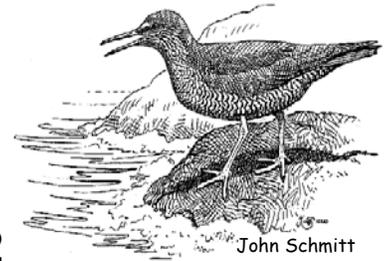


Wandering Tattler

October 2008
Volume 58, Number 2



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

Crème de la Crème

by Jay Miller, *president*

Although there are a great many things that I like about our chapter, the program that makes me the most proud to say that I am a member and supporter of Sea and Sage, is our Junior Naturalists Program.

The idea for this program was hatched in 2001 when a number of the students in Sea and Sage's Advanced Summer Camp were concerned about graduating from camp and not having anymore organized birding activities. Grace McElhiney asked Irene Perry and Sally Menzel if they would start a Junior Naturalists program so that these kids would have an opportunity to meet with others of similar age and interests. In time, Irene moved away, and in 2006, Sally turned the program over to Kate Grabenstein. To this day, 31 different teens have participated in the program with most of them continuing until high school graduation.

The Junior Naturalists go on monthly supervised field trips (including two over-nighters). Although most of the field trips are in Orange County, they have also gone to Lake Arrowhead, Big Morongo, Palm Springs, Joshua Tree, Torrey Pines, and other Southern California Birding spots.

They have also participated in a number of chapter activities. Many of the assistants in our excellent summer camps are Junior Naturalists. It is very inspiring for young campers to see teens, only a few years older than they are, in the roles of teachers and leaders. A number of the kids already aspire to being Junior Naturalists. The Junior Naturalists lead walks at many of our events. They participate in Birdathon and Christmas bird counts and are also getting involved in various conservation activities.

One of them was *Wild Birds Magazine* "Birder of the Year". Another Junior Naturalist spent two summers at Audubon's Hog Island camp in Maine. When a young birder with a national reputation moved to Orange County, he was immediately able to connect with kids of similar interest. I was so proud that we were able to sit David Sibley's 15 year old son with a whole table of young teens who were his son's age.

Having folks so young that are interested in birds holds promise of great things for the future of birding in this area or where ever they wind up. These teens are not Junior

Naturalists because their teachers or parents told them to join; they are doing it solely because they want to. Jon Dunn, one of the editors of the National Geographic field guide to *Birds of North America*, is so impressed with our kids that he is going to spend a whole day with them in November. We can all be proud of them as they are our shining stars, our Crème de la Crème.

General Meeting

Friday, October 17 - 7:30 p.m.

"Australia: A Land Far, Far Away"

presented by Charles Leavell

Our speaker this month will be Charles Leavell, who recently retired from Fullerton Community College where he was a professor in the Natural Science Division for 32 years. He taught field classes in Natural History in many areas around the world, such as Costa Rica, Eastern Africa, the Galapagos, Ecuador, and Machu Picchu. He has also led tours for various organizations and cruise ships to many exotic destinations.

Chuck and his wife traveled extensively in search of birds and adventure. Some of the places they explored were Argentina, Antarctica, Australia, Brazil, Borneo/ Malaysia, and Madagascar.

"Australia: A Land Far, Far Away", is a program about the unique continent of Australia and how its isolation from the rest of the world accounts for its strange diversity of plants and animals. His program will be illustrated with photos he took during their last 2 trips to that the continent. He and his wife traveled alone, without guides, and randomly discovered many great birding spots. Chuck will primarily focus on Australia's animals with emphasis on the birds. (Australia's animals are vastly different from any that we are used to seeing in North America.) He will also touch on the Australia's unique plant life.

We hope you will join us for this great program! The doors open at 7:00, the meeting starts at 7:30 pm. We meet in the Irvine Ranch Water District Board Meeting Room at 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue in Irvine. Directions are on page 11.

Marquita Miller, Programs Chair

Conservation News

by Susan Sheakley and Scott Thomas



Our Conservation Committee Meetings are held at 6:30 pm on the 1st Tuesday of the month at Audubon House. Our Conservation Lecture Series are on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Duck Club. See our chapter webpage for more information: <http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org/Conservation/conservation.htm> We hope you will join us! Susan Sheakley (949-552-5974)

Foothill-South Toll Road, New Hearing -

September 22. After canceling its previously scheduled public hearing in July, a special U.S. Commerce Department panel deliberating on the future of the proposed Foothill-South toll road extension through southern Orange County, rescheduled a public hearing. We hope to see you there.

Date: Monday, September 22, 2008

Location: O'Brien Hall at the Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd, Del Mar, CA 92014

Time: 10:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. (with breaks for lunch and dinner) **Parking:** On-site, available at \$9

Banning Ranch - Newport Beach. In August, Banning Ranch submitted a development application to the City of Newport Beach for a 1,375 home development on one of the last undeveloped coastal Orange County properties, near the mouth of the Santa Ana River, bordering Costa Mesa. The development would cover a little less than half of the remaining 400 acre parcel. Much of the area has been heavily impacted by years of oil extraction, but many good stands of Coastal Sage Scrub, grasslands, riparian and wetlands habitat remain intact.

Banning Ranch is home to one of the most isolated pockets of coastal Cactus Wrens and California Gnatcatchers, as well as many other sensitive bird species including White-tailed Kites. While all the wetlands will remain under the proposal, it is not yet clear how other species, such as the Coastal Sage-reliant birds and raptors, would fare once the upland habitats are developed.

