

Lagoon Flyer



Jón Baldur Hlíöberg

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

September General Meeting

Protecting and Restoring Buena Vista Lagoon

Plans, Progress, and Problems!

Thursday (!), September 27

7 p.m. Social—7:30 p.m. Program

Join us at our September meeting and learn all about the future of the Buena Vista Lagoon.

This special presentation will provide an update on the lagoon restoration plan and its implications for our community's native animal and human residents. A focus of the meeting will be a discussion of lagoon health issues associated with recent Oceanside development proposals. **Come see the premier screening of a special video detailing concerns surrounding the hotel/condo/restaurant project proposed for the edge of the lagoon and now under appeal to the Coastal Commission.** Learn what BVAS, Preserve Calavera, the Friends of Buena Vista Lagoon, and other conservation groups are doing to help protect this special ecological reserve. There will be big changes made at Buena Vista Lagoon in the years ahead. Will our natural heritage be preserved and enhanced as a result of projects now being discussed, or will we and future generations be forced to live with a degraded natural environment that ignores the needs for clean water, clean air, open space, and a place for native plants and animals to thrive? Decisions are still being made, and we still have an opportunity to help shape our future.



The lagoon laps up against this undeveloped land on the border of Oceanside. The Coastal Commission will decide its fate this Fall.



(Photo: Sam Woods)

What was Dennis Huckabay's favorite bird last month? (See page 2).

New this Fall!

General Meetings Moved to Thursday Evenings!

The day of the month for the regular BVAS monthly general meeting has been changed to the fourth Thursday of the month, a change from the traditional Wednesday evening meetings of recent years. The Board has decided to try out the new day of the week in response to requests received from several BVAS members. It was felt that the Thursday night meeting time might prove more convenient for those who find it difficult to attend a middle-of-the-week meeting. It was also felt that moving the meeting a day closer to the weekend might make it easier to occasionally coordinate a weekend bird walk designed to complement the general meeting program of a particular month.

At one of our general meetings coming up this Fall, we plan to explore plans for the natural habitat areas which will be part of **Oceanside's new El Corazon Park**. BVAS will be an active steward at El Corazon, sponsoring regular work parties and guided walks.

Confessions of a Lazy Birder

or

Birding in Venezuela

I admit it: I'm a lazy birder. I've never committed to memorizing bird calls and songs. Among birders, that's the effort that separates the sheep from the goats.

I've always meant to but never have compiled a life list (or monthly, state, county or any other such obsessive list). Instead I have a shoebox full of scribbled scraps of paper accumulated over decades of now and then birding. Over the years many of those lists and notes have gone missing.

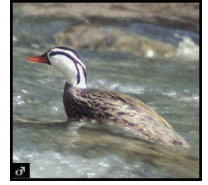
I'm too easily distracted by cheap thrills to be a really serious birder. Give me the gaudy and the flashy, not the olive drab. For every Willow Flycatcher I've seen dozens of Western Tanagers, but if the two were side-by-side I'd focus on the tanager anytime.

Speaking of tanagers, I've just returned from an 18-day trip to Venezuela, where I saw 19 different kinds of tanagers, each of them showy (one tanager I missed was the Superciliated Hemispingus). Venezuela is home to 1,381 bird species. That's 445 more than can be found in all of North America. So many of Venezuela's birds are colorful and showy that it was hard for me to devote much effort to the little brown things like woodcreepers. Before any of you twitchers* summarily dismiss me, I did manage to identify three of Venezuela's 23 different kinds of woodcreepers. I didn't do as well on many of the other little brown jobs: Streamcreepers and Palm-creepers, Treehunters, Foliage-gleaners, Woodhaunters and Leaflossers.

Many of the names of New World tropical birds are almost as intriguing as the birds themselves. Venezuela doesn't just have 103 species of hummingbirds. They are Coquettes, Woodstars (the Gorgeted Woodstar I saw seemed no bigger than a bumblebee), Topazes, Emeralds, Sapphires, Sylphs, Sabrewings and Mangos, among others. Okay you compulsive listers I'll grant you there's pleasure in naming the names!

