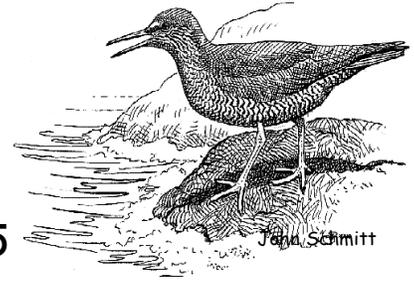


Wandering Tattler

February 2009
Volume 58, Number 5



The Voice of SEA AND SAGE AUDUBON, an Orange County Chapter of the National Audubon Society

New Year's Resolution

(or, an Easy Way to Help Mother Earth)

by Jay Miller, President

I received an e-mail recently that was a real eye opener for me. It was about the over use of plastic bags and the damage they are causing. It is estimated that 500 billion to a trillion plastic bags are used worldwide every year. Only 1% of the bags are recycled and it actually costs more to recycle a bag than produce a new one. Plastic bags are ending up in landfills and oceanfills. They are blown to different parts of the land, sea, lakes and rivers. In the ocean they do great damage to marine animals which try to eat them or get terminally entangled in them. Plastic bags are petroleum based and over time sunlight breaks them down into even more toxic substances. These contaminate water and soil and may wind up in the food chain.

Many places are either banning or taxing or putting limits on plastic bags. Since Ireland started taxing them, there has been a 90% reduction in their use. China has banned free plastic bags and has saved 37 million barrels of oil.

While this may all seem like an insurmountable situation, there is something we can do to help. We can use cloth or reusable bags when we go shopping. They can be bought almost anywhere. You get a raffle ticket for a weekly drawing at Trader Joe's every time you use a cloth or reusable bag. The drawing is for a reusable bag full of Trader Joe's products. Many stores give you 5 cents for every cloth or reusable bag that you use.

I know that the big problem isn't buying the cloth bags, it is using them. I found that I almost always leave them in the car. So, I made a resolution last year to walk back to the car to get them every time I find myself in the store without a bag. After doing this only a few times, my memory got better and I now remember to take the bags with me at least 80% of the time. I feel good every time I use a cloth bag.

I am inviting all of you who have not already done so, to make a resolution to use cloth or reusable bags whenever you go shopping. It will help the environment, help reduce the use of oil, and will make you feel better!

General Meeting

Friday evening, February 20th

"EAGLE QUEST"

presented by Bill Clark

Join us as Bill Clark recounts many of his adventures with the world's eagles in this PowerPoint presentation. He begins by defining an eagle, then continues with some adventures with our two eagles: Bald and Golden. He will go on to share some of his experiences and photos in the field throughout the world with various eagles. We'll travel to India, Israel, Japan, Africa, South America, the Philippines, Australia, and Madagascar, see many eagles, and learn about some recent changes in eagle taxonomy.

Bill Clark is a photographer, author, and lecturer and has over 30 years experience working with birds of prey. He has published numerous articles on raptors, and has traveled extensively worldwide studying, observing, and photographing them. He leads raptor and birding tours and conducts workshops, both at home and abroad, with his company, Raptours. He is a coauthor of the *Photographic Guide to North American Raptors* and the completely revised Peterson series guide, *Hawks*.

The doors open at 7:00 and the meeting starts at 7:30 pm. We meet in the new Education Center at 5 Riparian View in Irvine. For those of you who like to come early, Audubon House and its popular Bookstore will be open before the meeting (from 6:30 to 7:15) See below for directions.

Marquita Miller, Programs Chair

We are now holding our meetings in the new Education Center, the big gray & white "house" near the Duck Club and Audubon House, in the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. There is ample parking. Priority needs to be given to those with special needs for parking in the area between Audubon House & the Duck Club; everyone else should park in the big parking lot by pond E. (We recommend that you wear sturdy shoes and bring a flashlight.) This will be a great time to listen to the birds in the ponds and become more familiar with the Sanctuary at nighttime! (The trails, however, are not open after dark.) Complete directions to the Education Center and the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary can be found on page 11.

Conservation News

by Scott Thomas



Our Conservation Committee Meetings are held at 6:30 pm on the 1st Tues. of the month at Audubon House. Our Conservation Lecture Series are on the 4th Tues. of the month at 7:00 pm in the Duck Club. We hope you will join us! Susan Sheakley 949-552-5974

4th Tuesday Conservation Lecture Series "Conserving Critical Open Spaces in Baja"

presented by Jess Morton — Feb. 24th at 7:00 p.m.,

The lecture will be held at the new Education Center in the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary, Irvine (the gray building is down the path from the Duck Club) - see full directions to our meeting place on page 11.

Our February 4th Tuesday Conservation Lecture Series will feature Jess Morton. We will be shifting our attention away from the Orange County arena and down south to Baja, Mexico, where Jess is involved with a very exciting project to protect bird habitats. He will speak about conserving critical landscapes in Baja California through partnerships with Audubon's International Alliances Program (IAP) and sister organizations based in Mexico. Two sites of special concern are Baja California's Bahia San Quintin and Cabo Colonet, both of which have very high natural values and good potential for land conservation. Imagine San Diego Bay, two hundred years ago, or the coastal plain of Los Angeles. Those are gone, but their rough equivalents, San Quintin and Colonet, remain. With good planning and prompt action, they can be preserved.

Jess Morton is Treasurer for both Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon and the Endangered Habitats League, is founder of Audubon YES! (Youth Environmental Service), and serves on Audubon's National Board of Directors. He has been working with IAP and Terra Peninsular, an Ensenada-based organization, on preserving rare birds, flora and habitat for the last several years. For information, see the websites at

<http://www.audubon.org/bird/IAP/staff.html> and

<http://www.terrapeninsular.org/> .



Orange County Cactus Wren Survey Team Volunteers Still Needed!

(See Dec/Jan. Tattler for full information)

Cactus Wrens are suffering declines throughout their range. In an effort to help assess the current population and better understand the decline, Sea & Sage has joined the Nature Conservancy, Audubon California, and the Nature Reserve of Orange County in a collaborative effort to study the Cactus Wren. We hope to augment the efforts of a statewide recovery program. This is a unique opportunity for naturalists and birders, beginning to advanced, to participate with noted Cactus Wren scientists and conservationists, to perform urgently needed surveys and nest monitoring.

