Oceanside

Christmas Bird Count
Saturday, December 22

The 2007 Oceanside Christmas Bird Count will take place on Saturday, December 22, and the BVAS Nature Center will once again serve as “ground zero” for this exciting annual event. Expert birder and new board member, Terry Hunfeld, takes over as leader of the Oceanside count this year. Teams of birders will fan out to assigned areas and count all the birds they can find within a 15-mile radius of Oceanside. The Christmas Bird Count is part research and part fun. Participants will be amassing important data on bird distribution in our area while trying to beat last year’s total of 181 different species. After a full morning of birding, we’ll all gather at the Nature Center to trade stories, tally up our numbers, and enjoy a bowl of Annette’s famous chili. Call the Nature Center (760-439-2473), or e-mail Terry (thunefeld@gmail.com), for more information. What a great way to celebrate the holidays!

Fledglings Welcome!

Novice birders are invited to join our Basic Birding Class at the Lagoon Landing on Dec. 22nd to participate in the count. Loaner binoculars will be available, and guides will help with the tough id’s. (See p. 3 for directions).

November General Meeting
Thursday, November 29

El Corazon Park
What’s It All About?
7 p.m. Social—7:30 p.m. Program

Imagine a 465-acre park in the center of Oceanside with a rural look and feel to the trails, roads and amenities so that the park provides an escape from city life. El Corazon is designed as a place for everyone. Nature lovers will be able to enjoy acres of solitude while hiking natural areas. Teams can hold tournaments at well-designed sports complexes. Open meadows will beckon residents for family fun, parties or lazy afternoons. Community facilities will provide gathering places for music, cultural and social events. Limited commercial development will help fund the operation and maintenance of the park. This is the vision for El Corazon!

Jami Williams of RRM Design Group will talk about the park design and how this project is progressing. Come find out what this park will mean to you and your family, and what you can do to help realize the vision.

El Corazon Nature Walk
Saturday, December 1st, 8 a.m.

As a follow-up to our November General Meeting, we have scheduled a special guided walk at El Corazon Park for the following Saturday, December 1st. Experts will be on hand to lead us through several areas of the new park, point out the native plants and animals, and help us visualize how the new park will be developed in the years ahead. This is our opportunity to discover the natural resources of the park firsthand. Meet at the entrance to the greenwaste facility just east of El Camino Real on Oceanside Blvd.
President’s Message

MAY THERE ALWAYS BE CONDORS

When I was a kid Connie the Condor would come and tap on my window at night. I'd sneak out, climb on her back and we'd soar over Southern California, stooping to set right everything that had gone wrong the day before and be back before daybreak, me to my bed and she to her roost.

Over the years since then I've looked for condors, real and metaphorical, in lots of places. Once back in the early 70s I kept an all-day unrewarded vigil atop 8,800-foot Mt. Pinos in Ventura County's Coast Ranges. "Oh you should have been here ten minutes ago" I was told the morning I arrived. "They were soaring right here!".

By the mid-1980s the California Condor population had dwindled to 22. Those few survivors were captured and put into a captive breeding program. Today there are 305 condors alive; 145 of them fly free on their nine-foot-wide wings over the Coast Ranges of Central California, the Grand Canyon, and over the Sierra San Pedro Martir of Baja California. In April of this year, one of the Baja condors briefly ventured north and was spotted soaring over Cuyamaca Mountain, where condors hadn't been seen since 1933. With Governor Schwarzenegger's recent signing into law of a bill banning lead ammunition in California's condor country, one of the greatest threats to their survival in the wild has been removed.

Andy Brumbaugh, our field trips coordinator, and I went to Baja last month in search of condors and to make plans for a BVAS condor trip next May. We camped at 8,800 feet in Baja's highest mountains amid white firs and Jeffrey pines, pinyon jays and plenty of pigmy nuthatches. The Sierra San Pedro Martir is a tilted fault-block range, a smaller version of our Sierra Nevada, with slopes rising gradually from the west and dropping off precipitously to the east. At the crest there are spectacular views of 10,154 foot Picacho del Diablo and straight down to the desert lowlands leading to the Sea of Cortez.

At midday up near the crest I saw a large shadow pass over the trunk of a big Jeffrey pine. I looked up and there was the first free-flying condor I had ever seen. It was Connie, not far overhead, the white undertail coverts of her huge splayed wings shining and her big orange head cocked so she could get a better look at me and ask why hadn't I continued to do all those good deeds we used to do.

