Roar of the Monarch Butterfly
with Bill Toone

Butterflies draw our attention and elicit our delight like few other animals. Lighter than air, these flashes of light and color are the most welcome of visitors. But one species stands out. And not just for its appearance.

October’s presentation will introduce us to the amazing biology and journey of the eastern population of monarch butterflies. It is without question a unique migratory phenomenon. The monarch butterfly is the only insect that migrates and this is the only migration that requires more than one generation to complete. Sadly, however, this rarity is in danger. Monarchs are threatened both in the U.S., by agricultural development and pesticides, and in Mexico, by deforestation at their overwintering sites. This story is not just about a butterfly but its tenuous relationship with people.

Our guide for the evening is Bill Toone, a wildlife biologist and founder of ECOLIFE Conservation, an organization based on the premise that people and their environments are inextricably joined. In other words, one cannot work to save endangered species or endangered places without working to protect and improve the lives of the people who live near them.

Join us as Bill Toone shares insights into one of nature’s poorly understood and critically threatened miracles.

Wednesday, October 18
Social 6:30 p.m.  Program 7:00 p.m.
Uncommonly Intelligent
Ravens at the Top of the Class

Ever think of a vacuous person as a “birdbrain?” Recent science says you’re wrong, at least where common ravens are concerned.

The world’s largest passerine, the common raven is a permanent resident of San Diego County. It occurs in all habitats, including beaches, the desert floor, mountaintops, and anywhere in between. At about two feet long, bill to tail tip, with wingspans greater than four feet, adults are solid, glossy black, with wedge-shaped tails and massive bills.

To differentiate a common raven from its smaller cousin, the American crow, voice offers one of the best options. Most folks know the American crow’s typical caw, caw, caw call. Common ravens utter deep, resonant, croaking rawck, rawck, rawck calls—easily distinguished from a crow’s call.

Although these birds have brains no larger than a walnut, recent experiments showed some surprising results. Researchers taught a number of ravens to place a special tool—a uniquely shaped rock—in a tube sticking out of a box. The rock would release a piece of dog kibble (a favorite treat). The researchers then took the box and the tool away. An hour later, the team offered the ravens a choice of objects—one being that special tool. After 15 minutes, the ravens got the box back. About 80 percent of the time, the ravens had selected the correct tool and performed the task to get their treat. The team repeated the same experiment with a 17-hour delay in returning the box. No problem—the ravens still planned ahead and chose the right tool.

Setting the researchers on their heels, a female common raven quickly learned how to operate the box and began teaching the other ravens. She then invented her own way of opening the apparatus without the special tool—filling the tube with a layer of small twigs and pushing a larger stick into that layer to release the treat.

All in all, ravens were at least as proficient at these tasks as tool-using apes. They even performed better than four-year-old children in a comparable set-up. All with brains the size of walnuts. So the next time you consider using the term “birdbrain” as a pejorative epithet, take a moment to reconsider. Quoth the raven, “Nevermore.”

(Refer to www.bvaudubon.org for more information about these planning, tool-using birds.)
BIRDING WITH BVAS

BIRDING LEO CARRILLO
Thursday, October 5 — 8 a.m.
Join us as we walk the trails and explore inside Leo Carrillo Ranch Historic Park.
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 Escuela). Trail parking is available in the lot to the right (west) of the school parking lot.
Leaders: Joan Herskowitz, Eve Martin, Patti Koger, and Jane Mygatt (jmherskowitz@yahoo.com, janemygatt@me.com)

WHelan LAKE Bird Sanctuary walk
Saturday, October 7 — 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)

AGuA HEDIONDA, CARLSBAD
Sunday, October 8 — 7:30 a.m.
Steve and friends will explore areas around Agua Hedionda to look for gulls, terns, shorebirds, and raptors. We may venture to some nearby localities depending on available time and what Steve finds on his peregrinations!
Location: Meet at the south end of Bayshore Drive in Carlsbad, at Carlsbad Dog Beach. Look for the folks with binoculars!
Leader: Steve Brad (760-633-1639) stevanbrad@gmail.com

NEW!
EL CORAZON Garrison CREEK Bird walk
Wednesday, October 11 — 7:30 a.m.
BVAS’s Denise Riddle is leading a bird walk for the Friends of El Corazon. Join us for a 2-mile walk along Garrison Creek Trailhead on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. In addition, BVAS’s Joan Bockman will share her knowledge of the local flora and the history of El Corazon. Should be fun!
Directions: Turn into the El Corazon gate west of El Camino Real on Oceanside Blvd. Watch for trucks and veer to the left for ample parking.
Leader: Denise Riddle (driddle1855@att.net)

STEVE’S SURPRISE Thursday walk
Thursday, October 12 — 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, October 21 — 8:30 a.m.
We’ll be looking for the many waterfowl and shorebirds that come to spend the winter at North County’s coastal wetlands.
Location: San Andres Drive— From I-5, take Via de la Valle east; go right on San Andres Drive to the end of the road.
Leader: John Haddock (760-941-7824)

COASTAL 101 BIRDING
Saturday, October 28 — 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

LOONS IN FLIGHT-
Loons in flight can be a challenge to identify, especially in non-breeding plumage. Here is a brief look at the key features to differentiate the three common loon species in our area.

