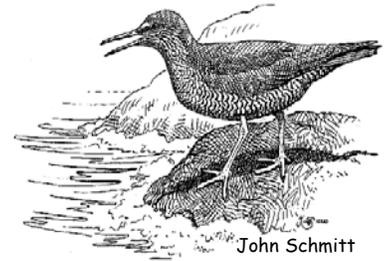


Wandering Tattler

September 2006
Volume 56, Number 1



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

President's Message

by Al Baumann

NOW WHAT HAVE YOU GOTTEN YOURSELF INTO?

After the May General Meeting and the election of the coming year's slate of officers, Nancy Kenyon reminded me that she would need my article as President for the September Tattler - about 400 words.

400 WORDS!! "Now what have you gotten yourself into?" I said to myself. "Calm down, the first one is easy, just tell something about yourself." So, here goes.

I'm trustworthy, loyal, friendly, kind, helpful, obedient...no; I don't think the Boy Scout Oath will do. I'll try again.

My wife, Janet, and I met while students at The College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. In 1963 we graduated with degrees in Biology and were married on June 1, 1963. (Janet was twelve) For the next three years, I was a pilot in the U.S. Army. After the army years, I worked in Sales and Sales Management for Abbott Laboratories, retiring after 32 years. Janet and I have been members of Sea and Sage Audubon for approximately 20 years.

That's enough about me. What about Sea and Sage Audubon? Recently I read the book *John Adams* by David McCullough and found it extremely interesting. So this past June, as Janet and I were in route to the American Birding Association convention in Bangor, Maine, we just had to make a side trip to Quincy, Mass., to tour the birthplace of both our second president, John Adams, and sixth president, John Quincy Adams. As we toured the home it struck me that if it weren't for people like Adams and Jefferson, with their hard work, dedication and dreams, where would we be today?

The more I thought about that, the more I realized how important it is to know some history of anything important or great. With this in mind, I would like to periodically use this column to highlight the history of Sea and Sage Audubon. Who were the founders? Where did the name come from? If anyone has a question, send it to me and we'll look for the answer.

In closing I would like to summarize these past few months. VERY BUSY!! The Summer Camps at the Marsh were very successful. From all reports the grade for all the camp sessions is A+ + + +.

continued on page 6

General Meeting

Sept. 15th - Friday - 7:30 pm

"From Texas to the Rockies"

presented by Jim & Sylvia Gallagher
and Clair & Susan DeBeauvoir

We hope everyone had a great summer and we are looking forward to another season of monthly meeting presentations which will entertain and inform us more about our natural world.

Last spring two couples, the Gallaghers and the De Beauvoirs, took very similar three-month trips. Although they did not travel together, they kept in contact via e-mail and even crossed paths a couple of times. They first headed for Texas, with a few stops enroute, and wandered around that state until it got too hot. Then they headed north and west through the southern forests and midwestern prairies to the Rocky Mountains of Colorado and Wyoming. Both couples are passionate about wildlife photography and will show some of their outstanding pictures and tell of their experiences obtaining them.

The Gallagher trip, written by Sylvia, is on the Sea and Sage website (www.seaandsageaudubon.org). In it she refers regularly to Clair and Sue's experiences and quotes from their e-mails occasionally. You may want to read Sylvia's account prior to the meeting.

This promises to be a terrific program so mark your calendars for this fun evening! The doors open at 7:00 and the meeting starts at 7:30 pm. We meet at the Irvine Ranch Water District Board Meeting Room at 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue in Irvine.

Jay & Marquita Miller, Program Co-Chairs

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

Conservation News

Conservation Committee meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm at Audubon House in Irvine. New members are always welcome!

Susan Sheakley & Scott Thomas, Conservation Co-Chairs



22nd Annual Coastal Cleanup Day Saturday, Sept. 16th - 8:30 am to 12 noon

Saturday, September 16, 2006 is the 22nd Annual Coastal Clean-up Day. This event takes place each year on the third Saturday in September. It is a joint effort among the state Coastal Commission, cities and counties, and nonprofit groups. It is also part of an international clean-up, involving 50 states and 90 countries.

As with previous years, there will be many clean-up sites throughout Orange County - along creeks, rivers, and bays, in the regional parks, and on the coast. Detailed information was not known at the time of publication, so please visit our website in September for more information.

You can also find information at www.coastal.ca.gov, at www.ocparks.com and at www.trails4all.org.

Salton Sea Restoration Alternatives

Kathie Satterfield, California Audubon's Chapter Coordinator for the Salton Sea Coalition, sent out an update on the Salton Sea and the alternatives under consideration for its restoration. The State plans to do a Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) in August. Once the report is released, there will be a 60-day comment period. Public comment is invited. If you filled out one of Kathie's postcards at our May General Meeting, you probably received the update. If you would like to be added to Kathie's distribution list, please contact the Conservation Committee. The Salton Sea updates will be posted on the Sea and Sage Website.

Harbor, Beaches & Parks Strategic Plan Workshops

Scott Thomas and Susan Sheakley and Past President, Tom Croom, participated in the Harbors, Beaches and Parks (HBP) Strategic Plan Public Workshops this summer. The format included a social hour to meet and greet county representatives and look at informative displays, followed by a slide show presentation by HBP's Director, Kevin Thomas, breakout sessions for public input on mission and vision, and finally a session to go over each group's major points. Some of the common themes were that Orange County parks should provide natural history interpretive services, be an independent entity for funding purposes, display fossils at each park, make more use of the zoo, provide trails, and protect natural resources.

