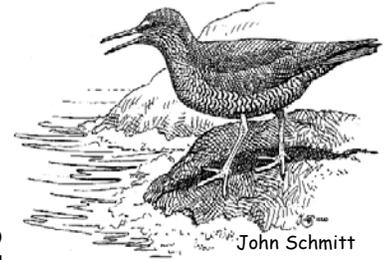


Wandering Tattler

October 2009
Volume 59, Number 2



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

Do Yourself (and the Birds) a Favor - Volunteer!

by Jay Miller, president

One of the things that I have learned from my years as a volunteer is that if you believe in the organization, you get more out of it than you put in.

Most Audubon Chapters with the size and scope of Sea and Sage have an Executive Director to do much of the work. Sea and Sage gets by with a small hard working staff and an army of volunteers. Although many of you know about all the volunteer opportunities at Sea and Sage, I thought I would list some of them in case you see something that sparks your interest.

The Education Program would love to have volunteers to help with these two programs for school children: Outdoor Adventures and Art Meets Science. They also need help with the Seasons of Nature walks, Community Tours, Bat Walks, Summer Camp, grant writing and interpretive displays.

The Conservation Program needs volunteers for a number of bird research projects such as locating banded Turkey Vultures and urban nesting raptors, monitoring the Coastal Cactus Wrens and the nesting Least Terns, and helping with the SJWS Tree Swallow nest box project.

We also welcome help at our monthly General Meetings in setting up and taking down the chairs and bringing refreshments. Right now we are looking for some volunteers to help us set up and take down our AV equipment when we move over to the Duck Club for our General Meetings.

Of course we always need Audubon House volunteers to help out in 4-hour shifts. We also need people to help with the upcoming Pancake Breakfast and later on, the Summer BBQ. Over 50 people volunteered for the Summer BBQ which really helped to make it a big success.

Sea and Sage is recognized by other chapters as successful and well organized, offering great programs to the community. We have a lot to be proud of and we as a chapter have worked hard to make this possible. If we pool all the incredible talent of our membership, we can continue to keep this a great chapter.

If you volunteer for any of the above activities you will not only be doing a good deed, you will feel good about yourself and find a lot of satisfaction in getting more involved with the Sea and Sage community.

General Meeting

Friday, October 16 - 7:30 p.m.

"Wildlife and Habitats in Arabia"

presented by Dr. Joseph Platt

Dr. Joseph Platt will present an illustrated program on the birds and other wildlife of the Arabian Peninsula. He is an accomplished photographer and ornithologist. He spent 20 years in Arabia where he was the personal wildlife advisor to the Ruler of Dubai and the King of Bahrain. He will explain how the plants and wildlife adapt to the extremes of desert life there and he will draw comparisons with our American deserts. His program will also include information about the various habitats from the coasts of the Gulf to the high mountains overlooking the Straits of Hormuz as well as some of the interesting reptiles of the area.

While over 370 species of birds have been recorded in The United Arab Emirates, only 76 nest there. The area is critical to northern species during migration. To aid these birds, Dr. Platt directed the creation of coastal wetland reserves that are now recognized as internationally significant under the Ramsar Treaty. He will also discuss the captive breeding programs established for endangered birds and mammals native to the area.

Joe is an active birder and works as an environmental consultant in southern California and Arizona. He has wildlife and zoology degrees from Utah State and Brigham Young Universities. His doctorate in Ecology is from Cornell University where he studied gyrfalcons on the Yukon North Slope.

Time permitting, there will be a question and answer period following Dr. Platt's presentation where he will also address inquiries regarding the Arabic experience as a whole. This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about birds and wildlife and how they manage to exist in a harsh, unforgiving environment.

We hope you will join us for this interesting program. The doors open at 7:00; the meeting begins at 7:30 pm. We meet in the Duck Club (building) next door to Audubon House in the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine. See page 11 for directions.

Marquita Miller, Programs Chair

Conservation News

by Scott Thomas



Our Conservation Committee Meetings will be held at 10 am on the 1st Sunday of the month at Santiago Oaks. Our 4th Tuesday Conservation Lecture Series is held at 7:30 pm in the Education Center. See our chapter webpage for more information:

<http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org/Conservation/conservation.htm> We hope you will join us! Scott Thomas, 949-293-2915.

Botulism Outbreaks Sicken and Kill Hundreds of Birds in Orange County and the Salton Sea; Local Bird Rescue Facility Needs Help Treating the Sick Birds.

The Huntington Beach Wetlands and Wildlife Care Center is having a very busy year treating sick birds. They have spent a large portion of their emergency funds treating some local outbreaks of avian botulism and are now about to receive a high number of birds from the Salton Sea which are also suffering from avian botulism. They have become the main recipient of sick and injured birds here in southern California and they do an outstanding job.

