Imagine a world without birdsong. The Messenger is riveting, emotionally engaging, and visually extravagant from the first frame to the last. This is a must-see movie for anybody who values the natural world or wonders about its relationship to humans.
—John Fitzpatrick, Executive Director, Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Su Rynard’s documentary The Messenger explores our deep-seated connection to birds and warns that the uncertain fate of songbirds might mirror our own. Moving from the northern reaches of the Boreal Forest to the base of Mount Ararat in Turkey to the streets of New York, The Messenger brings us face to face with a remarkable variety of human-made perils that have devastated thrushes, warblers, orioles, tanagers, grosbeaks, and many other airborne music-makers. The Messenger is the story of the mass depletion of songbirds on multiple continents and of those who are working to turn the tide.

In ancient times, humans looked to the flight and songs of birds to protect the future. Today once again, birds have something to tell us.

Wednesday, June 20, 2018
Social: 6:30 p.m.  Program: 7:00
Learning from the Past
Fighting for the Future

In the early 1800s, the Passenger Pigeon held the distinction of the most abundant land bird in North America—perhaps in the world—with an estimated population of 3-5 billion individuals. Fast-forward fewer than 60 years and the last known Passenger Pigeon has died in captivity. The species is extinct. It has fallen victim not only to naturally occurring boom-and-bust reproduction cycles but also unregulated hunting of non-game birds and a general norm of overuse of natural resources of all kinds.

A century ago, all birds faced trouble. Egg collecting had grown into a popular hobby. Ornithologists targeted (read “killed”) rare birds to add to their collections. Snowy Egrets and Barn Swallows were hunted almost to extinction because their long, beautiful feathers made lovely adornments for ladies’ hats. Trumpeter Swans gave their lives not just for the millinery business but also for powder puffs (their skins) and prized writing quills (their flight feathers).

In 1916, in response to such concerns, politicians and advocacy groups (including the National Audubon Society) crafted an agreement to cooperatively manage and protect birds that migrate internationally—the first Migratory Bird Treaty. In July, 1918, the U.S. Congress passed the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), codifying this treaty into law. The U.S. later signed similar treaties with Mexico (1936), Japan (1972), and Russia (1976).

Thankfully, it’s more fashionable these days to watch birds than to wear them. Terrible as it was, the indiscriminate slaughter of birds led to one of the U.S.’s earliest and most important environmental laws. Stated most simply, the MBTA protects birds from people: “...it is unlawful to pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill, possess, sell, purchase, barter, import, export, or transport any migratory bird, or any part, nest, or egg or any such bird, unless authorized under a permit issued by the Secretary of the Interior.” More than 1,000 species currently enjoy protections under the MBTA.

Now, on the eve of the MBTA’s 100th anniversary, the law itself faces new, serious threats. In this era of decreasing regulations on industries and heightened threats to wildlife of all kinds, keep the contact information of your Senators and Representative close at hand. Use it early and often. And never, never forget the cautionary tale of the Passenger Pigeon.

(For a longer version of this piece, visit bvaudubon.org and click on News/Newsletter.)

Buena Vista Lagoon Nature Camp 2018

This camp focuses on outdoor education and conservation. Campers will have fun learning about local animals and the watershed. Daily activities will include walks, games, art, and music. Various speakers will share their expertise. Register now at Buena Vista Audubon Nature Center.

Dates: July 16 - 20
Time: 9:00-12:00
Ages: 6 - 8 years
Class size: 15 children
Cost: $100

Stop industries from getting a free pass to kill birds. Go to audubon.org and find “Defend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.” Click on “Take Action.”
**WHELAN LAKE BIRD SANCTUARY WALK**

Saturday, June 2, July 7, August 4 — 8 a.m.

Join John and friends for our regular monthly walk and bird survey at this beautiful sanctuary for resident and migratory birds. Whelan Lake is always a favorite place to enjoy a morning of 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. For more information, contact John.

**Leader:** John Haddock (760-941-7824)

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**BIRDING LEO CARRILLO**

Thursday, June 7, July 5, August 2 — 8 a.m.

We will be walking the trails and exploring inside Leo Carrillo Ranch Historic Park. Don’t miss this fun walk!

**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:** Eve Martin, Patti Koger, Chris K. Smith, and Jane Mygart (janemygatt@me.com)

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**EL CORAZON GARRISON CREEK BIRD WALK**

Wednesday, June 13, July 11, August 8 — 7:30 a.m.

