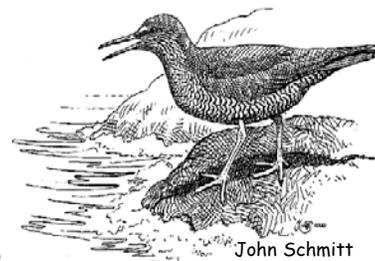


Wandering Tattler

May 2008
Volume 57, Number 8



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

A Bit of Chapter History

The Fern Zimmerman Conservation Award

The year 2008 marks Sea and Sage Audubon Society's 50th anniversary as a Chapter of the National Audubon Society. It is fitting to look back on a bit of our history. Sea and Sage Audubon was created by the Santa Ana Bird Club. Fern Zimmerman, an avid birder, was a member of the Santa Ana Bird Club and one of Sea and Sage Audubon's early forces.

Fern Zimmerman was a true conservationist, grass roots organizer, and chapter leader who contributed a great deal to the development of Sea and Sage Audubon Society. Many of the chapter's early Conservation Committee meetings were held in Fern's home and were organized by Fern. She helped us find our voice in the world of environmental advocacy and bird conservation. Fern was a constant source of optimism about our ability to effect change in our environment, especially in the protection of open space.

The conservation award, which the chapter has presented annually since 1967, was named the Fern Zimmerman Conservation Award in 1997, shortly after Fern's death, to honor one of Sea and Sage Audubon's all-time most inspirational and enthusiastic members and leaders.

The Fern Zimmerman Conservation Award is presented, with great pride and gratitude, to deserving individuals for hard work and contributions to protecting open spaces and birds in Southern California. These personal contributions can be in the form of grassroots activism, education, leadership, science or other fields related to the protection of birds and our environment.

For more about the Conservation Award and other Chapter Awards, see page 2. The history of chapter awards gives a hint of Orange County's past as well.

Susan Sheakley, Conservation Chair
Scott Thomas, Conservation Director

General Meeting

Friday evening, May 16th

“Falcon Fever: A Falconer in the 21st Century”

presented by Tim Gallagher

Come hear Tim Gallagher illuminate the powerful, mysterious allure of falconry. In *Falcon Fever*, Gallagher examines the formative role falconry played in his life. The book is a compelling amalgam of memoir, history, and travelogue, in which Gallagher reveals the little-known subculture of falconry and explores its connection with his own story. Gallagher also offers a unique glimpse into contemporary falconry, examining the mutual obsession that drives individuals including Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and film writer Tony Huston.

Tim Gallagher is an award-winning author, wildlife photographer, and magazine editor. He is currently editor-in-chief of *Living Bird*, the flagship publication of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Gallagher is the author of *The Grail Bird*, about the rediscovery of the ivory-billed woodpecker and *Falcon Fever*, which will be released in May 2008.

We hope you will join us. 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 either 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 Award History & Special Awards

Each year at our Annual Dinner, the Fern Zimmerman Award is presented to people who have made a substantial difference in the world of conservation. Periodically, special awards have been presented to chapter members who have contributed to the chapter in special ways. In 2008, the first Sylvia Ranney Gallagher and James Ross Gallagher Award was presented. This list of awards was compiled by Scott Thomas and Susan Sheakley.

Fern Zimmerman Conservation Awards:

- 2008** - Mark Bixby and Julie Bixby
Grassroots Initiative for Bolsa Chica
- 2007** - Peter Knapp
Snowy Plovers and Shorebird Habitat
- 2006** - Rick Derevan
Guidance, Protection of Open Space
- 2005** - Tim Miller
OC Parks Wildlife Resources, Native Plantings
- 2004** - Garry Brown
Ocean Protection
- 2003** - Marilyn Ganahl, Teresa Sears, Shirley Grindle - *Barham Ranch*
- 2002** - Amigos de Bolsa Chica & Bolsa Chica Landtrust - *Protection, Restoration of the Bolsa Chica*
- 2001** - Claire Schlotterbeck
Coal Canyon
- 2000** - Scott Thomas & Susan Gallaugher
Leadership & Raptor Research
- 1999** - Paul Carlton
Friends of the Foothills, Santa Ana Mountains
- 1998** - John McCaul
Audubon Legislative Analyst
- 1997** - Sylvia Gallagher
Conservation of Birds through Adult Education

Conservation Awards:

- 1996** - Elisabeth Brown, PhD
Laguna Beach Open Spaces
- 1995** - Pete Bloom
Conservation of Raptors
- 1994** - Kaaren Perry
Youth Education in Birds, Science & Nature
- 1993** - Dr. John & Nancy Skinner
Newport Bay
- 1993** - Dan Silver
Endangered Habitats
- 1992** - Pete DeSimone
Las Flores

Conservation Awards:

