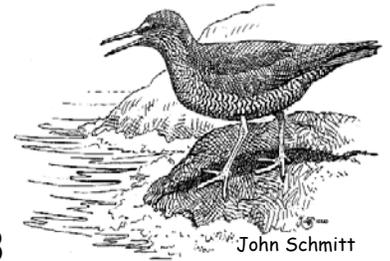


Wandering Tattler

May 2007
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The Voice of SEA AND SAGE AUDUBON, an Orange County Chapter of the National Audubon Society

Birds at What Cost

by Al Baumann, president

Well, here we are, half way through spring and not only the flowers are in bloom, but migration is in full bloom. We say “goodbye” to the White-crowned Sparrows for a few months, and we say “hello” to Hooded Orioles, Lazuli Buntings, Ash-throated Flycatchers and all the other birds we saw leave last fall. What an exciting time of the year! I am sure I'm not the only person who can't resist looking out the windows at the bird feeders every chance I have. The anticipation of seeing that beautiful migrant at MY feeder is excruciating!

Herein lies the possible problem that I am calling “Birds at What Cost.” Recently, I was made aware of an article entitled *Birdseed Brings Weeds*, which appeared in *The Oregonian*, a newspaper in Portland, Oregon, on January 29, 2007. The article states that the Oregon Department of Agriculture says that birdseed, which people pour into their feeders, may contain seeds of noxious or invasive weeds that choke valuable crops and destroy natural habitats. Researchers at Oregon State University who analyzed commercial birdseed purchased from grocery stores and found that the seed included 14 weed species, including Russian thistle, large crabgrass, and witchgrass, verify this. Simply cleaning up around the feeders will not help. The birds spread the bad seed. The article cites officials from the agriculture department saying that some of the seeds, including weed seeds, are hard to digest, so they are not digested by the birds, but pass right through the birds' digestive systems. When you think about where we live, in one of five Mediterranean climate regions in the world, with some of the highest species diversity in the world, think about what could happen to our beautiful native habitats. For me, the loss is too high a price to pay.

So, am I going to stop feeding MY birds? NO WAY! What I am going to do is read labels. If “filler” is listed or if it does not say, “no filler added,” I will not spend my money on it. The safer option might be to purchase your seed at a specialty bird-feeding store where they guarantee that their seed contains no filler (those seeds of noxious or invasive weeds, or seeds with no nutritional value).

Well, that's it, time to check my nine feeders...I'm back; no new birds, but MY Anna's Hummingbirds are still fighting each other and MY House Finches are at the bird feeders munching on the seed. I really enjoy MY birds!

General Meeting

May 18th - Friday - 7:30 pm

“Birds of Puerto Rico”

presented by Lance Benner

Puerto Rico is a Caribbean island about the size of Connecticut that has been isolated geographically since its formation millions of years ago. About 350 bird species have been recorded there and roughly 130 species breed there. Due to its isolation, Puerto Rico is home to about sixteen endemic bird species. One species, the Elfyn Woods Warbler, was discovered only 35 years ago, and another, the Puerto Rican Parrot, is among the most endangered birds in the world.

This talk will describe Puerto Rico's endemic and non-endemic birds, their geographic and seasonal distributions, birding locations, and tips for traveling to and within the island.

Lance Benner is a Research Scientist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena where he specializes in radar imaging of near-Earth asteroids, which he conducts at the Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico and at the Goldstone Solar System Radar in the Mojave Desert. He visits Puerto Rico several times each year and has become particularly fond of Puerto Rican Lizard Cuckoos, Todies, and Screech Owls, all of which are common at Arecibo Observatory.

Please join us for what promises to be a very enjoyable and informative program. The doors open at 7:00, the meeting starts at 7:30 pm. We meet at the Irvine Ranch Water District Board Meeting Room at 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue in Irvine.

Jay and Marquita Miller, Program Co-Chairs

Our meetings are held in the Board Meeting Room of the Irvine Ranch Water District's main office on the east side of Sand Canyon Ave. at the intersection of Water Works and Sand Canyon, in the city of Irvine. If you are coming by freeway, Sand Canyon may be accessed from both Santa Ana Frwy (5) or San Diego Frwy (405); there are ramps from both the north and the south. (The Irvine Ranch Water District neither supports nor endorses the cause or activities of organizations which use the district's meeting rooms, which are made available as a public service.)

Conservation News

by Susan Sheakley & Scott Thomas



Toll Road Update- AB 1457

The Transportation Corridor Agency (TCA) continues to believe they have the authority, and the right, to destroy a California State Park just because the park happens to lie in the most convenient path of their road. As you know the proposed Foothill- South toll road is aimed directly at the San Mateo Campground at San Onofre State Beach, the 5th most popular park in the California park system. The road would bisect the campground, effectively closing about 60% of the park, despite the objections of the State Parks system and the public.

Recently, State Assembly member Jared Huffman (D-Marin) introduced legislation (AB-1457) that would give the State Parks Director increased authority to protect all California State Parks from road projects that do not benefit the park, or which cause significant harm to a parks recreational value. Although the bill is not intended to address only the threats to San Onofre State Beach, groups such as Sea and Sage Audubon, California Audubon, Endangered Habitats League, Sierra Club, NRDC, and others are encouraged by the introduction of this bill.

