

Bloom-Hays Ecological Research Grant

Presented by Sea and Sage Audubon Society

Pete Bloom is a current, and still active, member of Sea and Sage Audubon. In the 1970s and 1980s, Pete helped spearhead the Weir Canyon Conservation Fund to protect canyon lands from development. Weir Canyon was protected, and funds remaining from that campaign have been contributed to this grant opportunity.

Pete Bloom has lived in southern California most of his life and has spent much of the last 45 years studying raptors throughout the State. Known to most as one of the foremost experts in raptors, Pete has studied birds of prey in California, across the United States, and abroad in such places as Argentina, Sweden, and India.

As part of a bold step to rescue the California Condor from extinction, from 1982 through 1987, Pete worked with the National Audubon Society directing the efforts to capture all of the remaining California Condors in the wild. Locally, Pete and a small crew of dedicated researchers have been studying natal dispersal and philopatry of raptors, and its relevance to reserves and conservation, through a 40 year “mark and recapture” project in Orange County, north San Diego County, and western Riverside County.

Pete is also accomplished in herpetology, mammalogy, ornithology, and a fervent conservationist. He has taught Natural History of Southern California at Saddleback College and dedicates much of his time as a mentor to up-and-coming biologists. His experience with Sea and Sage Audubon, with the helpful guidance of Fern Zimmerman and Ferne Cohen in the 1970s, helped launch his academic career, deep respect for nature, and a lifelong effort to help others explore their potentials as scientists and researchers.

Loren Hays was a long-time friend and supporter of Sea and Sage Audubon Society. When he passed away in 2008, a memorial fund was gathered from Sea and Sage members to develop a grant fund program in his memory. Loren left a legacy as a protector of birds, especially endangered species, and an advocate of protecting the environment through cooperative process and skilled management.

Much of Loren’s professional life was spent as a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biologist where Loren embraced the concept of partnering between agencies and governmental bodies to promote conservation. In the 1980s, Loren began one of those partnerships with the Orange County Water District at the Prado Basin. At that time there were about 18 pairs of the endangered Least Bell’s Vireo nesting in the vast wetland system. By the time of Loren’s retirement in 2006, nearly 1,000 pairs nested in the basin due to the efforts of Loren, along with his good friend Richard Zembal. Loren also worked tirelessly towards the conservation of other species such as the endangered Southwestern Willow Flycatcher in the Prado Basin and around the State, and the California Least Tern and Western Snowy Plover in Orange County’s coastal reserves. Loren’s knack for developing partnerships brought Sea and Sage Audubon Society and California State Parks together to set up the Huntington Beach Least Tern Colony - Volunteer Program.

Loren was a fervent protector of birds. He was a regular at Huntington Beach Central Park and enjoyed everything from the most common to the rarest of birds. He was a mentor to all.

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Application Instructions

Objective: The objective of the Bloom-Hays Ecological Research Grant is to advance ecological research, particularly research related to avian species and the natural communities upon which they depend, by providing funds or supplies to support research activities benefitting native species and habitats in Southern California.

Funding: The size of the grant will vary between \$250 and \$2,500. The amount dispersed to each recipient will vary based on the number of proposals, the quality of proposals received, and the contribution of the proposed work to ecological research.

Eligibility: Preference will be given to research projects related to avian species and habitats in Southern California. However, other ecological research projects whose results would be applicable to habitat issues in Southern California or general ecology will also be considered. Recipients of a Bloom-Hays Ecological Research Grant will be eligible to apply for funds to continue the work in subsequent years, but will be required to submit a renewal application each year. Most grants are to be awarded to graduate students, but awards may be made to outstanding undergraduates or high school students.

General Instructions: A complete application form must include: (1) Cover Letter; (2) Application; (3) Proposal/Budget; (4) Project Schedule; (5) Resume; and (6) Letter(s) of Reference. Submit the completed application package to grants@seasandsageaudubon.org ,

Deadline: Application packages must be received by email no later than March 15, 2012. The Science Committee will accept only electronic submittals. An email reply confirming receipt of the application will be sent by March 16, 2012, or within two days of receipt if the application package is submitted early.

Applications will be evaluated by the Science Committee on the scientific merit of the proposed research relative to its cost; the applicant's ability to conduct the research; and the relevance of the proposed ecological research to the interests of native species and habitats in Southern California. The Science Committee will select the grant award recipient(s) and will report the results to the Board of Directors at the May 2012 Board Meeting. Applicants will be informed of results approximately eight weeks after the deadline. The name(s) of award recipient(s) will be published in the June 2012 issue of the *Wandering Tattler* and the award(s) will be presented at the Summer BBQ on July 28, 2012 (each recipient will receive two complimentary tickets to the BBQ).

Cover Letter: A cover letter should be included to introduce the application. It should provide a very brief introduction to the objective of the project and how it relates to avian research and/or habitat issues in Southern California, list the name of the institution under which the research is being conducted, and include the applicant's contact information. (1 page only)

Application: The attached application should be completed in its entirety. (2 pages)

Proposal: The applicant should prepare a brief proposal to describe how the project objective will be accomplished. It should include the background to explain the purpose and need for the project. Assume that the reader does not know about the issue and explain why the research is important. It should describe briefly the methodology for the project and the anticipated results anticipated. It should explain how the project results would achieve the objectives of this grant program. A map or graphic may be included, but is not required. (2-3 pages maximum, not including the map/graphic)

Budget: A budget of projected expenditures and materials for the project should be listed. The budget should include assumptions (e.g., number of field days, mileage to sites, etc.) used to estimate the budget. The budget should be shown in a spreadsheet or table. (1-2 pages)

Project Schedule: A rough project schedule should be included (months/years). The project schedule should include anticipated months of fieldwork, data analysis, and project completion. (1 page)

Resume: The applicant should include a resume showing his/her experience related to ecology and the environment. This resume may include work experience, participation in fieldwork related to coursework, volunteer activities, and/or other field experience. (1-2 pages)

Letter of Reference: A Letter of Reference should be included. The letter should be from an advisor, professor, teacher, or teaching assistant who knows the student, or someone who has worked in a leadership role with the applicant.

Reporting: An applicant who receives funding, must prepare a report within 90 days of completion of the project and submit it to the Sea and Sage Audubon's Science Committee Chair. If appropriate, the program committee may request that the applicant present the results of his/her research at a meeting of the Sea and Sage Audubon Society (e.g., 4th Tuesday Conservation Lecture, General Meeting). Any publications resulting from the research should be sent to the Chair of the Science Committee to keep in the files of Sea and Sage Audubon.

Bloom-Hayes Ecological Research Grant Application

Applicant Information

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone No.: _____

Organization/Institution: _____

Present Education Level: Graduate Undergraduate High School

Project Information

Title of Project: _____

List 5 keywords/phrases to describe your project: (e.g., habitat fragmentation, Least Bell's Vireo, riparian, nest success, etc.)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Type of Project: (research, restoration, inventory, etc.) _____

City, County where project will be conducted: _____

Specific location(s) where project will be conducted (e.g., Audubon's Starr Ranch Sanctuary, UCI Ecological Preserve, etc.):

Note: Before funding is provided you will need to present permission to access land and permits to conduct the research (if applicable).

History with Audubon (for information purposes only)

Are you a member of Sea and Sage? Yes No
(not required to receive funding)

If another chapter, specify which one: _____

History with Audubon (continued)

Which classes/programs have you participated in with Audubon?

How has Audubon helped you develop an interest in birds/nature? If not with Audubon, how did you develop an interest in nature?

Where is your favorite place to hike/birdwatch in Orange County? Why?