- 1991** - Ray Chandos
Effective Use of CEQA
- 1990** - Cameron Cosgrove
Support of Conservation
- 1989** - Walt Wright
Habitat Protection
- 1988** - Loren Hays
Huntington Beach Central Park
- 1987** - Gary Gorman
Huntington Beach Wetlands museum
- 1986** - Connie Spenger
Tecate Cypress
- 1985** - Amigos de Bolsa Chica
Bolsa Chica
- 1984** - Kenneth S. Croker
Conservation Leadership Sierra Club
- 1984** - Gordon B. Ruser
Tecate Cypress, Coal and Gypsum Canyons
- 1983** - Ferne Cohen
Weir Canyon
- 1982** - Dave Bontrager
Irvine Park Oak Tree Preservation
- 1981** - Judy Rosener
Coastal Commissioner
- 1981** - Dave Myers
Chino Hills
- 1980** - Margaret Carlberg
Bolsa Chica
- 1979** - Hal Thomas
Environmental Coalition
- 1978** - Chuck Greening
Hills for Everyone
- 1977** - Shirley Grindle
Tin Cup Campaign Reform
- 1976** - Dale Secord
Environmental Coalition of OC
- 1975** - James Dilley
Laguna Greenbelt

Conservation Award History - continued

Conservation Awards:

- 1974 - Rod Sackett
Santa Ana Greenbelt Plan
- 1973 - Fern Zimmerman
Inspiration and Advocacy
- 1972 - Donald Shipley
City of HB Parklands
- 1971 - Frank and Frances Robinson
Upper Newport Bay
- 1970 - William Fitchen
OC Air Quality
- 969 - Adaline Walker
OC Garden Clubs
- 1968 - John W. Johnson
Student Interest in Conservation
- 1967 - C.M. Featherly
OC Parklands

Chapter Special Award History:

- 2008 - Dick Kust for *Long Standing and Versatile Service to the Chapter*
- 2007 - Sylvia Ranney Gallagher and James R. Gallagher for *Extraordinary Achievements and Dedication to the chapter*
- 2005 - Dave Bontrager for *Natural History Education*
- 1998 - Nancy Kenyon for *Outstanding Service to the chapter*
- 1984 - Carolyn Honer and Sylvia Ranney for *Birds of Southern California Filmstrip Series*

Sylvia Ranney Gallagher and James R Gallagher Award

- 2008 - Grace McElhiney and Bev Spring for *Sea and Sage Audubon's Summer Camp Program*

Sylvia Ranney Gallagher and James Ross Gallagher Award presented to Grace McElhiney and Bev Spring

Grace and Bev have been involved in the camp program almost from the start. In 1993, our Marsh Education Director, Trude Hurd, established the one-week camp that came to be called Marsh Camp, for children 9 to 12 years of age. Grace McElhiney helped with it that very first year but then moved away for several years. When she returned in 1998, she quickly renewed her involvement with the program. Meanwhile Bev Spring had started helping in 1995. This camp has now become so popular that it is offered twice each July.

By 2000 or 2001, it had become evident to Trude that Grace was assuming more and more leadership in developing stimulating activities for the children and effectively using the skills of the many volunteers who help with the camps, so she asked her to assume the new position of Camp Coordinator. Grace asked Bev to be her Co-Coordinator, and the two of them have worked together ever since.

By this time, there were a lot of young graduates of Marsh Camp who were unhappy that they were now too old for camp. To meet this demand, Advanced Camp was developed and first presented in 2001. It was a huge success from the beginning. Now we offer two weeks of it with different activities each week. Graduates of Marsh Camp who are 11 years of age or older may enroll in either or both weeks. Most do both, and they come back year after year. This means that the committee develops two full weeks of new and stimulating activities every year!

Word of how much fun these camps are began trickling down to the younger brothers and sisters of the campers. So Fledgling Camp was developed for children 7 and 8 years old and first presented in 2006. Teresa Cullen and Pat Vranicar co-chair it.

Developing new and interesting activities year after year is no small feat and they start working on them in earnest in January. Camps are supposed to be fun, and these are, but Bev and Grace work hard to be sure that all the activities are worthwhile as well. Carefully observing birds and creating illustrated journals documenting their appearance and behavior are an important part of all the camping experiences. These are augmented by games, songs, art and craft projects, guest speakers, field trips to other locations, etc. All are designed to impart a love of birds and their habitats and an appreciation for their amazing diversity, and for the problems they face in today's world.

Grace and Bev's enthusiasm and organizational skills have enabled them to recruit and use effectively the varied skills of a large committee of people to help with the camps. We are especially proud of our teenagers who have been through Marsh Camp and several years of Advanced Camp and are now working as counselors for the camps. Having so many volunteers allows there to be one counselor for every 3-4 campers, a ratio that most camps envy and solicitous parents greatly appreciate. In addition to Bev, Grace and Trude, at least twelve people are involved right now planning this coming summer's activities.

