BUENA VISTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

LAGOON FLYER

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VOLUME 45 / NUMBER 8 / OCTOBER 2016

Brown Widow

SPIDERS

by

Dr. Lenny Vincent

Spiders get a bad rap. From Little Miss Muffet to Indiana Jones, they've sent us scurrying. Admittedly carnivorous, typically venomous, there's no evidence of them consuming ***us***, with the possible exceptions of Bilbo Baggins and Harry Potter. They do, however, eat an average of 2,000 insects a year, provide silk for hummingbird nests, and become a tasty meal for the California Thrasher. Nothing is more delicately beautiful than a dew-covered web. Charlotte saved Wilber's life. What's not to love?

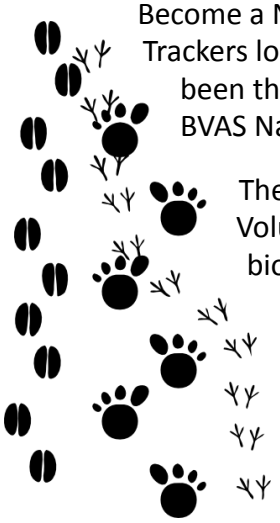
October is the perfect time to set the record straight, and BVAS proudly presents Dr. Lenny Vincent, Southern California's expert on all things eight-legged. With a Ph.D. in Entomology from UC Berkeley, he is a professor of biology at Fullerton College. Extensively published, Dr. Vincent is a leader in both national and international entomological societies.

Join us as he weaves his own web of fascinating facts and stunning images, sprinkled with both the practical and the humorous. Predation and defense; courtship, reproduction, and birth; silk and web construction—all are topics to be explored. Experience the most unusual to the most common, from spiders around the world to those in our own back yards.

Of the 45,000 species of spiders identified worldwide, 450 live in San Diego County. Learn why these amazing creatures are so beneficial to our gardens and our environment. Come meet your neighbors.

Wednesday, October 19
6:30 p.m. Social; 7:00 p.m. Program

The Art and Science of Wildlife Tracking



Become a Nature Detective through this two-day wildlife tracking workshop! Wildlife Trackers look for tracks and signs in the environment to determine which animals have been there and interpret what they've been doing. Day 1 is an in-class session at the BVAS Nature Center, and Day 2 is a field day at Daley Ranch.

The course is a collaboration with San Diego Audubon, and will be taught by SDAS Volunteer and Operations Coordinator/Naturalist, Jill Cooper. Jill is a trained biologist who has been tracking wildlife for over 10 years.

This workshop will be held on **Friday, October 21 from 6:00 – 9:00 pm at the BVAS Nature Center** (2202 South Coast Hwy), and **Saturday, October 22 from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm at Daley Ranch** (exact location TBD).

Prices are $40 for students and those with limited income, $60 for BVAS/SDA members, and $80 for general public. Please register at www.sandiegoaudubon.org. Click "Events," then "Workshops." Or email cooper@sandiegoaudubon.org . Details on the workshop, including costs, can be found at the San Diego Audubon website or at http:bvaudubon.org/events/.

Vote YES on CA Prop 67 (Plastic Bag Ban)

In 2014, the CA legislature overwhelmingly approved SB270 banning single-use, plastic bags. A YES vote confirms that decision.

The "convenience" of plastic shopping bags carries with it a very high environmental cost. Bags litter our landscapes and make their way into our waterways and oceans. Made from non-renewable fossil fuels, these petroleum-based bags never truly degrade. They're mistaken for food by birds and sea turtles. The estimated 46,000 - 1,000,000 micro-fragments in each square mile of ocean are ingested by fish and move up the food chain to, you guessed it, us.

BVAS joins over 150 municipalities and environmental organizations in urging Californians to vote YES on Prop 67.