We thank Kevin Thomas, Director of Orange County Harbors, Beaches and Parks, and the Board of Supervisors for conducting these public workshops. The workshops in June and July were to gather public input in defining Harbors, Beaches and Parks mission, values and vision. The next step, this fall, will be to formulate strategic goals and priorities. Additional public input will be provided through participation on Technical Advisory Committees and further community forums.

Check the county website for more information and opportunities on how you can participate in this process.

Sea & Sage Urban Sanctuary Campaign

We are working on the development of a chapter campaign to deal proactively with issues relating to urban wildlife. The need for a chapter campaign was prompted by several occurrences this spring that were in conflict with nesting activities.

Our first wake-up call concerned heavy equipment being used at a construction site very close to a breeding pair of osprey on the nesting platform at Shellmaker Island. A breeding pair of osprey! We were relieved when certain aspects of the construction were delayed until the pair fledged two young. If you heard Pete Bloom speak at our Summer BBQ, you know it is a big deal for Orange County to have nesting ospreys!

Other disturbing reports included the destruction of Great-blue Heron nests in Huntington Beach and tenting for termites at a San Juan Capistrano building with active Cliff Swallow nests.

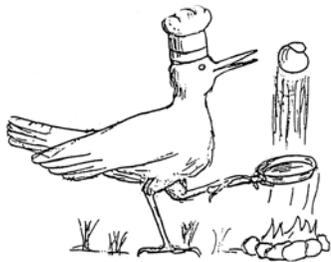
In addition, tree trimming began to take place in county parks during nesting season. We are happy to report that Harbors, Beaches and Parks has again recognized the importance of our urban forests for birds and other wildlife and will resume its former policy of a moratorium, except in an emergency circumstance, on tree trimming or removal during the breeding season.

Orange County is not alone in facing this type of issue. In response to "Terngate", LA Audubon has formed an inter-chapter Urban Wildlife Task Force.

If you are interested in helping with our campaign, please contact Susan Sheakley.

Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, October 28th



It's More
Than Just
Pancakes!

Sea & Sage will be hosting its 14th Annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, October 28th, at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine. Breakfast of hot-off-the-griddle pancakes, sausages, fresh fruit, ice cold orange juice, hot coffee and cold milk for the kids will be served from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. This event is more than just a Pancake Breakfast! Browse through the wonderful selection of nature books at our famous Used Book Sale. Spend some time in our Audubon House with its excellent reference library, large taxidermy collection of birds, and outstanding gift and book store. Wander out to the ponds and utilize one of the spotting scopes, set up at strategic locations for your convenience. The price of this fund raiser is only \$7 for adults, \$4 for children 10 and under, and children under 3 are free. Reservations for the breakfast are a must so that we know how much food to buy and prepare. For reservations, directions, donation of used books, or volunteering to help, call Audubon House at 949-261-7963 or contact Scott Thomas at 949-293-2915.



We Need Your
Used Books!

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 & 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. 17th.

A Fun Fundraiser

Monday, September 11th

Help us raise some money in a fun way with a light supper and lots of laughs! Join us for a special evening of food and fun at our local comedy night club — the Improv in the Irvine Spectrum — on Monday evening, Sept. 11th (\$45 per ticket). The doors open at 6:00 pm, supper is at 6:30, and the show starts at 7:30 pm. A generous percentage of the proceeds will go to Sea & Sage to help support our Conservation and Education programs.

Cost of your ticket includes:

Tossed greens with vinaigrette dressing, seasoned fries and a choice of —

- Cheeseburger
- Grilled chicken sandwich
- Chicken tenders or spicy chicken tenders

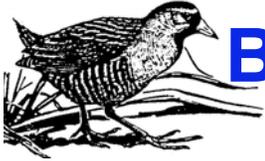
All beverages are cash & carry and there will be a full bar.

The comedian for our night will be Orny Adams. He has his own website which includes a video clip of his work. www.Ornyadams.com

Special corporate tables are available down in front. We have 14 tables of 4 which are available for corporate sponsorship at \$250 each.

To buy your ticket, make check payable to SEA & SAGE AUDUBON & mail to: Sea & Sage Audubon, c/o Cheryl Thomas, PO Box 5447, Irvine CA 92616 . Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed legal-size envelope so that we can mail you back your tickets. (It will make getting into the Improv much quicker if you already have your tickets in hand.) Directions to the Improv will be included with your ticket.

? Questions — contact Cheryl Thomas at 949-294-2275 or visit our chapter website at <http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org>



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. 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 (Oct. 14, Nov. 4 & 18, Dec. 9 — times to be announced). The dates and times for the workshop sessions are listed below.

Wed. evenings: 7:00 to 10:00 p.m., Sept. 27 through Dec. 13, except Oct. 18 & Nov. 22

Thurs. mornings: 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon, Sept. 28 through Dec. 14, except Oct. 19 & Nov. 23

Thurs. evenings: 7:00 to 10:00 p.m., Sept. 28 through Dec. 14, except Oct. 19 & Nov. 23

The maximum enrollment for each section is 23. If any section does not have at least 12 people enrolled by Sept. 16th, it will be cancelled. Reserve early though, because some sections may fill completely. A donation of \$60.00 (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 \$21.50 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 Aug. 28th*, (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 Sept. 18, 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 2006)

Names of all participants _____

Address(es) _____

City & Zip Code _____

Phone _____

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 Observation Skills



An Intermediate/Advanced Birding Skills Workshop presented by Sylvia Gallagher

- Are you tired of field trips whose only objective seems to be counting how many different species you can see?
 - Have you ever wondered about the wide diversity of behaviors and appearances of birds and how and how these help them to survive?
 - Have you ever found a rare bird and not reported it because you were afraid your description would not be adequate?
- All of these will be addressed in Sylvia's ten-session workshop, which will consist of experiences in the field and in the classroom.

