

# Lagoon Flyer

B u e n a V i s t a A u d u b o n S o c i e t y



Jón Baldur Hlíðberg

Wednesday, October 19

## BATS!

with Cindy Meyers

7 p.m. Social—7:30 p.m. Program

October and Halloween mark the season that celebrates our creatures of the night, so it's no accident that bats are featured in this month's program. But we're not out to scare you. In fact, we want to dispel a few myths and some unfounded fears you might have about these often maligned creatures. Bats, after all, are heralded as a critical component of our ecosystem. Why are they so important?

Project Wildlife, San Diego's primary resource for wildlife rehabilitation and education, has been caring for wildlife since 1972. Each year it takes in more than 10,000 animals representing more than 320 different species. Cindy Myers is a Project Wildlife volunteer and bat rehabilitation team



Cindy Meyers holds a Mexican free-tailed bat in her gloved hand at a recent demonstration.

member who has worked with bats for more than nine years. Cindy will bring two live bats for her program: Dobby, a Big Brown Bat, and Chuck, a Mexican Free-tailed Bat. Cindy will talk about the ecological importance of bats, where bats can be found in San Diego, issues currently affecting bat populations, and what to do if you find an injured bat. She has the answer to every bat question. Come join us and find out what's so neat about bats!

October 1 — 4-7 p.m.

## Come Shake A Tail Feather!

with



**Sue Palmer**

*"The Queen of Boogie Woogie"*

with the Sue Palmer Trio

A Benefit Concert to Support the Nature Center



\*Hosted beer and wine bar

\*Gourmet taco bar

\*Hors d'Oeuvres

\*Door prizes

\$25 Donation

Sponsored by:



## Preschool Nature Storytime

Monday, October 24, 10 a.m.—

It's all about bats this month! Soft and furry, sort of cute if you look at them the right way, bats work hard at night to help control our mosquitoes. A certain bat is also the featured hero of a popular children's book written right here in Carlsbad. Come join us on the 4th Monday, October 24, for some batty stories, crafts, and songs. If you have any questions about Nature Storytime, please contact Mary Ellen at 760-918-6622.



News from the Field

## The Bluebird Diaries

By Marty Marino

*Notes from an early summer day of tending the bluebird trail at the Encinitas Ranch Golf Course:*

**Friday, June 10, 2011**—I was getting ready to leave the golf course after checking my final nest box at an area near the rear lake. Earlier that day I had checked another nest box located in a tree about 400 feet across the fairway. Suddenly, a male bluebird popped up within a few feet of

*Editor's Note—Marty Marino is an active participant in the bluebird recovery project in North County. His first "Bluebird Diaries" article appeared in the May, 2011 edition of the Lagoon Flyer.*

me, perched on a sprinkler head. As I gave him a casual greeting, he flew up and hovered in front of me. Then, while still hovering in the air, he moved a few feet off in the direction of that tree across the fairway. Soon he was joined by his mate, both birds looking directly at me as if to make sure they had my attention. They moved slowly off, leading me across the fairway with their short back and forth flight movements. I cautiously followed,

watching out for any flying golf balls. It was apparent they had noticed me carrying the small container of mealworms I often have with me on the bluebird trails. As I approached the nest box tree, I realized that bluebird chicks still in the nest box, as well as the six young fledglings perched in the tree, were all hungry and hopeful that their parents might have found them another serving of mealworms. I was amazed how those two bluebird parents had recognized me at a distance, and how they were able to

figure out how to guide me to their tree. This incident reminded me how the Disney people show birds and other creatures doing thoughtful things in their animated stories.

A few days later, this same family of



bluebirds was on the ground, feeding. I was just a few feet away, watching, when suddenly they froze, looking far in the distant sky at a small moving speck. Within seconds the parents and fledglings disappeared into their tree. All the bluebirds had become utterly quiet, even the unfledged chicks still in the nest box. A Cooper's hawk came swooping out of the sky and into the middle of the bluebird tree like a jet fighter, its wings folded in tightly. The hawk completely ignored my presence. Even my waving of arms and yelling didn't seem to bother it at all. It had seen the bluebird family disappear into that tree and was hoping to soon have a meal. I picked up a tennis ball that happened to be lying on the ground nearby. After I threw it a couple of times at the hawk, it finally was distracted enough to leave. I have a particular affinity for this family of bluebirds. It was their nest and first set of six beautiful turquoise-colored eggs that were pictured in the May, 2011 edition of the *Lagoon Flyer*.

