Volume 39 Number 9 November/December 2010

Lagoon Flyer

Jón Baldur Hlíðberg

Buena Vista Audubon Society

November General Meeting

Wednesday, November 17

Birds and the Bees

with Scott Kelley

7 p.m. Social—7:30 p.m. Program

Honey bees have fascinated, amazed, served, and sometimes frightened mankind for ages. Dating back to early colonial times, America has depended on this European import to pollinate its agricultural crops and provide us with honey. More recently, the unintended introduction of Africanized honey bees has added a troublesome note of caution to our love affair with bees. And now, environmental issues have caused a serious threat to the honey bee population in America. Our November program will take a closer look at our ubiquitous honey bee from a beekeeper's perspective. We'll hear some special stories and insights from the apiary frontlines, and get some answers to all our questions and concerns.

Scott Kelley is a hobbyist beekeeper from the Flathead Valley in northwest Montana. He is co-founder of the Flathead Valley Beekeepers club and an avid spokesperson for the importance of bees in our environment. Scott will be presenting "Birds and the Bees", a visual introduction into how one becomes a beekeeper. Scott will discuss his experiences with beekeeping and share his infectious passion and fascination with bees.

Editor's Note: We know you've been busy as a bee, but we hope we've put a bee in your bonnet and you'll make a beeline down to the Nature Center for our November program. We expect the Nature Center will be a beehive of activity, our program will be the bee's knees, and everyone will be abuzz. (We could drone on forever!)

Calling All North County Birders

Oceanside Christmas Bird Count

The 2010 Oceanside Christmas Bird Count will take place on Thursday, December 30. The Oceanside Count has become 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. It's citizen science at its finest—the results of past Christmas Bird Counts have given important insights into changes in bird distribution and population levels caused by such issues as global warming. After a morning of counting birds, birders will gather at the Nature Center to share a chili lunch and participate in the "reporting of the lists." 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.

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 and very rewarding holiday birding tradition.

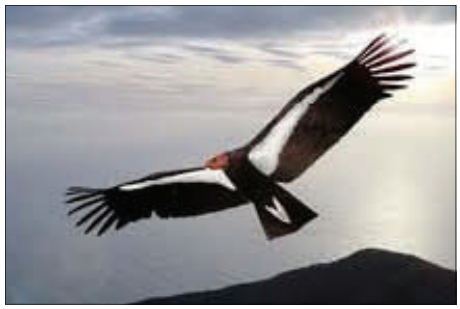
Conservation Matters

Two projects, both with significant environmental implications for North County, have been working their way through the planning and review process for last five or more years, and are finally now on the threshold of definitive action by their respective authorities. Both projects have been marked by spirited debate from various interests.

SD County General Plan Update—The Board of Supervisors will again take public testimony in November on the proposed revamp of the general land-use plan for the unincorporated areas of the county. The proposed revisions would down zone the region's most rural parcels to limit future development, with projected growth still accommodated through clustering in existing communities. The staff-recommended plan would result in greater fire safety in the backcountry, more efficiency in providing government services, and conservation of limited natural resources. The final update plan is expected to be decided upon and approved by the Board before the end of the year.

Marine Sanctuary Plan—The state is attempting to create or expand conservation areas in the near shore ocean waters off Southern California as required under the Marine Life Protection Act. The goal is to protect sensitive marine life by setting aside 16.5 percent of Southern California's offshore habitat, more than doubling existing reserves. In North County, the plan would protect 10 square miles in a new reserve off Encinitas. A final round of hearings in November will set the stage for a final vote for approval of the plan in December.

More Condors in the Wild—The number of wild, free-flying condors in California has reached 100, the most in half a century. In an October press release, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service gave credit for this milestone to the captive breeding program started in Southern California in 1982, when there were only 22 wild condors left in the state.



Young condors born in captivity are released into the wild every fall at several key release sites in California. Over the next few months another 11 captive-bred juveniles will be released. Condors are also reproducing on their own in the wild, adding 16 young to the California population since 2004.

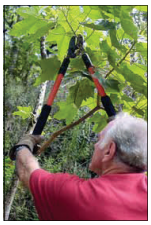
Arizona, Utah and Baja Mexico also have wild populations. But even when captive birds are counted, there are still fewer than 400 California condors in the world.