Activities

Using slides--and occasionally recordings--we'll learn how to prepare complete descriptions of birds. This will involve learning how to recognize the various feather tracts and how they vary from one type of bird to another. We'll work on describing shapes, colors and patterns precisely. Then on field trips to nearby locations we'll try out these skills on real birds.

On these same field trips we'll also do some serious behavior-watching. We'll enumerate the different places and ways birds have of finding food. We'll watch for interactions between individual birds--either of the same or different species--and try to discern their purposes. We'll watch how birds move and try to find out which birds can be identified by behaviors such as flight pattern, walking vs. hopping, and various habits such as tail-bobbing, wing-flicking, etc. We'll listen for vocalizations and try to determine their meanings. We'll try to understand how variations in structure, color, etc., are correlated with their preferred habitats and how they use them.

Most interesting of all, we'll come away from these field sessions with many questions. Last year's workshop participants had no trouble thinking up 15 or 20 interesting questions on each field trip. We'll try to find the answers in the ornithological literature.

The required textbook for the workshop is Sibley's Birding Basics, by David Allen Sibley (Knopf, 2002), which you are to read during the summer.

The Participants

This workshop is intended for people who really want to learn more about birds. You will be expected to turn in your written descriptions and to do some research either at the Sea and Sage Library, in Sylvia's collection, or on the internet. Additional research at university libraries is optional. You will present the results in brief (2-5 minute) oral reports, with written supplement if subject merits.

Two sections, each limited to 18 participants (minimum 10), will be offered. This means that every applicant may not be admitted. Selection of participants will be made based on the following criteria, listed in decreasing order of importance.

- (1) Commitment to learning about birds demonstrated in previous workshops. (Do not apply if you have never done a workshop with Sylvia!)
- (2) Need for the workshop in participant's other activities, paid or volunteer, current or prospective.
- (3) Postmark date. If space is available, people who did this workshop last year may repeat it.

The Dates

The workshop will meet on the dates listed on page 6 -- six classroom sessions and four field trips. Some field trips will include afternoons--the tide and amount of area to be covered will decide. In addition, there will be four optional sessions, where you can get additional help on writing descriptions and have the opportunity to research questions in Sylvia's sizeable library, which includes many sources not available at Audubon House. *(workshop info continued on page 6)*

Application Form for Observation Skills Workshop (fall 2006)

Names of all participants _____
 Address(es) _____
 City & Zip Code _____
 Phone(s) _____ Long S.A.S.E. (63¢ postage) enclosed? _____
 Check or rank your choice of section: Section 1 _____ Section 2 _____

On a separate page, (1) list the most recent workshops (up to 4) you've done with Sylvia, (2) describe your birding experience other than in the workshops, (3) tell how you can use the workshop experience in your other activities.



Observation Skills Workshop (continued)

The Dates

Section 1. Monday evenings and Saturday mornings plus one Friday evening. Classroom (7:00 - 10:00 p.m.): Sept. 25, 29 (Fri.); Oct. 16; Nov. 6, 20; Dec. 11. Field trips at announced times: Oct. 7, 28; Nov. 11; Dec. 2. (Rain dates the next day.) Optional Help/Library (7:00 p.m. - ?): Oct. 9, 30; Nov. 13; Dec. 4.

Section 2. Tuesday mornings plus two optional Friday mornings. Classroom (8:30 - 11:30 a.m.): Sept. 26; Oct. 3, 24; Nov. 7, 28; Dec. 12. Field trips at announced times: Oct. 10, 31; Nov. 14; Dec. 5. (Rain date the next day.) Optional Help/Library (8:30 a.m. - ?): Oct. 17; Nov. 3 (Fri.), 21; Dec. 8 (Fri.).

Registration Information

To reserve a space in the workshop, please send the form on page 5 and the additional information requested, postmarked no sooner than Aug. 28 (2-day penalty for early reservation), to:

Observation Skills Workshop
c/o Sylvia Gallagher
21562 Kaneohe Ln.
Huntington Beach, CA 92646

Enclose a long (4" x 9.5") self-addressed envelope (SASE) with postage for 2 oz (63¢). A donation of \$100.00 (or more) per person is requested, if you can afford it, payable at the first meeting. Participants will be selected from applications received by Sept. 16. Acceptances (and rejections, if there are any) and further information will be mailed Sept. 18. After that date, participants will be added on a space-available basis, if they meet the enrollment criteria.

NOW WHAT HAVE YOU GOTTEN YOURSELF INTO?

continued from page 1

I particularly want to thank the entire camp staff for all their hours of guidance and enthusiasm.

The second event was the Summer BBQ on July 29th. What a fantastic event. A sellout crowd enjoyed food, friends, and a terrific program by Pete Bloom about the raptors of Orange County. The only downer was Mother Nature as she rolled in a cloud cover for the evening's astronomy lessons by the Orange County Astronomers Club.

Well, there it is, "Now what have you gotten yourself into?" The answer is the fantastic opportunity to become more involved in the best organization in Orange County. How about YOU? By the way this is more than 400 words.