Coyote Hills - Fullerton. The Friends of Coyote Hills continue their efforts to save an important remnant of Orange County's foothills and Coastal Sage Scrub (CSS) habitat. Pacific Coast Homes, a subsidiary of Chevron, is processing the third attempt to complete an EIR in the last decade. The proposal calls for 760 homes, which in its current configuration will badly fragment the sensitive CSS habitats and almost completely absorb all the grassland habitats.

California Gnatcatchers have held on strong on this property for some time as surrounding habitats have been lost to development. But, there is reason to believe that they have not done as well in recent years, and wildfire and expanding development in many other Orange County areas has undoubtedly reduced many

other gnatcatcher populations. Therefore the Friends of Coyote Hills and Sea and Sage are asking the Fish and Wildlife Service to reassess the numbers at West Coyote Hills and reconsider the implications of the proposed development.

Owl Banding Field Trip. As a follow-up to the September 23 lecture on the 2008 OC Raptor Research Project, Scott Thomas will lead an Owl Banding field trip on Oct. 11 which will focus on the capture and banding of Barn Owls and Western Screech-Owls. Participants will get a close up and personal view of owls and banding research methods. Field trip time, location, and reservation information will be announced at the Sept. 23 lecture, or contact Scott Thomas.

4th Tuesday Conservation Lecture Series

Oct. 28th at 7 pm at the Duck Club, San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary, Irvine

"Avian Resources and Management Issues at the Mouth of the Santa Ana River" presented by Dick Zembal

Our second 4th Tuesday Conservation Lecture Series presentation will be given by Dick Zembal, a very dynamic and popular speaker, on the conservation and numerous management issues that face the many jurisdictions and agencies at the mouth of the Santa Ana River. Dick's various responsibilities include the Clapper Rail Recovery Effort for the Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy, Chairman of the Santa Ana River Watershed Association, and Natural Resources Director for the Orange County Water District.

Dick is very familiar with the birds, ecosystems and the many challenges of the Santa Ana River watershed. The October 28 presentation will focus on the habitat at the mouth of the river, straddled between Huntington Beach and Newport Beach. Topics include:

- Huntington Beach Wetlands Restoration Plans
- Least Tern Colony, Challenges and Successes
- Santa Ana River Marsh Management Issues
- Orange Coast River Parks – Update

Please join us.

Related field trip, Saturday, November 8th. Dick Zembal will lead a field trip on Saltwater Marsh Ecology at Upper Newport Bay. See the Field Trips section of the November newsletter and website for trip info.

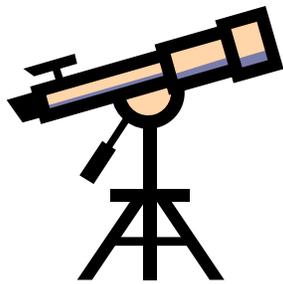
Sea & Sage Audubon Pancake Breakfast

Sat., October 25th, from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.
at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine

Bargain - Used Nature Books for Sale



Our annual used book sale features a wide assortment of nature books appropriate for birders, teachers, students and all nature lovers. Books are priced from \$1 up. Come early for the best selection.



Bird Walks & Scope Stations around the marsh

We have scheduled 3 morning bird walks around the marsh and will also have several spotting scope stations by the ponds closest to Audubon House. This will give you a great opportunity to see the shorebirds and ducks, egrets and herons and other birds which frequent the sanctuary.

Delicious - Hot Pancake Breakfast



Enjoy hot pancakes right off the griddle, tasty sausages, fruits of the season, cold orange juice, hot coffee and milk for the kids. Dine with family, friends and fellow birders in the Duck Club or at the picnic tables in the meadow. Reservations are a must, so we know how much food to buy.



Don't forget to stop by Audubon House!

Stop by Audubon House for a visit to see our large taxidermy collection of birds, look at the photos of our resident bobcat family, see our excellent reference library, and check out our outstanding gift and book store. The volunteers at Audubon House will answer your questions about Sea and Sage, birds, our education program, conservation issues, etc. From the back porch, you'll get a great view of the new buildings, two of which we will soon be moving into.

Come and enjoy the days of autumn and the return of migratory and over-wintering birds that inhabit the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary.

\$10 - Adults
\$6 - Children 10 & under
Free - Children 3 & under

The San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary has over 12 miles of trails to explore. This will be a wonderful day to explore one of those paths through the wetlands.

Make your reservations today or anytime before 1:00 pm, Friday, October 24th.

Call Audubon House at 949-261-7963. Questions? Call Mary Joseph at 714-848-8362.

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.



Gull-billed Terns continued to make news in Orange County during the last month. After an unprecedented showing in spring, during which as many as seven were tallied on a single day (Apr. 29) at the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve (BC), Gull-billeds were then recorded at three other locations. As included in last month's report, one or two appeared, and remained for a few weeks, at the Santa Ana River mouth (Talbert Marsh). This was followed by one at the Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve (UNB), July 27 (Denny Geiler), where an adult with two flying, but still begging-to-be-fed, juveniles were present Aug. 14 (Robb Hamilton). Interestingly, an adult with two begging young were then at BC, Aug. 16-17 (Brian Daniels, Steve Smith, Leo Ohtsuki), and again on Aug. 23. It is unclear where these birds may have bred, but the only two currently known breeding locations for Gull-billed Terns in California are in southern San Diego County and at the Salton Sea. Also quite surprising was a Gull-billed seen flying over San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary (SJWS), July 28 (Neil Gilbert); it is quite possible this bird had wandered up San Diego Creek from UNB.