The bluebirds are keeping me busy for now, but I am also getting very interested in the barn owl nest box projects here in the North County. Barn owls play a very important and amazing role in our natural world. Best to all!

Updates on Local Issues

## Conservation Matters

**El Corazon**—At a September hearing, the Oceanside City Council unanimously approved Sudberry Properties as the developer for El Corazon, the 450-acre regional park planned for the "heart of Oceanside". The vote supported earlier recommendations from the planning commission, the El Corazon citizens' planning committee, and other community groups and stakeholders, including BVAS. The Sudberry proposal will provide enough soccer fields to host major tournaments within the next year. The soccer tournaments are seen as a means to raise the funds needed to support future development of the park. The developer will be working with partners to also develop the commercial areas envisioned in the park plan, another critical component in the overall financial plan for park development and maintenance. Good news for Oceanside.



El Corazon

### Dumps, Gravel Mines, and Quarry Reclamation—

Following the progress of three somewhat similar North County projects as they work their way through the permitting process can be confusing. Here's the latest:

**Gregory Canyon**—Both houses of the state legislature have passed a bill which would prohibit landfills within 1,000 feet of a river (i.e. the San Luis Rey). The bill is now on the governor's desk. His signature dooms the project.

**Liberty Quarry**—The Riverside Planning Commission dealt this project a blow in September by denying a surface mining permit. This sand and gravel mine would significantly impact the adjacent Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve. Proponents plan to appeal to Board of Supervisors.

**Hanson Quarry Reclamation**—The reclamation project along Buena Vista Creek is now underway, and the design reflects some decent accommodations for environmental concerns. Carlsbad is responsible for the portion of the site slated for development, however, and the Council appears receptive to a dense 500-home development plan.

**October Birding Schedule—Join Us!**

**Whelan Lake Monthly Bird Count**

**with John Haddock**  
**Saturday, October 1—8 a.m.**

Whelan Lake is a bird reserve with a freshwater lake, riparian-edge habitat, grass-covered hillsides, and an oak grove. The varied habitat results in a nice assortment of bird species in all seasons, and can be good for interesting sightings during fall and spring migration. **Directions:** I-5 to Hwy. 76 East, left at Douglas and continue to light at North River Rd., left on North River Rd. Meet at the cul-de-sac at the end of the road by the entrance gate.



Leader: John Haddock, 760-941-7824.

**Buena Vista Lagoon Bird Count**

**with Joan Fountain**  
**Saturday, October 29—8 a.m.**



Join the regular monthly bird survey team and get to know the Buena Vista Lagoon. Have the satisfaction of contributing to the ongoing bird database and gaining a better knowledge of the birds of our lagoon. We always record a nice assortment of freshwater wetland and marsh species on this easy-paced excursion. **Directions:** I-5 to I-78 East, take Jefferson St. exit, turn right and make another right turn onto Lagoon View Dr. Park along road at cul-de-sac. Leader: Joan Fountain, 760-729-1379.

**Basic Birding Class at the Buena Vista Lagoon Landing**

**with Tom Troy**  
**Saturday, October 29—8:30 a.m.**



Is this the year that you become a birder? Novice birders are invited to join our monthly classes for some informal, no-pressure birding. We'll share friendly tips and help you build your bird identification skills.

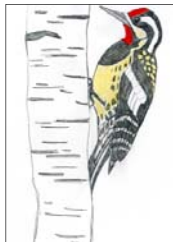
**Directions:** I-5 to I-78 East. From I-78, take Jefferson St. exit and turn right. At the light on Jefferson St. turn right again. Make an immediate right turn into the BVL Landing parking lot. Leader: Tom Troy, 760-420-7328.

Featured  
 Bird Walk

**Lake Guajome**

**with Steve Brad**  
**Sunday, October 9, 8 a.m.**

Guajome County Park features a lake, freshwater marsh, riparian woodlands, tall eucalyptus trees, and landscaped parklands. The varied habitats are easily traversed in a 2-hour walk and provide excellent opportunities for an extensive bird list. The park is known for attracting sapsuckers, exciting warblers, sparrows, and other unusual over-wintering species.



Depending on time and interest, we may also check out the nearby San Luis Rey River bike trail. **Directions:** From I-5, take Hwy. 76 East 7.5 miles to Guajome Lake Rd. Turn right and proceed about a quarter mile to the overnight campers entrance to the Park. Park along Guajome Lake Rd. near the campers entrance. We'll meet at the entrance at 8 a.m.

Leader: Steve Brad, 760-633-1639; [stevebrad1@earthlink.net](mailto:stevebrad1@earthlink.net).