Requirements: Basic birding skills, reliable transportation, ability to walk moderate distances, a good pair of binoculars, readiness to learn, & enthusiasm about birds.

Training: Two single-day training session dates have been set; you must attend one session. The dates are:

• JAN. 24 (8:00 am) at San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary.

(We will caravan from there to the UCI Reserve for field training)

• JAN. 31 (8:00 am) at Starr Ranch Audubon Sanctuary

Surveys will begin in February or March.

To sign up, contact:

• **Sandy DeSimone** - Starr Ranch Audubon Sanctuary (949) 858-0309

• **Scott Thomas** - Sea and Sage Audubon (949) 261-7962

• **Nancy Kenyon** - Sea and Sage Audubon (949) 786-3160

For More Info on Cactus Wrens, see the our website

Conservation page (look under Bird Research) —

www.seaandsageaudubon.org/Conservation/conservation.htm

Conservation Support in Orange County

Each year. Sea and Sage Audubon provides support to organizations that share our goals about protecting wildlife and open space in Orange County. The Conservation Committee has the pleasure of choosing who will receive modest donations from our chapter in support of their conservation efforts. Below is a list of the groups we chose to support in 2008. We hope that you share our appreciation of all the work that so many do in Orange County to protect our wildlife and diverse ecosystems.

- Endangered Habitats League
- Orange County Interfaith Coalition for the Environment
- Friends of Coyote Hills
- Friends of Harbors, Beaches, and Parks
- Hills for Everyone

- Orange County Bird of Prey Center
- Huntington Beach Wetlands and Wildlife Care Center
- Los Cerritos Land Trust
- National Audubon International Alliances Program – San Quintin, Baja Mexico

Orange County Rarities

by Jim Pike



To report a RARE or UNUSUAL bird, or to receive the current RBA report for Orange County, call the OrCoRBA at (949) 487-6869. See below for information on receiving these reports by email.

When I fill in for Doug on this winter article, it is my yearly opportunity to rail against the inexorable trend of drastically over-trimming trees in the county. This will be no exception. Thankfully, I'm told that progress has been made in educating park personnel about not trimming during the breeding season. Still, the cumulative toll of this aesthetic style in terms of lost wintering habitat for birds over the past decade within urban Orange County must be staggering. I know it has taken a toll on the hobby of birding.

Now, on with the rarities: The bird of the season so far is the **Yellow-throated Vireo** that has been wintering at Huntington Central Park (HCP) since Nov 16 (Jim Roe). This is the fourth wintering record for the state and the second for the county. Other continuing birds at HCP include **MacGillivray's Warbler**, **Tropical Kingbird**, and **White-throated Sparrow** Nov 8-Dec 28 (Irene Horiuchi). A female **Scarlet Tanager**, notoriously late as a vagrant in California, was present Nov 29-Dec 3 (Ed Stonick), and a **Summer Tanager** was seen Nov 23-24 (Leo Ohtsuki). An **American Redstart** was there Nov 21 (Pat Cabe) and an exceptionally late **Western Wood-Pewee** was seen Nov 10 (Jim Pike).

It was a good fall for wayward **Worm-eating Warblers** in the state, so it wasn't too surprising when one was spotted in Laguna Niguel Dec 8 (Robert McNab). In contrast, the variety of wintering warblers has been down, with a **Black-and-White** and an **American Redstart** at Mason Regional Park Nov 21-Jan 3 (L Ohtsuki), a **Black-and-White** Nov 12-Dec 5 (J Pike) and **MacGillivray's Warbler** Dec 5 (J Roe) at Mile Square Park (MSP), and a **Northern Waterthrush** at San Joaquin Marsh (SJM) Nov 22+ (Brian Daniels). SJM also hosted a **Sage Thrasher** on Nov 9 (Chris Obaditch, Elliotte Harold). A **Harris's Sparrow** there Dec 11 (Wayne Gochenour) was a good find despite being unrefindable since. Another noteworthy emberizid was a **Black-chinned Sparrow** near Irvine Lake Dec 14 (Doug Willick). Also of note was a '**Thick-billed**' **Fox Sparrow** at MSP Nov 12 (J Pike), rarely seen away from our foothills and mountains in winter. This bird gave a call more like a California Towhee than the flatter Lincoln Sparrow-like calls of other Fox Sparrow subspecies. Even more rare away from the upper elevations of the local mountains is the **Townsend's Solitaire** that is wintering in a Huntington Beach neighborhood Dec 19-28 (Steve Morris).

Unusual flycatchers have been scant, with just a **Vermilion Flycatcher** at El Toro cemetery Nov 28-Dec 14 (J Pike), a **Tropical Kingbird** there Dec 6 (Jerry Tolman, Curt Johnson), a **Hammond's Flycatcher** at Veeh Ranch Park in Lake Forest Dec 14 (B Daniels), a '**Western**' **Flycatcher** in Laguna Hills Dec 13 (J Pike), and three **Gray Flycatchers** (D Willick, J Pike, Bettina Eastman).

As opposed to flycatchers this season, unusual waterfowl have been relatively plentiful. **Snow, Ross's, Cackling**, and **Greater White-fronted Geese** were seen at multiple locations, as were **Eurasian Wigeons** and **Hooded Mergansers**. A **Long-tailed Duck** was in Newport Backbay Dec 12 (Dave Telford). Most unusual was a **hybrid adult male Northern Shoveler x Blue-winged Teal** Oct 26-Nov 29 on the upper Santa Ana River in Anaheim (D Willick). There are no prior reports of this hybrid combination in the county.

An adult white-morph **Gyrfalcon** by Woodbridge's North Lake in Irvine Nov 17 (Peter Lavery) was a shock. A jess seen on the leg confirmed it as an escapee. A juvenile **Bald Eagle** at Irvine Lake Dec 6 (J. Tolman, C. Johnson) may have been the same one seen later over Anaheim Hills Dec 19 (Nathan Babcock). Five or six **Ferruginous Hawks** at Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge (SBNWR) Dec 22 (Bob Schallmann) was a good count. There is little foraging habitat left for this species in the county. A **Spotted Owl** was in lower Silverado Canyon Dec 14 (Bruce Aird), and lone **Short-eared Owls** were at Backbay Nov 14+ (Neil Gilbert) and at Bolsa Chica Nov 16 (Jon Dunn, N. Gilbert). Also at Bolsa Chica are the two continuing adult **Reddish Egrets**.

