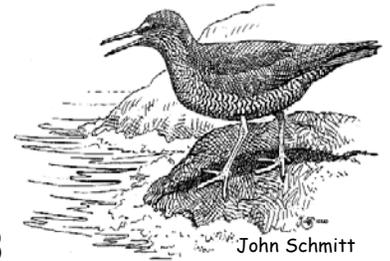


Wandering Tattler

November 2008
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The Voice of SEA AND SAGE AUDUBON, an Orange County Chapter of the National Audubon Society

We're Not in Kansas Anymore

by Jay Miller, *president*

(Honestly, I thought of this title before I learned that there was a new sitcom with the same name.) I haven't written about the new look of the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary because for some time we were not sure how we would be using the various buildings. Now we do have a pretty good idea of how things will look and I can relate how it's all shaping up.

The Audubon House will remain the public face of Sea and Sage Audubon. It will be the home of our nature library and the bookstore/gift shop. We will also create a less cluttered room that will showcase an interpretive center with displays that rotate throughout the year.

The Green House is the private home of an Irvine Ranch Water District employee and his family. His job is to provide onsite assistance with matters relating to the water treatment plant.

The Pink House will contain information and displays by the Irvine Ranch Water District on the importance of wetlands and natural treatment systems.

The Blue House is our new administration building. Trude Hurd, our Education Director, will have an office there. Trude's assistant, Deborah Brin, will also have an office there that she will share with the Marsh Camp Coordinators. There will also be an office for Scott Thomas, our Conservation Director, which he will share with the chapter officers.

The Blue House will also contain a workroom that will hold the copier/printer and store school tour preparatory kits that are loaned out to teachers who bring classes to the Marsh for the *Outdoor Adventures* program. There will also be a conference room in the building and additional storage.

I want to thank Carmen Diaz and Dan Trinidad for all the help they are giving us in designing the Blue House. Carmen has created a space plan to maximize our storage areas and Dan has been of assistance with computer networking and phone lines.

The Gray Building contains two very large rooms. One of the rooms is allocated for our use. We will have the microscope portion of the school tours in this room. Also, starting in January, we will be having our Monthly General Meetings there. The other room in the building is for Santa Ana's Science Discovery Program's use.

On behalf of Sea and Sage Audubon, I want to give our sincere thanks to the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary Board and its president, Peer Swan. None of this would have been possible without their vision, generosity and support.

GENERAL MEETING

Friday, Nov. 21 - 7:30 p.m.

"A Patchwork of Birds— A Lifetime of Experiences"

presented by Sylvia Gallagher

This program features Sylvia Gallagher's recently completed king-sized quilt, BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA. On it there is one meticulously hand-embroidered bird for each state and Canadian province. Each featured bird is connected with a memorable personal experience in Sylvia's life as a birder. Some were inspiring, some humorous, some poignant, and several were learning experiences. Sylvia will relate some of the stories and illustrate them with slides and sounds. She will also discuss the fourteen-year project that resulted in this beautiful quilt.

At the meeting the quilt will be on display, along with the work of several participants in Sylvia's embroidery class. This class is offered each summer through early fall and is sponsored by Sea and Sage.

The program should appeal to anyone with an interest in birds and/or embroidery and quilting. Invite your stitching friends who are not birders. Bring your binoculars if you're interested in seeing the stitching details in the slides.

The doors open at 7:00, the meeting starts at 7:30 pm. We meet at the Irvine Ranch Water District main office building at 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue in Irvine. We hope you will join us.

Marquita Miller, Programs Chair

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 News

by Scott Thomas

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



4TH TUESDAY CONSERVATION LECTURE SERIES

Nov. 25th at 7:00 pm at the Duck Club
San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary, Irvine

"Coastal Cactus Wrens in Orange County - A Species in Decline"

presented by Robb Hamilton

Please join us for November's "4th Tuesday" to learn about coastal Cactus Wrens. Robb Hamilton, local consulting biologist, co-author of "The Birds of Orange County - Status and Distribution", and Cactus Wren expert, has been working for the last twelve years on the Nature Reserve of Orange County (NROC) with Cactus Wrens and their associated habitats. Robb has been studying Cactus Wren ecology, population trends, and habitat issues facing this interesting bird. The NROC lands, which are some of the state's most important properties for coastal Cactus Wrens, span from the coast at Laguna Beach and Newport Beach inland to Anaheim Hills. The presentation will include Robb's observations and insights as to why most scientists believe the Cactus Wren is so rapidly declining throughout its range.