Andy and I saw four condors that early October day, two adults and two juveniles, soaring overhead and perched nearby. We camped two nights up in the mountains and two nights in the foothills at Rancho San Jose, better known as the Meling Ranch. Since 1913 it's been a cattle ranch and guest ranch, still operated by the Meling family, and it's where we'll stay on our four-day BVAS trip. The ranch is about 280 paved miles south of Oceanside (six hours away if the border crossing isn't too bad) and another, mostly paved 25 miles up to the top of the mountains. Look for more information about our May trip to Baja's condor country in future issues of the Flyer.

—Dennis Huckabay

No-Lead Ammo Bill Signed Into Law

In October, Gov. Schwarzenegger signed AB 821, which will help the continued recovery of the California Condor by banning the use of lead ammunition from areas inhabited by this endangered species. Condors frequently feed on animal carcasses left behind by hunters, and ingest dangerously high levels of lead from ammunition.

“This is a great day for the California Condor and the State of California,” said Glenn Olson, executive director of Audubon California.

Cal Audubon Recognizes Andy Mauro

We are pleased to announce that BVAS member, Andy Mauro, was awarded the “Chapter Volunteer Award for Outstanding Service” at the recent California Audubon Assembly in Monterey. Andy was one of only six Audubon members statewide selected to receive this special award. The BVAS Board had nominated Andy for this award in recognition of his strong leadership and service on a wide variety of issues over the years. Congratulations, Andy!
November/December Field Trips

Sat—Nov. 3, and Dec. 1—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. Repeats on Saturday, December 1st, 8 a.m.

Sat—Nov. 10, and Dec. 8—9 a.m.—San Elijo Lagoon. Join BVAS members and San Elijo Lagoon docents on the regular monthly nature hike at this ecotourism 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. Repeats on Saturday, December 8th, 9 a.m.

Sat—Nov. 17—8 a.m.—Santee Lakes. Wood Ducks anyone? The lakes and adjacent habitat offer a good variety of water birds and passerines, and has been a migration hot spot this Fall. Take I-805 south to 52, go East to Mast Blvd. Exit, go under freeway to the left and proceed 1 mile to overpass over Lake #2. Turn right and go short distance to Carlton Oaks Dr. Turn right and watch for park entrance on right. There is an entrance fee. Restrooms and picnic tables available. Meet at parking lot inside the entrance. For car-pooling met at La Costa Park & Ride at 7 a.m. Leader: Steve Brad, 760-633-1639.

Sat/Sun—Nov 17 and 18—Salton Sea Weekend Birding Trip. (NOTE: Four spots still open at press time!) Professional local bird guide Bob Miller will lead this two-day trip. We’ll be spending the night at the Brawley Inn. (See October Lagoon Flyer for more details). Cost per person (double occupancy) is $100, including Saturday night accommodations. Trip limited to 14 participants. Call Andy Brumbaugh to check on number of spots open. 760-434-3334

Sat—Nov. 24, and Dec. 22—8 a.m.—Buena Vista Lagoon Monthly Bird Count. Freshwater coastal lagoon. Directions: 1-5 to Hwy 78. East. 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 Buena Vista Lagoon count will be held on Saturday, December 22nd to coincide with the Christmas Bird Count.

Sat—Nov. 24, and Dec. 22—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. Contact person: Tom Troy, 760-967-6915. Note: The December Basic Birding Class will be held on Saturday, December 22nd to coincide with the Christmas Bird Count.

Sat—Dec. 1—8 a.m.—El Corazon Monthly Walk. Join us for this special walk through chaparral and coastal sage brush to experience firsthand the natural resources of Oceanside’s proposed new park, before construction begins and public access is restricted. (See Description on Page One).

Sat—Dec 15—8 a.m.—Guajome Regional Park. An excellent birding spot featuring freshwater wetland and wooded parkland in our own backyard. Meet at the entrance to the park off of North Santa Fe Road. Gate doesn’t open until 9 a.m. so park along N. Santa Fe Rd. Leader: Steve Brad. Call Steve at 760-633-1639 or Andy Brumbaugh at 760-434-3334 for directions if necessary.

Sat—Dec. 22—OCEANSIDE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. (See Page One)

Upcoming Trips

Sun—Jan. 20—San Jacinto Wildlife Area. This inland birding hotspot boasts 19,000 acres of wetlands, marshes, grasslands, and coastal sage brush, providing diversified habitats for an excellent variety of birds. See January Lagoon Flyer for details.