A number of Summer Tanagers, Plumbeous Vireos, Red-naped Sapsuckers, and Hermit Warblers have been found late fall and winter, along with a few Red-breasted Nuthatches and Brown Creepers. **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were at Harriet Wieder Regional Park Nov 16 (B Daniels, L Ohtsuki) and Lemon Heights Dec 14 (N. Gilbert). A **Varied Thrush** was at Irvine Park Nov 9-Dec 15 (L Ohtsuki, B Daniels). A **Scott's Oriole** was recorded at Starr Ranch Dec 19 (N Gilbert). Rarer than in previous years, a **Gray-headed Junco** was at MSP Nov 12 (J Pike). **Four Pacific Golden-Plovers** were at SBNWR Dec 22 (B Schallman).

Lastly, seven **American Bitterns** at the Backbay Nov 15 (N Gilbert) and five **Hairy Woodpeckers** in Silverado Canyon Dec 14 (Brian Leatherman) were encouraging recent high counts. However, only four **Loggerhead Shrikes** were noted, perhaps auguring the eventual extirpation of this once common species from the county.

OrangeCountyBirding is a yahoo group for birders. Most birders send in their emailed reports about bird sightings to this group and then, if the bird is really unusual, they send in a report to the OrCoRBA also. Website directions will tell you how to join. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OrangeCountyBirding/> (Joining Yahoo is free.) To report your bird sightings by email, send them to: OrangeCountyBirding@yahoogroups.com (Be sure to sign your name & list your city below your name.)

Chapter News & Announcements

For more information on Sea & Sage events & activities, check out our schedule of activities at: <http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org/Chapter/ChapterSchedule.html>



Audubon House Volunteers

We would like to thank the following people for helping to staff Audubon House in January and February: Sonia Appell, Pat & Dick Cabe, Deana Collins, Carolyn Cooper, Pam Degarimore, Tom Drouet, Judy Fritts, Pat Heilig, Sarah Jayne, Steve Jelnick, Lois Jones, Nancy Kenyon, Donna Krebs, Lauretta Kyle, Joan McCauley, Bobbie Miller, Eunice Morita, Betty Purdy, Roberta Ray, Barbara Reber, John Shaddy, Mary Shandy, Bev Spring, and Betty Swift.

Audubon House is open daily from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Our Volunteers greet visitors, answer the phone, sell merchandise, answer questions about birds, check out videos, etc. It's fun to be an Audubon House Volunteer and it's a great way to support our chapter. If you are interested in helping at Audubon House, please contact Judy Fritts at 949-551-4513.

Raptor ID classes presented by Bill Clark

There is still space available in the 2 raptor ID workshops being presented by Bill Clark in February. Bill has over 30 years of experience working with birds of prey and has published on a variety of raptor subjects as well as co-authoring the Peterson field guide on *Hawks* and the *Photographic Guide to North American Raptors*. The Introductory Raptor ID Workshop is Feb. 13-15 and the Intermediate/Advanced Raptor ID Workshop is Feb. 21-22. Full info on these 2 workshops can be found in the Dec/Jan Tattler, at Audubon House, and on the Sea & Sage Audubon website. Advance reservations are necessary since space is limited.

Bookstore News

Required/recommended CD/tape sets for Learning More CA Bird Sounds will soon be available (see note below).

Learning CA Bird Sounds (S Gallagher); Stokes FG to Bird Songs - Western Region; Peterson FG to Western Bird Songs; Bird Songs of CA (Cornell Lab of Ornithology). *The CD set for Sylvia's upcoming workshop (Learning More CA Bird Sounds) is restricted to those people who have signed up for the class; it should be ready Feb. 1st, but call first to make sure. (It will be available to the public after it has been class-tested in this year's workshop.)*

Required/recommended books for the Raptor ID classes: Photographic Guide to NA Raptors; Peterson FG to Hawks (2001).

Recent arrivals: *ABA Birder's Guides- Alaska* (2nd ed); *Rio Grande Valley* (4th ed.); *Central Park in the Dark* (by Marie Winn, author of *Redtails in Love*); Sea and Sage logo water bottles, pens and pencils; new t-shirts (raptors & woodpeckers, etc.)

2009 Annual Dinner Silent Auction

Well here it is January 2009 and the Annual Dinner is not too far away. I have gathered some very interesting and fun items for this year's auction. We have vacations, art, dinner giveaways and much, much more. If you have an item or service you wish to donate please contact me at Cthomas1313@cox.net. Please don't forget to bring your checkbook to the dinner.

Cheryl Thomas 949-294-2275

Learning More CA Bird Sounds workshop presented by Sylvia Gallagher

Space is still available in Sylvia's upcoming birding-by-ear workshop which begins in mid-February at her home in Huntington Beach. This 8-10 week workshop will focus on lowland, non-desert birds that were not covered in the introductory workshop series. Among groups to be covered are: waterfowl, rails, herons and egrets, swallows, shorebirds, plus a wide variety of hard-to-see and/or rare Passerines of riparian and open habitats. Full info can be found in the Dec/Jan Tattler, at Audubon House, and on the Sea & Sage Audubon website. Advance reservations are necessary since space is limited.

Sorting out the Red-tails

Bill Clark, who will be in our area presenting workshops on hawk identification and speaking at the February General Meeting, has agreed to spend an evening showing his PowerPoint presentation on the Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk. After much experience in the field and with museum specimens, he has become convinced that this bird is actually a full species and that Krider's is also part of it. This talk will be rather technical, but if you want to get a feeling for how "splits" and "lumps" take place in the community of biologists, it might be a fascinating evening. (I've heard it and enjoyed it!)

This free program will take place at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, Feb. 17, at the Gallagher home in Huntington Beach. Space is limited. For reservations, call or email Sylvia Gallagher at 714-962-8990 or sjrgallagher@yahoo.com.