Avian botulism is a fairly prevalent disease in southern California. It lies dormant, waiting for a particular set of circumstances, sort of the perfect storm scenario. Basically, the primary requirements are the presence of bacteria in the soil or lake bed, warm water and surface temperatures, low oxygen levels, a medium (some sort of food source), a vector to continue to spread it (which is often the dead birds) and insects, such as maggots, within the carcass.

At the Laguna Niguel Regional Park lake this year, a significant outbreak occurred affecting over 200 birds. A small group of very dedicated volunteers gathered the sick and dead birds from the shores and delivered them to the HB Wetlands & Wildlife Care Center; the sick ones needed 1-2 weeks of treatment there before being released. The cost of the first week's treatment at the center averaged about \$100 per bird, so you can just imagine how much has been spent on the project — well over \$10,000 so far — just for this local outbreak.

The Laguna Niguel Park outbreak was probably caused by that perfect storm scenario. The temperature rose significantly in mid July, the aeration pumps that keep the lake's dissolved oxygen levels up, suffered mechanical failures, and there was an abundance of food sources. There may have been other contributing factors as well, but early reports of the misuse of herbicides at the dam appear to be false. The herbicide used was Aqua-Neat, which when applied correctly, should not cause any issues for birds or fish, or have impacted the botulism outbreak.

At the Salton Sea, which is very shallow and located in the hottest climate imaginable with a high inflow of nasty chemicals and waste, botulism outbreaks are a yearly event. In recent years, the Salton Sea Authority and many volunteers have begun collecting dead birds and fish as soon as the outbreak starts, slowing the

spread of the outbreak. But this year, the outbreak has been bad despite efforts to control it, and again pelicans seem to be suffering the worst.

Huntington Beach Wetlands and Wildlife Care Center cannot treat these birds without financial help. Their primary source of income is donations. Sea and Sage Conservation Committee will make a donation to the Center this year, and if you wish to help, send your donation to:

Huntington Beach Wetlands & Wildlife Care Center
21900 Pacific Coast Hwy
Huntington Beach, CA 92646-7601

4th Tuesday Conservation Lecture Series "Raptor Research and Tracking with Radio/Satellite Telemetry" *presented by Pete Bloom*

The October 27th lecture will be at 7:30 pm at the Education Center in the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine (the gray building down the path from the Duck Club) see full directions on page 11.

Pete Bloom has been studying raptors in Orange County for more than 40 years. Radio telemetry tracking has been a major tool used by Pete and many other wildlife researchers to learn specific details about the movements and daily activities of animals, especially birds. Coming to fruition in the last few decades, satellite based telemetry has also become a very important research tool, especially when looking at migration patterns of birds.

Pete and his associates have used radio and satellite tracking systems on Red-tailed Hawks, Red-shouldered Hawks, Great Horned Owls, California Condors, Burrowing Owls, and most recently, Turkey Vultures, in Orange County. In the last few years, Pete and collaborators, including Communications Specialist and Sea and Sage Audubon, have tracked locally hatched Red-tailed Hawk fledglings with satellite telemetry, and Turkey Vultures with both satellite & traditional radio telemetry (hand held receivers).

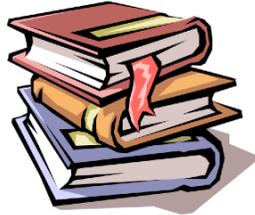
Pete's talks on raptors are always informative, full of insight, and always well attended. So please make plans to join us for this special presentation. See you there!

Scott Thomas
Conservation Committee Co-Chair

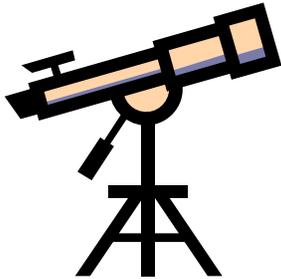
Sea & Sage Audubon Pancake Breakfast

Sat., October 24th, 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 50¢ up. Come early for the best selection.



Bird Walks & Scope Stations around the marsh

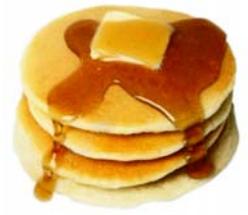
We have scheduled 3 morning bird walks around the marsh and will also have several spotting scope stations by the ponds closest to Audubon House. This will give you a great opportunity to see the shorebirds and ducks, egrets and herons and other birds which frequent the sanctuary.

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



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 our newly remodeled Audubon House!

Stop by Audubon House for a visit to see our taxidermy birds and 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.

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 23rd.
Call Audubon House, 949-261-7963. Questions? Call Mary Joseph, 714-848-8362.