Many California State Parks in places such as Anza Borrego, Chino Hills and San Onofre State Beach, are currently threatened by projects that do not benefit the particular park in question. Our state representatives need to hear from us that we don't want our parks used as road ways and targets for unrelated infrastructure projects. AB 1457 will be heard by the State Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee, as early soon as April 2007.

If you have contacts with anyone on this committee, please contact them and support AB 1457.

Additionally, please contact any state or federal representative in your area and let them know that you are appalled at the prospect of a road being built through a California State Park

Scott Thomas

Native Plant Garden Tour Saturday, May 5th; 10 am - 4 pm

Sea and Sage Audubon has joined with Orange County California Native Plant Society (CNPS) in sponsoring the Native Plant Garden Tour. This one-day, self-guided tour will feature designs that demonstrate integration of California native plants into the landscape. You will find variety and inspiration. Some gardens incorporate natives without sacrificing fruit trees and vegetable gardens. Others show mature groupings of native plants. And as one of the gardeners said, "The really great thing about planting natives, is that they attract birds to your yard!"

Nearly all of this year's gardens are new to the Native Plant Garden Tour, which will take place Saturday, May 5th, from 10 am to 4 pm.

Free brochures listing the gardens and their locations will be available after April 15; there are several ways to obtain a copy:

- * Send a written request with a SASE to OC CNPS, PO Box 54891, Irvine CA 92619-4891.
- * Visit the OC CNPS website at www.occnps.org and click on the Garden Tour link to leave your email address for an E-mailed copy. You can also link to the OC CNPS website from the Sea and Sage website at www.seaandsageaudubon.org. The map will be posted on the OC CNPS webstie on May 4 and 5 only.
- * Pick up a brochure at Audubon House in Irvine or at Tree of Life Nursery in San Juan Capistrano.

Susan Sheakley

Adult Research Camp at Starr Ranch

There is still room in the Adult Wildlife Research Camps at Starr Ranch. The May 18-20 camp will focus on bird research in the rare coastal sage scrub habitat. The June 2-3 camp will focus on investigating small mammals, invertebrates, and reptiles and amphibians of the oak woodland. For more info, visit <http://www.starr-ranch.org> or call 949-858-0309; for reservations, call 949-858-0131.

Rarities in Orange County

by Doug Willick

To report a RARE or UNUSUAL bird, or to receive the current RBA report for Orange County, call the OC RBA at (949) 487-6869.



There were few reports of previously unreported rarities since the last "Rarities" column, although this is fairly typical at this time of year (i.e., late winter/early spring). However, one new discovery was quite exceptional. On Apr. 4, a singing male **Pine Warbler** was in Costa Mesa's Estancia Park (Beverly Hargrove). The bird was refound the few day by a number of birders and quite possibly could have wintered here (based on the typical pattern of occurrence this species has shown in California). This was the county's tenth record. There was a variety of other new finds, with several of these being rare spring migrants in the county. These included a **Swainson's Hawk** over Aliso Woods Canyons Regional Park, Mar. 13 (Gary Meredith), two **Brewer's Sparrows** at Holy Sepulcher Cemetery, Mar. 17 (Doug Willick), another **Brewer's Sparrow** at the new James and Rosemary Nix Nature Center in Laguna Canyon, Mar. 24 (Peyton Cook); three **Greater White-fronted Geese** at Anaheim Lake, Mar. 23 (Robb Hamilton); a **Sage Thrasher** on Apr. 1 (Nathan Moorhatch); and a male **Calliope Hummingbird** at Huntington Central Park (HCP), Apr. 3 (Sam Hung). Though not necessarily rare, a **Hammond's Flycatcher** at Laguna Coast Wilderness Area, Mar. 31 (P. Cook), was an early spring migrant. A **Plumbeus** and **Cassin's Vireo** in the Big Canyon area of Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve, Mar. 16 (Loren Hays), as well as a **Black-and-white Warbler** at Mason Regional Park, Mar. 17 (Brian Daniels), were all birds likely wintering at these locations.

A good number of the rarities found throughout the county earlier in the winter remained well into March. The following updates some of the more interesting of these. At San

Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary (SJWS), two **Least Bitterns** were again seen (and even photographed), April 1 (Felicia Lee and Glenn Price). A wintering **Reddish Egret** at Bolsa Chica was most recently reported on Mar. 25, where three **Hooded Mergansers** were again seen, Mar. 28 (Steve Smith, Al Borodayko and Sam Hung). Six **Hooded Mergansers** remained in Laguna Woods through March 20 (Paul Klahr), where a **Varied Thrush** that had been present in Jan. reappeared for a short spell in mid Mar. (P. Klahr). Two **Common Mergansers** (actually a rather uncommon and very local bird in the county) lingered in Oso Creek through at least Mar. 17. A **Lewis's Woodpecker** frequenting O'Neill Regional Park was last reported on Mar. 11.

At HCP, where there was a number of wintering rarities, the following remained into March: **Varied Thrush** (through Mar. 18), **Black-and-white Warbler** (through Mar. 24), **Northern Waterthrush** (through Mar. 24) and **Summer Tanager** (through Mar. 30). At least two of the five **American Redstarts** that were known to be wintering in the county were again reported in recent weeks, with the adult male at Laguna Niguel Regional Park (LNRP) through at least Mar. 14, and a female in Orange (along the Santa Ana River), through Mar. 17. At Yosemite Park in Laguna Niguel, a **Hermit Warbler** and **White-breasted Nuthatch** continued through about Mar. 19 (P. Cook, et.al.), while a **Plumbeus Vireo**, Mar. 14, was a new discovery here (Jeff Ahrens). A **Swamp Sparrow** at LNRP lingered at least through Mar. 14.

