second Thursday of each month. Where we go is based on recent reports and Steve's personal surveying. If you'd like to get on the Second Thursday Walk notification list, please send an email with your name, phone number and email address to: stevanbrad@gmail.com.

Leader: Steve Brad, 760-633-1639.

COTTONWOOD CREEK PARK BIRD WALK

Sunday, November 8—8 a.m.

We'll check out Cottonwood Creek Park off Vulcan Ave. in Encinitas this month. Several good birds have been spotted here in recent years. Depending on recent sightings and our birding luck that morning, we may also check out a couple of other nearby locales.

Directions: From I-5, go w. on Encinitas Blvd., right on Vulcan Ave., and a quick right into the Cottonwood Creek Park parking lot. We'll meet near the tennis courts. Address: 95 N. Vulcan Ave., Encinitas, CA.

Leader: Steve Brad, 760-633-1639.

SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK BIRD WALK

Saturday, November 21—8:30 a.m. (Lower Crest Canyon)

Saturday, December 19—8:30 a.m. (San Andres Drive)

We'll be looking for the many water fowl and shorebirds that come to spend the winter at North County's coastal wetlands.

Directions: Lower Crest Canyon—From I-5, take Via de la Valle west; left on Jimmy Durante Blvd.; left on San Dieguito Rd. Drive east 1 mile to trailhead. **San Andres Drive**—From I-5, take Via de la Valle east; Go right on San Andres Drive to end of road.

Leader: John Haddock, 760-941-7824.

ELECTRONIC RECYCLING AND PAPER SHREDDING

NATURE CENTER—Dec. 12-13 and Jan. 23-24—10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Bring us your outdated electronics and help raise funds for BVAS. All those old computers, monitors, TVs, cellphones, etc. can be quickly recycled at these two drive-through events. Paper shredding will also be available for a small fee. It's a great way to de-clutter and support BVAS. A flyer with more info is available on the BVAS website or at the Nature Center.

BASIC BIRDING WORKSHOP AND

BUENA VISTA LAGOON BIRD COUNT

Saturday, November 31—9 a.m.

Sunday, December 27—9 a.m.

Note: Beginning in November, the start time for the Basic Birding Workshop and BVL Bird Count will be changed to 9 a.m. In December, our count will move to a Sunday as part of the Christmas Bird Count.

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.

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

PELAGIC BIRDING TRIP TO THE CORONADO ISLANDS

Saturday, November 7—6:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

This 10-hour pelagic trip will visit the Coronado Islands in Mexican waters before venturing out to the 7-Mile Bank off San Diego. We'll see the brown booby colony on the islands, where there are also large numbers of roosting brown pelicans, cormorants, and gulls. Other expected island species include black oystercatcher, wandering tattler, and peregrine falcon. We will be passing by the beaches where California sea lions, harbor seals, and a few northern elephant seals haul-out. This is always a good trip for returning winter and late-migrant seabirds.

Pelagic Birding Information and Trip Registration:

The November trip will be on board the **Grande** out of Point Loma Sportfishing. Telephone Point Loma Sportfishing (The Landing) 7 days a week at **(619) 223-1627**, and tell them you wish to make a reservation for a birding trip on the **Grande**. All birders will need to carry a valid U.S. Passport and be prepared to pay a \$25 Mexican license fee in addition to the trip fee.

See the BVAS pelagic website for details about all pelagic birding activities: www.sandiegopelagics.com. Birders are encouraged to call and sign up early for the trips to ensure their spots and to take advantage of significant early bird discount prices.

EARLY WINTER BIRDING IN SAN DIEGO

November--Our last winter visitors appear, including the Canada goose. San Diego has many more species of birds present during the winter months than during the summer. Small groups of white pelicans have become a common sight on North County lagoons and lakes during the winter months.

December--Very little migration activity occurs during this month, so bird species present in San Diego in December are generally considered to be either year-round permanent residents or over-wintering birds. Six different Audubon Christmas Bird Counts take place in San Diego within the weeks surrounding Christmas, providing an on-going database of the winter bird population of our area.