Vote NO on the TRANSNET 1/2 Cent Sales Increase

On the November ballot, SANDAG will ask San Diego County voters to approve the "San Diego County Road Repair, Transit, Traffic Relief, Safety, and Water Quality Measure." BVAS has concerns with a measure that is long on road construction and almost silent on habitat and water quality protection.

While $2 billion out of this $18 billion ordinance is dedicated to acquiring and protecting habitat, there are few restrictions on how that money will be allocated and no indication of who will control the spending. While the expenditure plan contains seven **pages** of details of how funding for roads and transit will be spent, only three **lines** describe how the habitat revenue will be spent.

How much money will actually go toward habitat and open space acquisition and protection? And, how will we meet our greenhouse gas reduction goals with a measure that increases traffic? This tax measure moves San Diego County in the wrong direction.

WHELAN LAKE BIRD SANCTUARY WALK

Saturday October 1st — 8 AM

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.

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. Feel free to contact the leader for directions.

Leader: John Haddock (760 941-7824)

FALL MIGRATION CONTINUES! 12-HOUR PELAGIC TRIP

Sunday, October 9th — 7 AM to 7 PM

Common murre (S. Brad)

A full day of boating in San Diego County waters to the 9-mile and 30-mile banks. This is the season to pursue storm-petrel rafts and look for rarities, such as Craveri's murrelet, red-billed tropicbirds, Buller's shearwaters, south polar skuas, and long-tailed jaegers, as well as Sabine's gulls and Arctic terns.

Reservations: Early Bird: $115 through Sept. 11th, Regular: $125 through Oct. 2nd, Late: $135 after Oct 3rd. Call Point Loma Sportfishing (619 223-1627) to make a reservation aboard *The Grande*.

SECOND SUNDAY BIRD WALK

Sunday, October 9th — 8 AM

Oceanside is one of the premier birding areas in North County. Join us at the Oceanside Harbor to look for waders and migrating shorebirds, along with an array of gulls and terns. Hopefully there'll be a few surprises!

Directions: We'll meet on the Pacific Street bridge in Oceanside. There is free parking east of the railroad tracks across from Joe's Crab Shack: 314 Harbor Dr South, Oceanside. Look for folks with binoculars and spotting scopes on the bridge.

Leader: Steve Brad (760 633-1639) or stevanbrad@gmail.com

SECOND THURSDAY SURPRISE WALK

Thursday, October 13th — 8 AM

Come along on 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 Steve's Second Thursday Walk notification list, send an email to stevanbrad@gmail.com.

SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK BIRD WALK

Saturday, October 15th — 8:30 AM

San Andres Drive trails. We'll be looking for various species of waterfowl and shorebirds that come to spend the winter at North County's coastal wetlands.

Directions: San Andres Drive—From I-5, take Via de la Valle east; go right on San Andres Dr to the end of the road.

Leader: John Haddock (760 941-7824)

BIRDING IN OCTOBER

Pelagic birding offers an exciting way to observe seabirds that rarely make an appearance on land. Seabirds are unique in that they spend most of their lives on the open ocean, only coming on land to nest. Seabirds live in three worlds: the air, on land, and in the water. Not only must they be excellent fliers, they also must be adept at swimming underwater.

Alcids (murres, murrelets, and auklets) have very short tails and necks, pointed bills, and simple black-and-white plumage patterns. All use their wings to "fly" underwater in pursuit of prey. Alcids are more adapted to swimming under water than flying in air, though they fly thousands of miles. Flight in the air is fast and direct with very rapid, buzzing wingbeats. Most species, like this Cassin's auklet, require a long running start to become airborne.

Cassin's auklet (S. Brad)

BASIC BIRDING WORKSHOP AND BUENA VISTA LAGOON BIRD COUNT

Saturday, October 29th — 9 AM

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 and then caravan around the lagoon to a series of selected stops.

Directions: Meet at the Nature Center parking lot.