The last report of **Mountain Bluebirds**, out of about three flocks known to be wintering in the county this year, were of four at the former El Toro Marine Corps Air Base, Mar. 5

(Bruce Aird). And last, but certainly not least, two of the more exceptional warbler rarities wintering in the county this year, the **Worm-eating Warbler** in U.C. Irvine residences and the **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Tewinkle Park, were both still present at least through Mar. 17.

Preliminary reports from around Southern California seem to indicate this might be a good spring for observing migrant landbirds. Large numbers of migrants are often still passing through our area during the first half of May, so grab those binoculars and get outside.



A Unique Opportunity

Haven't you always wanted the opportunity to do something cool, something that very few people have had the opportunity to do? Well, that opportunity is waiting for you right here in our own Orange County,

Come along as an assistant on one of our bat walks this summer. Unlike most of the visitors to the marsh, you will be able to explore the marsh at dusk and later. Most of nature that you observe in the daylight has gone to sleep, but there is life in the marsh at night and all your senses will affirm that. There is a peaceful calm that you experience when you walk the marsh at night. All that we ask of you as an assistant is to answer simple questions about the marsh and make sure that no one gets lost or hurt. You don't have to know anything about birds, bees or bats, just show up, commit about three hours to Sea & Sage, and make sure that everyone including yourself is having a good time. Call Helen Nicholas @949-726-0858 if you'd like to list yourself among the few! Walk dates are May 25, June 8, June 22, August 10. August 17.

Chapter News & Announcements



For more information on Sea & Sage events and activities, check out our chapter webpage at: <http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org>

Audubon House Volunteers

We would like to thank the following people for volunteering to staff Audubon House in April and May: Sonia Appell, Donna & Mike Augustine, Barbara Chidester, Deana Collins, Carolyn Cooper, Tom Drouet, Fresia Escalona, Judy Fritts, Virginia Gochenour, Keats Hayden, Pat Heilig, Sarah Jayne, Steve Jelnick, Lois Jones, Nancy Kenyon, Mary Martineau, Joan McCauley, Betty Purdy, Rosemary Price, Shirley Price, Barbara Reber, Mary Shandy, Bev Spring, Betty Swift, Celia Vorsanger, Vic Westling.

News from the Bookstore

Be sure to pick up a copy of the new *ABA Birder's Guide to Southern CA* (5th edition). Also in, *Peterson's Reference Guide: Gulls of the Americas, Ecology and Behavior of Chickadees and Titmice* (Oxford), and *Atlas of Bird Migration*. We also have a new line of house and gadecor (Bird with candle holder, garden signs, etc.) Coming soon, a new line of Sea & Sage logo items (birding bags with Sea & Sage logo are in stock now). Pre-summer sale this month on all tank & spaghetti strap t-shirts.

Photo Meeting

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, May 11th 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 on our webpage or call Steve Metildi at 714-505-3256.

Proposed New Officers

Al Baumann, President
Kaaren Perry, Vice President
Hal Sheakley, Treasurer
Gretchen McCausland, Secretary
John Avise, Director 2010
Donelda Warhurst, Director 2010

The election and installation of officers will take place at our General Meeting on May 18th, 2007.



Plan Ahead for these Great Summer Activities!

FLEDGLING CAMP: June 25-29 for children 7-8 years. 9 am to 2:30 pm. \$165/180 per camper.

MARSH BIRD CAMP: July 9-13 or July 16-20 for campers 9-12 years. 9 am to 3:30 pm. \$180/200 per camper.

ADVANCED BIRD CAMP: July 23-27 and July 30 - Aug. 4 for campers 11 years and older. 9 am to 3:30 pm. \$185/200 per camper for session 1 \$200/220 per campers for session 2.

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY

WORKSHOP: July 5 - 7, Thurs.-Sat; 3:00 - 7:00 pm for 12 year olds through adult. \$120 per person.

BAT WALKS: May 25, June 8, June 22, Aug. 10, Aug. 17 (waiting list only) \$12 for adults; \$8 for children 7-12.

SUMMER BBQ: Sat, July 28. We've got a great program planned; full info in the June Tattler. Save the date!

Full info on these special activities & events is on the chapter webpage or pick up a brochure at Audubon House. They all require advance reservations; both the bat walks and the camp program fill up very quickly!

Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day at Starr Ranch Sanctuary!

This free event will be held Saturday, May 12th, 7 a.m. - 2 p.m., (drop in).

Relax and enjoy a family picnic, see birds up close in bird banding demonstrations, participate in a hawk research simulation program, observe the birds of Starr Ranch on guided walks, receive a free Bird Day poster and more!

RSVP by e-mail (preferred!) to erynn.maynard@gmail.com or call Justin at 949-858-3537. Please provide group size and contact info in your RSVP. You must RSVP to get directions to Starr Ranch (internet directions do not work).