**Wildlife Extraction**

Wildlife Extraction is a service provided by Project Wildlife to assist in the humane removal of unwanted wildlife from around the home. Call 619-692-WILD, or visit: [www.WildlifeExtraction.com](http://www.WildlifeExtraction.com).



**Pelagic Birding in October**

**Craveri's Express: October 8** This all-day trip will depart from the docks at 6 a.m. and return by 7 p.m. It will stay in San Diego County waters, visiting the Nine-mile and Thirty-mile Banks. Target species include Craveri's murrelet, brown boobies, four different storm-petrel species, skua, three different jaegers, flesh-footed shearwater, and black-footed albatross. Cost: \$115. Reserve by Sept. 17 for early-bird discount of \$26.



**Oops! Too Late. Oct. 8 Trip is SOLD OUT!**

**Petrel & Rare Seabird Deep Water Weekend: October 15-17**

This 56-hour trip will depart from the docks on Saturday at 6 a.m., and return on Monday at 3 p.m. The trip will head out to deep water in search of species seldom seen by landlocked birders. In addition to the species listed for the Oct. 8 pelagic trip, we'll be looking for Cook's, mottled, and Stejnager's petrels, five different storm-petrels, and red-billed tropicbirds, with other rarities always possible. Cost: \$325. Reserve by Sept. 15 for the early-bird discount of \$30.



**For reservations, call Point Loma Sportfishing** at 619-223-1627, and let them know you'd like a spot on one of the October pelagic birding trips on board the *Grande*. For details about pelagic birding trips throughout the year, as well as photos, trip lists, and tips, go to: [www.socalbirding.com](http://www.socalbirding.com).

# BVAS Receives Donation of Bird and Bat Boxes from Navy

By Christy Wolf, Conservation Program Manager (FNWS)

Last month Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach Detachment Fallbrook (also known as the Fallbrook Naval Weapons Station) donated eight bat boxes and 13 bird boxes to BVAS to provide supplementary nesting cavities and roosting sites for native species. The weapons station detachment, which shares three boundaries with Camp Pendleton and is nestled ten miles inland in northern San Diego County, is comprised of nearly 9,000 acres of largely undeveloped open space and provides habitat for an estimated five bat species and as many as 182 migratory and non-migratory bird species, including two endangered, one threatened, and 20 species considered sensitive by the U.S.

A big "Thank You" to the volunteers who made 21 hand-built bird and bat boxes, and to the Navy for donating them to BVAS last month. The board is working on several ideas to get them distributed and into use by Spring.

Fish and Wildlife Service or California Department of Fish and Game. Due partly to its limited public access, many people do not realize the base's size and relative importance in the regional landscape for providing habitat refugia, linkages, and movement corridors for local species.



Cub Scouts Nathan Strebe, left, and Bryan Gurr from Pack 703 in Cardiff-by-the-Sea assemble bat boxes during 2010 Fallbrook Naval Weapons Station's National Public Lands Day event. —Official U. S. Navy Image

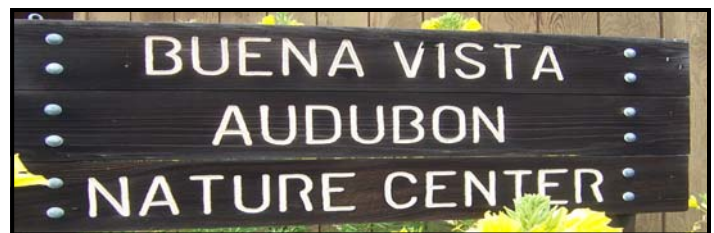
Environmental outreach events hosted by the base provide a rich opportunity for volunteers to learn about native flora and fauna, natural resources management on the installation, and the importance of environmental stewardship.

The bird and bat boxes donated to BVAS were built by volunteers during the base's 2010 National Public Lands Day (NPLD) event. Participants at that event included Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, teen members of the Lion's Heart Group, and several other students and adults from the surrounding communities.

To celebrate NPLD this year, the base will host a habitat enhancement event that is scheduled to occur on Saturday, October 1. For more about this and other NPLD events in your area, visit [www.publiclandsday.org](http://www.publiclandsday.org).

