



# Sea and Sage Audubon

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It is that time of year, when Sea and Sage Audubon Society reaches out and sincerely asks for your support to continue the important work that we do.

As you know, Orange County is blessed with a variety of natural resources that contribute to the beauty of our area and support a variety of birds. Since the chapter began, we have worked to protect these resources for birds and other wildlife. We share our beautiful coastal location with shorebirds and seabirds, which are among our favorite birds to watch, study and appreciate. Yet many of these birds are threatened in many ways and are in urgent need of protection.

*Photo: Andrea Carpio*

In recent years our involvement in protecting seabirds and shorebirds, such as the California Least Tern and Western Snowy Plover, has steadily increased in response to various threats. This year hundreds of Sea and Sage members generously dedicated thousands of crucial volunteer hours to numerous projects supporting and protecting these birds in our local area (details on reverse). Some of these projects - such as the Huntington State Beach Least Tern Preserve Volunteer Ambassador Program, the State Parks/Sea and Sage Snowy Plover Team, and the OC Quarterly Beach-wide Snowy Plover Surveys require substantial training and skill development, which our dedicated leaders helped provide.

Our work protecting coastal birds is just part of what our incredible chapter does each year. We protect and support inland areas, too, and recently added, in North Orange County, our fourth Christmas Bird Count circle. The Marsh Education Project, which hosts many successful programs for youths, has trained ten new docents this year and is again offering its Outdoor Adventures for 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Audubon House now has 35 volunteers. Through programs like Bat Walks, field trips, special events, Birding Skills Workshops, volunteer opportunities, exhibit tables, our Nature Store, General Meetings and '4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday' Conservation Lectures, the chapter works to engage the public, to educate and interest everyone in birds and conservation, and to serve our members while we share the joy of birding.

Our programs rely on your generosity and financial assistance. Sea and Sage Audubon is blessed with the kindness of an anonymous donor who once again will **match dollar-for-dollar** every contribution of \$150 or more, up to a total of \$15,000. We hope you can help us make full use of this opportunity. However, donations of any amount are greatly appreciated. Please use the enclosed envelope or go to our website to donate online.

Sincerely, Gail Richards

President, Sea and Sage Audubon Society

*Sea & Sage Audubon Society's mission is to protect birds, other wildlife,  
and their habitats through education, citizen science, research, and public policy advocacy*



## **Western Snowy Plover and California Least Tern Sea and Sage Project Highlights**

- Sea and Sage volunteers complete Beach-wide (Seal Beach to San Clemente) Quarterly Roosting Western Snowy Plover Surveys.
- We are a financial and operational partner in a joint Sea and Sage Audubon, US Fish and Wildlife and California State Parks Western Snowy Plover Protection Plan at Huntington, Bolsa Chica, and San Onofre State Beaches.
- We participate in conservation/science-based Bird Surveys at Los Cerritos Wetlands, Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, Newport Back Bay, Fairview Park, and Huntington Beach Wetlands.
- Sea and Sage volunteers work with CA State Parks and the Santa Ana Watershed as ambassadors to protect the endangered California Least Tern & Western Snowy Plover at the Huntington State Beach Natural Tern Preserve.
- Sea and Sage partners with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Amigos De Bolsa Chica, Bolsa Chica Conservancy, and the Bolsa Chica Land Trust in the newly formed Bolsa Chica Reserve Watch Program.
- Sea and Sage joined with Audubon California and San Diego Audubon to successfully advocate for the protection of off-shore forage fish which are a critically important resource for seabirds, such as least terns and pelicans, and against new long-line fisheries that would entangle and harm by-catch, such as sea turtles, dolphins and albatrosses.
- Sea and Sage and others have been working to persuade the County of Orange, the City of Newport Beach, the California Coastal Commission and others to protect snowy plovers and terns at the Santa Ana River mouth and on the Balboa Peninsula.
- Our field trips include many coastal and pelagic field trips, and we often feature speakers focusing on shorebirds, seabirds and coastal conservation at our '4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday' Conservation Lectures.
- The Conservation Committee works with our partners to help improve water quality and critical bird habitats at Aliso Creek and Salt Creek in South Orange County.
- Sea and Sage works with and supports organizations, such as Endangered Habitats League, El Dorado Audubon, and Friends of Harbors Beaches and Parks, to protect both inland and coastal natural resources.