Old Bird Calendars Needed

Grace McElhiney needs pictures of shorebirds and those found in the coastal sage scrub for a project for Advanced Camp this summer. She also needs "old" bird calendars. If you have some to donate, please drop them off at Audubon House, marked with Gracere's name on them. Thanks!

Birdathon 2007!

By the time you receive this issue of the Wandering Tattler, Birdathon will be upon us. So there's still time for you to join in the fun! Spend a day birding wherever and at whatever pace you prefer. All you need to make it a Birdathon is sponsors, and you can find those all around you. Friends, family, coworkers, random strangers on the street, just ask them to support you while you support a worthy cause. And if you can't go birding, you can still help the chapter by supporting a team or the chapter directly. Mail your Birdathon pledges to: Birdathon! Sea & Sage Audubon, PO Box 5447, Irvine CA 92616
Thanks for your support!

March 31, 2007

Sea and Sage Audubon Society
Al Baumann, President
Board of Directors
Members and Friends

Dear Friends,

We want to thank you from the bottoms of our hearts for the wonderful honor bestowed on us last Friday, March 16. To have the Sylvia Ranney Gallagher and James Ross Gallagher Award established in our names is still difficult for us to completely comprehend.

Al, your dedication program was extremely well prepared—and didn't make us squirm too much. Others have told us they enjoyed it, too.

The beautiful painting of the three recognizable forms of the White-crowned Sparrow, Sylvia's favorite bird, continues to reveal new evidence of John Sill's skill as an art every time we look at it. The birds themselves are perfectly executed—and the setting evokes autumn, when the arrival of our backyard White-crowns reminds us that the hot summer is over. We have admired Sill's work for many years.

We were also thrilled to have Kenn Kaufman as the dinner speaker and to be able to sit next to him at the dinner and get acquainted. He is also a person whose work we have admired.

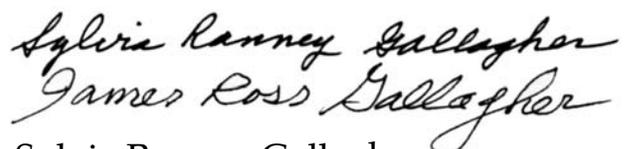
But probably the single thing that made the enormity of the award finally sink in was to stand in front of that crowd of over two hundred smiling faces and feel the love of our many friend—most of whom we have had the privilege of knowing personally as they've participated in workshops in our living room, chatted with us in the kitchen during breaks, and birded with us in the field at locations both near and far over many years.

We look forward to participating in future years in the selection of others to receive the award, and there are others who have made a significant contribution to increasing people's appreciation and knowledge of birds.

Despite our advancing years, we're both in good health and hoping to take many more photographs and present many more workshops in the years ahead.

Thank you again for the honor. We'll continue to try to live up to it.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Sylvia Ranney Gallagher and James Ross Gallagher in cursive script.

Sylvia Ranney Gallagher
James Ross Gallagher

May Field Trips



For trip updates & additional trip information, visit the chapter webpage at <http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org>. 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

Big Morongo Preserve

Sunday, May 6th - 7:00 a.m.

Big Morongo Preserve is a mecca for migratory birds as well as resident desert species. This willow cottonwood riparian oasis, with a year around stream, surrounded by desert, attracts a wide variety of birds including the nesting Vermilion Flycatcher, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Summer Tanager, Yellow-breasted Chat, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Gambel's Quail, Verdin, and often, many warblers. An excellent source of information about the preserve can be found on the Big Morongo Canyon Preserve website at: www.bigmorongo.org

Directions: Take the Riverside Frwy. (#91) to the San Bernardino Frwy. (#10) towards Palm Springs. Drive past Banning and the Palm Springs exit to #62, the Yucca Valley/Joshua Tree exit where you will turn off. Drive approximately 7 miles to the center of Morongo Valley. Turn right on East Street across from Rocky's Pizza; then take the first driveway to the left, into the preserve parking lot where we will meet. Bring a hat, water, snack, jacket & lunch. *Bruce Aird, Leader*

Santiago Oaks Regional Park

Sunday, May 6th - 7:00 a.m.

Join Linette Lina for a monthly bird walk at Santiago Oaks at 7:00 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. Even after the fire, there were a lot of birds found in the park last month.

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 have a county parks pass. Meet in the upper end of the parking lot. *Linette Lina, Leader*

Hawk & Owl Banding Trips ®

Sat., May 12th, 8 am - 1 pm; 12 pm - 5 pm

Sun., May 13th, 8 am - 1 pm; 12 pm - 5 pm

(See chapter webpage for additional trip information and photos.) Come to Starr Ranch Sanctuary and join sanctuary manager, Pete DeSimone, and Scott Thomas on a tour of the sanctuary; have the unique opportunity to observe hawk and owl chicks right at their nests. The chicks will be banded right in front of the group. Trip participants will be able to help out and get right in the action with the young raptors. These outings include 3-4 hours in the field and a picnic lunch. Trip fee is \$40 per person; full time students & children under 10 are \$25. Advance reservations are necessary. Make checks payable to Sea & Sage Audubon & mail to: Banding Trips, c/o

Nancy Kenyon, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612. Be sure to include your phone number and your email address or a stamped, self-addressed legal-size envelope for trip confirmation & directions. *Pete DeSimone & Scott Thomas, Leaders*

Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS

Sunday, May 13th - 8:00 a.m.