There were a few reports of **Black Terns**, which are a rare but fairly regular early fall migrant in the county. Two were at SJWS, Aug. 10 (Felicia Lee), followed by another here on Sept. 1 (Rick Shearer et al.); and a juvenile was photographed at BC, Aug. 21-23 (Bob Pinning, Steve Smith). Unusually high numbers of **Least Terns** were inland at Burris Sandpit (adjacent to the Santa Ana River, in Anaheim), in late July and early August, where up to 30 were present Aug. 1-2 (Doug Willick). As noted in past years, most of these were presumably post-breeding birds wandering inland in search of foraging opportunities. However, as many as four breeding pairs of Least Terns were present at the Burris Sandpit tern colony this summer (the third year that this species has successfully bred at this unexpected location); Burris also hosted at least 55 breeding pairs of Forster's Terns and, surprisingly, two pairs of **Black Skimmers**. A few terns and at least one skimmer chick managed to successfully fledge from this colony, despite the fact that the Orange County Water District decided to dewater Burris Basin in early August, before all the nests had been completed. The three or four nests that had been active just prior to the dewatering all disappeared within a few days following OCWD's action. The successful nesting of Black Skimmers at Burris was the first documented in Orange County away from the few coastal breeding colonies.

Brown Pelicans wandered inland at a couple of locations this summer, with one continuing at Burris Sandpit since July 19 (Shirley Hunt; D. Willick). An injured pelican sitting in lanes on a busy Hwy 241 tollroad, north of Lake Forest, July 29 (Doug Peltz), must have been an odd sight; cars were said to be swerving to miss the bird. Amazingly, the bird was rescued and transported to the Wetlands and Wildlife Care Center.

At BC, an adult **Reddish Egret** present since mid July was joined by a second bird on about Aug. 15+ (Brian Daniels, L. Ohtsuki). At least one **Pacific Golden-Plover** at BC, Aug. 13-Sept. 1+ (Peter Knapp, et al.), was presumably a bird returning to spend another winter here. At the far sound end of BC, the season's first **Baird's Sandpiper**, Aug. 9 (L. Ohtsuki), and a **Solitary Sandpiper** Aug. 15 (B. Daniels) were found, while a **White-winged Dove** was in the adjacent Harriett Wieder Regional Park, Sept. 1 (B. Daniels). SJWS yielded a nice selection of rarities; these included **Cattle Egret**, Aug. 1 (Wayne Gochenour); **Snowy Plover** (rare away from sandy beaches and a few coastal estuaries), Aug. 11 (Robert McNab); **Solitary Sandpipers** on Aug. 12 (Bill Sauer), Aug. 29-31 (N. Gilbert), and Sept. 5 (R. McNab); **Semipalmated and Baird's Sandpiper**, Aug. 10 (B. Daniel); a **Bank Swallow**, Aug. 9 (R. McNab); and a juvenile **Black-throated Sparrow**, Aug. 22 (Al and Janet Baumann). Rounding out the list of rare shorebirds reported during the last month, another **Solitary Sandpiper** was along San Diego Creek, near the Irvine Civic Center, Aug. 20 and 23 (R. McNab; Steve Sosensky).

Early fall migrant landbird rarities were already appearing in August. At Huntington Central Park highlights included single **White-winged Doves** on Aug. 18 (Jim Roe) and Aug. 29 (the latter per Lena Hayashi, recorded during the monthly bird census at Shipley Nature Center), a **Virginia's Warbler**, Aug. 30-31 (L. Ohtsuki), and an **American Redstart** Aug. 22-23 (Dick and Pat Cabe). Although late Sept. and Oct. is more typically the time when the rarer landbird migrants appear in southern California, a female type **Painted Bunting** in a Mission Viejo yard, Aug. 20-21 (Janet and Al Baumann) was exceptional. Unfortunately, due to the sale and illegal import of a variety of native songbirds that also occur south of our border (like Painted Bunting), it is not possible to be certain of the origin of these sort of species when they appear in California. Painted Buntings are one of many songbirds that are frequently seen for sale in Mexican border towns. However, this particular record fits well into the early fall pattern of occurrence that has generally been noted for Painted Buntings which appear to be naturally-occurring "vagrants" to the southwestern U.S. (such as those that are recorded in remote desert migrant traps).

Lastly, a **Willow Flycatcher** at Serrano Community Park (Lake Forest), July 26 (Lucy Lee), was most likely an exceptionally early fall migrant. Willow Flycatchers were historically common breeders in southern California riparian habitats (i.e., the subspecies known as "Southwestern Willow Flycatcher"). However, for many decades this species breeding population has declined significantly throughout the region, and since the mid 1960s there have been very few documented breeding records for Orange County.



Sea & Sage Audubon Society
Birds of Southern California
 An Introductory Birding Skills Workshop
presented by Sylvia Gallagher



Sea & Sage Audubon Society is again offering weekly workshops in bird identification for beginning birders. If you have been birding casually for a while, you should also consider enrolling. Professional biologists whose expertise is not in ornithology find these workshops helpful, too. Each session will feature about 15 common birds of a particular local habitat on the coastal side of the mountains. With the use of printed worksheets and slides from the Sea & Sage Library, Sylvia Gallagher will help you learn to identify those birds. In the process, you'll also be introduced to a variety of other topics, such as bird families, plumages and molts, bird topography, distribution and habitat preferences, behavior, vocalizations, the birding literature, birding ethics and etiquette, etc.