Native Gardening Workshop



How to Select, Plant and Care for California Natives in Your Garden

Each workshop will have 3 meetings from 9 am to noon:
Workshop I: Sun., Oct. 1 & 8, and Sat. Oct. 21
Workshop II: Sun., Oct. 29 & Nov. 5, and Sat., Nov. 11

The diversity, abundance and beauty of California's flora provide an exciting opportunity for incorporating native plants into residential gardens. Because many California natives are adapted to our dry southern California climate and require less water than lawn and many nonnative plants, they can contribute substantial benefits to our environment. Natives planted in even small gardens can provide resting places and food sources for resident and migrating birds and butterflies.

This workshop will give you information on selecting appropriate native plants for the spaces in your garden. You will learn how and when to plant natives, as well as how to care for and prune them. Soil and watering requirements that enable these plants to thrive will also be discussed.

The workshop will take place at residential gardens, a nursery and other locations where you can see natives growing. Exact locations will be emailed to participants. Each workshop is limited to 15 persons. A donation of \$30 or more per person is requested if you can afford it. Bring your money to the first meeting.

To reserve a place, contact Diane Bonanno, dianebon@earthlink.net or 714-572-9911 and state which workshop you wish to attend.

*Co-leaders: Diane Bonanno & Pat Overby,
Landscape Designers Specializing in
California Natives*



September Field Trips



For trip updates & additional trip information, visit the chapter webpage at <http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org> . Trips marked with a ® require advance reservations. If you have any questions about the field trips or would like to make trip reservations by phone, call Field Trip Chair, Nancy Kenyon, at 949-786-3160, or email her at nancykenyon@cox.net

Annual Field Trip Schedule

Due to a shortage of space in this issue, I was unable to include the Annual Field Trip Schedule in this month's Tattler. A copy is now posted on the chapter webpage and it will be in the October Tattler.

Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS Sunday - Sept. 10th - 8:00 am to 12 noon

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. Target birds for this month are: shorebirds, ducks, grebes, phalaropes, herons, & egrets.

Chris Obaditch, Leader

Fall Birding in Huntington Beach ® Sunday afternoon - Sept. 10th - 1:00 pm Monday afternoon - Sept. 11th - 1:00 pm

Meet at Sylvia' Gallagher's house in Huntington Beach for an afternoon of birding. The group will visit a number of locations, with no restroom facilities, and may very well be out all afternoon. Those who are interested may eat out together in the Huntington Beach area after the trip is over. Bring binocs, a field guide, water, and a scope if you have one; wear comfortable shoes and a hat. Trip size is limited; reservations necessary. Call Nancy Kenyon at 949-786-3160 or e-mail her NancyKenyon@cox.net .

Sylvia Gallagher, Leader

Fall Pelagic Trip ® Saturday - Sept. 16th - 6:30 am

★ **Target Birds:** Black-vented, Sooty, Pink-footed Shearwaters; Black & Least Storm-Petrels; Cassin's & Rhinoceros Auklets; Parasitic & Pomarine Jaegers, a variety of shorebirds, terns, gulls, and possibly some whales & dolphins. Our leader, Jerry Tolman, is an experienced pelagic birder. We will be using the Sea Explorer, a 70 ft. research vessel belonging to the Ocean Institute of Dana Point. The boat offers ample deck space & seating for great viewing of the ocean, use of a microphone for the leader, good restroom

facilities (heads), deck stability, and more power for quickly covering the distances not occupied by birds. Advance reservations are necessary. Trip fee is \$35 per person, (payable to Sea & Sage Audubon). Mail to: Pelagic trip, c/o Nancy Kenyon, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612. Include your phone number & your email address or a S.A.S.E. for trip confirmation and additional information.

Jerry Tolman, Leader

Monthly Electric Boat Trips at UNB ® Wednesday mornings at 8:15 am Sept. 20th, Oct. 18th, Nov. 15th, Dec. 20th

Join us for the rare chance of birding the Upper Newport Bay from the deck of a small electric-powered boat. Spotting birds from the water offers one a different perspective and the birds seem to view us differently also. Trip duration is about 3 hours. Participants may be asked to help count all birds seen or heard from the boat. Space is very limited because the boat is small; advance reservations are mandatory. Contact Nancy Kenyon for trip reservations at 949-786-3160 or NancyKenyon@cox.net . Target birds include Black Skimmer, 4 sp. Grebes, rails, Osprey, BB Plover, terns.

Nancy Kenyon, Leader

Santiago Oaks Regional Park First Monthly Bird Walk Sunday, Oct. 1st - 8:00 am

Join Linette Lina for a monthly bird walk at Santiago Oaks Regional Park on the 1st Sunday of every month at 8:00 am. The mix of oak riparian and coastal sage scrub habitats make Santiago Oaks one of the best places in Orange County to find a variety of songbirds.