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*

Monthly Electric Boat Trips at UNB ®

Wednesday mornings at 8:15 am

May 16, June 20, July 18, Aug. 15

Join us for the rare chance of birding the Upper Newport Bay from the deck of a small electric-powered boat. Spotting birds from the water offers one a different perspective and the birds seem to view us differently also. Trip duration is about 3 hours. Participants may be asked to help count birds seen or heard from the boat. Space is limited because the boat is very small; advance reservations are mandatory. Contact Nancy Kenyon for trip reservations at 949-786-3160 or NancyKenyon@cox.net. *Nancy Kenyon, Leader*

Eyes on the Preserve, Huntington State Beach Field Trip & Picnic Lunch

Saturday, May 19th, 9:00 am - 12 noon

Would you like to see breeding endangered Least Terns, their nests, eggs, and chicks? Would you like to know more about our monitoring project at the beach, or just more about these birds? Please join us for an "Eyes on the Preserve" field trip and picnic on the beach.

On May 19, the area should be teeming with Least Tern nesting activity. The males will be bringing fish offerings to their mates. We should be able to see nests with eggs.

For those who are interested, there will be a short orientation to the monitoring project.

Please bring your lunch and, if you like, some little something to share with others. We'll finish up the morning with a picnic lunch at the beach.

Enter at the Magnolia Street and Pacific Coast Highway entrance in Huntington Beach. Fee will be waived for trip participants. We suggest you bring water, binoculars, and sun screen as well as your picnic lunch. Spotting scopes would be a good idea also.

Susan Sheakley, Leader (949-552-5974)

Laguna Coast Shorebird Survey

We need your help!



Laguna Ocean Foundation, in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management and Point Reyes Bird Observatory, is launching a Shorebird Survey of the Laguna Coast. We are looking for volunteers to join our field survey team. Data from this year-long survey will be used to develop management measures to protect and enhance shorebird populations on the Laguna Coast.

The Laguna Coast is unique among Orange County coastlines in its abundance of rocky shoreline habitats interspersed with sandy coves and beaches. The goal of the survey is to identify baseline levels of shorebird abundance and diversity, with seasonal counts that target wintering birds, Spring and Fall migrants, and breeding birds. Survey methods will be developed especially for this inventory by scientists from Point Reyes Bird Observatory, recognized world-wide for their expertise in applied ornithology.

Laguna Ocean Foundation is a non-profit organization founded in 2004 to protect the intertidal habitats and other coastal resources of Laguna Beach. The Bureau of Land Management is the supervising agency of the California Coastal National Monument, a new federal monument established in 2000 that includes all the offshore rocks along the California Coast. These two entities have partnered to conduct this unique survey with your help, and with the help of scientists from Point Reyes Bird Observatory. The survey will begin in June 2007 and will run a full year.

Volunteers are asked to commit to one half-day survey at assigned locations four times during the study year. A second level of volunteers will perform monthly surveys at focused locations each month of the year. Qualified volunteers should have some shorebirding experience (additional training is available). Birders with limited mobility are encouraged to volunteer, as some sites are easily accessible. Parking and/or access to all survey sites will be pre-arranged by field crew coordinators.

Survey methods will be simple, standardized and clearly explained during advance training sessions. Team members will be provided with some field supplies by REI. Volunteers will be part of a well-organized team that will perform valuable work with genuine scientific and conservation applications, while also partaking of a unique opportunity to experience shorebirds in their diverse habitats. This survey combines science, conservation, scenic vistas of Orange County's most beautiful coastline, and the chance to see species you may never have seen before!!!

To sign up, simply email Laura Wantz at leighfred@cox.net or phone her at (949) 494-4046.

May & June Field Trips

For trip updates & additional trip information, visit the chapter webpage at www.seaandsageaudubon.org
Trips marked with (R) require advance reservations.

Field Natural History Walk into Baker Canyon with Dick Newell ® Wed., May 23rd - 9:00 a.m.

Spend a delightful morning exploring and contemplating the beauty and mystery of nature with a local naturalist. We will examine the geology, plant life, birds, herps and other animals of this pristine area. More than just learning plant names or identifying birds, we will explore behavior, habitat and look at relationships of the natural community during a relaxed, casual hike through native grasslands, along a streambed and through its riparian habitat where native oaks, sycamores and willows abound.

The trip will take a little over three hours to complete. It will cover about three miles and perhaps a 400' elevation gain. Anyone who is reasonably fit should find these tours relatively easy to complete.

Bring a sandwich to enjoy after the walk, perhaps a cookie to munch on along the way and lots of water. Also suggested are hiking boots, suntan lotion, binoculars and most importantly, an open, inquiring mind. Trip is not suited for children under 11 years.

To ensure a quiet contemplative walk each tour is limited to only ten participants. Contact Nancy Kenyon at 949-786-3160 or nancykenyon@cox.net for trip reservations and directions. Be sure to leave your name & phone number so that she can call you back.