— Sylvia Gallagher (text from her presentation at the Annual Dinner in March)

Chapter News & Announcements

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



Audubon House Volunteers

We would like to thank the following people for helping to staff Audubon House in April and May: Sonia Appell, Donna & Mike Augustine, Pat & Dick Cabe, Carolyn Cooper, Deana Collins, Tom Drouet, Pam Degarimore, Fresia Escalona, Judy Fritts, Peggy Goetz, Keats Hayden, Pat Heilig, Sarah Jayne, Steve Jelnick, Lois Jones, Nancy Kenyon, Mary Martineau, Bobbie Miller, Joan McCauley, Eunice Morita, Betty Purdy, Barbara Reber, John Shaddy, Mary Shandy, Bev Spring, and Vic Westling.

Summer BBQ

Our annual summer BBQ will be held on Saturday July 26 and now is the time to start preparing. It has been a grand affair in the past and we hope to make it equally as great this year. Any suggestions to make it better will be greatly appreciated. As with all of our events we need volunteers to help coordinate the event. Please consider volunteering for one (or more) of these coordinating positions: Publicity and Invitations, Outside Set-up, Parking, Shopping, BBQ Duty, Kitchen, and Clean-up. In addition the coordinators need staff volunteers. So let's hear it from you. Please contact Neal Anderson, Summer BBQ Coordinator at 714-441-0491 with your suggestions and to volunteer your services.

News from the Bookstore

Lots of new titles: *Rare Birds of California*, *Birding Essentials*, *Finding Your Wings*, *Owls of the US & Canada*, *Field Guide to Owls of CA & the West*, *Pigeons: Fascinating Saga*, *Flora of the Santa Ana River & Environs*, *Laws Field Guide to the Sierra Nevada*, *All Things Reconsidered*, *ABA Birder's Guides*

(Alaska, Florida, Washington), *Finding Birds in SE Arizona (7th ed.)*, *Gardening with a Wild Heart*, *Native Treasures: Gardening with the Plants of CA*, *Intro to CA Chaparral*. May's special: *Neotropical Migratory Birds* (reg \$39, on sale this month \$29)

Plan Ahead for these Great Summer Activities!

BAT WALKS: May 22, June 5, Aug. 7, Aug. 22, Aug. 28. \$12 for adults; \$8 for children 7-12.

SUMMER BBQ: Sat, July 26. We've got a great program planned; full info in the June Tattler. Save the date!

FLEDGLING CAMP: June 23-27 for children 7-8 years. 9 am to 2:30 pm. \$165/180 per camper.

MARSH BIRD CAMP: July 7-11 or July 14-18 for campers 9-12 years. 9 am to 3:30 pm. \$185/200 per camper.

ADVANCED BIRD CAMP: July 21-25 and July 28 - Aug. 2 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.

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 very quickly.

Sylvia's Trip Diary

As many of you know, Sylvia and Jim are off on another trip. Recently, I received an email from her telling me that she is busy making entries in her trip diary and would be sending me periodic installments to post on our chapter webpage. If you would like to be notified when she sends me an installment, let me know. Otherwise, check the chapter webpage.
Nancy Kenyon
nancykenyon@cox.net

Birdathon 2008

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!

Slate of Officers and Directors for 2008

The following slate of officers and directors was placed in nomination at the Annual Dinner on March 21, 2008. There were no nominations from the floor.

President: Jay Miller
Vice President: Susan Sheakley
Secretary: Gretchen McCausland
Treasurer: Betsy Flynn
Director 2011: Susan Munson
Director 2011: Joel Weintraub

The voting will take place on May 16, 2008, at the May General Meeting.

Respectfully submitted by the Nominating Committee (Susan Sheakley, Jay Miller, Marquita Miller, Donelda Warhurst)

Workshops Scheduled for the Coming Year

Bird Embroidery (in June Tattler)
Reunion for Learning CA Bird Sounds
Intro to Birds of So. CA (visual)
More Birds of So. CA (mostly aural)
See chapter webpage for more info.

Bird Day Challenge & Annual Dinner Report



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

Bird Day Challenge: Fossil Fuel-Free Birding on May 10, 2008

Help us make May 10, 2008, a day of birding without impacting the planet. Carpool, Walk, Bike, Take a Train to a birding spot near your home - meet friends and enjoy a day in a park or birding spot while fighting Global Warming.

Last September, Malkom Boothroyd and parents Ken and Wendy, stayed with Sea and Sage Audubon on their way through Orange County on a 12,000 mile bike ride, to promote fossil fuel-free birding. (See www.Birdyear.com .) While they were here, the Bird Year Team challenged Sea and Sage to join them and others around North America to promote a single day of fossil fuel-free birding.

On Saturday, May 10th, we are asking you to help us meet the Bird Day Challenge. We want all of you to choose a destination such as a park, greenbelt, open space, or any place that offers an opportunity to bird that is also close to your home. Walk, pedal, paddle, car pool, or take public transportation to get to your birding destination. Get there any way you can, to arrive and bird there with little or no fuel usage.