## BVAS OFFICERS, BOARD\*, AND CHAIRS

President	Dave Billings*	760-753-7925
Vice-President	Dennis Huckabay*	760-757-6437
Secretary	Kathy Billings*	760-753-7925
Treasurer	Sandy McMullen*	760-944-5690
Audubon Adventures	Ruth Gransbery	760-729-2240
Center Manager	Annette Schneider	760-945-8891
Christmas Bird Count	Terry Hunefeld*	760-908-3453
Conservation Co-Chair	Danny DiMento*	858-688-6891
Conservation Co-Chair	Joan Herskowitz*	760-942-5167
Circulation	Lisa Hart	760-945-9601
Education Co-Chair	Ellen Kindsvater	760-433-8097
E-mail: <a href="mailto:ekindsvater1@gmail.com">ekindsvater1@gmail.com</a> .		
Education Co-Chair	Carol Riker	760-599-0868
Facilities/Exhibits	Danny DiMento*	858-688-6891
Field Trips	Andy Brumbaugh	760-434-3334
Field Trip Leader	Steve Brad*	760-633-1639
Gift Shop	Rosalyn Dong	760-806-1430
Library	C. J. DiMento	760-231-9096
Membership	Harvey Hart*	760-945-9601
Native Plant Club	Joan Bockman*	760-433-9401
Native Plant Garden	Joan Bockman*	760-433-9401
Nature Storytime	Mary Ellen Marquand	760-918-6622
Newsletter Editor	Andy Mauro* E-mail: <a href="mailto:akamauro@cox.net">akamauro@cox.net</a>	
Pelagic Birding	Terry Hunefeld*	760-908-3453
Programs	Dennis Huckabay*	760-757-6437
Publicity	Kelly Deveney*	760-721-2441
Ruddy Duck Club	Kelly Deveney*	760-721-2441
Volunteers	Bob Crowell*	760-207-3884
Webmaster	Larry Spann: E-mail: <a href="mailto:larry@spannweb.net">larry@spannweb.net</a>	



### Location:

2202 South Coast Hwy.  
Oceanside, CA  
(East side of street on north shore of lagoon)

### Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 480  
Oceanside, CA  
92049-0480  
**Phone:** 760-439-2473

### Hours:

Tuesday-Saturday —  
10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Sunday—1 p.m.-4 p.m.  
**Closed Monday**

### Website:

[www.bvaudubon.org](http://www.bvaudubon.org)  
**E-mail:**  
[bvaudubon@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bvaudubon@sbcglobal.net)  
**Field Trip Hotline:**  
760-688-0660

**FRIENDS OF BUENA VISTA AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

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. The BVAS Nature Center and its educational programs will receive 100% of my contribution. Minimum donation suggested: \$25.

I would like to donate \$ 25 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$ 100 \_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_  Send me info about the BVAS Legacy program.: \_\_\_

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\*Send me my newsletter by e-mail.

**Create A Lasting Legacy**

Join many of our founding members and make BVAS a part of your estate plan. Your legacy gift goes directly to the Endowment Fund, providing lasting support for our Nature Center. Please call Dennis Huckabay at 760-757-6437 for more info.

Please bill my credit card:

Card # \_\_\_\_\_  
CRN \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Buena Vista Native Plant Club**

**Sunday, October 16, 2 p.m.**—The Buena Vista Native Plant Club meets at the Nature Center at 2 p.m. on the third Sunday of the month. Everyone's welcome, regardless of their native plant knowledge or gardening expertise. Club members answer questions and help solve your gardening issues, as well as offer tips for native gardening activities appropriate for the season. And there's always an opportunity to get a little "hands-on" experience among the native plants in the demonstration gardens or along the trails at the BVAS Nature Center. More info at [www.bvaudubon.org](http://www.bvaudubon.org).

**Invasive Plant Alert**—It's late summer now, time for sunny days without any rain. Aside from the occasional spritz, we know it isn't supposed to rain in Southern California from April to October. That's just fine for our native plants. They have been blooming all spring and early summer, and will now start to go dormant to escape the late summer heat.

Non-native plants, however, can become a problem at this time of year. While many introduced plants are beautiful, their ability to survive and spread during our rainless months can be deadly to our canyons and wildlands. And in our yards and public spaces, many non-native landscape plants receive irrigation to keep them green during late summer, increasing their chances of spreading and crowding out our natives. If you have a plant that self-sows but is not native, please consider replacing it. Check out the BVAS website or come by the Nature Center for our free brochure listing common landscape plants that can become invasive pests, with great suggestions for more eco-friendly alternatives.

If you want more information, stop by the next Native Plant Club meeting, or join one of our garden work parties at the Nature Center every Monday morning at 9 a.m.

—J.B.