Dick Newell, Leader

Kern River Preserve & Vicinity ® Sat/Sun - June 16 & 17 (weekend trip)

This special trip is one you won't want to miss! It is also one you need to plan ahead for because finding accommodations in the Kernville area can be tricky if done at the last minute. We are fortunate to have our field trip led by Bob Barnes who lived in the area for many years and knows the area well. This trip will cover a variety of habitats: high desert, Great Basin, cottonwood/willow riparian, forest, redwood meadows, and mountains. Some of the nesting season bird species available in June (assuming full accessibility in mountains) include: Sooty Grouse, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Black Swift, Williamson's Sapsucker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Clark's Nutcracker, Mountain Bluebird, Mountain White-crowned Sparrow. (Summer heat should not be a problem because Bob plans to bird in the lower elevations in the morning and higher elevations in the afternoon.) **Trip fee:** \$40.

Reservations: Make check payable to Sea & Sage Audubon & mail it to: Kern River FT, c/o Nancy Kenyon, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612.

Pond Ponderings - Welcoming Our New Naturalists

by *Trude Hurd*

Project Director for our chapter's Marsh Education Project



Many nature centers and museums throughout Orange County are experiencing a declining number of volunteers. Thus, a major goal this past year for our Marsh Education Project has been to concentrate on volunteer recruitment. As a result of these efforts, we are pleased to report that twelve new naturalists have been training and leading Outdoor Adventures science programs for elementary school children at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary during 2006-7.

These enthusiastic volunteers attended a single morning orientation meeting taught by Trude Hurd, our Project Director of Education, to learn the overall theme for each of the three hands-on activities. They observed the most common birds in the ponds and trails, peeked through microscopes at the most common bugs in the water, and compared the beaks and feet of ten taxidermy bird specimens. They also received a training manual complete with procedures and helpful tips for sharing nature with children. Recruits from each month's orientation then assisted experienced naturalists during actual school tours in fall and spring until they felt ready to lead.

Paired with experienced naturalists like Frank Feller, Beverly Hargrove, Carolyn Noble and Pat Vranicar, the naturalists-in-training practiced their new-found skills with children during the bird walk, microscope station, and taxidermy bird activity. They witnessed how thrilled the children became when given their own microscope and binocular to use. They learned effective techniques that make it easy to share one's love of nature. And these recruits discovered first-hand that today's youth who have a personal experience with nature (i.e., a freshwater wetland) become excited about the environment!

Community Tours

In addition to the school tours offered during the week, we also offer community tours to further increase public awareness of the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. We have already conducted or received reservations for 12 such tours in calendar 2007.. Of these , one has been from a home schooled cub scout group from Garden Grove, one a group of international students from UCI, another an adult immigrant class from Irvine, and 8 scout troops from various parts of Orange County. Other inquiries have also been received. If you would like more information regarding our Community Tour Program or would like to schedule a tour, please call Helen Nicholas, 949-726-0858.

— *Helen Nicholas*

We discovered that the most effective recruitment sources were word-of-mouth by current Audubon Naturalists and our Project Director of Education's presentations at chapter events, and local college classes. We also gained volunteers from notices in our chapter newsletter, at Audubon House, in local newspapers, and from several websites.

Our science program is dependent upon a volunteer staff that is managed by a full-time Project Director. If we increase our naturalist numbers, then we can increase the numbers of students experiencing nature through our Outdoor Adventures science program. Think about your friends and acquaintances. Is one of them a potential recruit for our outdoor science program? Please speak with them about our naturalist program! Also, contact Trude Hurd, Project Director Education, at Audubon House at 949-261-7963 for more information.

We are pleased to welcome these twelve new naturalists to the Audubon Naturalist team: Sherry Bass, Lynn Becker, Sara Bethurum, Shirley Feller, Kathy Greenwood, Mary Joseph, Gretchen Mavrovouniotis, Jay Miller, Marquita Miller, Susan Monroe, Susan Munson, and Sheri Smith. Because of these new naturalists' enthusiasm and willingness to volunteer their time and skills, future children will look up from their microscopes and binoculars and say "This is the BEST field trip ever!"

For a full report on the 2006/7 tour season, including all participating naturalists, see next month's Wandering Tattler.

The Junior Naturalists

The Junior Naturalists would like to thank the Board of Sea and Sage Audubon for allowing them to participate in the walk with Kenn Kaufman after his excellent presentation on Saturday, March 17th. Olivia Simon, Nathan Shaw, Nora Papian and Scott Hendrixson bypassed the lottery and were able to bird the marsh with the Kenn and Kim Kaufman group. The Junior Naturalists found Kenn's principles and pitfalls of bird identification a straightforward guide to birding. They were really impressed not only by his broad knowledge of birds, but all parts of an ecosystem. Kenn and his wife were very relaxed and open in working with teens and this made for a wonderful morning. Thank you for supporting the Junior Naturalists

— *Kate Grabenstein*

Chapter News & Announcements



For more information on Sea & Sage events and activities, check out our chapter webpage at: <http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org>

Annual Dinner Review

Nothing we do at Sea and Sage is a solo activity, it seems. Our Annual Dinner is an excellent example of volunteer spirit and collaboration between a diverse group of wonderful people. This year, we honored our most generous of volunteers, Jim and Sylvia Gallagher. Those two are a shining example of what each of us should be aiming for . . . volunteer sainthood. I don't know about you, but I think our president gave a wonderful preamble to the Gallaghers' award and I was just plainly proud to be sitting in the audience.

Our keynote speaker, Kenn Kaufmann, not only spoke on Friday night, he led a fundraising workshop for Sea and Sage the next morning. Thank you Kenn.

