This spellbinding documentary follows Aisholpan, a 13-year-old, nomadic Mongolian girl who is fighting to become the first female eagle hunter in twelve generations of her Kazakh family. Through breathtaking aerial cinematography and intimate vérité footage, the film captures her personal journey while also addressing universal themes such as female empowerment, the natural world, coming of age, and the onset of modernity.

Mongolia’s golden eagles have been described as unpredictable forces of nature. Females, chosen for their larger size, grow to 15 pounds with 90-inch wingspans. They are born wild and are then taken from the nest and trained. If the eagle succeeds—kills the fox and returns to her falconer—she is kept and nurtured. After years of service, on a spring morning, the hunter releases her a final time, leaving a butchered sheep on the mountain as a farewell gift. The eagle’s gift in return? Raising future generations to carry on the 2000-year-old tradition.

Both Aisholpan and her story are remarkable. The daughter of a celebrated hunter, she becomes the star pupil, winning the Golden Eagle Festival. She then takes the final step, capturing and training her own eaglet and traveling with her father to successfully hunt foxes in the bitter winter snows of Mongolia. She is described by photographer Asher Svidensky as sweet and shy, yet powerful and commanding. Her drive and determination lead her to uncommon achievement. But her long-term goal? To study medicine and serve her people.

Join us to be entertained and inspired by these forces of nature.
Here We Grow Again!

On June 30, after three years, Buena Vista Audubon Society closed escrow on the purchase of the Cheatham property! It’s been a long road toward permanently protecting this 31-acre, former dairy farm in the hills above the San Luis Rey River. Nestled between Camp Pendleton and open land along the river, the acquisition was an opportunity to create a giant swath of protected and restored lands in north Oceanside. We just needed the right partners to make it happen.

Ann van Leer, President of Land Conservation Brokerage, Inc., helped us to navigate the process. Because the property is adjacent to Camp Pendleton, it qualified for a military program that funds open-space acquisition and habitat restoration of lands buffering military bases. Through this program, the Navy agreed to pay for half the acquisition costs and all of the restoration and long-term management costs.

We just had to find the other half of the acquisition costs for this $1.56 million parcel. BVAS applied to the California State Natural Resources Agency for a grant, and we were awarded all but about $115,000. Once again, BVAS members and partners stepped up to help protect our rapidly diminishing wildlands. Donations from members covered about $40,000 of the shortfall. North County Advocates, California Audubon’s Wimberly Fund, and the Malk Nature Fund made up the difference by contributing $20,000, $25,000, and $30,000, respectively.

This tale is no miracle. Buena Vista Audubon, its members, and its supportive community have become recognized for their diligent advocacy for and protection of native and endangered habitat. Each grant, donation, or partnership was based on that recognition and trust.

So... what's next? The Navy is currently reviewing the comprehensive restoration and management plan that BVAS submitted. When approved, the plan is to restore the land to coastal sage scrub habitat, suitable for the endangered California gnatcatcher and other species. Stay tuned.

“In the end we will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught.”

- Baba Dioum
WEHLAN LAKE BIRD SANCTUARY WALK
Saturday, September 2 — 8 a.m.
Join John and friends for our regular monthly walk and bird survey at this beautiful sanctuary for resident and migratory waterfowl. Whelan Lake is always a favorite place to go birding!
Directions: From I-5, take Hwy 76 east; turn left at Douglas Drive; continue to the light at North River Road; go left on North River Road. Pass through entrance gate and follow signs to the lake. Feel free to contact the leader for directions.
Leader: John Haddock (760-941-7824)

NEW!