—Rewritten from LA Times, Oct. 6, 2010

San Marcos Owls Update—Molly and McGee, the famous barn owl couple from San Marcos, departed their nest box in mid-October after successfully fledging their second brood of owlets this year. The owls attracted worldwide attention earlier this year as thousands of fans logged on daily to follow the owls' nesting exploits via webcam.

Barn owls often reuse their nest sites over multiple years. Hopefully we'll have another clutch of owl eggs to report on next spring!

Time to Trim Those Trees—We in Southern California have a short season when birds are not nesting. The Allen's and Anna's hummingbirds will start again in December, along with other resident birds such as kites, thrashers, sparrows, mourning doves, flycatchers, woodpeckers, owls, and hawks. Therefore, now is the time to do any major pruning of trees, hedges and bushes. It's actually better for the tree as well, as the sap is receding in fall. After the rains subside in spring you can control runaway growth of hedges by continuing to withhold water; one deep soaking per month from the end of rainy season until fall should maintain them. We will all benefit from the sound of birds instead of chain saws! *—Sandy McMullen*



Project FeederWatch—Project FeederWatch gets underway November 13 and runs through April. Participants count the numbers and kinds of birds at their feeders each week and send their information to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Learn more and sign up at: www.feederwatch.org, or call the Lab at: 866-982-2473.

Survey Shows Support for Environment— A 2010 survey commissioned by the San Diego Foundation found that nearly eight in 10 San Diegans believe we can have a clean, healthy environment and a strong economy without having to choose one over the other. This statistic mirrors other research done throughout the state. The importance of this recent research is that it shows our county residents hold this belief despite the difficult state of the economy. Those surveyed also indicated a desire for San Diego to take a leadership role in dealing with these issues. This support cuts across many demographic groups, including majorities of Republicans, Democrats, independents, moderates and liberals, and voters of every level of education, ethnic background, age group and income level.

Let's Go Birding—Everyone's Welcome!

Whelan Lake Monthly Bird Count

with John Haddock

Saturdays—Nov. 6 and Dec. 4—8 a.m.

Whelan Lake is a reserve with a freshwater lake and riparian edge habitat. **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.

Booby Madness

Nine-Mile Bank and Los Coronados Islands

Saturday—Nov. 13—7 a.m.

Join BVAS and our team of pelagic birding experts on a nine-hour boat trip to the Nine-Mile Bank and the Los Coronados Islands. This will be our last chance of the year to see several species of boobies now occurring off San Diego. For details, go to the BVAS pelagic birding website: www.socalbirding.com.

Buena Vista Lagoon Bird Count

with Joan Fountain

Saturday—Nov. 27—8 a.m.

Join the regular monthly bird survey team and get to know the Buena Vista Lagoon. Have the satisfaction of contributing to the ongoing bird database and knowledge of the birds of our lagoon. We always record a nice assortment of freshwater wetland and marsh species on this easy-paced monthly excursion. **Directions:** I-5 to I-78 East, take Jefferson St. exit, turn right and make another right turn onto Lagoon View Dr. Leader: Joan Fountain, 760-729-1379.

Basic Birding Class at the Buena Vista Lagoon Landing

with Tom Troy

Saturday—Nov. 27—8:30 a.m.

Novice birders are invited to join our monthly class for some informal, no-pressure birding. We'll share friendly tips and help you build your bird identification skills.

Christmas Count with the Basic Birding Class

Thursday—Dec. 30— 8:30 a.m.

Novice birders and family groups can join Tom Troy and his class to participate in the 2010 Christmas Bird Count.

Directions: I-5 to I-78 East, take Jefferson St. exit, turn right, turn right at Las Flores and park in Landing lot on the north side of road. Leader: Tom Troy, 760-420-7328.

La Jolla Cove

with Steve Brad

Sunday—November 14—8 a.m.

La Jolla Cove is one of San Diego County`s most scenic locations and a great spot to view pelagic and rocky shore birds. We'll see loons, three species of cormorants, shearwaters, and scoters. Fulmars and jaegers flying offshore are possible. Expected shore birds include turnstones, surfbird, wandering tattler, and assorted plovers and sandpipers. There will be several species of gulls and terns to sort through, along with an assortment of marine mammals. Bring a scope if you have one.

We`ll be meeting at "Stan`s Bench", located along the cliff walk next to the La Jolla Bridge Club. **Directions:** Take I-5 south to La Jolla Village Dr.; turn right on La Jolla Village Dr., left at Torrey Pines Rd., and right at Prospect Place. Bear right at Coast Blvd. and park along road. The La Jolla Bridge Club address is 1160 Coast Blvd, La Jolla. Leader: Steve Brad, 760-633-1639; stevebrad1@earthlink.net.

