

# Sea & Sage Audubon

## 2008 Annual Report

### Field Trips

This year, I scheduled 63 field trips for the period September 2007 to July 2008 using 22 field trip leaders. Of these 64 trips, there were 3 trips which repeated monthly:

- Monthly Bird Walk at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary - (3rd Sunday)
- Monthly Bird Walk at Santiago Oaks Regional Park - (1st Sunday)
- Upper Newport Bay by small boat - (3rd Wednesday)

Below are the field trip stats:

total trips scheduled - 63

total number of leaders - 22

trips within Orange County - 52

trips outside Orange County - 11

trips requiring a trip fee - 11

overnight (2-day) trips - 4

trips requiring reservations - 32 (12 of which were monthly)

- reservations to limit trip size
- reservations & trip fee to reimburse leaders for travel expenses
- reservations so that we know how many people will be attending & their contact info
- reservations & trip fee as a fund raiser

trips that were cancelled - 2 due to poor signups, 2 due to owls not nesting on schedule

trips new for our chapter - 2

Trips have generally been well attended though 2 weekend reservation trips had to be cancelled due to poor signups.

Comments:

When I first took over the job of Field Trip Chair in 1985, there were a large number of inexperienced birders who wanted to go out with a leader on bird walks. Since then, many of those people have become better educated as birders through Sylvia Gallagher's Birding Skills Workshops and Vic Leipzig's birding classes, and, as a result, the field trip participants have changed markedly. Most experienced birders don't need the services of a leader to show them where the birds are or to help them identify the birds in our local area because they can do that for themselves. They don't seem to be as interested in our weekend trips either unless the trips are to areas on private property or in areas not covered by regional birding guide books. Specialized trips, such as UNB by small boat, Seal Beach NWR, and the Field Natural History trips are better attended. Obviously, there is a need to find new areas & leaders for our birding field trips. I will be studying other chapters webpages to see how they organize their field trips; hopefully, I will pick up some good ideas from them. It will be interesting to see how much of an impact the rise in gas prices will have on our members' interest in driving longer distances for the pleasure of birding.

*Nancy Kenyon, field trip chair*  
5/5/08