May—2008—Birding in Baja. A several day trip is being planned to the Sierra San Pedro de Matir National Park in Baja. No guarantee but good probability of seeing the California Condor in flight over this rugged, isolated area chosen as a Condor release site. We would spent three nights at the 100-year-old historic Meling Ranch. Passports necessary for this trip. See January Lagoon Flyer for details.

Hotel Hearing Postponed!

The hearing on the hotel project proposed for the vacant property across the street from the Buena Vista Audubon Nature Center has been postponed until January. Originally scheduled for the Coastal Commission meeting on October 11th, the hotel item was pulled from the agenda at the last minute at the request of the developer, shortly after the release of the Coastal Commission staff report recommending denial of the project. The staff report detailed a Commission biologist’s report that the developer’s mapping of the existing wetlands on the property was totally in error. The staff report indicates that the project site has an extensive amount of land which meets the state’s definition of coastal wetlands with respect to elevation, water table, existence of a salt tolerant plant community typical of coastal wetlands, soil characteristics, flood plain, and seasonal flooding. The project as proposed was deemed by Commission staff to intrude well into the wetlands, which would be a violation of the Coastal Act as well as the City of Oceanside’s Local Coastal Plan. BVAS will continue to give updates on the status of this project in its monthly newsletter, Lagoon Flyer.

Wood Duck by J. Topp

California Condors in Baja —Photo by A. Brumbaugh
**Preschool Nature Storytime**

Feathers were flying at October’s storytime as the children learned about nighttime creatures, and constructed paper owls for their craft project. We hope you join us on Monday, November 26th, at 10 a.m. to discuss how pumpkins grow from a tiny seed to full-sized pumpkins ready for Thanksgiving pies and other yummy treats. PLEASE NOTE: There will be no December storytime as the 4th Monday is Christmas Eve. We will resume in January.

Mary Ellen 760-918-6622

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**VOLUNTEER RECEPTIONISTS**

Just another big thanks to all the volunteer hosts who help keep our nature center's doors open all year. This Fall we’ve welcomed Bastien Atterbury and Jennifer Haven to our ranks of hosts, with Mike Sosebee and Maggie O’Donnell waiting in the wings to begin. You are all doing a wonderful job! We always welcome new hosts. For those interested, contact Mary Ellen at 760-918-6622.

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**BVAS OFFICERS, BOARD* AND CHAIRS**

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<th>Position</th>
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<td>President</td>
<td>Dennis Huckabay*</td>
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<td>726-3531</td>
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<td>JoAnne Schontzler</td>
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<td>Doug Dunn*</td>
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<td>Annette Schneider</td>
<td>945-8891</td>
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<td>Terry Hunefeld*</td>
<td>942-5388</td>
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<td>Danny DiMento*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Webmaster</td>
<td>Larry Spann</td>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:larry@spannweb.net">larry@spannweb.net</a></td>
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**Ruddy Duck Club**

Dear 2007 Ruddy Duck Club Members,

Don’t forget to send in your 2008 renewal dues to keep your Ruddy Duck Club membership current. More information? Contact Tom Troy at 760-967-6915. Thank you!

Anderson’s La Costa Nursery Beach Break Café
Bob Baker VW-Subaru Carlsbad Paddle Sports
Carlsbad Inn Beach Resort County Supervisor Bill Horn
Cream of the Crop Deli and Market Hatter and Associates
Harbor Fish and Chips Hoehn Honda
Hunter Steak House I Love Life Window Cleaning
Jón Baldur Hlíðberg Art Longboader Café
101 Café Lowe’s Building Supply — Oceanside
Mr. Peabody’s Steak & Ale North County Radiology
North County Times Oceanside Photo & Telescope
Omar the Master Craftsman Pelly’s Fish Market and Cafe
The Printery Rorick Buick and Cadillac
Seagaze Realty Scott T. Woods Contracting & Remodeling
Seth R. Sharon, Prudential CA Realty
Temenula Valley Bank Vine to Glass
Wild Bird Center - Encinitas Wild Birds Unlimited-C’bad
Worldwide Express

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**Buena Vista Audubon Nature Center**

Tue-Sat 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Sun 1 p.m.-4 p.m.
Closed Monday

760-439-2473

2202 South Coast Hwy., Oceanside, CA
East side of street just north of lagoon bridge

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

Website: [www.bvaudubon.org](http://www.bvaudubon.org)
E-mail: bvaudubon@sbcglobal.net
BUENA VISTA NATIVE PLANT CLUB

Two women, two hours, and a hedge trimmer, Deborah and Joan had a rip roarin’ time demonstrating the latest techniques of “slash and burn” gardening last month at the Nature Center gardens.

