Volume 40 Number 9 November/December 2011

Lagoon Flyer

Jón Baldur Hlíðberg

Buena Vista Audubon Society

Wednesday, November 16

Great Gray Owl

"The Life and Times of a Celebrity Recluse"

With Leon Powers

7 p.m. Social—7:30 p.m. Program

In California, the Great Gray Owl is said to inhabit the mixed conifer and red fir forest of the Sierra Nevada. Yosemite is often cited as a possible spot to see the bird, but actual sightings can prove illusive. After all, it is also known as the "Gray Ghost of the Woods" and the "Phantom of the Northern Forests".

Leon Powers is an expert on this mysterious species, having done back-to-back studies on a population of great grays in Idaho over a period of two decades.

His talk will explore the natural history and amazing attributes of this fascinating species. Copies of Mr. Powers' book, *Dead Owls Flying,* will be available for purchase and signing following the presentation.

Great Gray Owl —*Neil Brazier*

Please join us and learn more about one of North America's most sought-after birds.

NOTE:
As is our custom, there will be no General Meeting or newsletter in December. Happy Holidays!

"'Twas the Day After Christmas and Outside the House …"

Oceanside Christmas Bird Count

The 2011 Oceanside Christmas Bird Count will take place on Monday, December 26.

The presents have all been opened, the wrappings gathered for the trash, there're enough leftovers for a week's worth of meals, and other family members will be busy playing with new toys and writing thank you notes. On December 26, birders will once again be free to get back out into nature to follow their passion, and what better way than by participating in the Oceanside Christmas Bird Count? Depending on assigned routes and levels of enthusiasm, they might even be able to work off a few of those extra calories they picked up from Aunt Dorothy's plum pudding!

The Oceanside Count is a holiday tradition for many North County birders. Participants fan out in the early morning hours to count birds in assigned territories that cover parts of Oceanside, Vista, Carlsbad and Camp Pendleton. The results of past Christmas Bird Counts have given important insights into changes in bird distribution and population levels. After a morning of counting birds, everyone gathers at the Nature Center at 1 p.m. to have a bowl of Annette's famous chili. The luncheon is always a festive event, with old and new friends meeting and exchanging information on the nearly 200 species expected to be tallied. The sacred "Reporting of the Lists" follows at 2 p.m. A $5 fee is collected from each participant to cover National Audubon Society's cost of compiling and printing the annual results.

Fledglings Welcome: If you're a new or inexperienced birder and would like to help in the Christmas Count, please join Tom Troy's Basic Birding Class 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.

"...Lots of Creatures were Stirring, but Probably not a Grouse."

Sea Otter Found in San Diego Bay

—Mark Stratton

Birders on board the BVAS pelagic trip in October were surprised to spot a California sea otter amidst the floating kelp at the entrance to San Diego Bay. News of the unexpected sighting caused quite a stir among marine biologists. None of those interviewed in a U-T article about the sighting had previously seen a sea otter this far south in Southern California, although a few records exist from many years past. The BVAS pelagic trips have resulted in a bonanza of rare bird sightings over the last few years, with many trips reporting exciting discoveries. A wide variety of whales, dolphins, and other marine mammals are also regularly seen, but seeing the charismatic sea otter was a new highlight. For information about BVAS pelagic trips visit: www.socalbirding.com.

Preschool Nature Storytime

Monday, November 28, 10 a.m.

"Red and yellow, green and brown -
Autumn leaves are tumbling down."

Winter months are fast approaching. We can see it in falling leaves, we can feel it in the chilly morning air. And many animals are preparing their homes for the coming winter months. Come to our Nature Storytime in November and learn more about this wonderful time of year!

If you have any questions about Storytime, please contact Mary Ellen at 760-918-6622.

Have You Seen It?

"The Big Year" Hits the Big Screen

Owen Wilson, Steve Martin, and Jack Black play three birders attempting to set the North American record for most bird species seen in one year in "The Big Year".

It's all the buzz among birding circles. Finally, a mainstream movie with A-list actors all about a trio of birders pursuing their bird-lust. "The Big Year" was set to open at theaters all across America in mid-October, just as this edition of the *Lagoon Flyer* was being sent off to the printer. We're interested in your reaction to the film. Did you like it? Did it do justice to our serious passion, or did it just go for exaggerated stereotypes and cheap laughs? Did you learn anything? Do you think this film will increase interest in birding among non-birders, or be quickly dismissed and forgotten? E-mail your thoughts, comments, reviews, etc. to us at: akamauro@cox.net, and we'll write up a report for the next newsletter.

Governor Vetoes Bill to Stop Landfill

In October, Governor Brown vetoed legislation which would have stopped the controversial Gregory Canyon landfill, proposed to be built along the San Luis Rey River. The developer must still obtain several additional permits before construction can begin, and opponents have pledged to continue the fight.