Photographers Meeting - Feb. 27

The photographers meet three times a year at Jim Gallagher's house in Huntington Beach to share photos and discuss various photographic techniques. The next Photo Meeting will be held on Friday evening, Feb. 27, at 7:30 pm. The limit is 30 photos per person. For information on these meetings and/or directions to Jim's house, call Jim at 714-962-8990. If you will be bringing digital pictures, please follow the guidelines listed at:

www.seaandsageaudubon.org/Meetings/meetings.htm

Chapter News & Announcements

For more information on Sea & Sage events & activities, check out our schedule of activities at: <http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org/Chapter/ChapterSchedule.html>



12th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count February 13-16

Discover the birds in your backyard, schoolyard, or park. It's fun, it's free, and it helps the birds! All ages and skills welcome!

COUNT FOR FUN! COUNT FOR THE FUTURE!

This special annual event is hosted by the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and is sponsored in part by Wild Birds Unlimited.

Here's what you do:

- 1. Count the birds** in your backyard, local park, or other natural area on any of the four count days. For each species of bird that you see, record the highest number of individuals that you observe at any one time during your count. Don't add a bird every time you see one at your feeder; you could be counting the same individual.
- 2. Watch the birds for at least 15 minutes** on each day that you participate.
- 3. Write down your list for each day and check it over to be sure it is accurate.**
- 4. If you have a computer with internet access**, you can enter your count on-line at the Great Backyard Bird Count site. Go to the following site and follow the directions. <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc>
View your results. After you've entered your count for the day, visit the Map-room and see results from across the continent.
- 5. If you do not have a computer or cannot log on to the internet, you can still participate!** Mail your bird list to Nancy Kenyon or drop it off at Audubon House. Nancy will enter the data for you. **BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR NAME, PHONE, EXACT LOCATION OF YOUR BIRD COUNT, THE DATE & TIME YOU DID YOUR COUNT.** Turn in your bird list immediately after the count; if you wait too long, the count will be closed! We must receive it no later than Feb. 25. Please print and be as legible as possible so that we can read it. Mail to:

GBBC c/o Nancy Kenyon
32 Almond Tree Ln
Irvine CA 92612

- 6. For questions or assistance, contact Nancy** at 949-786-3160 or by e-mail nancykenyon@cox.net

Adult Bird Research Camp - March 7-8 on Woodland Birds of Starr Ranch

Spend an early spring weekend at Audubon California's beautiful 4000-acre Starr Ranch Sanctuary in southeast Orange County. We will use a variety of survey techniques to compare bird species and diversity found in upland oak woodlands vs. riparian (streambank) woodlands. Participants will also learn about the importance of riparian woodlands for rare breeding birds & neotropical migrants.

Woodland Bird Monitoring – After an introduction to the identification of woodland birds by sound and sight, you will learn how to survey for birds using point counts, playback survey and evening owl survey. We will visit many beautiful sites within oak and riparian woodlands throughout Starr Ranch.

Date and Times: Saturday, March 7, 8:00 am – 8 pm
Cost: \$80 for day only, \$85/if tent camping (BYO lunch; dinner provided).

Woodland Bird Banding – After a short introduction to bird banding, we will use mist nets to survey for woodland birds. Once data collection is complete, we will summarize and discuss our data.

Date and Times: Sunday, March 8, banding begins at 7:00 am and will last until noon **Cost:** \$37.50

Reservations & Questions: contact Stephan Lorenz (at 949) 858-0309 or slorenz@mail.com

Interesting New Website - Check It Out!

If you are interested in animals and want to know more about how they are surviving in these highly developed urban areas, then you should check out a new website for naturalists, docents and others interested in preserving the animal life of Orange County. Go to: www.octrackers.com where you can learn how to interpret any animal tracks you might discover, read about local bobcat research programs and report your own sightings, check weather conditions on our local trails and much, much more.

Mark your Calendars— for the 1st annual Growing Natives Symposium—March 28th

This one-day conference is designed to help homeowners and landscapers become more familiar and comfortable using native plants in residential or small commercial landscapes. All levels of native plant enthusiasts will benefit. Enjoy expert speakers discussing practical issues regarding choosing, designing, growing, and maintaining natives in your garden. **Speakers:** Bart O'Brien-Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, Debbie Evans-Tree of Life Nursery, Dan Songster, Golden West College Native Garden. **Place:** Goldenwest College. More information on the symposium will be in the March Tattler.

Paul Lehman's program at the Annual Dinner

"Migrant & Vagrant Traps in North America"

A successful day in the field during migration will probably be determined by when and where you decide to go birding and by what types of birds you are looking for. Join Paul Lehman on an illustrated tour of North America's migrant hotspots, from eastern Newfoundland and the Dry Tortugas to the western Aleutians and the California coast - and everywhere in between. We'll visit a wide variety of islands, peninsulas, "habitat islands" and oases, isolated lakes and reservoirs. Topics include what makes a good migrant/vagrant trap, when to visit, and characteristic birds found at many of the sites.

Paul Lehman's Program on Sat. morning

"Weather and Bird Migration"

As an added treat, Paul has agreed to give a program for us on Saturday morning about "Weather and Bird Migration." This program will be in the new Education Center at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine. Directions to the Education Center will be included with your ticket.

Birders need to know where the best places are to look for migrants and when particular species are most likely to occur; they also need to have a basic understanding of weather and how it impacts migration. Understanding and closely following the weather is a crucial component of successful birding. Heading out into the field without first checking a weather forecast, particularly during spring and fall migration, may hinder their success as much as forgetting their field guide or spotting scope. Throughout North America, weather plays a crucial role in the timing and volume of migration, and in the occurrence of vagrant species. Paul Lehman will begin his program with a basic weather primer and then cover the influences various weather conditions have on bird migration.

HOW TO MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR SATURDAY'S PROGRAM

Cost of the program is \$35 per person. Space will be limited, so don't wait until the last minute to reserve your spot. To make your reservation, please send this form and your check— postmarked no earlier than Feb. 1st — to Workshop, c/o Nancy Kenyon, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612. Check should be made payable to Sea & Sage Audubon.

Please do not combine your payment for Friday's dinner and the Saturday program in one check; write out a separate check for the Saturday event. Your ticket for Saturday will be mailed back to you, so you will need to include a self-addressed stamped envelope with your reservation form & check. (Tickets will be mailed out in early March.) The purpose of advance reservations & tickets for Saturday morning's program is to make sure you have a seat and to streamline the process of getting into the room; standing in line while someone checks your name off a long list is no fun!