Chapter News & Announcements



For more information on Sea and Sage events & activities, check out the Schedule of All Chapter Activities on the webpage at: www.seaandsageaudubon.org/Chapter/ChapterSchedule.html or the Calendar of Chapter Activities at: www.seaandsageaudubon.org/Chapter/ActivitiesCalendar0910.pdf

Audubon House Volunteers

We would like to thank the following people for helping to staff Audubon House in September and October: Sonia Appell, Mitch Bigos, Julie Brodhag, Pat & Dick Cabe, Deana Collins, Carolyn Cooper, Pam Degarimore, Tom Drouet, Fresia Escalona, Carol Freund, Judy Fritts, Peggy Goetz, Beverly Hargrove, Pat Heilig, Cindi Herrera, Sarah Jayne, Steve Jelnick, Lois Jones, Nancy Kenyon, Lauretta Kyle, Joan McCauley, Bobbie Miller, Eunice Morita, Betty Purdy, Roberta Ray, Barbara Reber, John Shaddy, Bev Spring, Betty Swift, Beryl Vogel.

Audubon House is open daily from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Our Volunteers greet visitors, answer the phone, sell merchandise, answer questions about birds, check out binoculars, etc. If you are interested in helping at Audubon House, please contact Judy Fritts at 949-551-4513.

News from the Book Store

Just in: 2010 wall and engagement calendars (Bolsa Chica, Audubon, Sibley, Birds, Mammals and Nature), *Local Plants of Orange County* (laminated, fold-up field guide), *North American Owls CD* (Cornell Lab of Ornithology), also from Cornell, children's Bird Sleuth Flashcards, two new coffees (Audubon Breakfast Blend and Audubon Rainforest), new t-shirt designs (Screech Owls, Sage & Prairie Birds, Red-tailed Hawks, Mountain Lions, Dragonflies), Birds of NA mouse pads and much more including the books for the Animal Behavior and Tracking class and the Native Gardening Workshop.

Results of the "Great Sounds Search"

Participants in Sylvia Gallagher's workshop, "Learning MORE 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: www.seaandsageaudubon.org/Classes/GreatSoundsSearch.html. Anyone interested in the study of bird sounds should find this report interesting reading.

Sylvia Gallagher's New Trip Diary

Those of you who enjoy reading Sylvia's trip diaries will enjoy reading her latest one entitled "Central and Coastal Northern California" which is now posted on our chapter webpage at <http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org>. This journal covers their 2-month trip in the spring of 2009.



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 any 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 by Monday, October 19th.

There are still a few places left in the Native Gardening Workshop and the Animal Behavior & Tracking Class.

Those who wait until the last minute to sign up for either or both of these special classes may be disappointed because they are filling up quickly! Full information can be found in the September Tattler, at Audubon House, and on the chapter webpage.

International Day of Climate Action Set for Saturday, Oct. 24

The International Day of Climate Action is coming Oct. 24; it will take place at the Outdoor Recreation Center adjacent to the Irvine Regional Park, 2 Irvine Park Road in Orange. (This event is an all day one so you'll be able to attend both it and the Pancake Breakfast.)

The "International Day of Climate Action" is a call to the world's political leaders to reduce carbon in the atmosphere to 350 parts per million, an acceptable "safe" level scientists say will keep us from suffering the worst ravages of global climate change.

The day will be highlighted by an aerial photo of attendees gathered to make the number "350." Other activities will include a bicycle rally, nature hike, 5K walk, tree planting, a hands-on workshop for kids, and speeches by top OC environmental and religious leaders. A zip line, music, food and eco-friendly exhibits will also be available.

For more information or to register for the event, please visit www.ocice.org or contact Sherri Loveland at (714) 552-0333, via email at ecofaith@ocice.org or Margaret Henke at (714) 731-6775.



Orange County Rarities

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.

To begin this month's column, we'll first catch up on a few mid/late summer rarities that we didn't get to in the last column. Quite surprising was an adult **Bald Eagle** seen flying over Irvine Regional Park, coming from the direction of Irvine Lake, on July 12 (Neil Gilbert). Interestingly enough, last year an adult Bald Eagle was seen at this same location on June 17, and presumably the same individual was at nearby Peters Canyon Lake during Sept. and Oct. Although observed more frequently in the county, a subadult **Golden Eagle** in the vicinity of O'Neill Regional Park, July 5 (Gary Meredith), was still noteworthy. The **Sooty Tern** that was discovered at Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve (BC) in late July apparently moved elsewhere, or at least went undetected for several weeks-only to reappear Aug. 25-Sept. 1+ (Peter Knapp, Brian Daniels et al.). At least one **Reddish Egret** lingered through the summer at BC, but by mid July two were being seen (Peter Knapp), with by August (5-29+), up to three were present (Dave Telford, Dany Sloan). Six **Cattle Egrets** at SJWS, Sept. 4 (Robert McNab), was a decent count considering the reduced numbers being seen in the county in recent years. **Least Bitterns** were reported from San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary (SJWS) and from Laguna Niguel Regional Park (several observers). Up to two **Clapper Rails** at BC, Aug. 17-21 (Su Anderson), was noteworthy for this location. Up to four **Brant** appear to have summered at BC (many observers).