Leaders: Joan Fountain & Tom Troy (760 420-7328)

A newly-scheduled 9-hour pelagic trip

Saturday, October 29th — 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM

Visit our website for full details!

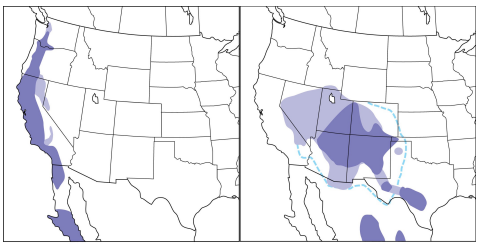
http://www.socalbirding.com/2016schedule/oct292016tripinfo.html

Dust Off Your Life List!

In July, the American Ornithologists' Union announced a split of the Western Scrub-Jay species into two separate species. California Scrub-Jays principally inhabit oak woodlands in coastal regions from Washington to Baja California and reach up the western slope of the Sierra Nevada. Woodhouse's Scrub-Jays range from the Great Basin and the Rocky Mountains to the Chihuahuan Desert. California Scrub-Jays sport a more vibrant, deep blue plumage with a blue stripe - a "collar," of sorts - stretching onto their chests. Woodhouse's Scrub-Jays are a paler blue overall and usually lack the distinctive blue collar.

The California Scrub-Jay kept the Western Scrub-Jay's original scientific name of *Aphelocoma californica* while Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay became *Aphelocoma woodhouseii*. And some scientists believe another deserving split involves two subspecies still in the *woodhouseii* species. Stay tuned.

If you've ever seen a scrub-jay in California, you can tick California Scrub-Jay off on whatever list you keep. And if you've seen one in, say, Colorado or New Mexico, check off Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay. And if you've seen both, your total just increased by one without ever leaving the house. Congratulations!



Left: CA Scrub-Jay territory

Right: Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay territory

BVAS OFFICERS, BOARD*, AND CHAIRS

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Webmaster	Natalie Shapiro*	406-241-2153

Check bvaudubon.org/news for more on scrub-jays and a host of other topics. Better yet, contact membership (above) to switch to the full-color, digital edition.

LAST CALL FOR COSTA RICA BIRD TRIP!

You'd better hurry — only four spots remain on the BVAS Costa Rica Bird Trek scheduled for January 11 - 22, 2017. This promises to be a trip of a lifetime. Our itinerary includes stops at several of Costa Rica's most renowned eco-lodges, where the extensive array of bird species attracted to each location's specialized habitat will swell our life lists. Every detail of the trip has been carefully planned to ensure an exciting and memorable experience. Those so inclined will be able to bird almost non-stop, while others may choose to spend portions of their days sampling the local cultural and enjoying the lodge amenities. Call Marilyn at 760 730-1966 for more information and to reserve one of those final spots.

BVAS NATIVE PLANT CLUB

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.

The Salton Sea: Critically Important and Critically Endangered *by Audubon California*

Located about 130 miles east of San Diego, the Salton Sea is a study in contradictions. It is massive, yet practically unknown to most Californians. The landscape is barren, but full of life. It is natural, but man-made. The environment puts birds at risk, but it is also vital for their survival. More than 300 bird species rely on the deep water, shoreline, mudflats, and wetlands at the Salton Sea as well as the river channels and agricultural drains leading into it. Tilapia live in the deeper waters, providing essential food for many species, including CA Brown Pelican, American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, and Caspian Tern.

Perhaps the sea's greatest value for birds is its ability to support very large numbers of waterbirds during the winter months, including up to 90% of North America's Eared Grebes, 50% of Ruddy Ducks, and 30% of American White Pelicans.

The challenge ahead: Beginning in 2018, the Salton Sea will get a lot less water from the Colorado River, eventually up to 40% less. The shrinking sea will expose up to 64,000 acres of lakebed and result in dust storms that could create an air pollution crisis. Tens of thousands of acres of habitat will disappear.