- The topics to be covered in the series are:
- Birds of neighborhoods
 - Birds of playing fields and parking lots
 - Birds of mudflats and shallow water
 - Birds of the ocean shore
 - Birds of the open country
 - Birds of prey
 - Birds of the streamside woodland
 - Birds of lakes, ponds and marshes



Each section will have ten weekly meetings at the Gallagher home in Huntington Beach. Four half-day field trips will be scheduled on Saturdays (Dec. 6 and 20; Jan. 24, and Feb. 7— times to be announced). The dates and times for the workshop sessions are listed below.

- Wed. evenings: 7:00 to 10:00 p.m., Nov. 12 - Feb. 11, except Nov. 26, Dec. 24 and 31, Jan. 14.
- Thurs. mornings: 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon, Nov. 13 - Feb. 12, except Nov. 27, Dec. 25, Jan. 1 and 15.
- Thurs. evenings: 7:00 to 10:00 p.m., Nov. 13 - Feb. 12, except Nov. 27, Dec. 25, Jan. 1 and 15.

The maximum enrollment for each section is 23. If any section does not have at least 12 people enrolled by Nov. 4th, it will be cancelled. Reserve early though, because some sections may fill completely. A donation of \$70.00 (or more) per person is requested, if you can afford it. Bring your money to the first session.

The required book for the workshop is *Birds of North America* by Kenn Kaufman (Houghton Mifflin Co., any edition). It is available at Audubon House for \$15.50 including tax, or you can buy one at the first meeting. You will also need to bring binoculars to meetings no later than the third session—preferably sooner. For information about which types are good for birding, the American Birding Association website is a good place to start: www.americanbirding.org.

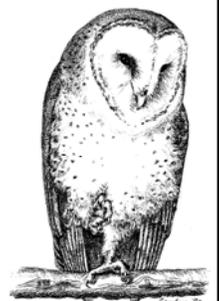
Send your reservation for these workshops, postmarked no earlier than Oct. 9th, (2-day penalty for early reservations), to: Introductory Workshop, c/o Sylvia Gallagher, 21562 Kaneohe Ln, Huntington Beach CA 92646. Placement in sections will be based on postmark date. Enclose a long (4"x 9.5") self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE). Confirmations will be mailed Nov. 5, including preliminary information and a map to the meeting place. For further information, call Sylvia at (714) 962-8990.

Enrollment Form for Introductory Birding Skills Workshops (Fall/Winter 2008-09)

Names of all participants _____
 Address(es) _____
 City & Zip Code _____
 Phone _____ E-mail _____

Check or rank your choice of section:

WED. p.m. ____ THURS. a.m. ____ THURS. p.m. ____ SASE enclosed? ____
 Do you plan to buy a book at the first meeting? ____ If more than one, how many? ____



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 September and October: Sonia Appell, Donna & Mike Augustine, Charlie Austin, Pat & Dick Cabe, Constance Cassady, Deana Collins, Carolyn Cooper, Pam Degarimore, Tom Drouet, Fresia Escalona, Frank Feller, Judy Fritts, Keats Hayden, Pat Heilig, Sarah Jayne, Steve Jelnick, Lois Jones, Nancy Kenyon, Donna Krebs, Joan McCauley, Bobbie Miller, Eunice Morita, Rosemary Price, Shirley Price, Betty Purdy, Roberta Ray, Barbara Reber, John Shaddy, Mary Shandy, Bev Spring, Betty Swift and Vic Westling.

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. If you are interested in helping at Audubon House, please contact Judy Fritts at 949-551-4513.

Used Nature Books Wanted!

Attention members! Here is an easy way to support your chapter! Start your fall cleaning now! Clear out your bookshelves and take down those unused books on birds, natural history, travel & gardening to donate to Sea and Sage for our Annual Pancake Breakfast Used Book Sale. Proceeds from this sale will benefit our education & conservation projects. All donations will be greatly appreciated! Deliver them to Audubon House any time before Oct. 24th.

Results of the "Great Sounds Search"

Participants in Sylvia Gallagher's workshop, "Learning California Bird Sounds," were challenged to try to hear as many birds as possible in Southern California during a six-month period. Their reports were turned in and the results presented at the workshop reunions in early September. These results are now on the Sea and Sage website at: <http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org/Classes/GreatSoundSearch.html>. Anyone interested in bird sounds, not just those in the workshop, should find this report fascinating.

Computers Needed

Sea & Sage needs 2 laptop computers, a high end one and a low end one, fairly new and in good working condition. If you have one you could donate to us, please contact Jay Miller at 714-549-2912. Thanks!

Pancake Breakfast

at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine

Saturday, Oct. 25

7:30 - 10:30 a.m.



Will YOU be there?

Those of you who came to our Pancake Breakfast last year will recall what fun it was! We had a great menu of hot cakes & sausages right off the griddle, orange juice, fresh fruit, plenty of hot coffee, and milk for the kids. After breakfast, most people went to investigate the bird life around the ponds, talked with friends, visited Audubon House, and browsed through the interesting assortment of used nature books for sale.

This year, we've scheduled bird walks for you before and after breakfast. We will also have scope stations at the nearest ponds so you can get a close-up view of the birds.