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

Linette Lina, Leader

Rarities in Orange County

by Doug Willick

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



As the last "Rarities" article was submitted in early May, this month's report will attempt to catch up on the interesting bird sightings that occurred in the county over the last three months. Due to space limitations, of course, only the more noteworthy of these can be covered. So we'll start right off, then, by recapping some of the rarities that occurred during latter part of spring, most of these being migrants. A **Swainson's Hawk** was reported over San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary (SJWS), May 14 (Chris Obaditch). A **Black Tern** at Peters Canyon Regional Park, May 8 (Jean Suan), was a rare spring migrant. A **White-winged Dove** was observed with seven or eight **Eurasian Collared-Doves** in Dana Point, May 24 (Peyton Cook). Ten **Black Swifts** were briefly present over Huntington Central Park (HCP), May 27 (Jim Pike), while a lone bird was seen over Laguna Beach, May 22 (Kaaren Perry). Also on May 22, Kaaren had exceptional numbers of **Sooty Shearwaters** going north off Crescent Bay Point. Three **Northern Parulas**, including one in Aliso Viejo, 12 May (Marshall Iliff), one in Costa Mesa, May 28 (J. Pike), and another at HCP, June 3 (Brian Daniels), and an **American Redstart** at HCP, June 8 (Jim Roe), were the only "vagrant" warblers to be found in the county this spring. An interesting warbler at SJWS, May 14 (Tom Wurster), showed the distinctive characteristics of a **Townsend's x Hermit** hybrid. A **Yellow-rumped ("Audubon's") Warbler** at HCP, May 27-31, several **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** in mid May, and a **Hermit Thrush** at HCP, May 29, were all late for spring. A **Summer Tanager** at the mouth of Aliso Creek, June 21 (Adam Searcy), and another at HCP, July 4 (B. Daniels), were either very late spring migrants or summering locally.

Although summertime in Orange County is often relatively quiet as far as significant bird discoveries are concerned, this summer has already provided some exceptional finds. For example, a report of an **American Oystercatcher** at Dana Point, June 28 (Alan Sanders) was of special interest. The breeding range of

both American and Black Oystercatchers overlap in Baja California, and hybridization between these two species is well known. Separating hybrids from "clean" American Oystercatcher is problematic, and therefore there has only been one previous county record of American that was considered acceptable by the California Bird Records Committee. Although details of this recent sighting have not yet been submitted, this could potentially be the same individual observed last winter in nearby Laguna Beach (which also appeared to show characteristics of a "clean" American Oystercatcher). An adult **Pigeon Guillemot** off Newport Pier, July 26-27 (M. Iliff), was also unexpected. This was about the county's fifth record overall, with all five occurring during July.

There were a few more routine rarities that were actually quite noteworthy due to their occurrence in the county during the summer period. These included an **Eastern Kingbird** in an Irvine Spectrum business complex, July 17 (Matt Heindel), which provided Orange County's first mid-summer record, and a male **Vermilion Flycatcher** on the El Toro Golf Course (former MCAS El Toro base), June 3 (Jeff Post, Michael Benner), likely only the second to occur during summer in the county. Interestingly, a probable breeding pair of Vermilions was at this same golf course during the summer of 2002. A male **Black-and-white Warbler** at Huntington Central Park, June 24-Aug. 5 (B. Daniels), was our first clearly summering record for the species, although one last year, on July 17 (in Fullerton), was likely summering, being outside the "expected" period for a spring or fall migrant. A **Bufflehead** at SJWS, June 7 (P. Cook), was quite unexpected at this date, although there are a few previous summer records for this species. A **Least Bittern** (or two) was occasionally reported again from SJWS, through the summer.

Though small numbers of **Mountain Chickadees** are known to be resident in the upper portions of the Santa Ana Mountains, they now seem to have become fairly regular as a winter visitor in

the lower foothills of the county as well. In recent years a few have even summered in the lowlands, leading to suspicions of local breeding (breeding was confirmed at O'Neill Regional Park in 2003). This year a pair of chickadees attempted to nest in Lake Forest residential area during April (C. Monger); although the first nest failed, they were apparently attempting to re-nest in June. A single Mountain Chickadee was detected near the immediate coast, in Newport Beach, June 15 (P. Cook).

Several unusual discoveries were made at Bolsa Chica during the summer. A subadult **Laughing Gull**, July 1 (Leo Ohtsuki), unfortunately only made a brief stopover, while a **Reddish Egret**, from at least July 16 to the end of the month (Steve Smith, et.al.), may be a returning bird from last year. A breeding plumage **Dunlin** in early July was either summering locally or possibly an extremely early "fall" migrant (B. Daniels). At the Santa Ana River mouth, on Aug. 3 (Felicia Zapolingo), another **Reddish Egret** was reported; an immature bird was known to have been here from August 2005 through March 2 of this year, but was not seen thereafter.

A good variety of some of our early "fall" (southbound) shorebirds have already begun to appear in the county, although several of these begin heading south as early as late June or early July. Early records of shorebird rarities, so far, include a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** and a **Solitary Sandpiper** at the south end of Bolsa Chica, Aug. 4 (B. Daniels); also here was a **White-winged Dove** on Aug. 4-5. A **Black Tern** at SJWS, July 25 (per Trude Hurd), and another off the Newport Pier, July 26 (M. Iliff), were also likely examples of early fall migrants.

Local seawatching efforts had been fairly routine this summer (with the possible exception of good numbers of Sooty Shearwaters in late May, cited above); however, this changed rather suddenly in late July. Following an adult **Common Murre** and a few **Black-vented** and **Pink-footed Shearwaters** seen from the Newport Pier on July 23 (B. Daniels), seawatches were conducted from this same location on 3 consecutive mornings,

continued on page 10

Chapter News - Volunteer Naturalists & the BBQ

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

New Naturalist Workshop

Each year, our volunteer naturalists share their love of nature with school children at the beautiful San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. With enthusiasm, knowledge and dedication, they help the children and their teachers understand the importance of wetlands to both wildlife and people.