This year, our silent auction was very popular. All of you should know that every single item on our tables for the silent auction was donated. We had seven incredibly generous and talented artists donate their original art work to enhance our many programs: Bonnie Cordell, Christopher Ho, Jennifer Ho, Cay Killeen, Peter Knapp, Sylvia Marson and Nancy Swan. Look up their websites and you will see how fortunate we are to have such talent associated with Sea and Sage. Other donors were WildBird Magazine, Richard and Nancy Kenyon, Al and Janet Baumann, Phyllis Anderson, Robert Waters, the Borren Family, Neil West, Dick Purvis, Starr Ranch, Disneyland, Terry Senko, and Western Field Ornithologists. Those making it all happen, the event volunteers, were Jay and Marquita Miller, Dorothy Yim, Al and Janet Baumann, Susan and Hal Sheakley, Richard and Nancy Kenyon, Patricia Cabe, Catherine Waters, Scott and Cheryl Thomas and Kenn Kaufman. And, of course, we need to thank the Irvine Ranch Water District and the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary Board for their years of continuing support. (If you don't see your name here, it is my memory at fault and unintentional.)

Catherine Waters

Sea Cruise at the Summer Barbecue

This is your big chance to take a pelagic birding cruise from the safety of your chair in the dining area at the annual Sea and Sage Barbecue Under the Stars, July 28, 2007. Plan to be there! We hope you'll leave your life vest at home and bring your family instead as we set sail. Bringing us his incredible experience and expertise in pelagic birding, Todd McGrath, the holder of the L. A. County Big Year record, will take the Sea and Sage stage and accompany us on a feet- on-the-ground cruise of the California coast for birds and mammals. Tickets will go on sale June 1st. Pre and post barbecue there will be guided walks

around the marsh. The pre barbecue walk will focus on the sights and sounds as the marsh life settles in for the evening. The post speaker marsh walk will focus on bats and Black Skimmers that frequent the Sanctuary at night. If you'd like to volunteer for this event call or e-mail Catherine Waters, robcatwaters@earthlink.net; 949-254-3586.

Lost and Hopefully Found

At our annual dinner a Sea and Sage member lost a life time memento either in the parking lot or in the banquet room/banquet area. The item was an off-white collar style necklace made of large button size bone disks strung through the middle. From in between the disks several small carved bone elephants were hung with a larger center elephant attached to a bottom of a bone ball. The item looks like, but is not, ivory. The necklace is very unique and the person who lost it is very distressed. If you found such an item, could you find it in your heart to return it to Audubon House or call 949-261-7963 and leave a message? A reward, in the form of a \$300.00 donation to Sea and Sage or the recovering individual, is being offered. The item is of great sentimental value to the owner.

Backcountry Volunteer Unit at Caspers

Ryan Cordero, the new Park Ranger at Caspers Wilderness Park, is recruiting park volunteers to participate in the park's new "Backcountry Volunteer Unit". This unit would be focused primarily on trail maintenance and exotic plant eradication throughout the park (follow link for [ocparks.com](http://www.ocparks.com) recruitment: <http://www.ocparks.com/newsroom/default.asp?Show=1001447&subshow> Ryan is looking for general/long term volunteers to join this unit. Upon completion of the adopt a park general volunteer application and live scan process, volunteers will be invited to attend an 8 hr "Trail Maintenance for Volunteers" course where they will earn a certificate of completion sanctioned by the Southern California Trails Coalition. This certification will enable them to join the Caspers Park "Backcountry Volunteer Unit" and will ensure a standard of training accepted by other government agencies such as the United States Forest Service and California State Parks. If you are interested, contact Ryan at 949-923-2208-Office; 714-277-9023 Mobile.

Can you give us a hand?

Volunteers are needed to help the campers at Marsh Bird Camp hammer their wooden bird feeders together on July 13 and/or July 20. Call Grace McElhiney if you'd be willing to help out with this project. (714-969-9617)

Chapter Financial Report - 2006

	Chapter	San Joaquin Marsh Education Project	Combined
BALANCE SHEET			
Assets			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash & Equivalents	235,587	8,113.00	243,700
Investments	414,598		414,598
Other Current Assets	23,365	6,702	30,067
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	673,550	14,815	688,365
FIXED ASSETS			
Furniture & Equipment, etc. (fully depreciated)	0	0	0
TOTAL ASSETS	673,550	14,815	688,365
Liabilities and Equity			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Current Funds and Payables	9,242		9,242
TOTAL LIABILITIES	9,242		9,242
EQUITY			
Endowment Fund	363,886		363,886
General Fund	126,157		126,157
Conservation Fund	174,265		174,265
San Joaquin Marsh Fund		14,815	14,815
TOTAL EQUITY	664,308	14,815	679,123
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	673,550	14,815	688,365
INCOME & EXPENSE STATEMENT			
Income			
Chapter Transfer to Marsh Education Project		21,200	*see note
Dues Split	9,585		9,585
Direct Mail Appeal	39,930		39,930
Other Donations	7,897	378	8,275
Grants	100	42,500	42,600
Interest & Dividends	25,024		25,024
Merchandise Sales	29,033		29,033
Cost of Sales	-28,067		-28,067
Other Income	70,478	27,271	97,749
TOTAL INCOME	153,980	91,349	*234,129
Expenses			
Chapter Transfer to Marsh Education Project	21,200		*see note
Education Program Expenses		80,526	80,526
Newsletter Publication	9,783		9,783
Committee Expenses	20,292		20,292
Other Chapter Expenses	49,723		49,723
TOTAL EXPENSES	100,998	80,526	*160,324
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	52,982	10,823	63,805

*Note: Internal transfer of \$21,200 not shown in combined totals.