Two-Four-Six-Eight, Who Do We Appreciate?



BVAS volunteers received a special thank you for their work during a luncheon at the Nature Center prepared in their honor by Center Manager Annette Schneider. Volunteers were recognized for their donation of time and talents to help bring the wonders of nature to our community. Receiving special mention were Volunteer Coordinator Bob Crowell, Publicity Chair Natalie Shapiro, Nature Guides Chair Fran MacNeel, and Native Plant Club Chair Joan Bockman. Special certificates of appreciation were awarded to five community organizations that have provided teams to help maintain the native plant gardens and trails at the Nature Center. All members of the regular garden crew received BVAS patches in recognition of their work. Joan Fountain was honored with a lifetime badge for her many years of service. Dave Billings and Dennis Huckabay each received plaques for their 5-year stints as president of BVAS. As current president Andy Mauro announced, it has been a truly amazing year of growth and accomplishment for BVAS, the direct result of the dedicated work of a wonderful group of volunteers.

Torrey Pines Docents Visit Nature Center

A large contingent of docents from the Torrey Pines State Nature Reserve paid a visit to the Nature Center in September. They had come to learn more about the work of the Nature Center and explore the exhibits and trails. The docents were hosted by the BVAS Nature Guides, who gave an overview of the Center's history and lagoon ecosystem, and provided guided walks. As fellow citizen scientists and volunteers, the 37 visiting docents could easily identify with the Nature Guides and the job they do in bringing nature to the community.

Torrey Pines hosts guided walks on weekends and holidays at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Docent Society President Frank Burham invited all BVAS members to visit the park and walk the trails.

BVAS OFFICERS, BOARD*, AND CHAIRS

President	Andy Mauro*	760-753-1266
Vice-President	Dennis Huckabay*	760-757-6437
Secretary	Judi Wilson*	760-439-3649
Treasurer	Sandy McMullen*	760-944-5690
Past President	Dave Billings*	760-753-7925
Bird House Auction	Kelly Deveney	760-721-2441
Director	Kathy Billings*	760-753-7925
Director	Patty Montgomery*	760-931-6678
Director	Bruce Montgomery*	760-931-6678
Center Manager	Annette Schneider	760-945-8891
Christmas Bird Count	Andy Mauro*	760-753-1266
Conservation Chair	Joan Herskowitz*	760-942-5167
Education Chair	Fran MacNeel	760-929-9158
Facilities/Exhibits	Danny DiMento*	858-688-6891
Field Trips	Steve Brad*	760-633-1639
Gift Shop	Denise Riddle*	760-439-0256
Library	C. J. DiMento	760-231-9096
Membership/Mailings	Janice Osborne	Email: bvaudubon@sbcglobal.net
Native Plant Club	Joan Bockman*	Email: BVNPC@sbcglobal.net
Nature Storytime	Mary Ellen Marquand	760-918-6622
Newsletter Editor	Andy Mauro*	760-753-1266
		Email: akamauro1@gmail.com
Programs	Dennis Huckabay*	760-757-6437
Publicity/Outreach	Natalie Shapiro*	Email: bloomingtrillium@yahoo.com
Ridgway's Rail Society	Andy Mauro*	760-753-1266
Volunteers	Bob Crowell*	760-207-3884
		Email: kbcrowell@cox.net
Webmaster	J.J. Springer	818-859-8244

MEMBERSHIP/DONATIONS



I would like to become a member. I'm already a member, but want to help out more.

Friends of BVAS automatically receive the chapter newsletter and special notices of upcoming chapter activities. The BVAS Nature Center and its programs will receive 100% of all contributions. Minimum suggested donation: \$25

How would you like your donation used? Nature Center & Programs, or Ridgway's Rail Society Land Acquisition Fund
 Amount \$ _____ By Check or Credit Card Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____ CVR _____

Make checks payable to: Buena Vista Audubon. Mail to: BVAS; P.O. Box 480; Oceanside, CA 92049.