**Saltbush—Worth a Look**

Saltbush is an often overlooked native plant. This gray green shrub is leafy on the outside and a tangle of stems on the inside. At one school garden, this plant is called the "Bird McDonalds" because it offers French fries (seeds), Chicken McNuggets (insects), and a cool place to hang out. Birds don't seem to nest in saltbush but they do visit in droves. While saltbush



*A mature saltbush can make a cool hangout for all sorts of wildlife.*

(*Atriplex lentiformis*) is easy to prune, it does grow fast and can get very large. Some plants are kept as a small dense hedge, but if the maintenance is not done it can grow to 15 feet on every side. Another selling point for this plant, however, is that it pulls salt out of the soil. As a result, saltbush has a high resistance to fire. While no plant is completely fireproof, this is a better choice than most.

—Joan Bockman

*California Native Plant Society*

**Fall Native Plant Sale**

**Saturday, October 15**

Balboa Park, San Diego

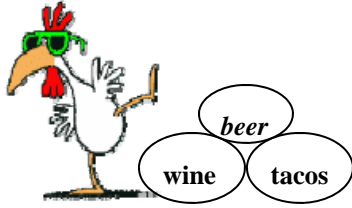
Casa del Prado Theater Courtyard

11 a.m.—3 p.m.

**Why Native Plants?**

Attract birds and butterflies, save water, and preserve San Diego's natural heritage!

*The Queen of Boogie Woogie!*



# Sue Palmer

with the Sue Palmer Trio

Saturday, October 1, 4—7 p.m.

*Benefit Concert at the Nature Center!*



## Lagoon Flyer



BUENA VISTA AUDUBON SOCIETY  
P. O. BOX 480  
OCEANSIDE, CA 92049-0480

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### BVAS Quick Calendar

- Fri. Sep. 30—Board Meeting—9 a.m.
- Sat. Oct. 1—Whelan Lake Bird Walk—8 a.m.
- Sat. Oct. 1—**Sue Palmer in Concert**—4-7 p.m.
- Sat. Oct. 8—Pelagic Bird Trip—SOLD OUT!
- Sun. Oct. 9—Lake Guajome Bird Walk—8 a.m.
- Fri.. Oct. 14—Nature Guides Meeting—10 a.m.
- Sat. Oct. 15—Balboa Park Native Plant Sale—11a.m.-3p.m.
- Sat.-Mon. Oct. 15-17—Extended Pelagic Bird Trip
- Sun. Oct. 16—Native Plant Club Meeting—2 p.m.
- Wed. Oct. 19 —General Meeting: **BATS!** —7 p.m.
- Mon. Oct. 24—**Preschool Nature Storytime**—10 a.m.
- Sat. Oct. 29—Buena Vista Lagoon Count—8 a.m.
- Sat. Oct. 29—Basic Birding at B.V. L. Landing—8:30 a.m.

*Printed on Recycled Paper*

*Our Bird of the Month*

## Common Raven



*Common Raven and Maple*

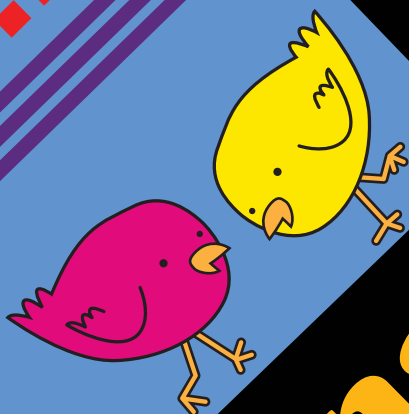
Watercolor by Norman Ryall

<http://www.normanryall.ca/galleryoforiginals.htm>

# FUNDRAISER & OPEN HOUSE

October 1 2011 • 4-7pm

Buena Vista Audubon Society Nature Center  
2202 S. Coast Hwy, Oceanside



# Buena Vista Audubon Society



## COME SHAKE YOUR FEATHERS

to the "Queen of Boogie Woogie"

# SUE PALMER

and her MOTEL SWING BAND

### \$25 Admission Includes:

- Live music from Sue "the Queen of Boogie Woogie" Palmer and her band
  - 5 free raffle tickets for door prizes PLUS:
- Hosted Bar with specialty beer from Stone Brewing Co.
  - Gourmet Taco Bar
- A special selection of wines from Sprouts Markets
- Hors d'oeuvres and other goodies from Jimbo's Naturally
- Specialty salsas from the Sabra Dipping Co.

760-439-2473

[bvaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:bvaudubon@gmail.com)

[www.bvaudubon.org](http://www.bvaudubon.org)



*All proceeds benefit the Buena Vista Audubon Society, a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation dedicated to fostering an appreciation for the plants and animals of our community.*