Paul Lehman Program - Reservation Form

"Weather & Bird Migration"

Name(s) _____

Email address or phone for confirmation. _____

Amount enclosed _____ Stamped, self-addressed envelope enclosed? _____

Make check payable to: Sea & Sage Audubon.

Mail to: Sat. Program, c/o Nancy Kenyon, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612.

Sea & Sage Annual Dinner

Friday, March 20th at Mile Square Park Banquet Center

Our Guest Speaker – Paul Lehman

Program “Migrant and Vagrant Traps in North America”



Our Annual Dinner this year will be held at the Mile Square Park Golf Course & Banquet Center on Friday evening, March 20th. Our guest speaker will be Paul Lehman who will speak on “Migrant and Vagrant Traps in North America”. Paul is a well traveled, experienced birder, with expertise in finding & identifying rare or unusual birds and their migration patterns. The evening’s program will include the presentation of our chapter’s Fern Zimmerman Conservation Award and Letters of Commendation and the Gallagher Award. We will also have a silent auction. The Mile Square Park Banquet Center is at the south end of Mile Square Park, at the intersection of Warner & Ward. Free parking is available. Directions & a map will be sent to each person who makes reservations for the dinner. Below is the schedule for the evening.



No Host Bar: 6:00 p.m.

Dinner: 7:15 p.m.

Program: 8:00 p.m., sharp!

Location: Mile Square Park Golf Course & Banquet Center

Tickets: \$50 for early reservations, \$55 after March 1st

Entrees: Chicken or Vegetarian

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY. Seating will be assigned in the order the reservations are received. (Reservations open on Feb. 1st.) The entrées will be chicken or vegetarian. For reservations, make your check payable to “Sea & Sage Audubon”; include the name of each person for whom a reservation is made. If you wish group seating, please indicate that; each table will seat 10 people. Mail your reservations to: Annual Dinner, c/o Nancy Kenyon, 32 Almond Tree Ln., Irvine CA 92612.

You can mail your reservations to Nancy, deliver them to Audubon House, or hand them to her at our Feb. General Meeting. The dinner tickets will not be mailed back to you; proof of your reservation will be your name badge on which will be marked your table number — which you will pick up at the check-in table the night of the dinner. Those who wish to receive confirmation of their dinner reservations should include their email address or a stamped, self-addressed envelope and phone number; a confirmation message will be sent to you as soon as your reservation has been received. All reservations must be received by 6:00 pm, Monday, March 16th.

Please note: payment for the Paul Lehman program on Saturday, must be made by separate check and must include a self-addressed stamped envelope so that we can mail the ticket to you. Workshop reservations will not be accepted before February 1st.

Annual Dinner Reservation Form

Name _____ Entree _____

Name _____ Entree _____

Who do you wish to sit with? _____

Email address or phone (in case we need to contact you) _____

Entrees: [C] Chicken [V] Vegetarian. All dinners will include a salad, fresh vegetables, freshly baked rolls, coffee, tea, or decaf, and dessert. **Mail your reservation to:** Annual Dinner, c/o Nancy Kenyon, 32 Almond Tree Ln., Irvine CA 92612.

February Field Trips



For trip updates & additional trip information, visit www.seaandsageaudubon.org/FieldTrips/fieldtripscurrent.htm
Trips marked with a ® require advance reservations. If you have any questions about the field trips or would like to make trip reservations, contact Field Trip Chair, Nancy Kenyon, at 949-786-3160, or nancykenyon@cox.net
For information about pelagic trips here in Southern CA, visit this excellent website: www.socalbirding.com

Santiago Oaks Regional Park

Sundays, Feb. 1st & March 1st - 7:30 am

Join Linette Lina for a monthly bird walk at Santiago Oaks at 7:30 am. The mix of oak riparian and coastal sage scrub habitats make Santiago Oaks one of the best places in Orange County to find a variety of songbirds.

Directions: Take the 55 freeway to Katella Ave in Orange. Exit and drive east on Katella 3.2 miles to Windes Dr. Turn left on Windes Dr. and follow the signs to the park. OR, take Jamboree towards the mountains, all the way to its intersection with Santiago Cyn. Rd; turn left and follow Santiago to Windes Dr. Turn right on Windes and follow it to the park. Be prepared to pay the \$5 entrance fee if you don't own a county parks pass. Meet in the upper end of the parking lot.

Linette Lina, Leader



Seal Beach NWR ®

Monday, Feb. 2nd - 7:30 am

This 923-acre refuge contains an extensive, unspoiled salt water marsh, heavily vegetated, with tidal channels throughout. Mudflats do exist and are exposed at low tides and are used by thousands of shorebirds. The refuge supports a great variety of raptors, waterfowl, shorebirds, and songbirds. This field trip is held at the Seal Beach NWR which is located on the grounds of the Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station; trip size is limited to 20 persons and advance reservations are mandatory. Photo ID may be required in order to enter the premises. Contact Nancy Kenyon at nancykenyon@cox.net or 949-786-3160 for trip reservations. Leave your name and phone number so that your reservation can be confirmed. **Directions:** We will meet in the parking lot by the main gate of the Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station at 7:30 am. This is located at the intersection of Heron Pointe/Forrestal Ln & Seal Beach Blvd. (Forrestal is the street that enters the base; Heron Pointe is on the opposite side of Seal Beach Blvd. There is a signal at this intersection. The address is 800 Seal Beach Blvd. The station is located on the east side of Seal Beach Blvd. about 2 miles south of the #405 Frwy. and 1 mile north of Pacific Coast Hwy. Late comers will not be admitted. **Bring** binocs, field guide, and a scope if you have one. Restrooms will be available at one of the stops. The trip will end at noon.

Nancy Kenyon, Trip Coordinator 949-786-3160
nancykenyon@cox.net

Salton Sea Weekend Trip ®

Sat. & Sun., Feb. 7 & 8 - 9:00 am (Sat.)

The Salton Sea area provides some of the best year round birding in Southern California. In species diversity alone, the area is one of the leading localities in the country; some 360 species have been sighted there. In the past, we've had woodpeckers, Verdins, Abert's Towhees, Burrowing Owls, American & Least Bitterns, Sandhill Cranes, White-faced Ibis, and vast numbers of geese, pelicans, ducks, grebes, gulls, and shorebirds. Advance reservations are necessary; trip size is limited. Trip fee is \$25. Make check payable to Sea & Sage Audubon and mail to: Salton Sea, c/o Nancy Kenyon, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612. Be sure to include your phone number & email address, or a stamped, legal sized envelope for trip info & confirmation.