As expected during July and August, southbound shorebirds began appearing at various county wetland sites. From among the large number of common varieties, several species in the "rare to very uncommon" category were reported. At BC, one or two **Pacific Golden-Plovers** were present from early Aug. (P. Knapp), with as many as four being recorded during Aug. 29-30 (B. Daniels). **Solitary Sandpipers** turned up at a number of sites, including at least two at Peters Canyon Reservoir (PCR) between Aug. 11 and 30 (N. Gilbert); a single in San Juan Creek (near Doheny State Beach), Aug. 16 (R. McNab); two in San Diego Creek, Aug. 22 (N. Gilbert); up to two at SJWS, Aug. 29-30 (Doug Willick; N. Gilbert); and one in the "upper" Santa Ana River (SAR), in Orange, Sept. 5 (D. Willick). A juvenile **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was at SJWS, Aug. 22-23, with possibly the same bird here on Aug. 30 (N. Gilbert); others were at BC, Sept. 4 (B. Daniels) and on the upper SAR, Sept. 5 (D. Willick). Three **Baird's Sandpipers** were at the south end of BC, Aug. 22, with a single Baird's here, Sept. 5 (both B. Daniels); another was inland at PCR, Aug. 31 (N. Gilbert). An early **Pectoral Sandpiper** was at SJWS, Aug. 30 (per Leo Ohtsuki), with another here (or possibly the same) seen on Sept. 6 (Cathy McFadden, Paul

Clarke). In recent years **Stilt Sandpipers** have averaged just about one per year in the county. Therefore *three* so far this fall is already above the "OC" average; these included an adult at SJWS, Aug. 21-22 (Jim Pike), with a juvenile here, Aug. 31-Sept. 1 (Les Redpath), and a juv. at BC, Aug. 30 (B. Daniels).

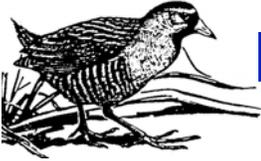
Black Terns included an early (breeding plumaged) adult at SJWS, July 3 (Jan Gaffney, Salley Menzel), and a juv. here, Aug. 24 (Bob Kaufman); two were also at BC, Aug. 30 (B. Daniels, N. Gilbert). A **nighthawk** seen flying over at dusk, near Huntington Central Park (HCP), Aug. 19 (J. Pike), was undoubtedly a Lesser. Late Aug./early Sept. is generally the best time in OC for **White-winged Doves**; this year two were in Seal Beach, Sept. 1 (Bob Schallmann), and one was at Harriet Wieder Regional Park, Sept. 4-5 (B. Daniels). One or two **Eurasian Collared-Doves** continue to occasionally be seen in the BC area (B. Daniels), and small numbers appear to be establishing themselves in the East Irvine/Lake Forest area (Bruce Aird). **Loggerhead Shrikes**, on the other hand, appear to be continuing their decline in the county; only one was reported locally during the last couple months (one at Upper Newport Bay, July 27 and Aug. 30, N. Gilbert). Single **Bank Swallows** were at BC, Aug. 22 and Sept. 4 (B. Daniels). A **Canyon Wren** in Aliso-Woods Canyon Regional Park, back on June 20 (Shirley Reynolds), was unusual for fairly coastal locale.

A **Wilson's Warbler** at HCP, July 31 (Lena Hayashi, Jim Roe), was early. Other early fall landbird migrants of note included a **Virginia's Warbler** at Mile Square Park (MSP), Sept. 5 (J. Pike), followed by a **Northern Parula** at MSP on Sept. 6 (R. McNab), a **Brewer's Sparrow** at Peters Canyon Regional Park, Sept. 2 (N. Gilbert), a **Summer Tanager** at Fairhaven Memorial Park, Sept. 4 (D. Willick), and a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at Laguna Niguel Regional Park, Sept. 5 (R. McNab). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Santiago Oaks Regional Park, Aug. 13 (Tom Newhouse), was presumably summering here. A **Large-billed Savannah Sparrow** was at BC, Aug. 25 (Vic Leipzig), and three were seen here Sept. 4 (B. Daniels). A **Tricolored Blackbird** was a good find along the upper SAR, Aug. 22 (N. Gilbert).

OrangeCountyBirding is an active 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 list your name & place of residence below your name.



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. 5 and 19; Jan. 16 and 30— 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. 11 - Feb. 3, except Nov. 25, Dec. 23 and 30.

Thurs. mornings: 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon, Nov. 12 - Feb. 4, except Nov. 26, Dec. 24 and 31.