Sue Palmer Plays the Nature Center

The Nature Center was rocking with the boogie-woogie stylings of Sue Palmer and friends at our October fund-raising concert. The intimate setting was perfect for the

appreciative crowd as they sipped drinks and tapped their feet to the infectious beat of some great tunes. Many thanks to Sue and our major sponsors, Stone Brewing, Sprouts, and Jimbo's. Thanks also to the hard-working BVAS volunteers and our audience for making this such a memorable night.

Nov./Dec. Birding Schedule—Join Us!

Whelan Lake Monthly Bird Count

with John Haddock

Saturdays, Nov. 5 & Dec. 3—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, and can be good for interesting sightings during fall and spring migration. **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.

Upcoming Featured Bird Walks

with Steve Brad

San Dieguito Lagoon Bird Walk

Sunday, Nov. 13—8 a.m.

Join us as we visit a variety of spots in and around the newly restored San Dieguito Lagoon. Expect to see shorebirds, waders, riparian birds, raptors, sparrows, and ducks. We`ll start our trip at San Andreas Street then drive to a few select locations, perhaps new places to many of you, and end up birding a few locations along San Dieguito Road at Fairbanks Ranch.

Directions: Take I-5 south to Via De La Valle, go left (east) about one-quarter mile to San Andreas St., turn right. Drive to end of street and park. Bring a scope if you have one.

Batiquitos Lagoon Bird Walk

Sunday, Dec. 11—8 a.m.

The varied habitats at Batiquitos Lagoon and several adjacent sites provide excellent winter birding opportunities. We'll begin at the Batiquitos Lagoon Nature Center, where a nice assortment of ducks and shorebirds can be expected. Depending on the results of our scouting trip, we'll also explore one or more other spots within the reserve or nearby neighborhood.

Directions: From I-5 in Carlsbad, take Poinsettia Ln. east. Turn right on Batiquitos Dr., then right on Gabbiano Ln. Park at the cul-de-sac. We'll meet a short distance down the trail at the Nature Center.

Leader: Steve Brad, 760-633-1639; stevebrad1@earthlink.net.

Buena Vista Lagoon Bird Count

with Joan Fountain

Saturday, Nov. 26, and Monday, Dec. 26—8 a.m.

Join the regular monthly bird survey team and get to know the Buena Vista Lagoon. Our December bird count will move to Monday, Dec. 26, to be a part of this year's Christmas Bird Count. **Directions:** I-5 to I-78 East, take Jefferson St. exit, turn right and make another right turn onto Lagoon View Dr. Park along road at cul-de-sac.
Leader: Joan Fountain, 760-729-1379.

Basic Birding Class at the Buena Vista Lagoon Landing

with Tom Troy

Saturday, Nov. 26, and Monday, Dec. 26—8:30 a.m.

Is this the year that you become a birder? Novice birders are invited to join our monthly classes for some informal, no-pressure birding and lots of friendly tips. Our December class will move to Monday, Dec. 26 to be a part of this year's Christmas Bird Count.

Directions: I-5 to I-78 East. From I-78, take Jefferson St. exit and turn right. At the light on Jefferson St. turn right again. Make an immediate right turn into the BVL Landing parking lot. Leader: Tom Troy, 760-420-7328.

27th Annual

New Year's Day Pelagic Bird Trip

Start the New Year off right by joining the annual SDFO pelagic trip out of San Diego. Based on past years, this half-day birding adventure promises fresh air, bright skies, calm seas, friendly folks, and a bunch of special birds to start off your own personal "Big Year". Early-bird reservations made by December 15 are $35, a big savings from the $55 price at dockside on January 1. An additional $10 rebate can be yours if you also sign up for a SDFO 2012 membership on the day of the trip.

Reservations are available after Nov. 15. Call Point Loma Sportfishing at 619-223-1627, and let them know you'd like a spot on the January 1 pelagic birding trip on board the *Grande*. For more details about the New Year's Day trip and pelagic birding trips throughout the year, as well as photos, trip lists, and tips, go to: www.socalbirding.com.

Free *Audubon Adventure* Kits for Students—BVAS is offering a limited number of free *Audubon Adventures* kits for third grade classes and home school groups. The lesson plans and handouts are designed to meet state curriculum guidelines for science and other subject areas. Participating classes often coordinate their class work with a field trip to the BVAS Nature Center. Teachers or parents interested in learning more about obtaining the kits for their students can call Ruth Anne Gransbery at 760-729-2240. More info on the *Audubon Adventures* program, including details on its compatibility with California curriculum requirements, is available at: http://education.audubon.org/audubon-adventures.