Cibola NWR and Blythe

Special Excursion

Friday-Sunday—December 3-5

The Cibola National Wildlife Refuge is on the Colorado River near Blyth, CA. It's the winter home for many bird species, including 1,500 sandhill cranes and the Yuma clapper rail. We'll spend Saturday at Cibola, where the refuge manager will be our guide. On Sunday we'll bird locations around Blythe that are highlighted in the "ABA Birder's Guide to California".

We'll be driving to Blythe on Friday afternoon and spending two nights at the Super 8 Motel or camping at the Mayflower Campground in Blythe. Participants are responsible for transportation, lodging, and meals. $50 trip fee. Limit of 10 participants.

For more info and to make your reservation, please contact Andy Brumbaugh at 760-434-3334, or andybbirder@yahoo.com.

San Elijo Lagoon

with Steve Brad

Sunday—December 12—8 a.m.

Members of Sea and Sage Audubon from Orange County will join us as we visit one of our best lagoons for birders. We'll see multiple species of sandpipers, plovers, and ducks, plus a number of birds of the coastal sage scrub habitat.

Meet at the Rios Ave. trailhead. **Directions:** Take I-5 south to Loma Santa Fe; go west to Rios Avenue. Turn right (north) on Rios Ave. and drive to the end of the road. After the walk, some of us will gather at a nearby restaurant for lunch and a recap. Leader: Steve Brad , 760-633-1639; stevebrad1@earthlink.net.

Oceanside Christmas Bird Count

Thursday—December 30—7 a.m.

Buena Vista Native Plant Club

Third Sunday of the Month

2 p.m.—Nature Center

November 21—Spring is Here!

Sometimes we have to remind ourselves that the spring growing season does not fall uniformly on calendars across the United States. Around here, 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 "spring has sprung". Come to our November meeting for a little inspiration.

December 19—Let's Make Some Plants!

We're all looking to stretch our gardening dollars. Many native plants can be started from cuttings. Come help out and take home some potted starters for your own garden.

For more information regarding the Native Plant Club e-mail Joan Bockman at: BVNPC@sbcglobal.net , or call the Nature Center at 760-439-2473.

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
Education Co-Chair	Ellen Kindsvater	760-433-8097
Education Co-Chair	Nancy Miller	760-704-6479
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	Norma Handy	760-634-2120
Membership	Harvey Hart*	760-945-9601
Native Plant Club	Joan Bockman*	760-433-9401
Native Plant Garden	Joan Bockman*	760-433-9401
Newsletter	Andy Mauro*	760-753-1266
	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	***—OPEN POSITION—***	
Volunteers	Mary Ellen Marquand*	760-918-6622
Webmaster	Larry Spann: E-mail: larry@spannweb.net	

Preschool Nature Storytime

Monday, November 22, 10 a.m.

In the next couple of months families will be gathering for holiday meals. Do your preschoolers know how nature provides many of the foods we eat? Do they know what a tiny seed needs in order to grow into a plant or tree? Come join us on Monday, November 22, at 10 a.m. and find out.

Monday, December 27, 10 a.m.

We hope to see you again at our December Nature Storytime, where we'll learn what surprise is waiting in the snowy woods for two children who have built a snowman there. Since this date falls over Christmas break, any elementary school children you might also have at home are welcome to attend.

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

"'Hear! hear!' screamed the jay from a neighboring tree, where I had heard a tittering for some time, 'winter has a concentrated and nutty kernel, if you know where to look for it.'"

~Henry David Thoreau journal entry, 28 November 1858

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 on north shore of lagoon)

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 480
Oceanside, CA 92049-0480

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: ___

Friends Membership: New ____ Renewal ____

Name_____

Address_____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone_____

E-mail_____

☐ **Send me my newsletter by e-mail.**

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.

Please Bill My Credit Card:

Card #_____

CRN_____

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

Kern River Valley Trip in 2011

BVAS is planning a return trip to the Kern River, Lake Isabella, and a few desert oases birding sites April 8-10, 2011. Our trip five years ago resulted in an impressive bird list. We'll be guided around the Kern River Preserve by birder/naturalist Alison Sheehey (also known as "Nature Ali"). The trip will be limited to 10 participants. Trip fee: $100. Visit the BVAS website at www.bvaudubon.org for more details. Contact Andy Brumbaugh for more information and to reserve your spot. Phone: 760-434-3334; e-mail: andybbirder@yahoo.com.