We've been collecting books for the past 5 months and have a great assortment of used nature books just waiting for you to browse through at our Book Sales table. (Get there early while the best book bargains are still available!)

Don't forget to stop by Audubon House to see our new taxidermy specimens, browse through our gift shop, and check out our great reference library! Stop at the Education Table by the Duck Club; they're planning a great exhibit showing some of the art projects our kids made at camp this past summer.

On the back porch of the Duck Club, Optics4Birding will be displaying some of their optics equipment for birders. This is a good opportunity for you to check out the latest in binoculars or scopes, and to ask questions about them.

Near the check-in table, Wild Birds Unlimited will have a table with bird seed, feeders, & other bird feeding items. They welcome questions about how or what to feed birds, where to place your bird bath, what plants attract birds, etc.

The prices & menu for this year's Pancake Breakfast will remain the same as last year.

Adults - \$10

Children 10 & under - \$6

Little ones 3 & under - free

Reservations are a must for this event; otherwise, we won't know how much food to buy! Please call Audubon House (949-261-7963) to reserve your place at our table; leave your name and number of people attending in your party. Reservations will be accepted until 4 pm, Oct. 23rd.

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>



Using Sketching and a Field Journal to Observe Birds and the Environment

Last summer, Donelda Warhurst took a week long drawing class with John Muir Laws and wants to continue practicing the skills she learned. With this in mind, and stating that she is not an artist, she is organizing a two weekend mornings-a-month opportunity to go out and practice field journaling. Each week, she will share some of the techniques learned in the class, while you observe birds, sketch in your field journal, share and discuss your observations with the group

All levels of drawing and observation skills are welcome. You will be pleasantly surprised at how simple sketches and notes can enrich your observation skills and create vivid memories of your experiences.

Come to as many mornings as you can. However, you need to call Donelda to let her know you are coming and to get the site location for that date. Minimal materials are needed - pencils, paper/journal, chair, binoculars and an enjoyment of observing the world around you are all that is needed. Donelda will share other materials and resources at the sites.

The sites will be in Orange County; the dates are: Sunday, Oct. 5; Saturday, Oct. 25; Sunday, Nov. 2; Saturday, Nov. 22; and Saturday, Dec. 13. All sessions will be from 8:00 am to 12 noon. To sign up, contact Donelda at 714-473-3405 or email her at: doneldaw@gmail.com.

Planning Ahead for our Annual Dinner's Silent Auction

Each year, a great deal of thought and advance planning goes into our Silent Auction for the Annual Dinner. This isn't the type of event which can be done at the last minute! Cheryl Thomas, who is in charge of the auction, is hoping you can offer her some assistance by providing the names of stores, restaurants, or other businesses which can donate items for our Silent Auction. Call Cheryl for more information at 949-294-2275.

Native Plant Gardening Workshops

There is still room left in the two Native Plant Gardening Workshops sponsored by Sea & Sage. Workshop #1 is Oct. 12, 15, 25; Workshop #2 is Nov. 2, 9, 15. Both workshops run from 9:00 am to 12 noon. For reservations, send \$25, payable to Sea & Sage Audubon, to: Diane Bonanno, 4611 Santa Fe St., Yorba Linda CA 92886. Be sure to include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Bookstore News

Need a 2009 calendar? Now is the time to check out our variety of calendars. All are in a new easy to see rack at Audubon House. We have bird calendars and more, plus engagement calendars, page a day calendars and a few smaller sized calendars. While you are browsing check out Peterson's and Smithsonian's new books. Also new are Audubon shadegrown coffees in a variety of flavors.

Shirley Regier

Friends and family of Shirley Regier, a long time Audubon friend and guiding light of South Coast Audubon, were saddened to hear of her death July 21, 2008, in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Memorial contributions (in her name) may be made to: Habitat for Humanity (www.habitat.org); Mennonite Central Committee (www.mee.org); or Desert Springs Church - Missions (www.desertspringschurch.org).

—Rita Tanner

Editor's note: If you do not have internet access & need a mailing address for one of the above organizations, please call Nancy at 949-786-3160.

Day of the Dolphin, Quarterly Census, Saturday, Oct. 25

The American Cetacean Society Orange County Chapter (ACS OC) requests the public's help in staffing their **Day of the Dolphin**. DOD is a volunteer-staffed quarterly shore-based census of Bottlenose Dolphins. The 13 sighting stations extend along the beach at roughly 2-mile intervals from Sunset Beach to Dana Point. ACS OC's **next DOD is Sat., October 25**, between 9:00 AM-5:00 PM (volunteers may sign up for part or all of that period). Training in survey methods and identification of the bottlenose (relatively easy) will be provided at the mandatory orientation/signup at **7:30 pm Thurs., October 23**, Costa Mesa Neighborhood Community Center, 1845 Park Street, Costa Mesa. The orientation/signup will last 1 - 1 1/2 hours. Info about the ACS OC Chapter is provided at <http://www.acsonline.org/orangecounty/>.

OCICE Caring for Creation Conference

Longtime environmental activist and author of "The End of Nature" Bill McKibben will be the keynote speaker at the 11th Annual Caring for Creation conference Oct. 25, 2008. Organized by the Orange County Interfaith Coalition for the Environment (OCICE), the conference will be held at St. Mark's Presbyterian Church in Newport Beach, known as "the greenest church in America." For more information, contact ecofaith@ocice.org or visit www.ocice.org.

Field Trips – Sept. & Oct.