BVAS Volunteer Opportunities

The new year is approaching. Is your resolution to get up, get going, and get more involved with your community? If so, there are plenty of volunteer opportunities at BVAS for people of all ages. You can volunteer with the Native Plant Club and help maintain the gardens around the Nature Center. Perhaps you'd like to learn how to share your interest in nature with others by becoming a Nature Guide? We can always use help with our newsletter mailings. Are you a handyman who could help with a few projects around the Nature Center? Maybe you're recently retired and willing to donate a little of your hard-earned expertise? Let us know what you're thinking, or ask us for other suggestions. Whatever your interests or skills, as long as you're willing, BVAS has a place for you.

Many of our volunteers start out by signing up to be host at the Nature Center for just a few hours a month. This is an opportunity to meet people from next door or the other side of the world. All you have to do is like people and enjoy nature. BVAS will give you the training you need.

Call me at 760-207-3884, e-mail kbcrowell@cox.net, or stop by the Nature Center anytime and talk to a host. We're anxious to get you started! —Bob Crowell

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 Hunefeld*	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
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	E-mail: ekindsvater1@gmail.com.	
Education Co-Chair	Carol Riker	760-599-0868
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	C. J. DiMento	760-231-9096
Membership	Harvey Hart*	760-945-9601
Native Plant Club	Joan Bockman*	760-433-9401
Native Plant Garden	Joan Bockman*	760-433-9401
Nature Storytime	Mary Ellen Marquand	760-918-6622
Newsletter Editor	Andy Mauro*	E-mail: akamauro@cox.net
Pelagic Birding	Terry Hunefeld*	760-908-3453
Programs	Dennis Huckabay*	760-757-6437
Publicity	Kelly Deveney*	760-721-2441
Ruddy Duck Club	Kelly Deveney*	760-721-2441
Volunteers	Bob Crowell*	760-207-3884
Webmaster	Larry Spann:	E-mail: larry@spannweb.net

Remembering Barbara Hallman

BVAS has lost a long-time friend who played an important role for the chapter in the years surrounding the construction and opening of the Nature Center. Barbara Hallman passed away in September at the age of 94. While we knew Barbara primarily through her association with BVAS, her life was filled with accomplishment and service across a broad spectrum of society. She earned a Master's Degree in Social Work from USC, and worked for the Girl Scouts of America for 29 years. She also was employed for ten years with Child Protective Services for San Diego County. Before BVAS had its Nature Center, Barbara helped coordinate and staff the yearly information booth at the Del Mar Fair. Over those years she set up and helped run outreach booths for BVAS at numerous community events. When the Nature Center was finally opened in 1988, Barbara donated the refrigerator that was needed to store bird specimens awaiting the attention of our taxidermist. Barbara was the first volunteer coordinator that BVAS ever had, holding that post from 1988 through 1993. Her kind manner and friendly face was a constant presence at the Nature Center as she served as a receptionist for many years. We bow our heads in acknowledgement of Barbara's good life, and in appreciation that she chose to bless us with her presence and help over the years.

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
Hours: Tuesday-Saturday — 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday—1 p.m.-4 p.m. **Closed Monday**	**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: ___

Send me info about the BVAS Legacy program.: ____

Name_____
Address_____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone_____
E-mail_____
***Send me my newsletter by e-mail.** ☐

My Annual Donation

Enclosed is my donation to the 2011 BVAS year-end fundraising campaign to support the Nature Center, nature education and environmental conservation programs at BVAS. ☐

Please bill my credit card:

Card #_____
CRN_____

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

Buena Vista Native Plant Club

Sundays, Nov. 20 and Dec. 18, 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 join one of our garden work parties at the Nature Center every Monday morning at 9 a.m.

Free Native Plant Workshop

S.D. Audubon Society is hosting a native plant workshop over three Saturdays in November at the Anstine Audubon Nature Preserve in Vista. The workshops will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Nov. 5, 12, and 19. The program includes class lessons and hands-on training at the preserve and a field trip to a native plant nursery or nearby open space reserve. A light breakfast and lunch will be provided for the Nov. 12 and 19 sessions. The program is being offered free of charge, but participants are asked to commit to 20 hours of volunteer service at the Anstine Preserve. The preserve is located at 2437 Hutchison Street in Vista.

For more information and to register, please contact preserve resident manager Becky Wilbanks at 760-295-1548 (e-mail: beckywilbanks@cox.net.).

Support BVAS at Jimbo's

JIMBO'S ...Naturally!

Jimbo's Markets has selected BVAS for its "In the Bag" program for October, November, and December, 2011. Every time shoppers use a recyclable bag when shopping at Jimbo's, they receive a wooden nickel to place in the jar of one of four charitable organizations. Every wooden nickel translates to a 5-cent donation from Jimbo's at the end of the quarter.