Thurs. evenings: 7:00 to 10:00 p.m., Nov. 12 - Feb. 4, except Nov. 26, Dec. 24 and 31.

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 \$18.75 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 this workshop, postmarked no earlier than Oct. 13th, (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 after Nov. 3.

Enrollment Form for Introductory Birding Skills Workshops (Fall/Winter 2009-10)

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? ____





Sea & Sage Audubon Society
Birding Skills Workshop - Observing Birds
Presented by **Sylvia Gallagher**
Assisted by Donelda Warhurst

Starting in Nov., 2009, a series of workshops on OBSERVING BIRDS will be presented. They are suitable for birders of any level of experience, with the possible exception of complete beginners. Some portions of each workshop will be review for advanced birders, while others may be more than inexperienced birders are interested in learning right now, but everyone should learn something fascinating.

These all-day workshops can be done alone or as part of a series. Those who sign up for the entire series will have registration priority. Two duplicate sections, on Saturdays and Sundays listed below, will be offered for each workshop, with a maximum of 18 participants in each. If you enroll in the entire series, you must select either all Saturdays or all Sundays--no mixing unless space is available after everyone is enrolled. Prices are listed on enrollment form. Except for the single field trip, all meetings will be at the Gallagher home in Huntington Beach. Most of the workshops will consist of an interactive slide or sound lecture in the morning with a carefully structured hands-on laboratory in the afternoon, featuring specimens from the Sea and Sage collection. Each workshop, except the last, will run from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 or 4:00 p.m. with a break for lunch. **Please do not sign up if you must leave early.**

These are the subjects for each workshop:

1. Observing Parts of Birds. Feather tracts--their names and how they vary from one type of bird to another. Types of wings, feet, bills, etc., and how they are described. Reasons for the variability. Practice looking at slides and specimens of birds and naming the parts. (Choose Nov. 14 or 15)

2. Observing Shapes of Birds. Overall shape. Estimating relative sizes of various parts and the angles between them. Practice sketching birds from slides and mounted specimens. (Nov. 21 or 22)

3. Observing Sounds of Birds. Songs vs. calls. Sonograms--graphical representations of sounds. Practice hearing and describing differences in tonal quality, pitch, rhythm, cadence, melody, etc. Introduction to the meanings of bird sounds--much more of this in the Learning California Bird Sounds workshop. (Dec. 12 or 13)

4. Observing Colors of Birds. The chemistry and physics of avian colors--a lay person's approach. Functions of colors. Practice describing colors using the Munsell system. (Jan. 9 or 10)

5. Observing Behaviors of Birds. Field observation in some nearby location, resulting in many questions about behaviors and how they correlate with the appearances, sounds, and habitats of the birds. Researching one or two questions by each person. Presentation of short reports on the answers to the questions. This workshop will start at 8:00 a.m. and last into the evening with a field trip in the morning, library and rest time in the afternoon, dinner together at a nearby restaurant (optional), and reports in the evening. Do not sign up for this workshop if you cannot remain through the evening. (Jan. 23 or 24)

Mail your enrollment form, check, and self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) to Observing Birds Workshop, Sylvia Gallagher, 21562 Kaneohe Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92646. Your form should be postmarked no earlier than Oct. 13 (2-day penalty for early reservations). Any session that does not have 10 people enrolled by Nov. 4 will be cancelled. Confirmations, further information, and a map to the meeting place will be mailed Nov. 6. For further information call Sylvia (714-962-8990)

**Enrollment Form
is on page 8**



2009 Young Birder's Conference

by Neil Gilbert

What do you get when you gather eighteen enthusiastic young birders and plo p them down in Southern California for a mostly sleepless week of birding? The answer is *FUN*. With generous financial assistance from Sea and Sage Audubon, I attended the American Birding Association/Leica Young Birder's Conference in San Diego from June 21-27. "In San Diego" is actually inaccurate, as we strayed north to Ventura, south to the Mexican border, and east to the Salton Sea, birding the whole time.

By now you may be wondering why I even attended the conference, given that I live in Southern California and had previously seen all but two (Pigeon Guillemot and Island Scrub-Jay) of the 172 species we recorded during the conference. Even if I didn't see many new birds, I learned a lot from the excellent leaders (Steve Carbol, Jen Brumfield, Lena Samsonenko, and Chris Knoll) and immensely enjoyed the company of a host of other enthusiastic young birders who hailed from places as distant as Maryland and Georgia.