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.

Huntington Central Park

SUNDAY, SEPT. 28 — 8:00 a.m.

(This field trip was listed in the September Tattler with an incorrect date; in fact, the date & day were not the same. So, even though this outing occurs in Sept., and this is the Oct. issue of the Tattler, we hope you will take note that the trip is scheduled for SUNDAY, September 28th.) The purpose of this trip to Huntington Central Park will be to look for fall migrants. **Directions:** We will meet in the Slater Street parking lot which is just east of the intersection of Slater & 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.

Leaders: Pat & Dick Cabe

Natural History Walk at Starr Ranch ®

Thursday, Oct. 2 — 9:00 a.m.

This is the first of a series of field natural history walks with Dick Newell during the year. Participants will examine the geology, plant life, birds, herps, and other animals they encounter on the trip. Each trip in the series will take a little over 3 hours to complete and will cover about 3 miles and perhaps a 400' elevation gain. Group size limited to 10; advance reservations necessary. Contact Nancy Kenyon, at nancykenyon@cox.net or 949-786-3160.

Leader: Dick Newell

Coastal Fall Migration Spots

Saturday, Oct. 4 — 8:00 a.m.

Two of these migration spot trips have been added to our field trip schedule for this year; the fall trip will focus on coastal spots and the spring one on inland ones. The Oct. 4th trip will meet in the Slater Street parking lot of Huntington Central Park because this area is centrally located in the county. **Directions:** The parking lot is just east of the intersection of Slater & 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. The group will consolidate cars and drive from there. Our destination will be locations along the coast where interesting migratory birds have recently been reported. *Leader: Jerry Tolman*

Santiago Oaks Regional Park

Sunday, Oct. 5, Nov. 2, Dec. 7 — 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 have a county parks pass. Meet in the upper end of the parking lot. *Leader: Linette Lina*

San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary

Sunday, Oct. 12, Nov. 9, Dec. 14 — 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. *Leader: Chris Obaditch*

Upper Newport Bay by small boat ®

Wed., Oct. 15, Nov. 19, Dec. 17 — 8:15 a.m.

Join us for the rare chance of birding the Upper Newport Bay from the deck of a small 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. (The Oct. trip is already full.) Contact Nancy Kenyon for trip reservations at 949-786-3160 or NancyKenyon@cox.net. *Leader: Nancy Kenyon*

Crescent Bay Rocky Shore Birds

Wednesday, Oct. 15 — 8:00 a.m.

Come join us for a chance to study our coastal birds. We are lucky to have several species of rocky coast shorebirds winter here in Orange County. Black & Ruddy Turnstones, Whimbrels, Surfbirds, Willets, Marbled Godwits and Black-bellied Plovers are reliably viewed here, and if we are lucky, a Wandering Tattler or Black Oystercatcher might stop by. We will practice identifying these birds perched on the rocks, in flight and listening carefully to their calls.

Passing seabirds such as gulls, terns, Brandts and Pelagic Cormorants, Northern Fulmar, Black-vented Shearwater and maybe even a Pomerine Jaeger are all possible on the open ocean. Of course we always keep an eye out for Grey Whales as they slowly pass on their way north.

Wear warm clothes, it can get quite cool along the coast. Binoculars are a must and I strongly recommend bringing a scope along if you have one.; it would be very helpful. Scope or not, we will make sure everyone gets a good look. We will meet at Crescent Bay Park at 8:00 am. After birding there we will then be driving a short distance to Heisler Park in central Laguna Beach. If time allows we will then

Field Trips & Announcements

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.

Crescent Bay Trip - continued

go about 3 miles south on Coast Hwy. to Treasure Island Park, another great spot for wintering shorebirds.

Restrooms are located at Heisler and Treasure Island. Both Heisler and Treasure Island have metered parking so be sure to bring along some quarters .

Directions: From Pacific Coast Hwy. in north Laguna Beach, turn west on Crescent Bay Drive. Drive to the end of the road to the little residential park, Crescent Bay Park. We will finish up before noon.

Leader: Kaaren Perry surfbird1@verizon.net

Bolsa Chica

Sunday, Oct. 19 – 8:00 a.m.

Bolsa Chica is one of the best wetlands areas in Southern California to watch grebes, loons, pelicans, shorebirds of all sizes, gulls and terns, waterfowl, egrets and herons, foraging raptors, etc. Now that it has been opened to tidal flow, it is even better. We will meet in the parking lot of the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve at 8 am Sunday morning. Bring binoculars, scope if you have one, and a field guide to help you sort through the shorebirds and gulls. Dress in layers. It can be quite cool and breezy there in the morning, but it often warms up as the day progresses.

Directions: Meet in the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve parking lot on the inland side of Pacific Coast Highway at the only signal between Seapoint Ave and Warner in Huntington Beach.

Leaders: Pat & Dick Cabe



Owl Prowl at Starr Ranch ©

Saturday evening, Nov. 1st – 6:30 p.m.

On this trip, we're going to "prowl" the back roads of Starr Ranch Sanctuary in search of owls. Our mode of transportation will be the big red flatbed truck which can hold about 14 people. The 3 resident owl species out there are Barn, Western Screech and Great Horned Owls. Advance reservations necessary; trip limited to 14 people. Trip fee \$10. Make check payable to SEA & SAGE AUDUBON and mail to: Owl Prowl, c/o Nancy Kenyon, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612. Include your phone number & your email address or a stamped, self-addressed long envelope for trip info & directions.