A working group of scientists and conservationists, including Robb, have recently begun to study the decline more carefully and are beginning to develop innovative solutions. Robb will discuss some of the conservation and ecological challenges, including wildfire, facing one of our most gregarious, interesting, and threatened Coastal Sage Scrub birds and maybe help us all get involved with seeking solutions.

Please join us.

Related Field Trip - Sat, Dec. 6th



As a companion to the Cactus Wren presentation, Robb will lead a field trip into Cactus Wren territory on December 6th at the Nature Reserve of Orange County. Information about this trip will be available at the November 25th lecture.

Save Coyote Hills Update

Also at the 4th Tuesday Lecture, the Friends of Coyote Hills will give us a brief update on the battle to save West Coyote Hills, featuring the area's Cactus Wrens.

Rarities in Orange County

by Doug Willick

September in southern California is typically noted as a time of year for birds to be on the move, including those making brief stops on their way further south, as well as others that are arriving to settle in for the winter. The spectacle of migration may be most easily seen in the larger salt marshes and tidal flats along the coast. Much less obvious are the many species (typically songbirds) that pass discreetly through our backyards and urban parks, woodlands and native scrub. With September being in the prime time of fall migration, many birders carefully sift through the variety of expected species in the hopes of discovering a surprise or two. The various county RBAs ("rare bird alerts"), at this time of year, are usually brimming with reports of the more unexpected species. This past month, Orange County birders had some nice discoveries of their own, and these are summarized in the following paragraphs.

Reddish Egrets continue to make appearances locally, with up to two adults being seen at Bolsa Chica for the last few months. Juvenile Reddish Egrets, possibly the same individual, were also seen, with one at Talbert Marsh, Sept. 27 (Vic Leipzig), and one at Bolsa Chica, Oct. 1 (Cat Waters). A **Brant** was at Bolsa Chica, Sept. 26 (Keith Quinlivan). The fall shorebird season was fairly lackluster in the county this year. Similar to August, only a few of the more "rare-but-regular" species were located in September. Likely a bird returning for another winter, a **Pacific Golden-Plover** has been seen sporadically at Bolsa Chica since Aug. 13 (many observers). At least one Pacific Golden-Plover has been found during the winter period here in nine of the last ten years. At least one **Solitary Sandpiper** was present at San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary (SJWS) from late August through at least Sept. 7 (many observers). A "new" **Baird's Sandpiper** was at Bolsa, Sept. 6 (Brian Daniels). A **Pectoral Sandpiper** at SJWS, Sept. 6-11 (Doug Willick), was surprisingly the only one of the season so far; Pectorals are typically one of the more numerous of the region's shorebird "rarities."

Pelagic species made some news during the last month. Four **Least Storm-Petrels**, an irregular visitor to the county's offshore waters, were seen near the Lausen Seamount, Sept. 20 (Matt Sadowski). **Common Murres** were seen from the Newport Pier, Sept. 7 (Dave Campbell), from Bolsa Chica State Beach, Sept. 19 (Steve Smith), and on the Sea & Sage Audubon pelagic birding trip on Sept. 20 (Jerry Tolman et al.). Although

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 OrCoRBA at (949) 487-6869. See below for information on receiving these reports by email or reading them on the OrCoRBA website.

expected in small numbers just offshore, an adult **Parasitic Jaeger** at Bolsa Chica, Sept. 19 (James Salywoda and Larry Kaufman) was a surprise here. Even more unusual onshore, however, was a juvenile **Sabine's Gull** at Bolsa that same morning (also James and Larry). Three Sabine's Gulls on the Sea & Sage Sept. 20 pelagic trip were at a more typical location. A **Black Tern** found during the Sept. 20 pelagic trip was unusual. Sixty **Common Terns** at Bolsa Chica, Sept. 5 (Leo Ohtsuki) were of note, as were birds further inland at SJWS, Sept. 21 (Dick and Pat Cabe), and at Burris Basin (Anaheim) the same day (D. Willick).