The State of California hasn't fulfilled its promise to pay for habitat restoration and dust mitigation in advance of the 2018 deadline. But in the last year, the state named an assistant secretary for Salton Sea policy to build stakeholder support for a new management plan. Gov. Jerry Brown included $80 million in his budget for Salton Sea restoration. In September, President Obama pledged federal support as well.

"There's just no way that you can talk about doing flyway-level bird conservation and not throw your weight into finding a solution at the Salton Sea," said Audubon CA Director Brigid McCormack. Audubon CA is fully participating in the state process, providing detailed habitat maps and developing a monitoring program to measure changes in bird populations. McCormack concludes: "Our engagement now will help ensure this is done right — that critical bird habitat is protected, and the toxic dust no longer threatens local communities."

CALLING ALL KIDS!

Join local celebrities for a free kids event celebrating bats and bat-pollinated food!

Children's author/illustrator Janell Cannon teams up with Amanda Mascia, creator of *The Good Food Factory* (a children's healthy cooking show) at the BVAS Nature Center on Saturday, October 15th at 1:00 p.m.

Janell will read from her book Stellaluna, the story of a lost bat who finds her way home. Amanda will share her cooking expertise and says "Roll up your sleeves and get ready to cook up a snack packed full of foods that have been pollinated by BATS!"

All kids ages four & up are invited to participate in this free event! Please RSVP by October 7, either at the Nature Center or by emailing Natalie Shapiro at buenavistanature@gmail.com. See www.bvaudubon.org/events/ for more details.

KIDS' CORNER AT THE NATURE CENTER

Joey's and Johnny's Clubhouse—
Sunday, October 16—1-4 p.m.
Kids and parents are invited to stop by the Nature Center for some informal nature fun. This month, BATS are the focus for our craft.
Come join the fun!

Preschool Nature Storytime—
Monday, October 24—10 a.m.
Bring your little ones to our monthly program that gently introduces them to the wonders of nature. We always have a lot of fun learning about the animals and plants that live around the lagoon and in our own backyards. We'll have stories, songs, a take-home craft, and more.
Questions? Call Sally at 760-525-2351

LAGOON FLYER
BUENA VISTA AUDUBON SOCIETY
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BVAS QUICK CALENDAR

Sat. Oct. 1	Whelan Lake Walk	8 a.m.
Mon. Oct. 3	Garden Club	10 a.m.
Fri. Oct. 7	Board Meeting	9 a.m.
Sun. Oct. 9	12-hour Pelagic Trip	7 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Sun. Oct. 9	Second Sunday Bird Walk	8 a.m.
Mon. Oct. 10	Garden Club	10 a.m.
Thurs. Oct. 13	Surprise Bird Walk	8 a.m.
Fri. Oct. 14	Nature Guide Meeting	10 a.m.
Sat. Oct. 15	San Dieguito River Pk. Bird Walk	8:30 a.m.
Sat. Oct. 15	Kids' Free Bat Event	1 p.m.
Sun. Oct. 16	Joey's & Johnny's Clubhouse	1 p.m.
Mon. Oct. 17	Garden Club	10 a.m.
Wed. Oct. 19	General Meeting	6:30 p.m.
	"Spiders " with Dr. Lenny Vincent	
Mon. Oct. 24	Garden Club	10 a.m.
Mon. Oct. 24	Preschool Nature Storytime	10 a.m.
Sat. Oct. 29	Basic Birding Workshop during BV Lagoon Bird Count	9 a.m.
Mon. Oct. 31	Garden Club	10 a.m.

Oct. 31 Happy Halloween!