These volunteers help Sea & Sage to achieve its environmental education goals. Many naturalists are retired teachers or principals. Some have been involved with boy scouts or girl scouts. Others work part-time and take two days off a month to lead tours. A few volunteer with other groups such as The Nature Conservancy, Upper Newport Bay, and Bower's Museum. Many have taken Sylvia Gallagher's birding skills workshops. They are people just like you.

No matter what their background, they all share certain traits. Most importantly, they believe that we should share our love of nature and pass it on to the next generation. If you believe in this and have some experience with children, now is the time to step forward. This fall, we offer a new one-day workshop for potential volunteers. The first one will be on Thursday, September 21 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Duck Club. This workshop will share important information and techniques about leading the Outdoor Adventures science program for school children. New recruits will then view and assist with fall tours with experienced naturalists.

Educating the next generation about nature is vital. Please join our naturalist team in our important mission. Contact Trude Hurd, Project Director of Education, by phone at 949-261-7963 or by e-mail at seaandsage@sbcglobal.net. We hope to see you on Thursday, September 21.



Summer Barbecue

We had a sellout crowd at the Summer BBQ this year. No one wanted to miss the chance to socialize with friends at the marsh, eat a delicious barbecued supper, take an evening bird walk around the ponds as the shadows lengthened, listen to Pete Bloom's informative program on the Status & Ecology of Orange County Raptors, or view the summer night sky through telescopes set up by members of the Orange County Astronomers Club.

This was the first year we had to manage the event without our mentor and experienced coordinator, Cat Waters, who was off on a birding trip in Brazil. With the help of our enthusiastic, hardworking volunteers, we pulled it off successfully!

We had three BBQ coordinators this year instead of one. Jan Gaffney coordinated all the food preparation & serving. Scott Thomas took care of all the little things that people don't see which make an event run smoothly when they are well managed; he also set up the AV equipment for Pete's program and, the night before, transferred Pete's entire program on to power point, thus allowing Pete to show us his maps and charts. Nancy Kenyon coordinated the volunteers and took care of the reservations. We were blessed with a wonderful group of volunteers who pitched in and helped out in all sorts of ways; we could never have done it without them!

I'd like to thank the following sponsors, donors, and volunteers who also helped make our BBQ such a success: The Irvine Ranch Water District for their continuing support, the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary Board, the Orange County Astronomers Club for trying to share their view of the night sky with us (the clouds were not cooperative!), Jim & Sylvia Gallagher for donating their delicious home-grown tomatoes, Carl's Junior of Irvine (Culver & Michelson) for the loan of their drink dispensers containing the delicious iced beverages, Jan's Health Bar of Huntington Beach, Cat Waters for all her wonderful advice, information, and support before the event, Lou Denger, Richard Brown & David Lockridge of the IRWD for their assistance, and Jan Gaffney and Scott Thomas for all their efforts planning and coordinating this event. I would especially like to thank our wonderful volunteers who stepped forward to make an event like this possible: Elizabeth Alexander, Neal Anderson, Al Baumann, Maryette Beers, Diane Bonanno, Charlotte Coleman, Bill Cullen, Bettina Eastman, Judy Fritts, Keats Hayden, Scott Hendrixson, Tommy Hite, Lois Jones, Mary Joseph, Gregory Koch, Merri Levy, Tim Maas, Don & Marcia Marlowe, Gretchen McCausland, Susan Monroe, Helen Nicholas, Linda Oberholtzer, Bob Polkinghorn, Myra Porter, Roy Poucher, Shirley Price, Betty Purdy, Margaret Renton, Ramona Richardson, Donald Ripley, Diane & Larry Ryan, Christianne Shannon, Hal & Susan Sheakley, Steve Sosensky, Cheryl Thomas, Celia & Charles Vorsanger.

Be sure to mark your 2007 calendar for next year's BBQ, which will be held on Saturday evening, July 28th, 2007. I'll see you there!

Nancy Kenyon

Chapter News & Announcements

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

News from the Bookstore

Fall is always an exciting time with so many new titles and gift items. Here are a few new books just in: two new books by Pete Dunne: *The Art of Pishing* (July 06), learn the effective art of pishing from a master, from basic to stutter to squeal and more, and *Pete Dunne's Essential Field Guide Companion* (May 06), supplements field guides with skills that expert birders use to ID challenges. Also Scott Weidensaul's *Return to Wild America*, which makes a vibrant case for preserving America's past (recommended by Sylvia Gallagher).

Other exciting additions to the bookstore include the ultimate t-shirt (and caps) for birders: "Life is Simple: eat. sleep. bird.", new Peter Knapp notecards, and a few new lines of note cards by other artists and photographers, a new Songbird coffee, and the 2007 calendars with a wide selection of themes (new this year are hummingbird and raptor calendars), also the Page-A-Day, engagement calendars, Sibley, songbirds, owls, waterfowl, penguins and much more.

Audubon House Volunteers

We would like to thank the following people for volunteering their time to staff Audubon House in June, July, August, & September: Elizabeth Alexander, Sonia Appell, Donna & Mike Augustine, Charlie Austin, Phil Brobst, Julie Brodhag, Barbara Chidester, Deana Collins, Carolyn Cooper, Betty Cox, Isabel DeFigueiredo, Tom Drouet, Jean Drum, Fresia Escalona, Frank Feller, Susan Fisher, Judy Fritts, Virginia Gochenour, Beverly Hargrove, Keats Hayden, Pat Heilig, Sarah Jayne, Lois

Jones, Nancy Kenyon, Donna Krebs, Tim Maas, Joan McCauley, Bobbie Miller, Rosemary Price, Shirley Price, Betty Purdy, Roberta Ray, Barbara Reber, Mary Shandy, Robyn Simon, Maggie Smith, Bev Spring, Betty Swift, Celia Vorsanger, David Weber, and Ann Zemer.