Recent reports of interesting raptors involved both Bald and Golden eagles. An adult **Bald Eagle** at the lake at Peters Canyon Regional Park (PCRP), Sept. 30 (Neil Gilbert), was observed again on Oct. 2 and 4; apparently the same bird had been present since at least mid Sept. (per park ranger Raul Perrera). As many as three **Golden Eagles** were seen at scattered Mission Viejo locations between Sept. 5 and 11 (reported by various observers, including Doug Peltz, Joan Rubin, and Bob Allen). Most of these sightings apparently involved a family group, which included at least one juvenile.

As would be expected in September, there was a nice assortment of interesting landbird migrants. For example, two **Lesser Nighthawks**, an especially rare migrant along the immediate coast, were over Crystal Cove State Park, Sept. 9 (Jeff Williams). A **Gray Flycatcher** was at Harriet Wieder Regional Park (HWRP), Sept. 6 (B. Daniels). A **Tropical Kingbird** at HWRP, Sept. 25 (B. Daniels), and in nearby Huntington Central Park (HCP), about one mile away, Sept. 26 (Shipley Nature Center census team, per Lena Hayashi), may potentially have been the same individual. At least one apparently wandering Tropical Kingbird wintered in this same general area last year, being observed at both the HWRP and the west side of HCP. Single **Bank Swallows** were reported from HWRP, Sept. 6 (B. Daniels), and SJWS, Sept. 14 (Wayne Gochenour). A **Plumbeous Vireo** at Laguna Niguel Regional Park (LNRP), Sept. 20-Oct. 4 (Jon and Libby Rowley, et al.), was potentially a bird returning for another winter here. Much rarer was a **Yellow-throated Vireo** at LNRP, Oct. 3 (Robert McNab). A **Rock Wren** at the Villa Park Flood Basin Dam, Sept. 13 (N. Gilbert), was at a site where this species has been suspected of breeding in the past. A **California Gnatcatcher** at HWRP, Sept. 6 (B. Daniels), was unexpected here.

As almost any of the North American wood warblers have the potential to stray to California at this time of year, the attention of many birders turn to this group of birds during fall migration. Although Orange County managed only a

relatively modest assortment over the last month, compared to other southern California counties, the following warbler species of note were reported. A **Virginia's Warbler** at HCP, Sept. 5 (L. Ohtsuki), was possibly the same bird here on Aug. 31 (reported last month). A near tail-less **Lucy's Warbler** was at Carr Park (Huntington Beach), Sept. 14-21 (Jim Pike). A **Tennessee Warbler** (L. Ohtsuki) and a **Blackpoll Warbler** (B. Daniels), were at Westminster Memorial Park, Sept. 21. It seemed to be a mini-invasion of Blackpolls in the county on Sept. 21, with additional birds that day at HCP (L. Ohtsuki), at LNRP (R. McNab), and at Mile Square Park, (J. Pike). Possibly a different Blackpoll had been at HCP a few days earlier (Sept. 17 and 19; Irene Horiuchi). Other "rare-but-regular" warblers included a **Black-and-white Warbler** at HCP, Sept. 20-21 (B. Daniels), **American Redstarts** at HCP, Sept. 24 (Robb Hamilton), and in Robert McNab's Laguna Niguel yard, Oct. 1, and **Northern Waterthrushes** at HCP, Sept. 13+ (B. Daniels), and at SJWS, Sept. 14 and 28 (B. Daniels, Rick Shearer). More unusual was a **Chestnut-sided Warbler** at Irvine Regional Park, Oct. 1 (N. Gilbert), and individual **Prairie Warblers** at HCP, Sept. 12-13 (J. Pike), and at LNRP, Sept. 13-14 (R. McNab).