Vic Leipzig, Leader

Monthly Bird Walks at the SJWS

Sundays, Feb. 8th & March 8th - 8:00 am

Join Chris Obaditch for a monthly bird walk around the ponds of the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine at 8:00 am on the 2nd Sunday morning of each month. (See directions on page 11.) The walk, which is open to interested birders of all ages, will meet by the front door of Audubon House. Children under the age of 11 must be accompanied by an adult.

Chris Obaditch, Leader

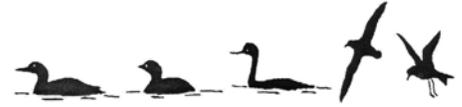
Prado Basin ®

Saturday, Feb. 14th - 8:00 am

The Prado Basin is a large land area on the edge of Riverside, LA, and San Bernardino counties that is managed by the Orange County Water District. It's main function is to divert and purify the Santa Ana River water flowing from the San Bernardino Mts. to the ocean. The Prado Basin, which is seldom open to the public, is a wetlands area in which there are numerous ponds and surrounding vegetation, both of which attract a large number of wintering birds as well as spring migrants. Like the SJWS, the ponds have berms around them which allow access for viewing. Many ducks, waders, shorebirds and raptors are at Prado during the winter months and in the spring, it is a prime nesting area for Least Bell's Vireo, Blue Grosbeak, Willow Flycatcher, Yellow-breasted Chat, and others. We will spend the morning exploring the wetlands area, eat our lunch at the headquarters, and then drive over to nearby Prado Reg. Park in Chino to look for the resident Vermilion Flycatchers and other birds of interest. Advance reservations are needed; trip limited to 20. A map and directions will be provided to those with reservations. Contact Nancy Kenyon: nancykenyon@cox.net; 949-786-3160

John McKeever, Leader

February Field Trips



For trip updates & additional trip information, visit www.seaandsageaudubon.org/FieldTrips/fieldtripscurrent.htm
Trips marked with a ® require advance reservations. If you have any questions about the field trips or would like to make trip reservations, contact Field Trip Chair, Nancy Kenyon, at 949-786-3160, or nancykenyon@cox.net
For information about pelagic trips here in Southern CA, visit this excellent website: www.socalbirding.com

Laguna Coast Wilderness Park Nix Nature Center & Barbara's Lake Wednesay, Feb. 25th – 8:00 am

The Laguna Canyon Foundation was instrumental in preserving much of the native coastal sage scrub habitat in Laguna Canyon and this has been incorporated into the Orange County Regional Park system. Recently the Nix Nature Center at the park's headquarters was opened and many hiking trails originate there.

Meet: at the parking lot at Nix(\$3.00 parking fee or by annual park pass). We'll hike the short Mary's Trail loop, check the trees in Little Sycamore Canyon, and then hike to Barbara's Lake and Lake 1, 2 of the only 3 natural lakes in Orange County, all of which are in Laguna Canyon. A surprising number of waterfowl winter on these small lakes.

Directions: The Nix Nature Center is on the west side of Laguna Canyon Rd south of the #405 freeway, 3 1/2 miles south of the 405/I-5 freeways on the west side of Laguna Canyon Rd (route 133)

Bring binoculars and scopes. Rain may cancel so check with Nancy if in doubt (949-786-3160)

Paul Klahr, leader
949-837-2177

Birding-by-ear for the Hard-of-Hearing Saturday, March 7th - 8:30 am ®

This is a birding-by-ear trip for people who are hard-of-hearing. The leader will have a wireless transmitter attached to a microphone transmitting wirelessly to receivers attached to an ear bud with each person. This is a first-of-its-kind trip and therefore somewhat experimental. So far we have had good results. The exact location in Orange County will be announced when your reservation is confirmed. Receivers for this trip will be provided without charge. Space is limited.

Roy Poucher, Leader
Reservations: Lorraine Fanizza 714-669-0401
hearingpros@sbcglobal.net

Donna O'Neill Land Conservancy Saturday, Feb. 28 - 8:15 am ®

Please join us for what we hope will become quarterly bird walks at The Donna O'Neill Land Conservancy which is in the Casper's Regional Park area. We are interested in what birds we will see and hear there at different times of the year. The trails we use and our starting times may vary

each quarter depending on what is best for the season (and the temperature). On Saturday, 2-28-09, we will bird a little along the road before we head off on the trails. We expect to get resident species for the habitats, as well as winter visitors.

The Donna O'Neill Land Conservancy is a 1200-acre wilderness reserve located on historic Rancho Mission Viejo in southern Orange County. The reserve was created in 1990 to provide for wildlife displaced by development in the city of San Clemente. Conservancy habitats include coast live oak woodlands, coastal sage scrub, and high quality native grasslands. Several threatened, endangered, and rare species are found on the reserve, including Cactus Wren, Many-Stemmed Dudleya, Turkish Rugging, San Diego Coast Horned Lizard, Southwest Arroyo Toad, and Orange Throated Whiptail lizard.

We will meet at 8:15 to sign in, so we can be "in place" to start the field trip at 8:30. The trip will end at 11:30. Hope to see you there.

To make a reservation, please send an email with your first & last name, phone number and number of adults and children in your party to: staff@theconservancy.org .

Alternatively, you may phone in your reservation by calling 949-489-9778. There is a small fee to go on the Conservancy. Directions to the meeting place will be provided with the reservation.

Susan Sheakley, Leader

PLAN AHEAD for this trip to HEISE PARK Saturday, March 28 ®

The Mar. 28 field trip to Heise Park, the jewel of the San Diego County campgrounds ,will highlight desert and mountain birds as well as migrating vireos, warblers, flycatchers. You may reserve a campsite or cabin, or stay in nearby Julian or Ramona. We'll meet in the parking lot just inside the entrance (fee) at 8 a.m. Hikes are moderate to strenuous, but the birding in the campground is outstanding, too. Wild Turkeys abound. Advanced reservations needed, trip size is limited. Trip fee is \$10 per person payable to Sea and Sage Audubon: Heise F.T. c/o Nancy Kenyon, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612. Include phone number & email address or stamped legal-sized envelope for trip info & confirmation. (For information about Heise Park, see their website <www.co.san-diego.ca.us/parks/Camping/heise.html> or google "William Heise County Park" for maps & reservations)

Dick & Pat Cabe, Leaders

Education News

Trude Hurd, Project Director of Marsh Education

For more information about our Education program, visit our chapter webpage at —
<http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org/Education/Education.html>



On Your Mark, Get Set, GO BAT WALK!