My best hummingbird and my favorite of all the Venezuelan birds I saw was the Bearded Helmetcrest (See photo on Page 1). I saw a pair in a glaciated paramo (high Andean grassland found above treeline to the upper limits of plant growth) valley at about 12,500 feet. Decidedly dull and dusky, it lacks the glittery iridescence of most hummingbirds, perhaps because at those high altitudes where every night the temperature drops close to or below freezing it's more important to absorb heat rather than reflect it. It has a long pointed black crest, a shaggy, goatlike black and white beard, and a very short beak, only 0.4 inch. (The extraordinary Sword-billed Hummingbird of the Andes has a 4 inch long bill!). Not only does the Helmetcrest not look like other hummers, it doesn't act much like them either. It often walks on the ground, making little bounding leaps into the air for insects.

Another memorable Andean bird was the Torrent Duck, which acts more like a Dipper than a duck. Pairs or families swim and dive expertly in swift, turbulent cold-water streams, using their rubbery rosy red bills to forage for aquatic insects, larvae and mollusks. Bother them and they swim or skitter away up or down the fast-flowing mountain river.



Torrent Duck

Down from the Andes I birded the Coastal Cordillera. There among the toucanets, jacamars, piculets, antbirds and tityras the stars were a gorgeous Golden-headed Manakin and a Handsome Fruiteater, grassy green, yellow and black sitting impassively inside the forest.

Why choose Venezuela, where the government's politics are so at odds with our own? One reason is Venezuela's diverse geography. To the east toward Guyana isolated, steep-sided, flat-topped sandstone mountains called tepuis rise thousands of feet above the surrounding savannas. One of the world's oldest land surfaces, these massive tablelands are two billion-year-old relics of the Precambrian Era. Falling 3,212 feet from one of the largest tepuis is Angel Falls, the highest waterfall in the world. Reaching the falls requires a 25-mile journey by motorized canoe through the fast water and rapids of the Rio Churun, surrounded by dense humid tropical forest and the steep walls of the tepui. In August, at the height of the rainy season dozens of waterfalls each of them higher than Yosemite cascade off the steep walls. Awesome! In the northwest near Colombia the high Andes reach north into Venezuela, in the south toward Colombia and Brazil lie the rain forests of the upper Orinoco, in the heart of the country stretch the vast flat llanos, tropical savanna flooded during the rains, and close to the coast are the rain forests and cloud forests of the coastal Cordillera which reach down to the mangroves and beaches of the Caribbean.

However the main reason for choosing Venezuela was because Danny, son of family friends who grew up with our kids, now lives in Caracas and was marrying a lovely young caraquena. Never have I seen such beautiful women as I saw in Caracas (except of course when I've been alone with my wife!). It's no surprise to me that Venezuelans have been crowned Miss Universe four times and Miss World five times.

Both Danny and I made good choices. For Danny it was Andrea, for me it was a country full of beautiful new tropical birds, friendly, lively people, good food, always ice-cold beer, first-rate travel arrangements and expert birding guides. I want to go back in the dry season, when the drying pools of the llanos host hordes of waders and waterfowl - and capybaras! Want to come with me?

—Dennis Huckabay

* *Oxford English Dictionary*, twitcher: a birdwatcher whose main aim is to collect sightings of rare birds.

September Field Trips

Sat—Sept. 1—8 a.m.—Whelan Lake Monthly Bird Count. Freshwater lake and riparian edge habitat. Directions: I-5 to Hwy. 76. East on Hwy. 76. Turn left at Douglas and continue to light at North River Rd. Turn left and meet at the cul-de-sac at the end of the road by the entrance gate. Leader: John Haddock, 760-941-7824.

Sat—Sept. 8—9 a.m.—San Elijo Lagoon at Rios Trail. Join BVAS members and San Elijo Lagoon docents on the regular monthly nature hike at this ecological reserve featuring tidal mudflats, coastal wetlands, and five other distinct plant and animal communities. Directions: I-5 to Lomas Santa Fe. West to N. Rios Ave. Right to cul-de-sac at end of road. No facilities.