In the last but not least department, a **Green-tailed Towhee** was at SJWS, Sept. 7 (Bettina Eastman), and a **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was at PCRP the same day (N. Gilbert). A **Bobolink** was in a weedy portion of the lower Santa Ana River (below Adams), Oct. 3 (J. Pike), where Jim also had a **Clay-colored** and a **Brewer's sparrow**.

To report your rare bird sightings by email, send them to JWeintraub@Fullerton.edu (Be sure to sign your name to your email & list your city beneath your name so that people will know where your message is coming from.)

To receive the RBA updates by email, subscribe to: OrCoRBA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com by sending a message with **Subscribe** as the subject.

To access the message archives of the OC Rare Bird Alert, visit - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OrCoRBA/>

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

Our Three Christmas Bird Counts



The Christmas Bird Counts are always held between Dec. 14th & Jan. 5th. This annual bird count encompasses the United States & Canada, as well as Central & South America, the Pacific Islands, West Indies, and Bermuda. The data collected helps scientists learn more about the status and distribution of our birds. Here in Orange County, we have three different Christmas Bird Counts.



Sunday, December 14th – Northeastern (Inland) CBC
Saturday, December 20th – San Juan Capistrano CBC
Sunday, December 28th – Coastal CBC

The Inland and Coastal CBCs are sponsored solely by Sea & Sage Audubon while the San Juan Capistrano CBC, in the southern end of Orange County, is sponsored jointly by Sea & Sage and Starr Ranch Sanctuary. All three counts are covered on our Sea & Sage website. Everyone is welcome to participate, from beginners to old hands! Those of you who are less experienced can help by tallying the birds. Most sections begin early in the morning and end as the sun sets. After each count, participants gather together for supper at a local pizza parlor and do a general tally of the count. This is a great opportunity to meet with fellow birders and find out what birds were seen by others during the day.



You can learn a lot about past Christmas Bird Counts by reading through the CBC pages on our website where we have the last 5 years of reports for each of our Orange County CBCs. Our website will also provide links to the CBCs nationwide as well as those in other areas of California. We have a CBC quiz, written by Sylvia Gallagher, which will help prepare you for the event, and we even have a CBC poem for you to enjoy!

If you have not taken part in one of our local Christmas Bird Counts before and wish to do so this year, you will need to fill out the CBC signup form and mail it to the address listed on the bottom of the form. Copies of this form are on our chapter webpage, at Audubon House, and will be in the December Tattler.



We will have complete information on the areas to be covered for each of these counts along with the area leaders' names & phone numbers in the December Tattler. Those of you who took part in one or more of our local CBCs last year, will be contacted by their area leader(s) in late November or early December. Or, you can contact them yourself.

Summaries of each count showing the total for each species will be published in the Tattler in a spring issue. A detailed report on all the species counted for each area of our 3 counts will be posted on our webpage after the data has been compiled, along with the names of all the count participants. Count totals will also be available on the NAS Christmas Count website later in the year.

On the first Saturday in January, we will have a special field trip to search for the rare or unusual birds found on this year's CBCs. Originally, the field trip was designated only for those who participated in the Christmas Bird Count(s), but now the outing is open to all interested birders, regardless of their CBC participation. The meeting location for the field trip will depend on which area of the county the most birds were found in. Information on the field trip will be posted on our chapter webpage and at Audubon House in early January.



We do hope you will join in the fun this year and support Sea & Sage by taking part in one or more of our Christmas Bird Counts. Mark the date(s) on your calendar now so that you won't forget!

<http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org/BirdInfo/BirdCounts/birdcountsCBC.htm>

Chapter News & Announcements



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

Audubon House Volunteers

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

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

Chapter Bylaws Change

At our Sept. board meeting, we discussed the pros and cons of 2 year vs 3 year term limits for a chapter officer; after our discussion we voted on it. The following Bylaws change was passed by the Sea and Sage Board. Copies of the Bylaws Change will be provided to those members attending the Oct. general meeting and the change will be voted on at the Nov. general meeting. A 2/3 majority of those attending is necessary for the Bylaw to pass.

Article V Section 1 reads as follows:

"The officers of this Society shall be President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer"

Article VI Section 5 reads as follows:

"No member shall hold more than one office at a time, and no member shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office."