*Full-color newsletters are normally distributed by email attachment as a conservation measure and to save printing and mailing costs. Please check this box if you have no internet access, or would prefer a mailed copy of the monthly newsletter.

Name: _____
 *Email: _____
 Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

I am interested in volunteer opportunities.



BVAS NATIVE PLANT CLUB

NATURE CENTER GARDEN WORK PARTY —Mondays at 10 a.m. Every Monday morning, the garden crew gathers at the Nature Center to do a little maintenance work around the native plant garden and trails. Interested gardeners are invited to join the group for some casual gardening and friendly chatter.

SCHOOL GARDENS—BVAS sponsors school gardens by providing native plants and volunteers. We visit each school for one hour each week, helping the kids plant and maintain their gardens. Here's the schedule: Wednesday—9 a.m. at Mission Elementary, and 10:15 a.m. at Laurel Elementary; Friday—2 p.m. at South Oceanside Elementary. If you would like to help at one of these times please contact us by email:

BVNPC@sbcglobal.net. It's fun!

IT'S PLANTING SEASON FOR NATIVES—Have you been considering adding a few native shrubs to your garden? Toyon, lemonade berry, and ceanothus are great choices, and sure to attract birds and other native wildlife to your yard. Late fall and early winter are considered the best time to plant most native plant species. The winter rains help establish the new plantings before the prime growing season of early spring.

KIDS' CORNER AT THE NATURE CENTER

Joy's and Johnny's Clubhouse

Sundays, November 15 and December 20—1-4 p.m.

Kids and parents are invited to stop by the Nature Center for some informal nature fun. Nature-oriented craft projects make perfect gifts for grandparents and other relatives. We'll have plenty of craft supplies on hand at the Kid's Corner in November and December to help with those special gift projects. Bring your child and get into the holiday spirit!



Preschool Nature Storytime

Monday, November 30—10 a.m.

A few days after Thanksgiving is the perfect time to sit down and talk turkey! Along with our gobbling, we'll have stories, songs, a take-home craft, and a look into our surprise box. Maybe we'll even have a turkey trot parade!



Note: We'll meet on the 5th Monday this month. No meeting in December.

Questions? Call Mary Ellen: 760-918-6622.

GIFT SHOPPING WITH BVAS

The BVAS Gift Shop has a wide assortment of enticing items, perfect for that nature-loving friend or family member on your gift list. We have a full selection of field guides covering just about everything in the natural world, geared to naturalists of all ages and levels of expertise. Our popular plush birds sing when gently squeezed. We have BVAS logo shirts in youth and adult sizes, and new youth "Glow in the Dark" spider and butterfly shirts. But that's just a sample—there's lots more. Come take a look!



Amazon Smile—If you shop on Amazon, don't forget to register your account in the Amazon Smile program. Every time you make a purchase, a small percentage will be donated by Amazon to the charity of your choice. Already signed up? Under "Your Account," go to "Settings," and "Change Your Charity." Then designate Buena Vista Audubon Society.

Nature Trail Discovery

A group of youngsters had an exciting encounter on their walk along the Nature Center trail in October. Led by Center Manager Annette Schneider, the kids were armed with nets and on the hunt for butterflies and other insects.



A legless lizard delights Crystal, age 9, of Oceanside.

Annette turned over a log lying at the edge of the trail, hoping to find a beetle or maybe a centipede. Instead, she discovered the secret lair of a legless lizard, a somewhat rare reptile that spends its life foraging for worms and bugs in brush piles and loose leaf litter. The slender little critter can be easily mistaken for a snake, but it is a species of lizard. Characteristic of lizards as opposed to snakes, the legless lizard has external ear holes and movable eyelids. Unlike other species of lizards, however, it evolved with no arms or legs. All of the children crowded around for a good look at the exciting find, and then the lizard was carefully placed back on the ground. Moving just like the snake it wasn't, it quickly slithered back under its log.

BUENA VISTA AUDUBON NATURE CENTER

Tuesday-Saturday—10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Sunday—1-4 p.m.