Election Day
Tuesday, November 8th

BVAS urges voters to remember conservation when they go to the polls. **(See page 2.)**

BUENA VISTA AUDUBON
A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

BUENA VISTA AUDUBON SOCIETY
HOT SPOT BIRDING COSTA RICA
(a little off the beaten path)
JANUARY 11- 21, 2017

BVAS INVITES novice, casual and life lister birders to our first Costa Rica trip! We have teamed up with Costa Rica Sun Tours to bring to you a trip designed to hit at least 4 key birding hot spots. Along the way we will see volcano's, farms, orchids, frogs, monkeys, iguanas, butterflies, sloths, bats and crocodiles. January is a perfect time of year for fruiting trees that both endemic and migratory birds need.

We have arranged to have an excellent local Costa Rica birding guide with us on all of our adventures. He/she will have scope available. In addition, at critical places like OTS La Selva we will be joined by a resident guide who knows the terrain well and can explain more about the reserve, the research taking place and of course will help us to find some cool birds.

The itinerary includes most meals, all park entrance fees, boat tours, and of course hotels. And while this looks like a jammed packed itinerary, there will be time to relax, go to the pool or spa, compare bird lists and talk with guide(s) about what makes Costa Rica so special.

Itinerary – January 11-22
For the next 10 days our group will be accompanied by one of the top birding guides to ensure a memorable trip and a great list of birds. We will be traveling in our own comfortable bus. The cost includes all indicated transportation and guide services accommodations and meals as indicated: **B**=breakfast, **L**=lunch, **D**=dinner.

January 11 arrive in Costa Rica. There will be a representative from Costa Rica sun tours to welcome you after you clear customs and get your luggage.

See itinerary details on next page…

Hot Spot Birding Costa Rica Itinerary – January 11-22

Jan 11-12 BL
2 nights at the Hotel Bougainvillea- http://www.hb.co.cr/en/

- Over 10 acres of gardens, ponds and home to over 60 species of birds.
- Wake up to a chorus of bird song and start your list with the Clay Colored Thrush, Blue Gray Tanager and with a little luck the Blue Crowned Motmot.
- **Excursion:** Poas Volcano and Hummingbird Café

Jan 13-14 BLD
2 nights at Ara Ambigua Lodge http://www.hotelaraambigua.com/website/

- This cozy hotel has great food, a gift shop, pool and some small trails to explore on your own. This will be our "base camp" as we explore OTS La Selva. http://www.ots.ac.cr/index.php?option=com_wrapper&Itemid=838
- **Excursions:** Quebrada Gonzalez, Nature Pavilion Eco Observatory, OTS La Selva

Jan 15-17 BL
2 nights at Arenal Observatory Lodge http://www.arenalobservatorylodge.com/

- Historic Arenal Observatory Lodge is world famous for its views of the Arenal volcano and lake. With 7 miles of trails and close to 900 species of birds (no, we won't see them all), we promise you won't be bored.
- **Excursions:** Arenal Hanging Bridges, Danaus Eco Center, Vida Campesina.

Jan 17-19 BLD
2 nights at Cerro lodge http://www.hotelcerrolodge.com/

- Using Cerro as our base we will explore the mangroves and hike in Carara National Park (the first in Costa Rica). It will be an action packed couple of days!
- **Excursions:** Solimar Ranch, Tarcoles Rover and Mangrove Tour, hike through Carara National Park

Jan 19-20 BLD
2 nights Highlands of Cerro De la Muerte. Sueno del Bosque or similar hotel http://www.bosquesangerardo.com/en/

- With some great hikes we will be rounding out our lists. Our goal will be the Resplendent Quetzal.
- **Excursions:** Morning and afternoon nature walks, Tapanti Lancaster Gardens

Jan 21 DB
1 night at Hotel La Rosa de America https://larosadeamerica.com/

- Our final night with a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.
- Time to get your bird lists nailed down, contact info from the rest of the group and pack.
- The hotel is located only 15 minutes from the airport.

Rate based on a maximum group size of 12-14 trip participants and double room occupancy $2850. Single room supplement is $530.

For further information or to sign up, please contact me at:

Marilyn Hendron
Phone: 760-730-1966
email: mhendron@pacbell.net