Sat—Sept. 15—8 a.m.—Tijuana Slough NWR. We will begin at South end of Seacoast Dr. and walk south on the beach to the mouth of the Tijuana River, looking for Clapper Rails, Snowy Plovers, possible Pacific Golden Plover, as well as other migrating shore birds. We'll then go to the visitor center and McCoy Trail. Car pooling advised due to limited parking on Seacoast. Meet at Park & Ride at I-5 and La Costa Ave. at 7 a.m. Leader: Steve Brad. Call Andy Brumbaugh for further info., 760-434-3334.

Sat—Sept. 22—8 a.m.—San Elijo Lagoon at Visitor Center. We'll look for shorebirds from the elevated trails on the north side of the lagoon. With migration now in full swing, this is an excellent time for many shorebirds, including large and small species of sandpipers, phalaropes, Red Knots, turnstones, and more. Meet at the Visitor Center on Manchester Ave., one mile west of I-5. Leader: Steve Brad, 760-633-1639.

Sat—Sept. 29—8 a.m.—Buena Vista Lagoon Monthly Bird Count. Freshwater coastal lagoon. Directions: I-5 to 78 East. Exit Jefferson. Turn right and take another immediate right onto Lagoon View Dr. Go to end of road. Leader: Joan Fountain, 760-729-1379.

Sat—Sept. 29—8:30-10:30 a.m.—Basic Birding Class at the Buena Vista Lagoon Landing. Directions: I-5 to Hwy. 78. Exit Jefferson. Turn right and go to stoplight. Turn right and park in Landing parking lot on the right hand side of road. Contact person: Tom Troy, 760-967-6915.

Upcoming—Special Field Trip

Sat—Oct. 20—Orange County. We will be heading up the coast to a couple of Orange County birding hotspots: Huntington Central Park and Bolsa Chica. See October Flyer for details.

*Birders of all skill levels are
always welcome to join us!*

Audubon California's Asilomar Conference—October 7, 8, and 9, 2007

Global Warming and Wildlife

The Audubon California Annual Assembly brings together over 300 chapter leaders, birders, scientists, volunteers, grassroots activists and staff for three days on the Monterey Bay. The 2007 Assembly will examine the problems of global warming from a wildlife and ecosystem perspective and help us understand how global warming should affect our land management decisions. At the Asilomar Conference Grounds in Pacific Grove, participants will have an opportunity to attend a wonderful variety of interactive workshops on restoration, policy and education; and meet renowned speakers emphasizing the importance of effective conservation of California's birds, wildlife and habitat. The schedule includes world-class birding, and pelagic and condor field trips. Hosted by Audubon California. For information and registration forms: <http://www.audubon-ca.org/%20www.VisitAsilomar.com>

Conservation Corner:

California Condor and the Lead Ammo Ban

Today just 279 condors exist, including 70 wild birds in California. Yet, despite millions of dollars and enormous effort, the condor remains imperiled. A leading threat to condor recovery is lead poisoning from ingestion of ammunition. Since 1992, at least six California Condors are known to have died from lead poisoning, with more suspected, and since 1997, 26 birds have required expensive medical treatment to remove lead from their blood.

A ban on lead ammunition would mean an opportunity for self-sustaining populations of California Condors in the wild. Education and incentive programs to promote a voluntary switch to copper ammunition have not worked. Audubon California strongly supports AB821 (Nava) and all efforts towards reducing lead in the environment. BVAS has written a letter to Representative Wyland urging his support of this legislation.

To read more about the California Condor and to learn how you can help, visit the Audubon California website at: <http://ca.audubon.org/california-condor.html>.



California Condor

Photo by D. Clendenen, USFWS

Preschool Nature Storytime

I hope everyone had a great summer. We're looking forward to beginning storytime once again on Monday, September 24th, at 10 a.m. We welcome all preschoolers three to five years old, accompanied by an adult. Our program includes an hour of songs, fingerplays, a story, and a craft. Save the 4th Monday of every month to join us at the Nature Center for a morning of fun and learning.



Thank you for remembering to call if you are bringing a number of children, such as a playgroup. We want to make sure we have enough crafts for all the children in attendance.