A Note on Membership Expiration Dates from Phil Brobst

To avoid renewing your National Audubon Society membership unnecessarily, check the mailing label on the cover of your Audubon magazine. The label includes your subscription expiration date (e.g., J/F 08), which is also your national membership expiration date. In the example, the subscription expires with the January/February 2008 issue, and the membership expires at the end of February 2008. In this case, the Wandering Tattler would show an expiration date of 02/28/2008.

Please direct any questions regarding your membership status to Phil Brobst, Membership Chair, at the Sea & Sage Audubon House.

Photo Meeting

The photographers meet three times a year at Jim Gallagher's house in Huntington Beach to share photos and discuss various photographic techniques. The next meeting will be held on Friday evening, Sept. 22nd, at 7:30 pm. The limit is 30 photos per person. For info on these meetings and/or directions to Jim's house, call Jim at 714-962-8990. If you will be bringing digital pictures, please follow the guidelines listed on our webpage or call Steve Metildi at 714-505-3256

Hospitality Chair

We would like to thank Carol Getz for the great job she did as our chapter's Hospitality Chair for the past seven years. Not only did she organize refreshments for all of our General Meetings as well as coordinating the volunteers for some of our larger chapter events, but she also took care of the negotiations with the hotels for our Annual Dinner each year. This was a big job and we really appreciate all her time and effort. Merri Levy has graciously volunteered to take over the job of organizing the refreshments for our General Meetings. We hope there will be plenty of volunteers to assist Merri; feel free to call her if you would like to help (949-495-9482).

Thanks to our great cookie bakers, we had a plentiful supply of cookies at our General Meetings last year. We'd like to thank the following people for bringing their goodies to share with us: G. Angore, Pat Cabe, Carolyn Croom, Deana Collins, Mary Ann Hazelett, Nancy Kenyon, Merri Levy, Tim Maas, Marcia Marlowe, Gillian Martin, Gretchen McCausland, Lorelei Metildi, Bobbie Miller, Marquita & Jay Miller, Myra Porter, Peg Schneider, Terry Senko, Barbara Sentovich and Susan Sheakley.

OC Rarities - continued from page 8

July 26-28. The impressive results were as follows: in addition to the **Pigeon Guillemot** already cited above, there were high, single morning counts of up to **300 Pink-footed Shearwaters**, over 400 **Black-vented** and 500 **Sooty Shearwaters**, 3 **Black Storm-Petrels**, 55 **Cassin's Auklets**, two **Craveris/Xantus's-type murrelets**, 7+ **Pomarine** and 3 **Parasitic Jaegers**, and 1 **Pacific Loon** (observers included M. Iliff, Jon Dunn, K. Perry, and B. Daniels). Elsewhere, 2 **Ashy Storm-Petrels** were reported from Crescent Bay, July 2 (Steve & Marian Alter)

Your Membership Payment

Directions to Audubon House

Receiving the Tattler

Your Membership Payment

If you are signing up as a new Audubon member be sure and use the application in the Tattler or on our website that has the C15 in the lower right hand corner. This tells National Audubon who to credit for your recruitment. Sea & Sage gets 100% of the first year's dues of new members (even if you give more than the minimum membership fee). When renewing your membership and you pay more than the standard renewal fee (\$35 for regular and \$15 for senior/student membership), the extra you contribute goes to National Audubon; the chapter does not get any of the contribution back. So, if you are feeling generous at renewal time and you want Sea & Sage to benefit, you should send your renewal fee to National and a separate check with your donation to the chapter. If you have any questions please contact Phil Brobst at (949) 261-7963.



Directions to AUDUBON HOUSE and the SJWS

8:00 am - 4:00 pm daily
(949) 261-7963



From the San Diego Frwy. (405), exit on Jamboree south toward Newport Beach. At the 1st signal, Michelson, turn left. Continue on Michelson to the 3rd 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 house you see will be Audubon House; parking is ample. Beyond Audubon House are the ponds and marsh mitigation areas of the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary which are open every day from dawn until dusk.

Tattler Subscriptions

Non-Audubon members, or members from other Audubon chapters, who wish to subscribe to our chapter newsletter, may do so for \$12.50 per year, for regular mailing. Those who wish to receive their newsletter faster, by 1st class postage, may do so for an additional \$6.00. Make check payable to: SEA and SAGE AUDUBON and mail to: Tattler Subscriptions, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612.



Tattler Delivery

Those of you who read the Tattler cover to cover, know that Sea and Sage is trying to cut their expenses. We now post the Tattler on our chapter website. Members who wish to receive monthly e-mail notification that the latest issue of the tattler is online, should e-mail nancykenyon@cox.net. This method of Tattler delivery not only helps cut costs and conserve resources, it also is much faster since the Tattler is posted immediately after it has been delivered to the printer.