BIRDING LEO CARRILLO
Thursday, September 7 — 8 a.m.
First Thursday of the month BVAS will be teaming with Leo Carrillo Ranch Historic Park to offer a regularly scheduled bird walk. Join Joan, Eve, Patti, and Jane as we walk the trails and explore inside the park. We may lasso a local ‘surprise’ birder on occasion to join us!
Location: Meet at the trail head west of Carrillo Elementary School parking lot (off Poinsettia Lane, west of Melrose Ave and turn south on Paseo Esclusa). Trail parking is available in the lot to the right (west) of the school parking lot.
Leaders: Joan Herskovitz, Eve Martin, Patti Koger, and Jane Mygatt (jmherskovitz@yahoo.com, janemygatt@me.com)

CARDIFF BEACH
Sunday, September 10 — 7:30 a.m.
Cardiff beach is one of the best places in North County to see our returning shorebirds. We expect to see a variety of “peeps” including sanderlings, sandpipers, and plovers. We also will be looking off-shore for pelagic birds, plus checking for birds in the marshy areas west of the RR tracks.
Location: Park on the southbound side of Coast Hwy, Cardiff Beach, ~100 yards south of Las Olas Mexican Restaurant (2655 S. Coast Hwy 101, Cardiff). Look for folks with binoculars!
Leader: Steve Brad (760-633-1639) stevanbrad@gmail.com

STEVE’S SURPRISE THURSDAY WALK
Thursday, September 14 — 8 a.m.
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. It is always great fun! Contact Steve to get on his notification list.
Leader: Steve Brad (760-633-1639) stevanbrad@gmail.com

SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK BIRD WALK
Saturday, September 23 — 8:30 a.m.
Lower Crest Canyon
We’ll be looking for the many waterfowl 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 Vallee east; go right on San Andres Drive to end of road.
Leader: John Haddock (760-941-7824)

FALL MIGRATION PELAGIC TRIP!
Join BVAS for a 12-hour trip to the 9-mile and 30-mile banks!

Sunday, September 24, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Details at: www.socalbirding.com/2017schedule/sep242017tripinfo.html

COASTAL 101 BIRDING
Saturday, September 30 — 9 a.m.
Join Tom and Susie for a casual combination birding workshop and bird count around Buena Vista Lagoon. We visit Maxton Brown Park, walk to the ocean and weir, and return to the nature center along Coast Highway. We should see waders, songbirds, and shore birds. After the walk, we tally the birds and finish by 11:30 a.m.
Location: Buena Vista Nature Center, 2202 S. Coast Highway, Oceanside. Meet in the parking lot.
Leaders: Tom Troy (760-420-7328) and Susie Martin

BVAS INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL ADVENTURES!
Birding Cuba’s Foothills, Wetlands, and Coast
January 9-18, 2018
Cuba’s varied terrain supports more than 370 species of birds, 28 of which are endemic to Cuba. We have partnered with Holbrook Travel to create a great birding and cultural package to Cuba. For full details visit http://holbrook.travel/buenavista-cu18
The trip will be open to 10 people.
Home For the Holidays...
It’s a Risky Decision

Let’s say you’re a bird. Your breeding area this spring and summer abounded with budding plants, fresh fruits, nutritious insects—plenty for you and the kids you raised. But what about the coming fall and winter? To paraphrase the Clash, should you stay or should you go?

In San Diego County, a number of species of birds migrate in the fall, at least to some extent. Yet migration is a mighty risky prospect. If you live year-round in the tropics, you have a pretty decent annual adult survival rate of about 80-90%. But migrating birds have annual adult survival rates of about 50%; Only about half of the adults that travel south in the fall will be alive the following fall. Then why would you ever leave the tropics to breed in transitional or temperate areas such as San Diego County? The answer likely lies in breeding success—appropriate nesting areas are in shorter supply in the tropics than further north. The tropics are dripping with birds, vigorously defending the best territories. As a result, year-round tropical residents raise fewer young each year than do those that breed in more temperate zones.

Alternatively, if you breed in a northern area where all necessary resources—water, food, shelter—exist predictably year-round, you’ll likely stick around all year. Compared to tropics-dwelling species, though, you’ll have an annual survival rate in the range of 35-60% (even lower for those wintering in the mountains). But if you survive to the next spring, you’ll probably raise more young than a related full-time tropical resident will, given the more plentiful nesting sites, abundant ripening fruit, and burgeoning insect life. Ya pays yer money and takes yer chances...