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 and the SJWS

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 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

Those of you who read the Tattler cover to cover, know that Sea and Sage is trying to cut their expenses. We now post the Tattler on our chapter website. Members who wish to receive 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

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 [✓]

[] 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.

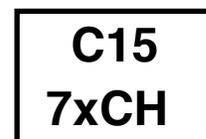
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Address _____

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Phone _____

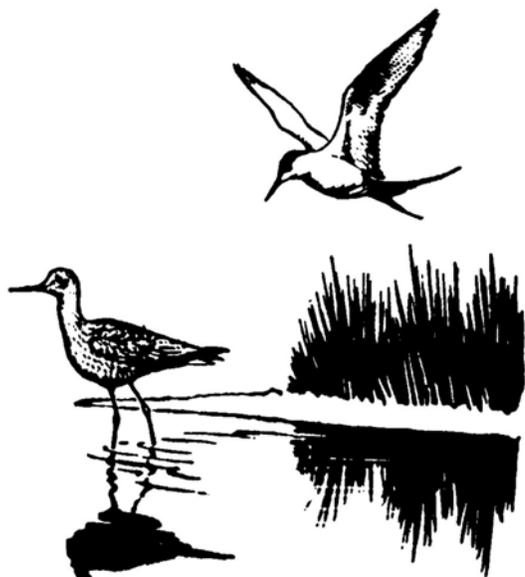
E-mail address _____



May 2007

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
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BOARD MEMBERS

Executive Committee:

President.....	Al Baumann.....	949-859-5081
Vice President.....	Kaaren Perry.....	949-497-0884
Secretary.....	Marcia Marlowe.....	949-644-0559
Treasurer.....	Hal Sheakley.....	949-552-5974
Director 2007.....	Laura Wantz.....	949-494-4046
Director 2007.....	Pete DeSimone.....	949-858-0309
Director 2008.....		
Director 2008.....	Sandy DeSimone.....	848-858-0309
Director 2009.....	Mary Joseph.....	714-848-8362
Director 2009.....	Chuck Leavell.....	714-630-6497
Past President.....	Tom Croom.....	714-692-9683

Committee Chairpersons:

Audubon House Volunteers..	Judy Fritts.....	949-551-4513
Birdathon (interim).....	Al Baumann.....	949-859-5081
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 (interim).....	Kaaren Perry.....	949-497-0884
Exhibits.....		
Facilities.....	Neal Anderson.....	714-441-0491
Field Trips.....	Nancy Kenyon.....	949-786-3160
Finance.....		
Great Park Liaison Chair.....	Diane Bonanno.....	714-572-9911
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
Program Co-Chairs.....	Jay & Marquita Miller..	714-549-2912
Publicity.....	Catherine Waters.....	562-869-6718
Publishing.....	Sam Berry.....	949-646-1488
SJWS Liaison.....	Chris Obaditch.....	949-640-7234
Starr Ranch/Envir. Liaison....	Pete DeSimone.....	949-858-0309
Webpage.....	Nancy Kenyon.....	949-786-3160

Chapter Office (AUDUBON HOUSE)..... 949-261-7963

Marsh Education Project Director...	Trude Hurd	949-261-7963
Marsh Education Project Dir. Assist	Deborah Brin.....	949-261-7963
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	

Other Personnel

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

CALENDAR

April

28 Sat	Birdathon.....	up to you
29 Sun	El Moro Canyon, Crystal Cove State Park.....	7:30 am

May

01 Tues	Education Committee Meeting.....	1:00 pm
01 Tues	Conservation Committee Meeting.....	6:30 pm
05 Sat	Native Plant Garden Tour.....	10:00 am
06 Sun	Big Morongo Preserve trip.....	7:00 am
06 Sun	Santiago Oaks Regional Park trip.....	7:00 am
08 Tues	Board Meeting.....	7:30 pm
11 Fri	Photo Meeting.....	7:30 pm
12/13 S/S	Hawk Banding Trips.....	8:00 am & 12 pm
12 Sat	International Migratory Bird Day, Starr Ranch..	9:00 am
13 Sun	Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS.....	8:00 am
16 Wed	Electric Boat Trip.....	8:15 am
18 Fri	GENERAL MEETING.....	7:30 pm
19 Sat	Eyes on the Preserve at HSB trip.....	9:00 am
23 Wed	Baker Canyon Natural History Walk.....	9:00 am
25 Fri	Bat Walk.....	7:00 pm

June

03 Sun	Santiago Oaks Regional Park trip.....	7:00 am
08 Fri	Bat Walk.....	7:00 pm
10 Sun	Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS.....	8:00 am
16/17 S/S	Kern River Area weekend trip.....	tba
20 Wed	Electric Boat Trip.....	8:15 am
22 Fri	Bat Walk.....	7:00 pm
23 Sat	San Bernardino Mountains trip.....	8:00 am