Registration will begin on February 2 for this summer's ever popular series of Bat Walks. There will be two Adults-only Bat Walks: Thursday, May 14 (the opening walk of the season), and Thursday, June 18. Family Bat Walks are scheduled for Friday evenings, May 22, June 12, August 7 and August 14. The walks are open to adults and children over the age of 7. The age limitation exists because families who have younger children usually have an attention span issue which causes them to leave the Walk early. Our liability insurance dictates that no participant may leave from the Walk alone. Thus one of the docents must accompany them, leaving the ratio of docents to continuing participants higher than is desirable. We want this to be an enjoyable evening for all who attend and thank you for your consideration. Although bat watching is a sometimes "in a minute" experience, our presenter, biologist Stephanie Remington, does a wonderful job of filling in the gaps with information about bats. These Bat Walks tend to be fully subscribed by mid-April, so it is suggested that you either consult our website at www.seaandsageaudubon.org or call Helen Nicholas at 949-726-0858 for further information and a registration form soon. Completing and sending it back as early in March as possible will provide you with the best opportunity for securing a spot on your first choice of dates.

SAVE THESE CAMP DATES!

These popular summer nature day camps fill up quickly, so don't wait until the last minute to sign up your children or grandchildren! Attending camp will be the highlight of their summer and one they will remember for years to come!

FLEDGLING CAMP (7-8 years) June 22 - 26

MARSH CAMP 1 (9-12 years) July 6 - 10

MARSH CAMP 2 (9-12 years) July 13 - 17

ADVANCED CAMP* (11+ years)

*(prior Marsh Camp Experience required)

1st camp session - July 20 - 24

2nd camp session - July 27 - Aug. 1

For more information or to register, pick up a camp flyer at Audubon House, or visit our chapter web page at www.seaandsageaudubon.org, or call Grace McElhiney at 714-969-9617, or Bev Spring at 714-505-9980.

BRING YOUR APPETITE! Registration Opens for Spring Brunches

Registration for this spring's series of 5 gourmet brunches opens on February 2, the first official "business day" of February. If you didn't have the opportunity to attend one in last spring's series, I invite you to make a reservation for one of this year's dates, which are Saturdays April 4, April 18 and June 6, and Sundays, May 3 and 17. I know that last year's participants would tell you that this is one of the best and most fun ways to spend a weekend morning. It's a wonderful social, as well as educational, opportunity to introduce friends and family to the Marsh. The program is limited in participation to 15 adults (no children) for easy conversation, and you'll be served a delicious full gourmet brunch in one of the loveliest outdoor settings in Orange County. For more details and a registration form, refer to our website, www.seaandsageaudubon.org or call Helen Nicholas at 949-726-0858.

JOIN THE NATURALISTS TEAM!

Our outstanding Outdoor Adventures Program for school children, 4th - 6th grades, has expanded. We now offer tours from October through early June. The tours run on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and involve 7 naturalists for each tour. Most naturalists sign up to help 2-4 times a month. To keep this great program operating successfully, we need more naturalists so that the same people do not have to help every week.

In January, we began using the new Education Center for our Outdoor Adventures Program. Microscopes are used to study water samples (to find out what the birds eat) and the new facility has plenty of counter space with excellent natural lighting for microscope use. Just outside, we set up the taxidermy specimens where the students can study the birds up close. The binoculars to be used on the bird walks are set up in different locations to accommodate the groups for their bird walk to the ponds. Emphasis is on observing bird behavior rather than identifying every bird by name.

As an Audubon House volunteer, I have the opportunity to observe the students when they get off the bus on Tuesday mornings, and again later on when they're walking around. Sometimes their group comes in Audubon House to look at the bird and bobcat taxidermy specimens and I always enjoy it because the students are so interested and excited about seeing the animals up close. Knowing this makes me realize how important our program is in educating our young people about nature. If you have Tuesday and/or Thursday mornings available and you enjoy working with children and sharing your love of nature with them, then you can sign up to join the Naturalists Team! Call Trude at 949-261-7964.

—N. Kenyon

Your Membership Payment

Directions to Audubon House

Receiving the Tattler

Your Membership Payment & Donations

If you are signing up as a new Audubon member be sure and use the application in the Tattler or on our website that has the C15 in the lower right hand corner. This tells National Audubon who to credit for your recruitment. Sea & Sage gets 100% of the first year's dues of new members (even if you give more than the minimum membership fee). When renewing your membership and you pay more than the standard renewal fee (\$35 for regular and \$15 for senior/student membership), the extra you contribute goes to National Audubon; the chapter does not get any of the contribution back. So, if you are feeling generous at renewal time and you want Sea & Sage to benefit, you should send your renewal fee to National and a separate check with your donation to the chapter. If you have any questions please contact Phil Brobst at (949) 261-7963.



Directions to:
AUDUBON HOUSE,
Chapter Meetings,
and the SJWS



Audubon House
8:00 am - 4:00 pm daily
(949) 261-7963



From the San Diego Frwy. (405), exit on Jamboree south toward Newport Beach. At the 1st signal, Michelson, turn left. Continue on Michelson to the 4th signal which is Riparian View; turn right toward the Irvine Ranch Water District plant. Follow the signs directing you to Audubon and the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. Follow the sign directing you to turn right down a short hill into our parking lot. The first building you see will be Audubon House; parking is ample. Beyond Audubon House are the ponds and marsh mitigation areas of the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary which are open every day from dawn until dusk.

Tattler Subscriptions

Non-Audubon members, or members from other Audubon chapters, who wish to subscribe to our chapter newsletter, may do so for \$12.50 per year, for regular mailing. Those who wish to receive their newsletter faster, by 1st class postage, may do so for an additional \$6.00. Make check payable to: SEA and SAGE AUDUBON and mail to: Tattler Subscriptions, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612.