(Refer to www.bvaudubon.org for more information about fall migration.)
Back To School

Each school week finds BVAS Garden Club members Jo Niedeck and Joan Bockman knee-deep in compost. They’re leading a treasure hunt with the children at Laurel, Mission, and South Oceanside Elementary Schools. The prizes? Tasty produce and an appreciation of the birds, insects, and other invertebrates that the garden supports. There’s no place like a garden to motivate the natural curiosity of children and overcome the irrational notions that dirt is yucky or worms are gross. It’s in a garden that the food chain comes to life.

How do Jo and Joan perform this miracle? It begins and ends with language. Here is a sampling of their self-described bon mots to use with younger naturalists.

* Whenever we come to the garden, the first thing we do is tiptoe around and look for bugs.
* Get your hands dirty.
* We invite bugs into our open hands. We never use our pincher finger because you are a giant. Imagine King Kong picking you up with two fingers - ouch!
* Bees are attracted to flowers. Because you are not a flower, bees are not looking for you. The only reason a bee will sting is if you have picked a fight by flailing your arms about and hit it first.
* If you are really nice and a snail trusts you, it will come out and give you a kiss. Snail poop is the best thing that can happen to you. All of our food depends on snails and other things turning dead stuff and ground-up rocks into soil.
* Think about everything that has died over the last 10,000 years right where we are standing. What if it was all still here? It would be piled up over our heads. Mammoths, Native Americans, raccoons, some old farmer from the 1940s, all the insects. Isn’t it great that something made all that material decay?

People think that scientists come from Cal Tech. Jo and Joan know they evolve from their curiosity about nature.

KIDS’ CORNER AT THE NATURE CENTER

Joey and Johnny’s Clubhouse

Sun., Sept. 17, from 1-4 p.m.
This month we will play nature games! Kids and parents are invited to participate.

Preschool Nature Storytime

Mon., Sept. 25, at 10 a.m.
Bring your little ones to our monthly program. This month we will engage in activities that teach us about turtles! Questions? Call Sally at 760-525-2351.

Behind The Scenes

Buena Vista Audubon Nature Center wishes to thank two business owners who continue to make us shine! Rodger L. Reese Jr., from Cleanpoint, shampoos our carpets once a year. Window washer Wayne Larson makes our windows sparkle! These folks have provided us with these special services behind the scenes and for a very long time - gratis.