Your destination doesn't necessarily have to be a super birding spot and we are not competing for numbers of birds; it just needs to be a nice place to spend the morning, afternoon, or the entire day. The challenge is to bird without using significant amounts of fuel, so it could be someplace close to a train station, or a carpool destination with lots of trees, or just birds you really enjoy watching. Or, you may wish to walk to a neighborhood park with eucalyptus trees and look for something like nesting orioles or hawks.

Of course, we are interested in cataloging what everyone sees (even if it's a bunch of neighborhood birds) and even more interested in where you go and how you get there. Send us your bird list, big or small, and tell us how you traveled, and we will forward the info to the Bird Year Team who is monitoring Bird Day Challenge events.

If you want to join with David Sibley and sponsor Malkom Boothroyd in his personal Bird Year Challenge to raise funds for bird conservation all around North America, visit www.Birdyear.com .

Send your travel plans and bird list to:
Scott Thomas, PO Box 5447, Irvine CA 92616.

— *Scott Thomas*

Our Annual Dinner and Silent Auction

A record 262 people attended our 2008 Annual Dinner on March 21 at the Irvine Hilton. Those people who brought or bought a book by David Sibley to get autographed, had the special treat of meeting the famous ornithologist in person. Everyone enjoyed the social hour before dinner with the no-host bar and the opportunity to look at the displays and make the rounds at the Silent Auction tables where a large number of interesting items were so artfully laid out by Cheryl Thomas. While we ate, we were able to watch the powerpoint program about our chapter which was put together by Cheryl & Scott. Before David Sibley's program, the awards were presented and then came the part of the evening we all had been anticipating, David Sibley's program. It was definitely a memorable evening! We would like to thank all the people who worked together to make this event such a success.

The unstinting efforts of Cheryl Thomas deserves special recognition - we made a net profit of nearly \$7,000 at our Silent Auction. Organizing the auction was a big undertaking and Cheryl began planning for it 11 months in advance, putting in many long hours. We want to thank Cheryl for doing such a great job!

We would also like to thank the following for their generous contributions to the auction: Sandra Beckworth-Jones, Ferne Cohen, Benmart Winery, John Avise, the Borren Family, Sea & Sage Audubon Camp Committee, Angie & Bill Rapant of Cape Pines Motel at Cape Hatteras, Captain Dave Anderson, Cara Hallock of Carabella Winery, Nancy Jans of Chateau Lafayette Winery, Melissa Coloton of Childress Vineyards, Disneyland, Duck Pond Cellars, Duffy Boats, the person who donated the Eagle picture in a wooden frame, Kathy Wilkerson of Eco Tours of Southern Mississippi, Nancy Kenyon, Dr. Ellam of Elgin Wines, Bob Cowlshaw of Everglades Day Safari, Mary Pryor, Sarah Robertson of Grape Ranch, Marsha Gladding, The Hilton of Huntington Beach, The Hyatt of Huntington Beach, Island Packers, Keith Hansen, Key West Express, Knotts Berry Farm, Laguna Culinary Arts, Mill Pond for the Robert Bateman lithographs, Sally Shepard of Newman's Own, Christine Smith of NW Navigation, John McCook of Oak Creek Golf Club, Ryan Thomas of Peet's Coffee, Roger's Gardens, Paul Dugan of Sanibel Harbour Resort, Sawtooth Winery, Sea World, Southwest Airlines, Thomas Mangelsen, Debbie Evans of Tree of Life Nursery, Universal Studios, Tammy Bartel of Urban Decay, Shonna Mallard of VivaTerra, Jan Smith of Wild Birds Unlimited in Huntington Beach, Dave Brandt of Wild Birds Unlimited in Mission Viejo, and Whole Foods of Tustin.

—NK

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



The past month was relatively slow in terms of any especially noteworthy new bird discoveries in the county. Such is often the case during March. Nevertheless, local birders did manage to find a few new rarities that were certainly worth mentioning. Although this month's report may be somewhat sparse, it is just the calm before the "storm." With the peak of spring migration just around the corner, April and May will typically have an abundance of interesting reports to try and fit into the next "Rarities" summaries. So stay tuned-and better yet, if at all possible, get out there and experience it for yourself!

In the waterfowl department, three **Brant** appeared at Bolsa Chica, Mar. 18 to at least 23 (Matthew Baker, et.al.). An apparent male **Hooded Merganser** was seen flying over Laguna Niguel Regional Park (LNRP), Mar. 22 (Robert McNab). A **White-winged Scoter** was in a Surf Scoter flock off Huntington Beach Pier, Apr. 4 (Andy Lazere). Interesting raptor sightings included a **Swainson's Hawk** flying over the Santiago Canyon area, Mar. 8 (Steve Sosensky), a very late **Ferruginous Hawk** at Casper's Regional Park, Mar. 16 (Gary Meredith) and two **Golden Eagles**, with one over San Juan Hills Country Club (San Juan Capistrano), Mar. 24 (Jim Slark), and one over the northern edge of Yorba Linda, at the edge of Chino Hills State Park, Mar. 18 (Doug Willick).