We spent much of the week targeting local specialties, such as California Gnatcatcher, Clapper Rail, and Lawrence's Goldfinch. I see many of these species on a daily basis, but they were brand-new to many of the conference attendees. I had my hands full pointing out peoples' first Wrentits and Hooded Orioles. Several attendees scored dozens of life birds! Our day trips took us to such exciting places as Santa Cruz Island, the Salton Sea, the Laguna Mountains, and the San Diego Zoo. Some of my favorite sightings of the week included a Wood Stork, Gull-billed Terns, and Yellow-footed Gulls at the Salton Sea; Xantus's Murrelets, Rhinoceros Auklets, and Sooty and Pink-footed Shearwaters on the boat ride out to Santa Cruz Island; and a Peregrine Falcon, Western Gull chicks, and Harbor Seals at La Jolla.

A typical day at the Young Birder's Conference began between three and four in the morning. After a meager breakfast, we would load up the vans and begin the long drive to the birding destination of the day. Upon arrival, we would eagerly tumble out of the vans and bird most of the day before heading back to San Diego in the afternoon. We would arrive back at the University of San Diego, our base of operations for the week, in the late afternoon and play games, talk, or go birding (or do all three simultaneously) until dinnertime. The evening was devoted to games and wrestling matches in the lounge, presentations by the leaders, and, after dark, owling expeditions around campus that produced Barn Owl, Great Horned Owl, and Common Poorwill.

I cannot thank Sea and Sage Audubon enough for its help in sending me to the conference. Without the assistance, I could not have attended. Seeing great birds, being in the constant company of like-minded young birders, roaming large parts of Southern California, and introducing out-of-staters to Southern California's amazing birds made for a thoroughly enjoyable week. I hope I can attend next year's Young Birder's Conference, which will likely be in Colorado.

Enrollment Form – Observing Birds (2009-2010)

Names of all participants _____

Address(es) _____

City & Zip _____ Phone(s) _____

E-mail _____

Check whether you want to do the entire series or just certain workshops. People signed up for the entire series have priority over those signing up for individual workshops. If you must mix Saturdays and Sundays, you will have to sign up for individual workshops.

___ Entire series (\$125.00). Check or rank your choice of sections.

___ **Section 1:** (5 Saturdays)

___ **Section 2:** (5 Sundays)

___ Individual workshop (\$30.00 each). Check or rank:

Parts of Birds	___ Saturday, Nov. 14 (9 am - 3 or 4 pm)	___ Sunday, Nov. 15 (9 am - 3 or 4 pm)
Shapes of Birds	___ Saturday, Nov. 21 (9 am - 3 or 4 pm)	___ Sunday, Nov. 22 (9 am - 3 or 4 pm)
Sounds of Birds	___ Saturday, Dec. 12 (9 am - 3 or 4 pm)	___ Sunday, Dec. 13 (9 am - 3 or 4 pm)
Colors of Birds	___ Saturday, Jan. 9 (9 am - 3 or 4 pm)	___ Sunday, Jan. 10 (9 am - 3 or 4 pm)
Behaviors of Birds	___ Saturday, Jan. 23 (8 am - evening)	___ Sunday, Jan. 24 (8 am - evening)

Check for \$ _____ enclosed. SASE enclosed? _____

Oct. & Nov. Field Trips



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

Santiago Oaks Regional Park Sundays, Oct. 4 & Nov. 1 - 7:30 am

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

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

Linette Lina, Leader



Natural History Walk at Starr Ranch ® Thursday, Oct. 8 — 8:30 a.m. - full

The Oct. 8 trip is already filled. The next wilderness interpretive hike with Dick Newell will be into Laurel Canyon, in the Laguna Coast Wilderness Park, on Thursday, February 4th. Group size is limited to 10 and advance reservations are necessary. To sign up, contact Nancy Kenyon, FT chair at nancykenyon@cox.net or 949-786-3160. Directions to the meeting place will be given to those with reservations

Dick Newell, Leader



Bolsa Chica Saturday, Oct. 10th - 9:00 am

Bolsa Chica is one of the best wetland 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 **9:00 am** Saturday morning. Bring binoculars and a scope if you have one. 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. Parking may be tight; carpool if you can.

Pat & Dick Cabe, Leaders

Monthly Bird Walks at the SJWS Sundays, Oct. 11 & Nov. 8 - 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. The ducks and shorebirds are now returning, so there will be a lot more birds to see. 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. (See directions on page 11.)

Chris Obaditch, Leader

Upper Newport Bay by small boat ® 3rd Wed. morning of each month - 8:15 am

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. Space is limited because the boat is **very small**; advance reservations are mandatory. (The Oct, Nov, & Dec. trips are already full.) Contact Nancy Kenyon for trip reservations at nancykenyon@cox.net or 949-786-3160.

Nancy Kenyon, Leader



Owl Prowl at Starr Ranch ® Saturday evening, Dec. 12 - 6:30 pm

Due to a date conflict, the Owl Prowl was rescheduled to Dec. 12th. On this trip, we're going to "prowl" the back roads of Starr Ranch in search of Barn, Western Screech and Great Horned Owls. Our mode of transportation will be the big red flatbed truck which can hold about 14 people. Advance reservations necessary; trip size limited. 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. Be sure to include your phone and your email address or a self-addressed stamped envelope for trip confirmation & directions.