Tattler Delivery

We post the Tattler on our chapter website. Members who wish to receive a monthly e-mail notification that the latest issue of the tattler is online, should send an e-mail to nancykenyon@cox.net. This method of Tattler delivery not only helps cut costs and conserve resources, it also is much faster since the Tattler is posted immediately after it has been delivered to the printer.

Remember Us in Your Will or Trust

Please remember to include "Sea and Sage Audubon Society" by name (tax ID#23-700-3681) in your will or trust.

Membership Application

Membership: We invite you to become a member of the National Audubon Society and the Sea & Sage Audubon chapter. **To join:** Please pay by check only; do not send cash. Make your check payable to: NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, complete this form, and mail it along with your payment to: Sea & Sage Audubon, PO Box 5447, Irvine CA 92616-5447.

National Audubon Society Membership: Check one [v]

[] NEW MEMBERSHIP: \$20 - Individual or Family members [] RENEWAL: \$35 - Regular Membership
[] NEW MEMBERSHIP: \$15 - Senior Citizen or Student [] RENEWAL: \$15 - Senior Citizen or Student

Members receive: AUDUBON magazine as well as the WANDERING TATTLER newsletter.

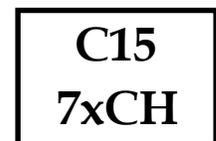
Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail address _____



February 2009

Sea and Sage Audubon Society

Chapter Mission Statement: Sea and Sage Audubon is a leader in creating an understanding of nature in Orange County, through conservation, research and environmental education programs for children and adults. This is accomplished with classes, field activities, publications and volunteer opportunities.



Sea & Sage Audubon Society
PO Box 5447, Irvine CA 92616

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BOARD MEMBERS

Executive Committee:

President.....	Jay Miller.....	714-549-2912
Vice President.....	Susan Sheakley.....	949-552-5974
Secretary.....	Gretchen McCausland.....	949-249-8258
Treasurer.....	Betsy Flynn.....	949-548-6432
Director 2009.....	Mary Joseph.....	714-848-8362
Director 2009.....	Chuck Leavell.....	714-630-6497
Director 2010.....	John Avise.....	949-856-2215
Director 2010.....	Donelda Warhurst.....	714-473-3405
Director 2011.....	Susan Munson.....	949-497-3906
Director 2011.....	Joel Weintraub.....	949-248-8205
Past President.....	Al Baumann.....	949-859-5081

Committee Chairpersons:

Audubon House Volunteers..	Judy Fritts.....	949-551-4513
Bird Information.....	Sylvia Gallagher.....	714-962-8990
Christmas Bird Counts.....	Curtis Johnson.....	714-739-5373
Conservation	Susan Sheakley.....	949-552-5974
Counsel.....	Rick Derevan.....	714-427-7016
Development.....	Cheryl Thomas.....	949-294-2275
Education	Kaaren Perry.....	949-497-0884
Exhibits.....	Mary Joseph.....	714-848-8362
Facilities.....	Neal Anderson.....	714-441-0491
Field Trips.....	Nancy Kenyon.....	949-786-3160
Finance.....	Hal Sheakley.....	949-552-5974
Hospitality-General Mtgs.....	Merri Levy.....	949-495-9482
Membership.....	Phil Brobst.....	949-261-7963
Newsletter Editor.....	Nancy Kenyon.....	949-786-3160
Oak Cyn Nature Center.....	Cathy Glasgow.....	714-998-8380
Partners in Flight.....	Janet Baumann.....	949-859-5081
Programs.....	Marquita Miller.....	714-549-2912
Publicity.....	Sheryl Blevins.....	949-831-3639
Publishing.....	Sam Berry.....	949-646-1488
SJWS Liaison.....	Chris Obaditch.....	949-640-7234
Starr Ranch/Envir. Liaison....	Pete DeSimone.....	949-858-0309
Webmaster.....	Nancy Kenyon.....	949-786-3160

Audubon House..... 949-261-7963

Marsh Education Project Director	Trude Hurd	949-261-7964
Marsh Education Project Dir.Assist	Deborah Brin.....	949-261-7964
Conservation Director Orange Co...	Scott Thomas.....	949-293-2915
Administrative Aide.....	Rebecca Craft.....	949-261-7963
Sales Manager.....	Debby Thyssen.....	949-261-7963
Chapter Website.....	http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org	

Contacts:

Bluebird Information.....	Dick Purvis.....	714-776-8878
OC Rare Bird Alert Hotline....	Joel Weintraub.....	949-487-6869
Slide Lending Library.....	Claudine Casey.....	714-968-3463

February 2009

01 Sun	Santiago Oaks monthly bird walk	7:30 am
02 Mon	Seal Beach NWR	7:30 am
03 Tues	Conservation Committee meeting.....	6:30 pm
05 Thurs	Laurel Canyon natural history walk (full)	9:00 am
7/8 S/S	Salton Sea weekend trip	9:00 am
08 Sun	SJWS monthly bird walk	8:00 am
13/15, F/S	Bill Clark's Introductory Raptor ID workshop....	7:15 pm
14 Sat	Prado Basin/Prado Reg, Park field trip	8:00 am
17 Tues	Sorting out the Red-tails program	7:30 pm
18 Wed	UNB by small boat (full).....	8:15 am
20 Fri	GENERAL MEETING	7:30 pm
21/22 S/S	Bill Clark's Intermed/Advanced Raptor ID class....	9:00 am
24 Tues	Conservation Lecture	7:00 pm
25 Wed	Nix Nature Center & Barbara's Lake FT.....	8:00 am
27 Fri	Photographer's Meeting	7:30 pm
28 Sat	Donna O'Neill Land Conservation trip	8:15 am

March 2009

01 Sun	Santiago Oaks monthly bird walk	7:30 am
03 Tues	Conservation Committee meeting.....	6:30 pm
05 Thurs	Santa Rosa Plateau natural history walk (full)..	9:00 am
07 Sat	Birding-by-ear field trip	8:30 am
08 Sun	SJWS monthly bird walk	8:00 am
10 Tues	Board Meeting.....	7:30 pm
12 Thurs	Riley Wilderness Park.....	8:00 am
20 Fri	ANNUAL DINNER.....	6:00 pm