Join Denise for a walk along El Corazon’s Garrison Creek Trail. In addition, Joan Bockman will share her knowledge of the local flora and the history of El Corazon. Should be fun!

**Directions:** From the intersection of El Camino Real and Oceanside Blvd., go east on Oceanside Blvd., turn left (north) into the first gate. Veer to the left and park.

**Leader:** Denise Riddle (driddle1855@att.net)

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**STEVE’S SURPRISE THURSDAY WALK**

Steve’s second Thursday walks are cancelled for the summer. Steve may offer an impromptu second Thursday walk in June, depending on what birds are being seen around town. Steve will contact those on his notification list. If you’d like to be included on his list, contact Steve.

**Leader:** Steve Brad (stevanbrad@gmail.com)

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**NEW THIS FALL**

**STEVE’S SURPRISE SUNDAY WALK**

Starting in September, Steve’s Sunday walks will be similar to his “SURPRISE THURSDAY” walks. Where will we go? We won’t know until Steve decides a few days before the event. But it certainly will be fun chasing local rarities together!

Contact Steve if you’d like to be included on his email list.

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

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**COASTAL 101 BIRDING**

Tom Troy will also take a much-needed break from leading the BVAS Coastal 101 Birding walk and census. Therefore, there will be no walks for the months of June, July, and August.

The schedule will resume in September!

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**PELAGIC TRIPS!**

June 10 (7 a.m. – 6 p.m.)

August 19 (7 a.m. – 7 p.m.)

See sandiegopelagics.com for trip details and information about how to make a reservation.
We’ve Come a Long Way!

As summer begins, it's time to reflect on the past year. It always amazes me what Buena Vista Audubon has accomplished. Just a year ago, we became the proud owners of the Andy Mauro Preserve. Following this exciting event, we began the process of creating a plan for restoring this land to native habitat for threatened bird species. The U.S. Marine Corps is our partner in this project.

Our birding program continues to thrive, with new bird walks that explore diverse habitats throughout the county. Drawn in by our team of dedicated leaders, the community is participating at record levels. The BVAS-hosted Christmas Bird Count was another big success. Steve Brad’s spring birdathon brought in record donations. Evening informational programs took members around the county and around the world.

Through storytelling, crafts, and nature education, our volunteers and guides continue to enrich the lives of local children. For over two decades, students have visited our center and walked our trails. Every so often I run into young adults who remember visiting the nature center through one of these classes and are now bringing their own kids. Because schools have limited field trip budgets, BVAS has initiated a bus voucher program to help cover costs. Another school program, Sharing our Shores, has entered its third year. If you visit South Ponto and South Cardiff State Beaches, you can see the posters our young participants have made to help educate the public about protecting vulnerable shorebirds.

Special events continue to bring the community together in our celebration of nature. Our annual Endangered Species Day is a children’s event that combines fun with learning. Children’s author, Janell Cannon, and TV’s Chef Amanda hosted last fall’s bat appreciation program, enchanting a full house of kids and parents. The annual Birdhouse Auction once again brought in critical funds to support our nature center and provided the setting for a joyful community gathering.

We addressed needed repairs: replacing the north-facing wall, fixing the back walkway to improve drainage, and re-finishing the hallway floor. Under the guidance of Studio Ace, local children painted the hallway with wildlife-themed art. In addition to maintaining our own native garden, the plant club has been helping elementary schools create and nurture gardens of their own.

We achieved a major fundraising goal, raising $500,000 for our Nature Fund Endowment, established by benefactors Brian Malk and Nancy Heitel just over two years ago. Thanks to all of you, Buena Vista raised $166,667 towards this effort, and Brian and Nancy matched this with $333,334. Continuing on their generous fundraising path, Brian and Nancy initiated the Malk Nature Fund last year, geared to provide annual support to BVAS and other non-profit conservation groups in North County.

Last November, we hired Megan Marshall to help manage the Mauro Preserve, and the Wetlands Reserve (our property across the street from the nature center); she will assist in other nature center-related activities. Like Center Manager Annette Schneider, Megan has an inexhaustible level of enthusiasm for all the work we send her way.