Pete DeSimone, Leader

Nancy Kenyon, Trip Coordinator & Reservations

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>



2009 Summer Camps

Sea and Sage Audubon Summer Camps chalked up another extremely successful five weeks in June, July and August of this year. Fledgling Campers (Ages 7-9) were the first to use our fabulous new digs, (thank you, IRWD). One of the highlights of our busy week was learning eight bird calls via a large screen multimedia presentation in our new building. The sound of tapping hammers rang out during Marsh Camp (Ages 10-12), as the campers built their own wooden bird feeders. Also a unanimous Marsh Camp hit was Peggy Chase's presentation of live raptors from the Orange County Bird of Prey Center. Advanced Campers (Ages 13+) studied ocean and forest habitats this year. Terry Hunefeld thrilled us with his pelagic power point presentation, and then pointed out the actual birds on our pelagic trip out of Dana Point Harbor the next day. Painting Marbled Murrelet models the last week nicely tied in both the forest (where they nest) and ocean (where they live) habitats. And this is just a small sampling of the many wonders of our five weeks last summer. Join us next year!

—Teresa Cullen

The Marsh Education Project Wish List for 2009-2010

Each year, our Marsh Education Project shares the importance of wildlife and habitat with thousands of people. We accomplish this on a limited budget with the help of many volunteers. We would love to have you involved this year. Don't put it off any longer! If you like teaching, nature, and children, then you would be great with our naturalists and artists who lead short outdoor programs for school children during the school year. Those with scouting experience might volunteer with our community tour program to ensure that what we offer corresponds to scouting badge requirements.

Do you like writing, artistic design, and nature? Then your experience would help to update our brochures and design new nature displays for the public. If you love creating nature art or wildlife photos, we now have opportunities to display artwork and wildlife photography inside Audubon House for public viewing. Writers with big-picture brains are always needed for the education grant-writing team. Do you like parties and special events? You can assist brainstorming some new fundraising activities where people can come to the marsh to have FUN with their friends. We have lots of taxidermy birds that need sponsors from \$45 to \$200 to replace or enhance our current collection. If you have a large

colorful parrot, we could use its large molted feathers for summer camp art projects. Know a high school student who needs community service time? Our small live animal collection needs fresh water and cleaning every week while the wildlife sightings database needs updating.

There are lots of educational opportunities, whether teaching or behind-the-scenes, that might interest you and help us immensely. Sharing your love of nature is the common denominator. Please call Trude Hurd, Project Director of Education, at 949-261-7964 to discover how you can share your talents and abilities.

—Trude Hurd



Thank You!

I would like to say a giant THANK YOU to a number of dedicated persons who so willingly gave of their time and energy to assist with one or more Community Tours, Spring Brunches or Summer Bat Walks so far during calendar 2009.

Sheryl Blevins, Diane Bonanno, Deborah Brin, Christine Cooper, Teresa Cullen, Joan Curtis, Christine Dickey, Bettina Eastman, Frank Feller, Sheila Fitzgerald, Susan Gibb, Bev Hargrove, Lynn Hayes, Trude Hurd, Mary Joseph, Ken Louie, Bev Lyall, Elijah Lyall, Ellen Mansour, Bobbie Miller, Jay Miller, Marquita Miller, Susan Munson, Ellen O'Leary, Stephanie Remington, Pat Sparks, her granddaughter and friend, Lois Taylor, Don Thomas, Dan Trinidad, Pat Vranicar and David Weber.

Your combined efforts introduced about 720 persons to the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary* and raised in the neighborhood of \$4,300 in net revenue for the Chapter. I am aware of no one who went away with less than a great feeling about the Marsh, acknowledging its importance and its uniqueness, and expressing a desire to return and tell others. It seems to me that this was the exact result that all these programs were designed to achieve. All of you know how to complete our mission and you do it well. I commend your willingness to be involved and your continuing enthusiasm. Thank you so very, very much!!!!!!!!!!!!!! If there is anyone else who would like to be included in this illustrious list of volunteers, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Helen Nicholas, Coordinator

949-726-0858

hnicholas2@cox.net

*Less than 10% of the attendees in all three programs had ever been to the Marsh before.



Receiving the Tattler

Directions to Audubon House, Chapter Meetings and the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary

Your Membership Payment

Tattler Delivery

We 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 our costs and conserves resources, it also is much faster since the Tattler is posted immediately after it has been delivered to the printer. You can read it online, or print out the pages you want to keep.

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 & Sage Audubon" and mail to: Tattler Subscriptions, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612.

Remember Us in Your Will or Trust

Please remember to include "Sea and Sage Audubon Society" by name (tax ID#23-7003681) in your will or trust.