Clapper Rails are primarily only known to be resident at two locations in the county: the Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve, and the Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge. Occasionally, these rails show up at other coastal sites with remnant marsh vegetation, such as the Bolsa Chica Reserve. One Clapper Rail seen, and one or two others heard, in limited marsh habitat near the Santa Ana River mouth, Mar. 22 (Felicia Lee), was therefore of note. Interestingly, this species has apparently become established here in recent years, and breeding was documented in 2006. An amazing count of approximately 450 **Surfbirds** was just inside the new ocean inlet to BC, Mar. 30 (Peter Knapp), which was likely part of a spring movement of birds heading north. An interesting Thayer's-like gull at Doheny State Beach (DSB) in late February (Jim Pike) and presumably the same individual again Mar. 8-9 (Brian Daniels) appeared to show some characteristics of the closely related (or potentially conspecific) **Kumlien's Gulls**. Rarely seen resting on-shore, an adult **Pomarine Jaeger** was studied in the DSB/Dana Harbor area, Mar. 15 (R. McNab). Although few were reported all winter, three **Common Murres** were brought in (being sick or oiled) to the Wetlands and Wildlife Care Center during March (Debbie McGuire).

The only noteworthy landbirds reported during the last month, which were not previously known to be present, included a **Plumbeous Vireo** and **Brown Creeper** at Yosemite Park, Mar. 23 (R. McNab), a **Summer Tanager** at LNRP, Mar. 19 (Aaron Simon), and a **Purple Finch** at Mason Regional Park, Mar. 24 (Elliot Harold). Many of our earlier spring migrants began arriving during March and early April, such as Black-chinned Hummingbird, Pacific-slope and Ash-throated flycatchers, Western Kingbird, Warbling and Cassin's vireos, warblers such as Nashville, Black-throated Gray and Wilson's, Black-headed Grosbeak and both oriole species (Bullock's and Hooded).

In the "continuing birds" department, at least one **Snow Goose** was still being seen at BC through the end of March (P. Knapp). Also lingering at BC was at least one **American Bittern**, Mar. 20, and a **Reddish Egret**, Mar. 6. An adult **Bald Eagle** just west of Irvine Lake, Mar. 29 (Bob Allen), was quite likely one of two adults observed over the lake on Dec. 16 (Neal Anderson). A **Lewis's Woodpecker** at Irvine Regional Park since mid November continued at its favorite tree through at least Apr. 5 (Neil Gilbert). A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** at Santiago Oaks Regional Park, late February to Mar. 15, was undoubtedly the same individual originally found in December (Linette Lina). The San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary **Tropical Kingbird** (Jim Roe) was last reported on Mar. 8. A **Brown Creeper** was still at Eisenhower Park on Mar. 6. An adult male **American Redstart**, back for its 5th year at LNRP, was last noted Mar. 21 (R. McNab); another male Redstart wintering at Huntington Central Park (HCP) was most recently reported on Mar. 27. Orange County's fifth **Yellow-throated Warbler** appeared in an Orange residential area Dec. 5 (D. Willick), temporarily relocated to a site over 1/4 mile away, and then returned to the original site of discovery Mar. 16-Apr. 2. An adult male **Pine Warbler** returned for its second winter to Estancia Park (Bettina Eastman), Dec. 25 to Mar. 27, where it was heard singing on Mar. 20 and 27. A wintering **Summer Tanager** in a Laguna Niguel yard remained through at least the end of March, where up to two **Gray-headed Juncos** were also present through Mar. 17 (R. McNab). A **Summer Tanager** known to be wintering at Huntington Central Park was refound on Mar. 29.



Chapter News & Announcements

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



Support Neil Gilbert —

My name is Neil Gilbert. I'm a fifteen year-old birder and a member of Sea & Sage Audubon Society. I have been selected to be a part of the American Birding Associate(ABA)/ Leica Tropicbirds team. This team of four young birders will be competing in the Great Texas Birding Classic, a twenty-four hour bird-a-thon in southern Texas, in May. We will be competing in the bird-a-thon to raise funds for the ABA's youth education program. Donations to the education program provide scholarships for young birders to attend birding camps and events, help finance young birder and young adult birder conferences, subsidize student memberships to the ABA, and help with development of new programs. The ABA's youth program has greatly encouraged my birding over the years. For example, two years ago I was awarded a scholarship to a birding camp in Southeastern Arizona. Now's my chance to give back and support the program. Please sponsor me and donate to the ABA's youth education program!

I developed an interest in nature at a very young age and started birding avidly at age five. I grew up in Beverly Hills, Michigan, a suburb of Detroit. I joined the Detroit Audubon Society at age seven and attended many of their field trips over the years. I moved to Orange County in June 2007. Since then, I have enjoyed getting to know the local wildlife - I've seen sixty lifers since moving here! I also enjoy photography, reading, writing (including blogging - see my blog at <http://ocbirding.blogspot.com/>), biking, swimming, and more. I was on the Tropicbirds team last year, competing in the World Series of Birding in New Jersey. Three other enthusiastic young birders and I recorded an impressive 178 species in one day, and I raised nearly \$600 for the ABA's youth program. This year, my goal is to raise at least \$1,000 for the ABA's youth education program. I need your help to achieve my goal! If you would like more information, please visit the ABA's website at:

<http://americanbirding.org/yb/tropicbirds/index.html>. If you have any questions feel free to email me at priariemerlin@gmail.com. Thanks!