Leader: Pete DeSimone

Plan ahead –

The Seal Beach NWR field trip has now been scheduled with the Naval Weapons Station for Saturday., Dec. 6th. Meeting time is 7:30 a.m. Trip limited to 20 persons. For reservations contact Nancy Kenyon, 949-786-3160 or nancykenyon@cox.net

Central Valley Birding Symposium

It's time to have some fun again! The 12th Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium will be held Nov. 20-23 in Stockton. Activities include evening programs such as Hans Peeters "Owls of California and the West" & John Muir Laws "Exploring the Sierra Nevada as a Naturalist and Artist"; workshops on "Raptor ID" by Joe Morlan, "Bird ID" by Jon Dunn, "Bird and Nature Digiscoping" by Clay Taylor, drawing workshops with John Muir Laws; our popular ID Panel with the guest experts; programs for beginning birders and for people who want to make their gardens bird-friendly; field trips which frequently turn up chasable goodies, and more. For info: www.cvbs.org or contact Frances Oliver, hummer52@sbcglobal.net; 209-369-2010.

One Earth | One Dream - Oct. 2-5

This environmental event will be held at the Festival of Arts grounds in Laguna Beach and will feature "Life on the Edge" Symposium and the "Autumnal Green Festival" with exhibits promoting environmental awareness through the arts, education, healthy living, technological solutions, music, and films. For schedules & symposium registration, visit www.endangeredplanet.net

Join Project FeederWatch

A new season of Project FeederWatch is about to begin! PFW is a winter-long survey of birds that visit feeders in North America. Participants count the highest numbers of each species they see at their feeders from November through February. This helps scientists track broad scale movements of winter bird populations and long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance. The project is operated by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Anyone with an interest in birds can participate! There is a \$15 annual participation fee (\$12 for Lab members) which covers materials, staff support, web design, data analysis, and a year-end report (*Winter Bird Highlights*). The project is supported almost entirely by participation fees. You can sign up online at www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw, by phone at 1-800-843-2473, or by mailing your check & contact information to: Project FeederWatch, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, PO Box 11, Ithaca NY 14851-0011. Cornell Lab has redesigned their PFW website to make it more user friendly and informative. If you have questions about the project, contact Nancy Kenyon at 949-786-3160; nancykenyon@cox.net



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>



The Summer Bat Walks Come to an End

There were 7 Bat Walks scheduled for this past summer, two more than in 2007. We were still unable to accommodate as many individuals who wanted to go on one. The names on my waiting list, which closes on the last walk date, will be held over to the Summer 2009 Series. Shawn Price, a reporter for the Orange County Register, wrote an article on Bat Walks in the area, our program being one of the ones he highlighted. As a result, the openings that we had (and they were few) filled very quickly. Altogether, 167 adults and 59 children walked the Marsh on a successful searches for bats after an informative slide presentation by bat biologist, Stephanie Remington. Registration for the summer 2009 program will be announced in the Tattler and will begin in early March. We'd like to offer more evenings but we are in need of volunteer help to do so. If you would like to help, please contact me, Helen Nicholas, at 949-726-0858 or hnicholas2@cox.net. Thanks to all of you who gave of your time this season. It doesn't happen without you!

—Helen Nicholas

New Naturalist Orientation Oct. 24

Come volunteer outdoors and share nature with children. Our volunteer naturalists lead outdoor science programs for elementary school children at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine. They help children use binoculars and microscopes to learn how important wetlands are to wildlife. Attend a single day orientation meeting and then assist experienced naturalists with actual school tours on Tuesday and Thursday mornings; (you can choose which two days to volunteer each month.) Continue learning about nature at our Naturalist Meetings during the year and develop friendships with others who also care about sharing nature with children. For more information, contact Trude Hurd, Project Director of Education, at 949-261-7963 or seaandsage@sbcglobal.net.

Nature Discovery Kit Helper Needed

Joan is looking for someone to help her with the Nature Discovery Kits — Owls, Bats, Songbird Nests, Butterflies & Moths, and Reptiles & Amphibians. The work would involve checking in the kits (using a checklist) and putting them away afterwards at Audubon House. Information on the kits, what's in them and how they can be checked out, is posted on our chapter webpage at www.seaandsageaudubon.org/Education/NatureDiscoveryKits.html Please contact Joan Olafson if you can help her out. (949-673-5480 or joanoalf@earthlink.net)

Young Artists and Scientists In the Marsh

Imagine school children visiting the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary and seeing it with the eyes of a scientist and an artist. They learn how a scientist records wildlife as they walk around the ponds. In the butterfly garden, they discover how nature inspires artists to create art. The children then record their personal responses in a journal. Since everyone has different artistic abilities, some will make drawings directly from nature, while others sketch from a photo. As a group, they make an eco-mural to take back to their school that combines art and science to make a social statement.

Is this possible? Yes, but only with your help. If you or someone you know have taken art classes or have art experience and want to share it with children, then our new Art Meets Science program for 4th graders is perfect for you! The San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary is the ideal setting to educate children about the importance of art and science. Come be a part of this worthwhile project. Call Trude Hurd, Project Director of Education, at 949-261-7963 for more information

Junior Naturalists

Kate reports that we now have 20 enthusiastic Junior Naturalists signed up for the program this year. They are planning their activities for the year and are eagerly looking forward to Nov. 16 when Jon Dunn will be here to conduct an all day field seminar in Orange County for them, sharing his expertise and passion for birds and birding.