The proposed change reads as follows:

"No member shall hold more than one office at a time, and no member shall be eligible to serve more than ~~two~~ three consecutive terms in the same office."

News from our Bookstore/Gift Shop

Happy holidays! Why shop at our Audubon Bookstore? To avoid crowded malls and parking problems, and to go where there's a unique selection of nature gifts and gift certificates. Recent arrivals: National Geographic FG to Birds of Western NA, Peterson FG to Birds of NA, Smithsonian FG to Birds of NA (includes a 587 bird songs disc) as well as children's Christmas books. We also have a great new selection of bird stockings (plus holiday theme ones & large sizes), Cornell birds with songs, plush

toys (Snowy Owl & Rock Hopper Penguin), Shade-grown coffees & teas, coffee cups & thermo mugs, Sea & Sage logo items, long sleeved t-shirts & 2009 calendars. After you've finished shopping, take a walk around the ponds before heading back home.



Don't forget — Our PANCAKE BREAKFAST is Sat, Oct. 25th!

On Saturday morning, Oct. 25th, we'll be holding our Annual Pancake Breakfast at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine. Breakfast runs from 7:30 to 10:30 am; Adults are \$10, Children 10 & under are \$6, and Children 3 and under are free. Be sure to call Audubon House to make your reservation (949-261-7963) so we know how many people to prepare for. We hope you will join us for this special event!

Birds of Southern California Workshop An Introductory Birding Skills Workshop *presented by Sylvia Gallagher*

Sylvia will be teaching her popular all inclusive Birding Skills Workshop on Birds of Southern California for beginning birders this fall, starting the week of Nov. 12th. Classes will be held on Wed. evenings (7-10 pm), Thurs. mornings (9 am-12 noon), or Thurs. evenings (7-10 pm). This 10-week workshop will include 4 half-day Sat. field trips. If you are a new birder who wants to learn all about the birds here in Southern California, this is your chance! Complete information on this great workshop is in the Oct. Tattler, on our chapter webpage, and at Audubon House.

Native Plant Gardening Workshop

There are still a few spaces left in the 2nd Native Plant Gardening Workshop sponsored by Sea & Sage which will be held on Nov. 2, 9, and 15 from 9:00 am to 12 noon. Fall is the best season in which to plant your native plant garden and this special workshop will give you a head start. You will learn how to select appropriate native plants for the spaces in your garden, where to buy them, and how to care for them once they are planted. To sign up for the workshop, send your \$30 check, payable to Sea & Sage Audubon & a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Diane Bonanno, 4611 Santa Fe St, Yorba Linda CA 92886. Please include your email address. No reservations will be taken by phone; however, if you have a question about the workshop, call Diane at 714-572-9911. The workshop will be led by Diane Bonanno and Pat Overby, Landscape Designers specializing in CA natives.

Education News

Trude Hurd, Project Director of Marsh Education



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

Our Education Volunteers

The Marsh Education Project is proud to recognize its education volunteers who donated over 3,400 hours in 2007. Special praise goes to these thirteen naturalists who each volunteered over 100 hours:

Grace McElhiney 431
Bev Spring 348
Constance Cassady 320
Teresa Cullen 250
Pat Vranicar 248
Nora Papian (student) 247
Trude Hurd 214
Deborah Brin 197
Bob McElhiney 178
Helen Nicholas 172
Marisa Camisasca (student) 136
Samantha Masaki (student) 117
Gretchen Mavrovouniotis 107



—Trude Hurd

Junior Naturalists

The Junior Naturalists started the year by participating in the Coastal Cleanup. We worked in Upper Newport Bay this year and retrieved a lot of plastic and cigarette butts before they washed down to the ocean.

Two Junior Naturalists, Neil Gilbert and Nora Papian, received scholarships to attend the Western Ornithologists Conference in San Mateo in October.

Kudos to Lee Sisson, who sent her mother and brother to the 241 Toll Road hearings on September 22nd while she was stuck in school. Many of the Junior Naturalists have sent letters opposing the extension of the Toll Road to Secretary Gutierrez. We will be camping in San Onofre State Park — which is in the path of the proposed Toll Road — on October 25th.