—Mary Ellen, 760-918-6622

Volunteering to Volunteer

We love our volunteer receptionists! Not only are they friendly and welcoming to our visitors, they are vital to keeping the doors to our nature center open 6 days a week. One 3-hour stint a month can be an IMMENSE help. Many have found the experience so rewarding that they opt for two days a month! We can fit whatever schedule fits you.

For more information, call Mary Ellen, 760-918-6622.

BVAS OFFICERS, BOARD* AND CHAIRS

President	Dennis Huckabay*	757-6437
Vice-President	Bill Jones*	944-1775
Secretary	Mary Jane Roberts*	231-8148
Treasurer	Douglas Schanzenbach*	726-3531

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Membership	Elle Schubert	729-4061
Native Plant Club	Joan Bockman*	433-9401
Native Plant Garden	Joan Bockman*	433-9401
Newsletter	Andy Mauro*	753-1266

E-mail: akamauro@cox.net

Programs	Dennis Huckabay*	757-6437
Publicity	Judi Wilson*	439-3649
Ruddy Duck Club	Tom Troy*	967-6915
Taxidermy	Joyce Anderson	746-3995
Volunteers	Mary Ellen Marquand*	918-6622
Webmaster :	Larry Spann	E-mail: larry@spannweb.net



Ruddy Duck Club

Support our Ruddy Duck Club members with your patronage. For more information about joining our local business "Friends" group and becoming a "Ruddy Ducker", please contact Tom Troy at 760-967-6915.

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|------------------------------------|---|
| Anderson's La Costa Nursery | Mr. Peabody's Steak & Ale |
| Beach Break Café | North County Radiology |
| Bob Baker VW-Subaru | North County Times |
| Carlsbad Paddle Sports | Oceanside Photo & Telescope |
| Carlsbad Inn Beach Resort | Omar the Master Craftsman |
| County Supervisor Bill Horn | Pelly's Fish Market and Cafe |
| Cream of the Crop Deli and Market | The Printery |
| Hatter and Associates | Rorick Buick and Cadillac |
| Harbor Fish and Chips | Seagaze Realty |
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| Hunter Steak House | Seth R. Sharon, Prudential CA Realty |
| I Love Life Window Cleaning | Temecula Valley Bank |
| Jón Baldur Hliðberg Art | Vine to Glass |
| Longboarder Café | Wild Bird Center - Encinitas |
| 101 Café | Wild Birds Unlimited-C'bad |
| Lowe's Building Supply — Oceanside | Worldwide Express |

Buena Vista Audubon Nature Center

Tue-Sat 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Sun 1 p.m.-4 p.m.
Closed Monday

760-439-2473

2202 South Coast Hwy., Oceanside, CA
East side of street just north of lagoon bridge

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 480
Oceanside, CA 92049-0480

Website: www.bvaudubon.org

E-mail: bvaudubon@sbcglobal.net

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. 100% of my contribution will go to support the BVAS Nature Center and its educational programs. Minimum donation required: \$20.

I would like to donate \$ 25 ___ \$50 ___ \$ 100 ___ Other: ___ Friends Membership: New ___ Renewal ___

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Please bill my VISA or MASTERCARD

Card Number _____ CRN # _____

Expiration Date _____ Special Instructions _____

I would like to make a special donation to the BVAS **Conservation Fund** to help support land conservation and the fight against ill-conceived development projects.

Amount: \$ _____

Make Checks Payable to:

**Buena Vista Audubon Society
P.O. Box 480
Oceanside, CA 92049**

Thank You!



Wild Rose

**BUENA VISTA
NATIVE PLANT CLUB**

September Meeting

“Creating Habitats”

Sunday, Sept. 16, 2 p.m.

Come join us for the September meeting of the Buena Vista Native Plant Club. (We meet every 3rd Sunday of the month at 2 p.m.). Most garden books introduce the subject of garden design by discussing themes of color, shape, texture, etc. As an alternative, it can be very rewarding to utilize a garden design geared toward creating unified habitats of harmonious plants. We’ll explore methods for incorporating habitat groupings into our garden design, and discuss this beautiful and satisfying style of gardening.