Spring Brunches a Success

This spring, for the first time, we offered a series of 5 brunches on Saturday and Sunday mornings. 84 adults joined us and everyone returned home with a smile on their faces, reflecting a relaxing walk in the marsh, a more than content stomach and good conversation. As was hoped, the morning was very interactive. A very special THANK YOU to those Board members who came and participated, as well as shared their extensive knowledge about the Sanctuary and the value of the wetlands that it inhabits. With most of the participants having no previous knowledge or visits to the Marsh, Sea and Sage and the Marsh received high marks for this event. Keep this in mind for next spring as a very special way to introduce friends or family to one of Orange County's jewels. Watch the Tattler for the announcement of registration in early March 2009. I'm interested in finding someone who would be willing to co-chair this event with me. Call Helen Nicholas at 949-726-0858 or hnicholas2@cox.net for more information.

Directions & Membership

Directions to Audubon House

Receiving the Tattler

Directions to the IRWD Board Meeting Room

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.)

Your Membership

If you are signing up as a new Audubon member be sure and use the application here 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 for new members (even if you give more than the minimum membership fee).

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

You can access your Tattler online instead of having it mailed to you. This will help us cut our costs and will also conserve resources. We can send you a monthly e-mail note that the latest issue of the tattler is online. Contact Nancy Kenyon if you are interested in this method of delivery. nancykenyon@cox.net.

Remember Us in Your Will of Trust

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

Membership Application

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

National Audubon Society Membership: Check one [v]

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

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

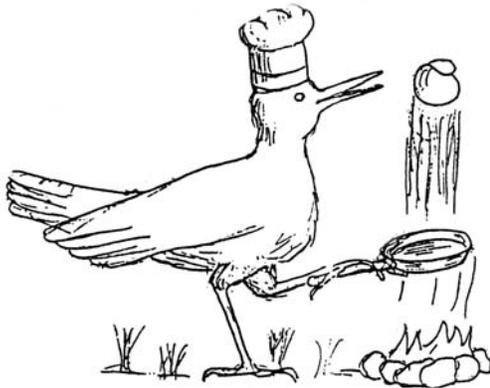
Phone _____

E-mail address _____



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

Committee Chairpersons:

Audubon House Volunteers..	Judy Fritts.....	949-551-4513
Birdathon	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	Kaaren Perry.....	949-497-0884
Exhibits.....	Mary Joseph.....	714-848-8362
Facilities.....	Neal Anderson.....	714-441-0491
Field Trips.....	Nancy Kenyon.....	949-786-3160
Finance.....	Hal Sheakley.....	949-552-5974
Hospitality-General Mtgs.....	Merri Levy.....	949-495-9482
Membership.....	Phil Brobst.....	949-261-7963
Newsletter Editor.....	Nancy Kenyon.....	949-786-3160
Oak Cyn Nature Center.....	Cathy Glasgow.....	714-998-8380
Partners in Flight.....	Janet Baumann.....	949-859-5081
Programs	Marquita Miller.....	714-549-2912
Publicity.....	Sheryl Blevins.....	949-831-3639
Publishing.....	Sam Berry.....	949-646-1488
SJWS Liaison.....	Chris Obaditch.....	949-640-7234
Starr Ranch/Envir. Liaison.....	Pete DeSimone.....	949-858-0309
Webmaster.....	Nancy Kenyon.....	949-786-3160

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

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

October

02	Thurs	Natural History Walk at Starr Ranch.....	9:00 am
04	Sat.	Fall Migration Spots (coastal areas).....	8:00 am
05	Sun.	Santiago Oaks monthly bird walk.....	7:30 am
07	Tues.	Conservation Committee Meeting.....	6:30 pm
11	Sat	Owl Banding Field Trip	tba
12	Sun	SJWS monthly bird walk.....	8:00 am
12	Sun	Native Plant Gardening Workshop #1 begins.....	9:00 am
14	Tues	Board Meeting.....	7:30 pm
15	Wed.	UNB by small boat (full).....	8:15 am
15	Wed.	Rocky Shore Birds at Crescent Bay.....	8:00 am
17	Fri	GENERAL MEETING.....	7:30 pm
19	Sun.	Bolsa Chica.....	8:00 am
19	Sun	The Myth of Fall (Seasons of Nature).....	9:00 am
24	Fri	New Naturalists Orientation.....	9:00 am
25	Sat.	Pancake Breakfast.....	7:30 am
28	Tues	4th Tues. Lecture Series (Dick Zembal).....	7:00 pm

November

01	Sat	Owl Prowl at Starr Ranch.....	6:30 pm
02	Sun	Santiago Oaks monthly bird walk.....	7:30 am
02	Sun	Native Plant Gardening Workshop #2 begins.....	9:00 am
06	Thurs	Natural History Walk at Limestone Canyon	9:00 am
08	Sat	Salt Marsh Birds & Ecology at UNB with Dick Zembal	8:00 am
09	Sun	SJWS monthly bird walk	8:00 am
12	Wed	Birds of So. CA birding skills workshops begin this week.....	
16	Sun	Junior Naturalists All Day Birding Seminar with Jon Dunn	
19	Wed	UNB by small boat	8:15 am
19	Wed	Gull Field Workshop at Doheny Beach St. Park.....	8:00 am
25	Tues.	4th Tues. Conservation Lecture Series.....	7:00 pm