Jimbo's prides itself on offering the highest quality organic and natural foods, and BVAS is all about wonderful natural experiences—what a match! And those wooden nickels add up. The last time BVAS was selected to be a participant, Jimbo's shoppers ended up directing almost $1,000 to BVAS to help support the Nature Center and its programs.

Jimbo's stores are located in Carlsbad/Encinitas, Carmel Valley, 4S Ranch, and Escondido.

Attention Jimbo's Shoppers!

Annual Appeal—Your BVAS 2011 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!

Oceanside Christmas Bird Count

Sponsored by BVAS

Monday, December 26

(See Page 1.)

From now thru December—

Put your wooden nickels in the BVAS jar when you shop at Jimbo's Market. **(See P. 5.)**

Support the Nature Center!

Lagoon Flyer

BUENA VISTA AUDUBON SOCIETY
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OCEANSIDE, CA

BVAS Quick Calendar

November
Fri. Nov. 4 —Board Meeting—9 a.m.
Sat. Nov. 5—Whelan Lake Bird Walk—8 a.m.
Fri.. Nov. 11—Nature Guides Meeting—10 a.m.
Sun. Nov. 13—San Dieguito Lagoon Bird Walk—8 a.m.
Wed. Nov. 16 —General Meeting—7 p.m.
Sun. Nov. 20—Native Plant Club Meeting—2 p.m.
Sat. Nov. 26 —Buena Vista Lagoon Count—8 a.m.
—Basic Birding at BVL Landing—8:30 a.m.
Mon. Nov. 28—Preschool Nature Storytime—10 a.m.

December
Fri. Dec. 2—Board Meeting—9 a.m.
Sat. Dec. 3—Whelan Lake Bird Walk—8 a.m.
Fri. Dec. 9—Nature Guides Meeting—10 a.m.
Sun. Dec. 11—Batiquitos Lagoon Bird Walk—8 a.m.
Sun. Dec. 18—Native Plant Club Meeting—2 p.m.
Mon. Dec. 26—Oceanside Christmas Bird Count—7 a.m.
—Buena Vista Lagoon Count—8 a.m.
—Basic Birding at BVL Landing—8:30 a.m.

January, 2012
Sun. Jan. 1—New Year's Day Pelagic Trip

Printed on Recycled Paper

A Smile from Mother Nature

Do you remember that time when you were young and feeling low? You might not remember what your problem was, but you'll always remember your mother's loving smile, and how much better it made you feel. This photo found its way into our e-mail box last week, and reminded us that Mother Nature also has that remarkable ability to pick us up when we need a boost. Why not make a New Year's resolution to set aside a little time to spend with Mother next year? Whatever our troubles, she has a remarkable way of making us all feel just a little better. Have a happy new year!

Native Gardening
Free 3 Day Workshop

Presented by
The San Diego Audubon Society

Come join us and learn the best practices for creating beautiful water saving native gardens in your own backyard!

This workshop will equip you with the take home knowledge and your own projects to get you started!

Details:
A Free 3 day workshop
Nov. 5th, 12th, and 19th.
9am to 3pm
At the Anstine Aududbon Nature Preserve (2437 Hutchison Street Vista)

Enjoy:
A field trip to a native plant nursery or open space!
Free light breakfast and lunch on the Nov 12th and 19th!
Hands on projects!
Outside field work!

Fine Print:
In return for the free workshop we will be asking workshop participates to commit to 20 hours of volunteer service at the Anstine Nature Preserve.

For more info and to sign up:
Contact Becky Wilbanks, Anstine's Resident Manager at (760) 295-1548 or beckywilbanks@cox.net

Sponsored by SAN DIEGO AUDUBON SOCIETY

free

To Third Grade Teachers
in
Oceanside, Vista
Carlsbad and Encinitas

Audubon Adventures 2011-2012 Classrooms Kits include:

"Feathers, Fur, Fins, and You" ~ A four part kit covering:

* Pollinators featuring hummingbirds and bees
* Wild Alaska
* Rivers of Life
* Caring for Our Planet ~ a special "Action for Planet Earth" edition focusing on ways that young people can actively participate in Audubon.

and

Audubon's Resource Kit also includes four sets of 32 student newsmagazines and a 48 page teacher's manual with background information and hands-on activities for inside and outside the classroom.

A $45.65 Value Free ~ Compliments of the Buena Vista Audubon Society

To order ~ Call Ruth Gransbury, Audubon Adventures Coordinator
Phone 760.729.2240 or email ragransbury@hotmail.com
Order will be placed on Oct. 28; kits will be mailed in November.