

## **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 - 2017**

**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 BloomHaysGrant@aol.com.

**Deadline:** Application packages must be received by email no later than April 15, 2017. The Science Committee will accept only electronic submittals. The committee prefers to receive the application as one pdf file; however, we will also accept separate file attachments. An email reply confirming receipt of the application will be sent by April 18, 2017, or within one week 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; 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 2017 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 2017 issue of the *Wandering Tattler* and the award(s) will be presented at the Summer BBQ in July 2017 (each recipient will receive two complimentary tickets to the BBQ).

**Cover Letter:** A cover letter should be included to introduce the applicant. 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)

# Bloom-Hayes Ecological Research Grant Application

## Applicant Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization/Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Present Education Level:      PhD      Masters      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. \_\_\_\_\_

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).*

**Applicant Background (for information purposes only)**

When do you anticipate finishing your degree? \_\_\_\_\_

What are your goals after you finish your degree?

How did you develop an interest in birds/nature?

Where is your favorite place to hike, birdwatch, or interact with nature in Southern California? Why?