DIRECTIONS

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. Continue down the road to a short hill into a parking lot. The first building you see will be Audubon House; the Duck Club is adjacent to Audubon House. Between Audubon House and the Duck Club is a path which will take you to the Education Center where 4th Tues. Conservation lectures are held. Beyond this area are the ponds and marsh mitigation areas of the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary which are open every day from dawn until dusk.

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

Stop by Audubon House for a trail map; browse through our bookstore & gift shop; look at our taxidermy birds and check our reference library. Be sure to stop by; we're there to help.

Your Audubon Membership Payment and 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 C9ZC150Z 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.



Audubon 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 _____



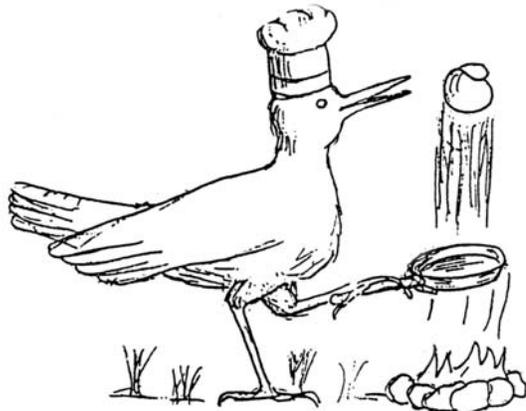
C9ZC150Z

2009 chapter code

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.

Join us at the Pancake Breakfast
Saturday, October 24
7:30 to 10:30 a.m.



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!

BOARD MEMBERS

Executive Committee:

President..... Jay Miller..... 714-742-6358
 Vice President..... Susan Sheakley..... 949-552-5974
 Secretary..... Gretchen McCausland... 949-249-8258
 Treasurer..... Hal Sheakley..... 949-552-5974
 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
 Director 2012..... Carolyn Noble..... 714-731-9091
 Director 2012..... Steve Jelnick..... 714-925-9128
 Past President..... Al Baumann..... 949-859-5081

Committee Chairpersons:

Audubon House Volunteers.. Judy Fritts..... 949-551-4513
 Bird Information..... Sylvia Gallagher..... 714-962-8990
 Christmas Bird Counts.....
 Conservation Co-Chair Scott Thomas..... 949-293-2915
 Conservation Co-Chair..... Barry Nerhus..... 714-393-6249
 Counsel..... Rick Derevan..... 714-427-7016
 Development..... Cheryl Thomas..... 949-294-2275
 Education Co-Chair Frank Feller..... 949-645-0407
 Education Co-Chair Carolyn Noble..... 714-731-9091
 Exhibits..... Mary Joseph..... 714-848-8362
 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
 Partners in Flight..... Janet Baumann..... 949-859-5081
 Programs..... Marquita Miller..... 714-742-6358
 Publicity..... Sheryl Blevins..... 949-831-3639
 Publishing..... Sam Berry..... 949-646-1488
 SJWS Liaison..... Chris Obaditch..... 949-640-7234
 Starr Ranch/Envir. Liaison.... Pete DeSimone..... 949-858-0309
 Webmaster..... Nancy Kenyon..... 949-786-3160

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

Marsh Education Project Director Trude Hurd 949-261-7964
 Marsh Education Project Dir. Assist Deborah Brin..... 949-261-7964
 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
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OrangeCountyBirding/>
 Slide Lending Library..... Claudine Casey..... 714-968-3463

October 2009

04 Sun Santiago Oaks Monthly Bird Walk..... 7:30 am
 04 Sun Conservation Committee Meeting..... 10:00 am
 08 Thurs Natural History Walk at Starr Ranch 8:30 am
 10 Sat Bolsa Chica field trip..... 9:00 am
 11 Sun SJWS Monthly Bird Walk..... 8:00 am
 13 Tues Board Meeting..... 7:30 pm
 13 Tues Registration opens for the 2 Birding Skills Workshops
 16 Fri GENERAL MEETING..... 7:30 pm
 21 Wed UNB by small boat..... 8:15 am
 24 Sat PANCAKE BREAKFAST..... 7:30 am
 25 Sun Native Gardening Workshop..... 9:00 am
 27 Tues 4th Tues. Conservation Lecture..... 7:30 pm
 30/31 F/S Animal Behavior & Tracking Class.....

November 2009

01 Sun Santiago Oaks Monthly Bird Walk..... 7:30 am
 01 Sun Conservation Committee Meeting..... 10:00 am
 08 Sun SJWS Monthly Bird Walk..... 8:00 am
 10 Tues Board Meeting..... 7:30 pm
 16 Mon Photographers' Meeting..... 7:30 pm
 18 Wed UNB by small boat..... 8:15 am
 20 Fri GENERAL MEETING..... 7:30 pm