For more information, go to www.bvaudubon.org, contact us by e-mail at BVNPC@sbcglobal.net, or call the Nature Center at 760-439-2473.

The “must have” book for all San Diego birders

San Diego County Bird Atlas

On sale now at the BVAS Gift Shop—Only \$49.95!

Monthly Nature Center Grounds Cleanup

Join us on the first Saturday of the month from 8-10 a.m. as we tend the gardens at the Nature Center. Bring work gloves and gardening tools.



“Friends” Members

Check your Mailing Label

Those of you who receive the *Lagoon Flyer* as a result of your BVAS “Friends” membership, please note that the expiration date for your Friends membership is listed on your mailing label. (Your membership is good for approximately 12 months following a donation of \$20 or more to BVAS.) A red slash across your mailing label indicates that your membership has expired and that this will be your last newsletter. To renew your membership and continue to receive your newsletter and other benefits, please clip out the donation form above and send in your renewal check.

—Elle Schubert, Membership Chair

Nature Center Use Increases by 50%

All the Center hosts, nature guides, and other volunteers knew things seemed pretty busy this last year at the Nature Center. Now we have the proof! This July, as we do each year, BVAS counted up the numbers for its annual report to National Audubon. The number of walk-in visitors, participants in our many education programs, members of groups meeting at the center, and attendees at special events were carefully tallied. We were delighted to discover that the number of people visiting the facility had increased to 13,237, an increase of 54.7% over the previous 12-month period! Numbers in all categories were up. Drop-ins averaged 500 people a month. School groups visiting the center included 2,910 students. The BVAS Outreach program brought nature education to over 600 people at group homes in North County. Two of our newer programs—Tom Troy’s Basic Birding classes at the Buena Vista Landing, and Mary Ellen Marquand’s Nature StoryTime at the center—averaged over 20 participants to their monthly presentations throughout the year. Great job everyone!

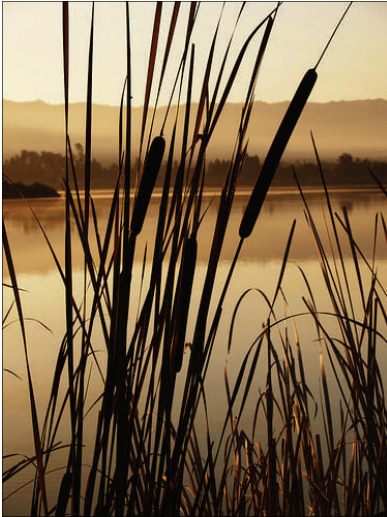
Lagoon Flyer



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Treasure Our Lagoon

QUICK CALENDAR

Fri. Sept. 7—Board Meeting—9 a.m.
Sat. Sept. 8—Whelan Lake Bird Count—8 a.m.
Sat. Sept. 8—Nature Center Garden Clean-up—8 a.m.
Mon. Sept. 10—Nature Guides—10 a.m.
Sat. Sept. 15—San Elijo Lagoon Nature Walk—9 a.m.
Sun. Sept. 16—Native Plant Club—2 p.m.
Sat. Sept. 22—Shorebird Migration at San Elijo—9 a.m.
Mon. Sept. 24—Preschool Nature Storytime—10 a.m.
Thurs. Sept. 27—General Meeting—7 p.m..
Sat. Sept. 29—Buena Vista Lagoon Count—8 a.m.
Sat. Sept. 29—Basic Birding at BVL Landing—8:30 a.m.

Oct. 7-8-9—California Audubon's Asilomar Conference.
Sat. Oct. 20—Orange County Birding Trip.

Buena Vista Audubon online:
<http://www.bvaudubon.org>

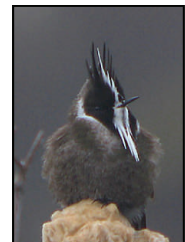
General Meeting

“Protecting and Restoring Buena Vista Lagoon”

See Page 1

What's this Bird?

See Page 2



Native Plant Club Meeting

“Creating Habitats”

See Page 4

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