What is ahead? We are in the process of planning and implementing exciting projects that have been on our wish list for some time: a boardwalk for our trail, new or repaired viewing docks, an interactive watershed table, plant signage, and a Master Plan to help guide the future of our exhibits and nature center. We look forward to another exciting year.

— Natalie Shapiro, Board President
Tips From the Plant Lady

It’s been a dry year and summer is upon us. There is still time to plant buckwheat and goldenbush, both of which thrive in our climate. The goldenbush bloom when all hope of water is lost! The buckwheat go from a lovely white, red, or yellow to a reddish-brown dried arrangement. It all carries the day in the fall.

To Remember, Honor, and Celebrate

Buena Vista Audubon would like to acknowledge gifts given over the last year in memory of

Karen Hutchinson Patricia M. Cook
Lucile Davis David Rorick
Phyler Kugamon Joyce Israel
Tom DeCino Petey Tade

in honor of Norman Zoll’s 90th birthday,
and to commemorate Brian Malk’s new office in the name of Malk’s Partners.

We are touched and honored by the generosity of the friends and families making these donations.

KIDS’ CORNER AT THE NATURE CENTER

Joey and Johnny’s Clubhouse
Sunday, June 17, from 1-4 p.m.

Kids and parents are invited to participate each month. In June, join us for Father’s Day. We’ll create nature-inspired Father’s Day cards. The clubhouse will continue in the summer on July 15 and August 19.

Preschool Nature Storytime
Monday, June 25, at 10 a.m.

Bring your little ones (ages 3-5 years) to our monthly program. The focus for June will be frogs. Storytime will continue in the summer on July 23 and August 27.

Questions? Call Sally at 760-525-2351.
**BVAS QUICK CALENDAR**

- **Fri. June 1**  Nature Guides Meeting: 10 a.m.
- **Sat. June 2**  Whelan Lake Bird Sanctuary: 8 a.m.
  (also July 7 & Aug. 4)
- **Mon. June 4**  Garden Club: 10 a.m.
  (Every Mon. through summer)
- **Thurs. June 7**  Birding Leo Carrillo: 8 a.m.
  (also July 5 & Aug. 2)
- **Sun. June 10**  Pelagic Trip: 7 a.m.
  (also Aug. 19)
- **Sun. June 10**  Palomar Mt. State Park: 8 a.m.
- **Wed. June 13**  El Corazon Garrison Creek: 7:30 a.m.
  (Also July 11 & Aug. 8)
- **Fri. June 15**  Board Meeting: 9 a.m.
  (also July 20 & Aug. 17)
- **Sun. June 17**  Joey & Johnny’s Clubhouse: 1 p.m.
  (also July 15 & Aug. 19)
- **Wed. June 20**  General Meeting: 6:30 p.m.
  Movie: “The Messenger”
- **Thurs. June 21**  Art Workshop (adults): 7 p.m.
  (also Aug. 16)
- **Mon. June 25**  Preschool Nature Storytime: 10 a.m.
  (also July 23 & Aug. 27)
- **Mon. July 16**  BVAS Nature Camp begins: 9 a.m.
- **Mon. Aug. 6**  Zovargo Nature Camp begins: 9 a.m.

* Must be signed up ahead of time.

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**Buena Vista Audubon**
A Chapter of the National Audubon Society
2202 S. Coast Highway
P.O. Box 480
Oceanside, CA 92049

Election Day is Tuesday, June 5
BVAS urges voters to support conservation when they go to the polls.

**Center Hours**
Sunday: 1 - 4 p.m.
Monday: CLOSED
Tuesday - Saturday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
FREE Art WORKSHOPS (ADULTS)
ALL LEVELS: BEGINNERS WELCOME

with www.LindaLuisi.com
MURALIST AND FINE ART INSTRUCTOR
No prior skills needed. Come and enjoy!

WHERE:
At the Buena Vista Audubon Society Nature Center

DATES: Th. 7-8pm
1. June 21
2. None in July
3. Aug. 16

BRING:
Paper, pencils, color pencils, pastels, or watercolors.

Linda Luisi is a muralist & fine art instructor. Her work is known for depth & dimension. She teaches with enthusiasm for all levels: beginners to advanced.

www.LindaLuisi.com

Paintings and Murals by Linda

Space is limited. Sign up at the Nature Center or call: 760-439-2473

*Questions? Feel free to contact Linda: 760.944.8991 Linda@LindaLuisi.com
www.LindaLuisi.com