BVAS OFFICERS, BOARD*, AND CHAIRS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Natalie Shapiro*</td>
<td>406-241-2153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice-President</td>
<td>Dennis Huckabay*</td>
<td>760-757-6437</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Judi Wilson*</td>
<td>760-439-3649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Sandy McMullen*</td>
<td>760-944-5690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Andy Mauro*</td>
<td>760-753-1266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Jane Mygatt*</td>
<td>505-249-5333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Curt Busk*</td>
<td>521-393-4755</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center Manager</td>
<td>Annette Schneider</td>
<td>760-716-7686</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation Chair</td>
<td>Joan Herskowitz*</td>
<td>760-942-5167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities/Exhibits</td>
<td>Danny DiMento*</td>
<td>858-688-6891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Trips</td>
<td>Steve Brad*</td>
<td>760-633-1639</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bird House Auction</td>
<td>Kelly Deveney*</td>
<td>760-721-2441</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gift Shop</td>
<td>Denise Riddle*</td>
<td>760-439-0256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>C.J. DiMento</td>
<td>760-231-9096</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership/Mailings</td>
<td>Janice Osborne</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Plant Club</td>
<td>Joan Bockman*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s Programs</td>
<td>Sally Bickerton</td>
<td>760-525-2351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter Editor</td>
<td>Bruce Montgomery*</td>
<td>760-931-6678</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter Editor</td>
<td>Patty Montgomery*</td>
<td>760-931-6678</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programs</td>
<td>Dennis Huckabay*</td>
<td>760-757-6437</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publicity</td>
<td>Natalie Shapiro*</td>
<td>406-241-2153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteers/Outreach</td>
<td>Bob Crowell*</td>
<td>760-207-3884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Webmaster</td>
<td>J.J. Springer</td>
<td>818-859-8244</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* email: bvaudubon@sbcglobal.net
  BVNPC@sbcglobal.net
  bloomingtrillium@yahoo.com
  mr.leakey@gmail.com
  bloomingtrillium@yahoo.com
  kbcrowell1@att.net
  BVNPC@sbcglobal.net
**BVAS QUICK CALENDAR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri. Sept. 1</td>
<td>Nature Guides Meeting</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat. Sept. 2</td>
<td>Whelan Lake Bird Sanctuary Walk</td>
<td>8 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon. Sept. 4</td>
<td>Garden Club</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs. Sept. 7</td>
<td>NEW! Birding Leo Carrillo Ranch</td>
<td>8 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun. Sept. 10</td>
<td>Cardiff Beach</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon. Sept. 11</td>
<td>Garden Club</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs. Sept. 14</td>
<td>Steve’s Surprise Thursday Walk</td>
<td>8 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri. Sept. 15</td>
<td>Board Meeting</td>
<td>9 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun. Sept. 17</td>
<td>Joey &amp; Johnny’s Clubhouse</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon. Sept. 18</td>
<td>Garden Club</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. Sept. 20</td>
<td>General Meeting</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Movie: “The Eagle Huntress”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat. Sept. 23</td>
<td>San Dieguito River Park Bird Walk</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun. Sept. 24</td>
<td>Fall Migration 12-hour Pelagic Trip</td>
<td>7 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon. Sept. 25</td>
<td>Preschool Nature Storytime</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon. Sept. 25</td>
<td>Garden Club</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat. Sept. 30</td>
<td>Coastal 101 Birding</td>
<td>9 a.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Buena Vista Audubon**

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society  
2202 S. Coast Highway  Oceanside, CA 92054  
760-439-BIRD = (760-439-2473)  
email: bvaudubon@sbcglobal.net  
website: www.bvaudubon.org

Join BVAS for a Fall Migration Pelagic Trip! See p. 3.

**Center Hours**

Sunday: 1 - 4 p.m.  
Monday: CLOSED  
Tuesday - Saturday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
CUBA

Birding Cuba’s Foothills, Wetlands and Coast with Buena Vista Audubon
January 9-18, 2018

Cuba’s protected natural areas, geographic isolation, and limited development combine to create an ideal destination for birders. The country’s diverse habitats support over 360 avian species, more than two dozen of which are endemic to the island. On this 10 day program, you’ll have the opportunity to observe specialties like the Cuban Tody, Zapata Wren, and Oriente Warbler, and explore dry scrub, mangrove, wetland, and coastal ecosystems. Gain deeper insight during meetings with Cuban conservationists to discuss ongoing projects. During your travels, meet Cuba’s friendly people and discover the rich history and culture for which the country is known.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the country’s pristine protected areas, including La Güira National Park, Las Terrazas Biosphere Reserve, and several sites within Zapata Swamp, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and Ramsar wetland.
- Seek out endemic species like the Cuban Trogon (Cuba’s national bird), Cuban Green Woodpecker, Fernandina’s Flicker, and the diminutive Bee Hummingbird, among others.
- Meet with Zapata area conservationists to learn about projects underway to preserve Cuba’s largest wetlands.
- Visit the limestone cave that was Che Guevara’s headquarters during the Cuban Missile Crisis and an excellent place to spot Cuban Solitaire and Scaly-naped Pigeon.

FOR FULL ITINERARY, MORE INFORMATION, OR TO ENROLL
holbrook.travel/buenavista-cu18
contact Marilyn Hendron at 760-730-1966 or mhendron@pacbell.net

Cuban Tody
Photo by Alton Biggs

Buena Vista Audubon Society