Seeing as how we are now in the dead of “California Winter”, it was high time to prune. Our native plants don’t mind a major haircut every year or two. They might even reward us with “boo coo” blooms this year (if it ever rains again)! So, do your rain dance and come on down to the Nature Center to check it out.

This month’s Native Plant Club meeting will be on Sunday, November 18, and we’ll be potting up plant cuttings and watering (if it really doesn’t rain). See you there!

For more information, go to www.bvaudubon.org, contact us by e-mail at BVNPC@sbcglobal.net, or call the Nature Center at 760-439-2473.

Help! BVAS Needs a New “Chair”!

Elle Schubert is stepping down as Membership Chair, and we’re looking for someone to take over this important job for the chapter. Basic computer skills are needed, but we can give you lots of “in-house” training. You’ll be working with the Board to help maintain our chapter mailing list. Call Annette for more information.

Monthly Nature Center Grounds Cleanup

Join us on the first Saturday of the month from 8-10 a.m. as we tend the gardens at the Nature Center. Bring work gloves and gardening tools.

Saturday, November 3rd, and
Saturday, December 1st

“Friends” Members

Check your Mailing Label

Those of you who receive the Lagoon Flyer as a result of your BVAS “Friends” membership, please note that the expiration date for your Friends membership is listed on your mailing label. A red slash across your mailing label indicates that your membership has expired and that this will be your last newsletter. To renew your membership and continue to receive your newsletter and other benefits, please clip out the donation form above and send in your renewal check.

—Elle Schubert, Membership Chair

Holiday Shopping at the BVAS Gift Shop

Check out the Nature Center Gift Shop for lots of neat nature-oriented gifts and stocking stuffers for the holiday season, and no sales tax for “Friends” members!

SAN DIEGO BIRDFESTIVAL

February 6-11, 2008
Featuring Kenn Kaufman
Keynote Speaker, Trip Leader, and Workshop Presenter

For a Festival brochure and registration information: sandiegoaudubon.org 619-682-7200

ANNUAL APPEAL

Please Support our Chapter’s Many Programs with a Generous Year-end Donation. Thank You!

Please Support our Chapter’s Many Programs with a Generous Year-end Donation. Thank You!

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: $20.

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

Name____________________________
Address__________________________
City, State, Zip ___________________
Phone___________________________
Please bill my VISA or MC
Card Number ____________________________
CRN # _____
Expiration Date ________

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

Please Support our Chapter’s Many Programs with a Generous Year-end Donation. Thank You!

Friends Membership: New ____ Renewal ____
QUICK CALENDAR

Fri. Nov. 2—Board Meeting—9 a.m.
Sat. Nov. 3—Whelan Lake Count—8 a.m.  (Repeats 12/1)
Sat. Nov. 3—Nature Center Garden Clean-up—8 a.m.
Mon. Nov. 5—Nature Guides—10 a.m.
Sat. Nov. 10—San Elijo Walk—9 a.m.  (Repeats 12/8)
Sat. Nov. 17—Santee Lakes—8 a.m.
Sat.-Sun. Nov. 17-18—Salton Sea Birding Weekend
Sun. Nov. 18—Native Plant Club—2 p.m.
Sat. Nov. 24—Buena Vista Lagoon Count—8 a.m.
Sat. Nov. 24—Basic Birding at BVL Landing—8:30 a.m.
Mon. Nov. 26—Preschool Nature Storytime—10 a.m.
Thurs. Nov. 29—General Meeting—7 p.m.
Sat. Dec. 1—El Corazon Nature Walk—8 a.m.
Sat. Dec. 1—Nature Center Garden Clean-up—8 a.m.
Fri. Dec. 7—Board Meeting—9 a.m.
Sat. Dec. 15—Guajome Park Bird Walk—8 a.m.
Sat. Dec. 22—Oceanside Christmas Bird Count—all day
Sat. Dec. 22—Basic Birding Class—8:30 a.m.
Sat. Dec. 22—Buena Vista Lagoon Count—8 a.m.

Happy Hollidays and Good Birding!

Oceanside Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 22

Experts and Novices Welcome!

See Page 1

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