Pelagic Birding Website a Big Hit

The BVAS pelagic birding website created and hosted by BVAS board member Terry Hunefeld has proven to be extremely popular with birders from all over the United States. Over the past year, www.SoCalBirding.com has been visited 24,000 times by more than 12,000 individual visitors, with more than 80,000 page views.

Visitors to the website can view the upcoming schedule of ocean birding trips out of Southern California, including expected bird sightings, profiles of trip leaders, and information and links for reservations. The website is filled with great photos of marine birds and mammals seen on recent trips, as well as a detailed guide of birds commonly seen on the boat trips.

As a result of Terry's hard work and generosity, pelagic trips have now become an important source of revenue for BVAS. Members looking for an introduction to pelagic birding will have an opportunity coming up in January. We'll have a presentation on pelagic birding at our January 19 General Meeting to help prepare us for our annual January pelagic boat trip set for Saturday, January 29 out of Point Loma. Check our website for details, and see for yourself why it has become so popular!

Genentech To The Rescue!

Genentech employees shed their high tech credentials to drive wheelbarrows and rebuild the Nature Center trails with decomposed granite at their volunteer workday in October. The crew filled a big dumpster with plant trimmings before grabbing their shovels to make sure our trails were in good shape for visitors. Many thanks to Terry, Lisa, Jamey, Brad, Alanna, Greg, Eric, Geoff, Linda, Ashley and Robert for their hard work. BVAS members Mark Levin, Joan Bockman, Danny Dimento, and Carol Gentile also pitched in to make the day a big success.

BVAS Nature Center

Is Looking for a Few Good

VOLUNTEER GREETERS

* Work a 3-hour shift once
or twice a month hosting at the Nature Center.
* Keep a regular schedule each month
or flex your schedule.
*Need to take time off for travel or sickness?
No problem.
* Training will be provided.
Just bring a friendly smile and we'll
teach you the rest.

**For more information or to volunteer,
phone Mary Ellen Marquand, 760-918-6622.**

Oceanside Christmas Bird Count

(and Chili Lunch!)

Thursday, December 30

General Meeting
November 15

"Birds and the Bees"

(See page 1)

Lagoon Flyer

BUENA VISTA AUDUBON SOCIETY
P. O. BOX 480
OCEANSIDE, CA 92049-0480

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Quick Calendar

November

Mon. Nov. 1—Nature Guides Meeting—10 a.m.
Fri. Nov. 5 —Board Meeting—9 a.m.
Sat. Nov. 6 —Whelan Lake Walk—8 a.m.
Sun. Nov. 14—La Jolla Cove Bird Walk—8 a.m.
Wed. Nov. 17—General Meeting: *"Birds and Bees"*—7 p.m.
Sun. Nov. 21—Native Plant Club—2 p.m.
Mon. Nov. 22—Nature Storytime—10 a.m.
Sat. Nov. 27—Buena Vista Lagoon Count—8 a.m.
Sat. Nov. 27—Basic Birding at B.V. Landing—8:30 a.m.

December

Fri. Dec. 3—Board Meeting—9 a.m.
Fri.-Sun. Dec. 3-5—Cibola NWR & Blythe Bird Trip
Sat. Dec. 4—Whelan Lake Walk—8 a.m.
Sun. Dec. 12—San Elijo Lagoon Bird Walk—8 a.m.
Sun. Dec. 19—Native Plant Club—2 p.m.
Mon. Dec. 27—Nature Storytime—10 a.m.
Thurs. Dec. 30—Oceanside Christmas Bird Count—7 a.m.
Thurs. Dec. 30—Christmas Bird Count with the Basic Birding Class at B.V. Landing—8:30 a.m.

A Three-Longspur Day at Fiesta Island

October 19, 2010, was marked by torrential rains in San Diego, but that wasn't the big news. Excited birders slogged through the mud and rain on Fiesta Island that day to catch glimpses of three different species of longspurs—McGown's, chestnut-collared, and the soggy **Lapland longspur** pictured below (photo by Trent Stanley). Longspurs in San Diego are considered irregular winter visitors, and a hat trick of longspur species in a single day would have been considered almost an impossibility before this year's event. To top it off, a rare Sprague's pipit was also present that memorable day at Fiesta Island. When it rains in San Diego, it pours!