HOW TO PLEDGE: If you would like to pledge for the ABA/Leica Tropicbirds team, please send me an email at priariemerlin@gmail.com. Please include your name, full address, and pledge amount. You can pledge an amount per species that we record on our big day or flat rate. In mid-May, after the competition, I will send out a bill in the mail with payment instructions. You can also pledge online at americanbirding.org - if you do this, please remember to check the "Great Texas Birding Classic" box and write "Through Neil Gilbert" in the notes/comments section. Thanks!

— Neil Gilbert

Junior Naturalists' Activities

The Junior Naturalists participated in several CBC's and their annual holiday party at the end of 2007. Their new year activities began with a visit to the Seal Beach NWR with John Fitch as their guide. Everyone got at least one Life Bird there. In March, we went kayaking in the Back Bay at low tide and were able to get wonderful views of shorebirds. We were joined by a sea lion for most of the trip and he was really fun to watch. Also in March, a few of us were able to visit the Santa Rosa Plateau to see the vernal pools. To cap off the month, the Junior Naturalists enjoyed meeting Evan Sibley and working with his father, David Sibley, at the Annual Dinner and Workshop. They brought T-shirts for us from their Young Birders group. The Junior Naturalists would like to thank the Sea and Sage Audubon Board for making it possible for them to attend the workshop at a reduced rate.

In April, our Junior Naturalists will field a team for the annual Birdathon. We are birding at Irvine Regional Park and we would welcome your support of our team.

— Kate Grabenstein

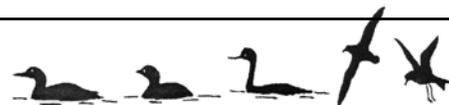
Native Plant Garden Tour - May 3rd

We hope you will join us for the annual Native Plant Garden Tour here in Orange County on Sat., May 3rd, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. The gardens are clustered in north Orange County and the southern part of the county. In some gardens, native plants are integrated into an established landscape; in others, the transition to drought tolerant mostly native plants is complete. All are great idea gardens. Copies of descriptive brochures can be obtained at Audubon House, our chapter webpage, and Tree of Life Nursery. Learn how to attract birds and butterflies, conserve water, and have an attractive garden.

Family Nature Workshops at Starr Ranch on Saturday, May 3

Starr Ranch Sanctuary invites you to join them on Sat., May 3, from 9 am to 1 pm for their biannual "Family Nature Workshops." Experience the beauty of wilderness in our rapidly urbanizing county and learn about mountain lions, hawks & spiders as well as go for truck rides and nature walks in the sanctuary. Admission is free, but by RESERVATION ONLY. Space is limited, so to ensure a spot, make your reservations soon at 949-858-0131. Each person chooses two programs during the 9 am sign-up. Programs are available on a first come first serve basis. For more details visit www.starr-ranch.org.

May Field Trips



For trip updates & additional trip information, visit <http://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 nancykenyon@cox.net or 949-786-3160.

El Moro Canyon, Crystal Cove St. Park Sunday, April 27th - 7:30 a.m.

Crystal Cove State Park has several excellent birding areas and we plan to visit 2, maybe 3, important ones as time allows. **Directions:** Meet at 7:30 am at the Crystal Cove State Park headquarters parking area (\$10 fee) which is behind the El Moro school on Pacific Coast Hwy. just north of Laguna Beach. We will hike down into El Moro canyon and spend about 3 hours there. Then we'll drive north to the Los Trancos parking area (save your parking sticker) to bird the small canyon there where the many native plants attract many different species of birds. Time allowing, we'll walk to the beach to check for shorebirds and pelagic species. Bring binoculars, water, sunblock, hat and a snack. The trip will end at 1:00 pm.

Paul Klahr, Leader

Santiago Oaks Regional Park Sunday, May 4th - 7:30 a.m.

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

Spring Pelagic Trip from Dana Point ® Saturday, May 10th at 6:30 a.m.

This spring pelagic trip takes the place of our winter trip that was cancelled due to a conflict with the annual maintenance schedule for the boat. We have scheduled the trip at this time in order to catch the spring migration of pelagic birds flying north. Our leader, Jerry Tolman, is an experienced pelagic birder and trip leader. We will be using the Sea Explorer, a 70 ft. research vessel belonging to the Ocean Institute of Dana Point. Advance reservations are necessary. Trip fee is \$35 per person, (payable to Sea & Sage Audubon). Mail to: Pelagic trip, c/o Nancy Kenyon, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612. Include your phone number & your email address or a self-addressed legal size envelope for trip confirmation and additional information.