We are also greatly anticipating our field trip with Jon Dunn on Sunday, November 16th. This should be a great day!

—Kate Grabenstein



Seasons of Nature

Are there seasons, real seasons, here in southern California? Certainly there are, but they are different in character from the traditional American seasons you see pictured on greeting cards. That's why our Seasons of Nature fall walk is called "The Myth of Fall." Here in our area, Fall is not a season where plant life grinds to a halt, waiting for next Spring. Instead, this is the season where

after the long dry summer, our flora begins to come to life. With the first rains, the hills begin to show green, many of our trees retain their green leaves, and the migrating birds fly into our trees and ponds, fleeing the short days of the north for southerly light, sun, and food.

We meet at 9 am on the third Sunday in January, April, July and October to explore the marsh and experience the changing of the seasons-California style. Join us!

—Jean Drum

2009 Spring Brunches

The SPRING BRUNCHES program for the spring of 2009 will be even better than 2008. This fact is due to the offer of help received from a long time Sea and Sage volunteer, Lois Taylor. Once a volunteer, always a volunteer! It's so hard not to be, when there's an organization that sponsors great programs like Sea and Sage Audubon. I have seen Lois at work and couldn't have been happier than when she e-mailed me to offer her services. Thank you, Lois, for your continuing and enthusiastic commitment to promote an awareness of the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary and Sea and Sage's involvement in it.

—Helen Nicholas, Coordinator

Join the Naturalist Team!



Join us when we share our love of nature with children. Share their excitement when they watch a Great Blue Heron through binoculars for the first time or their wonder when they view the tiny wriggling critters in the pond water through microscopes. Lead them on a short walk around the ponds, guiding them to improve their powers of observation by watching the birds. Show them our beautiful taxidermy bird specimens; guide them to make observations about feathers and bones, beaks and body structure; help them learn about the microscopic critters in the pond water, the food chain, and the critical importance of wetlands. We're not looking for people who can identify all the birds by name, but instead we want people who enjoy working with children (4th & 5th graders) and who want to open their eyes to the wonders of nature. Our school tours run on Tuesday & Thursday mornings from Oct. through June. If you can dedicate two mornings a month to the children, please contact Trude Hurd, our Project Director of Education, at 949-261-7964; seaandsage@sbcglobal.net She will schedule a one-morning orientation meeting so that you can learn about the program and how you can be a part. We hope you will join us!

—N. Kenyon

Nov. and Dec. Field Trips



For trip updates & additional trip info, visit our webpage at <http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org/FieldTrips/fieldtrips.htm>
Trips marked with a @ require advance reservations. If you have any questions about the field trips or would like to make a trip reservation, contact Field Trip Chair, Nancy Kenyon, at nancykenyon@cox.net or 949-786-3160.

Santiago Oaks Reg. Park Sun, Nov. 2nd — 7:30 am

Join Linette Lina for a monthly bird walk at Santiago Oaks at 7:30 am. The mix of oak riparian and coastal sage scrub habitats make Santiago Oaks one of the best places in Orange County to find a variety of songbirds. **Directions:** Take the 55 freeway to Katella Ave in Orange. Exit and drive east on Katella 3.2 miles to Windes Dr. Turn left on Windes Dr. and follow the signs to the park. **OR,** take Jamboree towards the mts. 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 parking lot.

Natural History Walk [®] in Limestone Canyon Thurs., Nov. 6 — 9:00 a.m.

There are still a few spaces left for the Nov. 6 Limestone Canyon walk. This is the 2nd in a series of field natural history walks with Dick Newell. Participants will examine the geology, plant life, birds, herps, and other animals they encounter on the trip. Group size is limited. Contact Nancy for reservations at 949-786-3160 or by email: nancykenyon@cox.net

Salt Marsh Birds & Ecology (including Clapper Rails) Sat, Nov. 8th — 8:00 am

This special field trip will be led by Dick Zembal, the recognized authority on the Light-footed Clapper Rail. Dick will talk about salt marsh birds and ecology, including the Clapper Rail, of course, and lead us on a walk along the Bay where we will see some of the birds & unique plants which inhabit the salt marsh. We hope you will join us for this special field trip! We will meet in the Back Bay Science Center parking lot at Shellmaker.