Buena Vista Audubon Society
Cibola National Wildlife Refuge/Blythe Birding Trip
December 3-5, 2010

Cibola NWR is on the Arizona side of the Colorado River but can only be accessed from the California side of the River. The refuge consists of channels, backwaters, lakes, and ponds along a 12-mile stretch of the Colorado River. The Colorado River is a migratory flyway and hence a large variety of water fowl are found on the refuge, including sandhill cranes. It is anticipated that 1,500 cranes will be wintering here this year. The Yuma clapper rail and the California black rail are on the refuge's species list.

Blythe California is perhaps not on a list of birding hot spots but its location on the Colorado River can make for interesting birding. In the 2007 revision to the ABA 's "A Birder's Guide to Southern California", a chapter has been added on birding Blythe. Blythe is also the closest place to find lodging when birding Cibola NWR, so a little selective birding around Blythe should prove both convenient and productive.

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Trip itinerary

The trip will begin at the Cibola NWR headquarters at 8 a.m. on Saturday, December 4. It is suggested that participants drive to Blythe on Friday (about a 220-mile drive from San Diego). The refuge manager will guide us as we bird the refuge. Bring a lunch as there will be no restaurants. Our schedule will be flexible, but it is anticipated we will spend most of the day at Cibola.

On Sunday we will meet at the Mayflower Park Campground at 8 a.m. and spend the morning birding Blythe. We will plan on having lunch in Blythe before heading home.

Motel rooms have been reserved at the Super 8 Motel. Camping is also an option at Mayflower Campground which is located right on the river. Participants are responsible for their own transportation to and from Blythe, lodgings, and meals. The trip is limited to 10 participants.

To register for the trip call or e-mail (preferred) Andy Brumbaugh at 760-434-3334 or andybbirder@yahoo.com. A $50 check is required to secure your spot on the trip. Your trip fee is considered a tax-deductible donation to BVAS.

Yuma Clapper Rail
—USFWS, J. Rorabaugh

Calling All North County Birders!

Oceanside Christmas Bird Count

Thursday, December 30, 2010

Join BVAS for the 2010 Oceanside Christmas Bird Count! Because of its late December timing, the Oceanside Count has become 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. It's citizen science at its finest—the results of past Christmas Bird Counts have given important insights into changes in bird distribution and population levels caused by such issues as global warming. After a morning of counting birds, birders will gather at the Nature Center to share a chili lunch and participate in the "reporting of the lists." 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.

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Dec. 30—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 2010 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 2010 count results. Loaner binoculars and bird guides will be available. We'll meet at the Buena Vista Lagoon Landing parking lot at the NW corner of Jefferson Ave. and Las Flores. Leader: Tom Troy, 760-967-6915.

Buena Vista Audubon Society

Kern River Valley Birding/Nature Trip

April 8-10, 2011

The Kern River Valley offers a plethora of flora and fauna, in many cases unique to the area. In our trip five years ago we experienced excellent birding. This time we will expand our interests to include not only birding but the natural world including wildflowers, butterflies and other aspects of nature we may encounter. We will be staying at the Lakeview Motel overlooking Lake Isabella and the trip will begin there about 4 p.m. on Friday, April 8. We will bird the local area for several hours before dinner. Saturday morning we will meet with our guide Alison Sheehey (Nature Ali) who will spend Saturday and the better part of Sunday sharing her knowledge of the area with us. In addition to being an all-around naturalist, Alison is also an excellent birder. Saturday evening we will be hosted to a barbecue at the home of Doug and Beth Schanzebach.

Vermillion Flycatcher —S. Streit

Yellow-billed Cuckoo —D Backlund

The trip will be limited to 10 people to insure a quality experience for the group. The $100 fee for the trip includes donations to Buena Vista Audubon and Audubon California Kern River Preserve. Participants are responsible for getting to Lake Isabella, 2 nights at the Lakeview motel ($72.00 per room with 2 beds), and all meals except the Sat. night BQ. A $50 deposit is required to register for the trip with the remainder due by March 15. Checks should made payable to BVAS and mailed to Andy Brumbaugh, P.O. Box 4118, Carlsbad, CA 92018. For more information or questions, please contact Andy Brumbaugh by phone (760-434-3334) or e-mail (andybbirder@yahoo.com).