Jerry Tolman, Leader

Huntington Central Park Saturday, May 10th — 8:00 a.m.

Huntington Central Park is considered by many birders to be one of the best places in Orange County to find migratory birds. We hope you will join Lew & Claudia Bird for this morning trip to look for park residents and spring migrants; the trip will end at 12 noon. **Directions:** We will meet in the Slater Street parking lot of Huntington Central Park which is just east of the intersection of Slater and Golden West in Huntington Beach. From the #405 Fwy, take Golden West south to Slater and turn left; the park entrance will be on your right.

Lew & Claudia Bird, Co-Leaders

Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS Sunday, May 11th - 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.

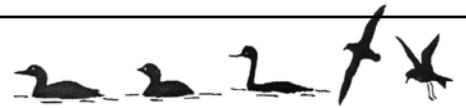
Chris Obaditch, Leader

Hawk & Owl Banding Trips ® Sunday, May 11th - 8:00 a.m. & 12:00 p.m.

Come to Starr Ranch Sanctuary and join Pete DeSimone & Scott Thomas on a tour of the ranch and have the unique opportunity to observe hawk and owl chicks right at their nests. On each trip Scott or Pete will bring hawk and/or owl chicks (of the proper age) down from their nest to the group where they will take their measurements and place identification bands on their legs before returning them to their nest. Trip participants will be able to help out and get right in the action with the young birds. This is also a great opportunity for those of you with cameras to photograph the young birds up close. Morning trips run from 8 am to 1 pm, afternoon trips from 12 to 5 pm. The overlap time is lunch hour for both the morning & afternoon group. Trip fee is \$40 per person; full time students and children under 10 are \$25. Advance reservations are necessary. Make check payable to Sea & Sage Audubon and mail to: Banding trip, c/o Nancy Kenyon, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612. Be sure to include your phone number and your email address or a self-addressed stamped envelope for trip confirmation and information.

Scott Thomas & Pete DeSimone, Leaders

May Field Trips



For trip updates & additional trip information, visit <http://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 nancykenyon@cox.net or 949-786-3160.

Irvine Regional Park

Wednesday, May 14th - 7:30 a.m.

Join us for a weekday walk into this regional park which supports an interesting array of birds, both resident and migratory. Birds you may expect to see include Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks, White-tailed Kites, nuthatches, woodpeckers, wrens, titmice, etc. **Directions:** Take Jamboree NE (toward the mts.) & follow it across Santiago Cyn. Rd. into the park. Or, from the #55 Frwy, exit on Katella & drive east. Katella turns into Villa Park Rd. & then Santiago Cyn. Rd. which you will stay on until it intersects with Jamboree. Turn left on Jamboree & follow it into the park. Be prepared to pay the \$5 entrance fee at the gate if you don't have a county parks' pass. We will meet in the first parking lot on the right, after you enter the park.

Beverly Hargrove, Leader



Kern River Valley Trip ® 6:00 a.m.

Sat/Sun - May 17 & 18 - full day of birding

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, mountains. The trip will cover late spring migration, nesting season species, and eastern vagrants in the Kern River Valley, southern Sierra mountains, and Kern County desert oases. Bob says he will diligently work with the group to learn and practice both sight and sound bird ID, as well as pointing out behavioral traits and status & distribution for several species.

Trip fee: \$40. (The trip fee is fully tax-deductible; the funds from this trip will be turned over to the Friends of the Kern River Preserve.)

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. Be sure to include your phone number in case we need to contact you about last minute trip details. Also include your email address or a SASE so that we can send you trip confirmation and information. Trip is limited to 15 people.

Reservations must be received by May 3rd.

Upper Newport Bay by small boat ® Wednesdays, May 21 (full); June 18 & July 16. 8:15 - 11:00 a.m. Reservations mandatory.

These trips require advance reservations because the boat holds only 8 people. Join us for the rare opportunity of birding the Upper Newport Bay from the deck of a small pontoon boat. Spotting birds from the water offers one a different perspective and the birds seem to view us differently also. Trip duration about 2 1/2 hours. Space very limited. Contact Nancy Kenyon for reservations at nancykenyon@cox.net or 949-786-3160.

Nancy Kenyon, Leader

Mark these 2 trip dates on your calendar. (Full trip information will be in the June Tattler and is now posted on the chapter webpage.)

• Butterbredt Spring & Galileo Hill - June 1st

Butterbredt Spring & Galileo Hill are both great places to search for western migrants and eastern vagrants. The cottonwoods and willows and spring at Butterbredt form a small oasis in the midst of a very dry canyon and all sorts of interesting birds show up there in late spring. Butterbredt is located in a remote area north of Mojave, not a place you want to go by yourself, but a great trip when led by someone like Steve Sosensky who knows the area well.