Red-throated loon— Small and narrow, flies with its head lower than back. Winter plumage is a mostly white face and neck.

Slender and small-billed. Flies with its head lower than back. Winter plumage with a mostly white face and neck.

Common loon— Large, long-bodied, heavy-billed, with thick necks and thick bills. Winter plumage dull. Broken collar in every plumage. Giant feet that extend beyond the tail in flight.

Pacific loon— Sharply contrasting straight border on neck; most abundant loon on the ocean.

Save the date!
The Oceanside Christmas Bird Count will be held on December 23, 2017.
Gather Ye Seeds...
Excerpt from California Native Plant Society

At first glance, not much appears to be happening in the native garden in late summer. Aside from the blooms of California fuschsia, goldenrod, and perhaps a clarkia or two, most plants have finished up their show and appear to be in stasis, lying dormant in anticipation of the fall rains.

Your garden is not as dormant as it appears.

Most of those plants that have finished up their spring show are quietly producing as many seeds as their stores of water and nutrients can muster. It’s this time of year when a gardener has the opportunity to harvest some of that bounty to populate their (or their neighbor’s) garden the following year.

Every plant has its own time table for when its seeds are ripe. Depending on the type of plant and the type of fruit produced, there are varying signs to look for to tell if the seed is ready to be harvested.

Whatever the seeding plant, you want to go about this addictive process the right way. Fortunately, help is a click away. Visit the California Native Plant Society website for tips, cautions, and next steps — all written clearly and carefully illustrated. It’s a new kind of recipe. Go to CNPS.org and search California Native Propagation.

GOING BATTY!
Join local celebrities at the BVAS Nature Center to celebrate bats and healthy, bat-pollinated foods!

Author/illustrator Janell Cannon teams up with Chef Amanda, creator of The Good Food Factory (a children’s healthy cooking show) for the second year in a row. The bat event will take place on Saturday, October 28, starting promptly at 1:00 and ending at 3:00.

Janell will read Stellaluna, after which Amanda will teach the young ones how to create a snack from foods that have been pollinated by BATS!

All kids ages 5 and older are invited to participate in this event. Tickets must be purchased ahead of time for $2.00 per child. There is a limit of 40 kids, so sign up now at the nature center, or contact Kelly at bvlagoon@gmail.com.

See www.bvaudubon.org/events/ for more details.

BVAS NATIVE PLANT CLUB
Every Monday morning at 10 a.m., 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 more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe about us, the less taste we shall have for destruction.”
— Rachel Carson
Release Your Inner Artist

Artist Linda Luisi is again offering a free series of art classes at the Nature Center. Summer participants raved about the experience creating landscapes inspired by Buena Vista’s new land acquisition near Whelan Lake.

Classes are scheduled from 7-8:00 p.m. on October 19, November 16, and December 21. To enroll or for further details, contact Linda at LindaLuisi.com.

BVAS OFFICERS, BOARD*, AND CHAIRS

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Enjoy the Lagoon Flyer in color! Reading the electronic copy of the newsletter is not only easier on the eyes but will save the center $10 a year.

Please consider changing. Contact Janice Osborne with your name and email address to switch today.

bvaudubon@sbcglobal.net

KIDS’ CORNER AT THE NATURE CENTER

Joey and Johnny’s Clubhouse
Sun., Oct. 15, from 1-4 p.m. This month we will learn about different types of owls and make an owl craft.

Did you know that there are over 200 species of owls?

Preschool Nature Storytime
Mon. Oct. 23, at 10 a.m. Bring your little ones to our monthly program that gently introduces them to the wonders of nature. This month we will do bat activities. Questions? Call Sally at 760-525-2351.
BVAS QUICK CALENDAR

Mon. Oct. 2  Garden Club  10 a.m.
Thurs. Oct. 5  Birding Leo Carrillo Ranch  8 a.m.
Fri. Oct. 6  Nature Guides Meeting  10 a.m.
Sat. Oct. 7  Whelan Lake Bird Sanctuary Walk  8 a.m.
Sun. Oct. 8  Agua Hedionda, Carlsbad  7:30 a.m.
Mon. Oct. 9  Garden Club  10 a.m.
Wed. Oct. 11  NEW! El Corazon Garrison Creek Walk  7:30 a.m.
Thurs. Oct. 12  Steve’s Surprise Thursday Walk  8 a.m.
Sun. Oct. 15  Joey & Johnny’s Clubhouse  1 p.m.
Mon. Oct. 16  Garden Club  10 a.m.
Wed. Oct. 18  General Meeting  6:30 p.m.

Program: “Roar of the Monarch Butterfly”

Fri. Oct. 20  Board Meeting  9 a.m.
Sat. Oct. 21  San Dieguito River Park Bird Walk  8:30 a.m.
Mon. Oct. 23  Preschool Nature Storytime  10 a.m.
Mon. Oct. 23  Garden Club  10 a.m.
Sat. Oct. 28  Coastal 101 Birding  9 a.m.
Sat. Oct. 28  Bat Event for Kids  1 p.m.
Mon. Oct. 30  Garden Club  10 a.m.

Buena Vista Audubon
A Chapter of the National Audubon Society
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Art by Lorraine Kilmer
Photo by Herb Knuffman

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