Membership Application

Membership: We invite you to become a member of the National Audubon Society and the Sea & Sage Audubon chapter. **To join:** Please 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 _____

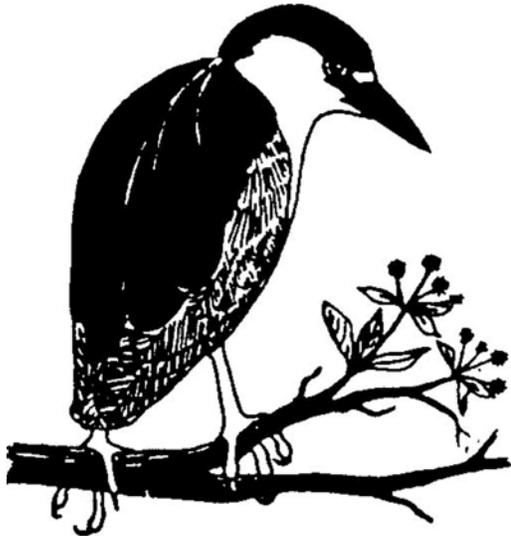
Email address _____



September 2006

Sea & Sage Audubon Society

Chapter Mission Statement: Sea & Sage Audubon is a leader in creating an understanding of nature in Orange County, through conservation, research and environmental education programs for children and adults. This is accomplished with classes, field activities, publications and volunteer opportunities



Sea & Sage Audubon Society
PO Box 5447, Irvine CA 92616

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

DATED MATERIAL PLEASE EXPEDITE!

BOARD MEMBERS

Executive Committee:

President.....	Al Baumann.....	949-859-5081
Vice President.....	Kaaren Perry.....	949-497-0884
Secretary.....	Marcia Marlowe.....	949-644-0559
Treasurer.....	Hal Sheakley.....	949-552-5974
Director 2007.....	Laura Wantz.....	949-494-4046
Director 2007.....	Pete DeSimone.....	949-858-0309
Director 2008.....	Colleen Harber.....	949-338-3084
Director 2008.....	Sandy DeSimone.....	848-858-0309
Director 2009.....	Mary Joseph.....	714-848-8362
Director 2009.....	Chuck Leavell.....	714-630-6497
Past President.....	Tom Croom.....	714-692-9683

Committee Chairpersons:

Audubon House Volunteers..	Judy Fritts.....	949-551-4513
Birdathon.....		
Bird Information.....	Sylvia Gallagher.....	714-962-8990
Christmas Bird Counts.....	Curtis Johnson.....	714-739-5373
Conservation Co-Chair.....	Scott Thomas.....	949-293-2915
Conservation Co-Chair.....	Susan Sheakley.....	949-552-5974
Counsel.....	Rick Derevan.....	949-253-2700
Development.....	Cheryl Thomas.....	949-294-2275
Education.....	Tim Maas.....	714-960-2624
Exhibits.....		
Facilities.....	Neal Anderson.....	714-441-0491
Field Trips.....	Nancy Kenyon.....	949-786-3160
Finance.....		
Hospitality-General Mtgs.....	Merri Levy.....	949-495-9482
Membership.....	Phil Brobst.....	949-261-7963
Newsletter Editor.....	Nancy Kenyon.....	949-786-3160
Oak Cyn Nature Center.....	Cathy Glasgow.....	714-998-8380
OC Great Park Env. Coalition Liaison.	Diane Bonanno.....	714-572-9911
Partners in Flight.....	Janet Baumann.....	949-859-5081
Program Co-Chairs.....	Jay & Marquita Miller.....	714-549-2912
Publicity.....	Catherine Waters.....	562-869-6718
Publishing.....	Sam Berry.....	949-646-1488
SJWS Liaison.....	Chris Obaditch.....	949-640-7234
Starr Ranch/Envir. Liaison.....	Pete DeSimone.....	949-858-0309

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

Marsh Education Project Director..	Trude Hurd	949-261-7963
Marsh Education Project Dir. Assist.....	Deborah Brin	
Administrative Aide.....	Rebecca Craft.....	949-261-7963
Sales Manager.....	Debby Thyssen.....	949-261-7963
Webmaster.....		NancyKenyon@cox.net
Chapter Website.....		http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org

Other Personnel

Bluebird Information.....	Dick Purvis.....	714-776-8878
OC Rare Bird Alert Hotline....	Joel Weintraub.....	949-487-6869
Slides for Sale.....	Sylvia Gallagher.....	714-962-8990
Slide Lending Library.....	Claudine Casey.....	714-968-3463

CALENDAR

September

05	Tues	Conservation Committee meeting.....	6:30 pm
10	Sun	Fall Birding in Huntington Beach.....	1:00 pm
10	Sun	Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS.....	8:00 am
11	Mon	Fall Birding in Huntington Beach.....	1:00 pm
12	Tues	Board meeting.....	7:30 pm
15	Fri	GENERAL MEETING.....	7:30 pm
16	Sat	Fall Pelagic Trip.....	6:30 am
20	Wed	Electric Boat Trip.....	8:15 am
22	Fri	Photographers' Meeting.....	7:30 pm

October

01	Sun	Santiago Oaks Regional Park.....	8:00 am
03	Tues	Conservation Committee meeting.....	6:30 pm
07	Sat	San Diego/Point Loma & vicinity.....	8:00 am
08	Sun	Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS.....	8:00 am
08	Sun	The Big Sit.....	up to you
10	Tues	Board meeting.....	7:30 pm
18	Wed	Electric Boat Trip.....	8:15 am
20	Fri	GENERAL MEETING.....	7:30 pm
25	Wed	Field Natural History walk at Starr Ranch.....	9:00 am
28	Sat	Annual Pancake Breakfast.....	7:30 am