Location:

2202 South Coast Hwy.
Oceanside, CA

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 480
Oceanside, CA 92049

Phone:

760-439-2473

BVAS Website:

www.bvaudubon.org

Pelagic Birding Website:

www.sandiegopelagics.com

We are also on Facebook!

Email:

bvaudubon@sbcglobal.net

LAGOON FLYER

BUENA VISTA AUDUBON SOCIETY
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BVAS QUICK CALENDAR

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---------------|
| Fri. Nov. 6 | Board Meeting | 9 a.m. |
| | <i>Repeats Dec. 4</i> | |
| Sat. Nov. 7 | Pelagic Birding in Mexican Waters | 7 a.m. |
| Sat. Nov. 7 | Whelan Lake Bird Walk | 8 a.m. |
| | <i>Repeats Dec. 5</i> | |
| Sun. Nov. 8 | Cottonwood Creek Bird Walk | 8 a.m. |
| Thurs. Nov. 12 | Surprise Bird Walk | 8 a.m. |
| Fri. Nov. 13 | Nature Guides Meeting | 10 a.m. |
| | <i>Repeats Dec. 11</i> | |
| Sun. Nov. 15 | Joey's & Johnny's Clubhouse | 1 p.m. |
| | <i>Repeats Dec. 20</i> | |
| Wed. Nov. 18 | General Meeting | 6:30 p.m. |
| | <i>"Birds of the Coastal Wetlands" with Chris Mayne</i> | |
| Sat. Nov. 21 | San Dieguito River Park Birding | 8:30 a.m. |
| | <i>Repeats Dec. 19</i> | |
| Sat. Nov. 28 | Basic Birding Workshop/B.V. Lagoon Bird Count | 9 a.m. |
| | <i>Repeats Sun. Dec. 27</i> | |
| Mon. Nov. 30 | Pre-School Nature Storytime | 10 a.m. |
| Sat./Sun. Dec. 12-13 | Electronic Recycle/Paper Shred | 10a.m.-4 p.m. |
| Sun. Dec. 27 | Oceanside Christmas Bird Count | |



Last Gasp for Lagoon?

Dan Wyman posted this fascinating photo he'd taken in August of at least a dozen bullhead catfish lined up along the surface of the water at Buena Vista Lagoon. The fish had formed a curious chorus line, all facing the same direction, closely aligned whisker-to-whisker, their mouths occasionally breaking the surface of the water. The dissolved oxygen levels of Buena Vista Lagoon often become dangerously low, especially during periods of high water temperatures and algae bloom and die-off. The fish were literally gulping for air as they attempted to survive in an impaired water body. In other North County lagoons, the cooler, oxygen-rich ocean water enters and freshens the lagoon, helping maintain a healthy wetland. BVAS supports a Buena Vista Lagoon restoration plan that removes the weir and reopens the lagoon to the ocean.



ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

&

On Site Paper Shredding

December 12th & 13th 10 am – 4 pm

Buena Vista Audubon Society

2202 South Coast Highway, Oceanside CA 92054

FREE Electronics Accepted:

- Laptops
- Cell Phones
- Computers
- Plasmas
- Televisions
- LCD monitors
- Printers
- Notebooks
- Stereo Systems
- Computer Accessories
- Speakers
- Telephones
- DVD Players
- Servers
- Server Racks
- Plotters
- Uninterruptible Power Supplies
- Car Batteries
- Cords & Wires

Items we can *not* accept:

Light bulbs, alkaline batteries, smoke detectors.

Electronics Accepted for a FEE:

Microwaves - \$10

Stoves, Refrigerators, Washers and Dryers - \$20

Paper Shredding \$5/ file box

Shredding collected 10-4

Docs shred on site beginning at 3:45

100% of all documents will be shred on site before the end of each event day.

Shredding Accepted:

- All Paper
- File Folders
- Hanging Files
- Check Books
- Envelopes
- Magazines
- Computer Paper
- Notepads

Shredding **NOT** Accepted:

- X-Rays
- Food/Wrappers
- Thick Metal
- Printer Cartridges
- Corrugated Cardboard
- Non-Recyclable Materials
- Large Quantities of Plastic



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