• San Bernardino Mountains - June 21st

This trip will explore the forest and meadow habitats of Bluff Lake. This scenic area, at approximately 7600 ft. elev., has had breeding bird species that are quite unique or rare south of the Sierra Nevada, such as Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets, Williamson's Sapsucker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-crowned Sparrow, and Lincoln's Sparrow, to name only a few. A full list of birds seen on last year's field trip to this area is posted on the chapter webpage with the trip writeup.

High Sierra Camp & Workshops 3 camp sessions in June & July

The historic Golden Trout Camp at 10,000 ft, just south of Mt. Wilson, is a unique 3 mile hike-in wilderness camp. Natural history and B & W photography sessions start on 6/22, 6/29, and 7/6. \$395 for a full week, meals included. Contact Paul at 805-688-8344 or pr_roark@yahoo.com. For additional info, see www.GoldenTroutWorkshops.org

Chapter Financial Report - 2007

	Chapter	San Joaquin Marsh Education Project	Combined
BALANCE SHEET			
Assets			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash & Equivalents	180,394	68,228	248,622
Investments	436,475		436,475
Other Current Assets	27,564		27,564
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	644,433	68,228	712,661
FIXED ASSETS			
Furniture & Equipment, etc. (fully depreciated)	0	0	0
TOTAL ASSETS	644,433	68,228	712,661
Liabilities and Equity			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Current Funds and Payables	10,706		10,706
TOTAL LIABILITIES	10,706		10,706
EQUITY			
Endowment Fund	383,088		383,088
General Fund	135,536		135,536
Conservation Fund	115,103		115,103
San Joaquin Marsh Fund		68,228	68,228
TOTAL EQUITY	633,727	68,228	701,955
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	644,433	68,228	712,661
INCOME & EXPENSE STATEMENT			
Income			
Chapter Transfer to Marsh Education Project			21,200 * see note
Dues Split	8,393		8,393
Direct Mail Appeal	35,863		35,863
Other Donations	8,597	16,279	24,876
Grants		73,000	73,000
Merchandise Sales - Bookstore	27,536		27,536
Other Income **	120,175	31,848	152,023
TOTAL INCOME	200,564	142,327	321,691*
Expenses			
Chapter Transfer to Marsh Education Project	21,200		*see note
Education Program Expenses		88,915	88,915
Newsletter Publication	12,214		12,214
Committee Expenses	9,094		9,094
Cost of Sales - Bookstore	28,887		28,887
Other Chapter Expenses	122,525		122,525
TOTAL EXPENSES	193,920	88,915	261,635 *
NET ORDINARY INCOME	6,644	53,412	60,056
INTEREST AND INVESTMENT INCOME	27,140		27,140
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	33,784	53,412	87,196
* Note: Internal transfer of \$21,200 not shown in combined totals.			
** Chapter Income includes \$65,000 transferred from Conservation Fund Reserve Account.			

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 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

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.

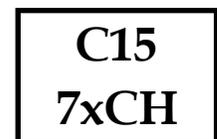
Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail address _____



May 2008

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

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage Paid
Santa Ana, CA
Permit No 164

Come to the Native Plant Garden Tour on Sat, May 3rd, from 10:00 to 4:00.

DATED MATERIAL PLEASE EXPEDITE!

BOARD MEMBERS

Executive Committee:

President.....	Al Baumann.....	949-859-5081
Vice President.....	Kaaren Perry.....	949-497-0884
Secretary.....	Gretchen McCausland.....	949-249-8258
Treasurer.....	Hal Sheakley.....	949-552-5974
Director 2008.....	Dick Newell.....	562-598-6836
Director 2008.....	Sandy DeSimone.....	949-858-0309
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
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.....		
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.....		
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

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	

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

May

03 Sat	Native Plant Garden Tour.....	10:00 am
04 Sun	Santiago Oaks monthly bird walk FT.....	7:30 am
06 Tues	Conservation Committee meeting.....	6:30 pm
10 Sat	Bird Day Challenge.....	up to you
10 Sat	Spring Pelagic Trip.....	6:30 am
10 Sat	Huntington Central Park FT.....	8:00 am
11 Sun	SJWS monthly bird walk FT.....	8:00 am
11 Sun	Hawk Banding at Starr Ranch.....	8 am & 1 pm
13 Tues	Board meeting.....	7:30 pm
14 Wed	Irvine Regional Park FT.....	7:30 am
16 Fri	GENERAL MEETING.....	7:30 pm
17/18 S/S	Kern River Valley weekend trip.....	6:00 am
21 Wed	UNB by small boat FT.....	8:15 am

June

01 Sun	Butterbredt Spring & Galileo Hill FT.....	tba
01 Sun	Santiago Oaks monthly bird walk FT.....	7:30 am
03 Tues	Conservation Committee meeting.....	6:30 pm
08 Sun	SJWS monthly bird walk FT.....	8:00 am
10 Tues	Board meeting.....	7:30 pm
18 Wed	UNB by small boat FT.....	8:15 am
20 Fri	GENERAL MEETING.....	7:30 pm
21 Sat	San Bernardino Mountains FT.....	8:00 am