Directions: From PCH, take Jamboree inland. Turn left on Back Bay Drive & follow it to Shellmaker Rd which is the 1st turn on the left after the boat parking lot; it will be the 1st and only left turn available to you after the end of the fence. **OR: From the #405 or the #5** freeways, exit on Jamboree and drive toward the ocean & turn right on Back Bay Drive. (last turn before PCH); follow it until you reach Shellmaker where you will turn left. The gate into the parking is usually kept closed, but it will be opened by staff as they enter or exit. If the gate is closed when you arrive, just sit in your car, parked over to the right on Shellmaker Rd and wait for someone to open the gate for you.

San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary Sun, Nov. 9th — 8:00 am

Join Chris Obaditch for a monthly bird walk around the ponds of the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine at 8:00 am on the 2nd Sunday morning of each month. (See directions on page 8.) 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.

GULL Field Workshop at Doheny State Park Wed, Nov. 19th — 8:00 am

OK, so now you know that they are not called "seagulls" and are starting to wonder what else there is to find out about this fascinating species. Join us at Doheny State Park, the best place in the county and perhaps the best place in southern California, to find an abundance of wintering gulls. Here we will practice identifying our more common gull species, talk a little about aging, molt, and just when and where to expect these birds in our county. If you have a scope, bring it! It would also be useful to bring along your Sibley or National Geographic field guide. **Directions:** Take Pacific Coast Hwy. south to the signal at Dana Point Harbor Drive.
continued on page 8

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.

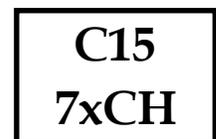
Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail address _____



November 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

DATED MATERIAL PLEASE EXPEDITE!

Directions to Doheny St. Park:

Take Pacific Coast Hwy. south to the signal at Dana Point Harbor Drive. Turn into the park entrance (fee), Park in the last parking lot before the narrow bridge across San Juan Creek. Rain will cancel the field trip.

Leader - Kaaren Perry
surfbird1@verizon.net

Bolsa Chica

Thurs, Dec. 4th — 8:00 a.m.

Information on this field trip, led by Pat & Dick Cabe, will be in the December Tattler.

Seal Beach NWR[®]

Sat, Dec. 6th — 7:30 a.m.

This 923-acre refuge contains an extensive, unspoiled salt water marsh, heavily vegetated, with tidal channels throughout. The refuge supports a great variety of raptors, waterfowl, shorebirds, and songbirds. Local specialties include Loggerhead Shrikes, Belted Kingfishers, and Peregrine Falcons. This field trip is held at the Seal Beach NWR which is located on the grounds of the Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station in Seal Beach; trip size is limited to 20 persons and **advance reservations are mandatory**. Photo ID may be

required in order to enter the premises. Contact Nancy Kenyon at nancykenyon@cox.net or 949-786-3160 for trip reservations. Leave your name and phone number. Nancy will contact you to confirm your reservation.

We will meet in the parking lot by the main gate of the Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station at 7:30 am. This is located at the intersection of Heron Pointe/Forrestal Ln & Seal Beach Blvd. (Forrestal is the street that enters the base; Heron Pointe is on the opposite side of Seal Beach Blvd. There is a signal at this intersection. The address is 800 Seal Beach Blvd. The station is located on the east side of Seal Beach Blvd. about 2 miles south of the #405 Frwy. and 1 mile north of Pacific Coast Hwy. Late comers will not be admitted. We may be using government vans rather than our own vehicles to enter the facility. Late comers will not be admitted. **Bring** binocs, field guide, and a scope if you have one. Restrooms will be available at one of the stops. The trip will end at noon.

Co-Leaders - Kirk Gilligan & Tim Anderson. Reservations - Nancy Kenyon - (phone) 949-786-3160; (email) nancykenyon@cox.net

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.