Our Local Least Terns and Snowy Plovers Need Your Help!

State Parks need California Least Tern and Western Snowy Plover monitors during the breeding season. An existing Volunteer Program helps keep an eye on the tern colony at Huntington State Beach from May to August. They are seeking additional birding volunteers to receive orientation and training to monitor the Natural Preserve at least one 2-hour session per week during this time period.

Volunteers watch for Least Tern breeding behavior, eggs, chicks, fledglings, and predators; they record their observations of the terns as well as watch for Western Snowy Plovers. This is also a special opportunity for public outreach for the highly used recreational area around the tern colony. Photo opportunities abound and are encouraged for our year-end slide show. A free beach pass is given to each volunteer.

Interested? Attend the orientation session for a review of the breeding biology of both California Least Terns and Western Snowy Plovers on Wed, April 20th from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. at the Huntington State Beach Lifeguard Headquarters at PCH and Magnolia Ave. (No charge for entrance into the state park for this meeting.) The legendary expertise and superb photographs of Peter Knapp will be showcased and light refreshments will be served.

A Field Orientation for new volunteers will be held at 8:30 a.m. on Sat, April 30th at the Huntington State Beach Least Tern Natural Preserve. (Enter the State Beach at Magnolia St. and drive South through the parking lots. The preserve is at the last parking lot). New volunteers must attend this field orientation meeting. Additional info on this project can be found on the Least Tern Project section of our chapter website at: www.seaandsageaudubon.org/Conservation/SnowyPlovers/SNPL.htm

Please RSVP to Cheryl Egger, Volunteer Coordinator, at dc.egger@verizon.net or 714-842-9232, to let her know you are coming to one or both of the orientations.

Questions? Please call David Pryor, Environmental Scientist, who directs the program (949-497-1421).

General Meeting

Friday evening, April 15th

“Adventures with Eagles in Sweden”

presented by Scott Thomas

Scott Thomas, vice-president and conservation stalwart of Sea and Sage Audubon, will lead us on an exciting virtual adventure in Sweden that he and Pete Bloom had last fall - just the thing to help us get over income tax blues.

Scott Thomas has been studying raptors in southern California, and working with Sea and Sage's Conservation Committee, for over 20 years. Working with local raptor biologist and long time Sea and Sage member Pete Bloom, Scott has captured and banded thousands of raptors of many species.

In the fall of 2010, Scott, Pete and associate Jeff Kidd were invited to Sweden to capture Golden Eagles in order to place satellite transmitters on them. The project goals were to help researchers from the Swedish Golden Eagle Group and scientists from Sveriges Lantbruks Universitet study the impacts on eagles from several proposed wind energy production projects in north central Sweden. Scott will share some insights about Sweden's Golden Eagles and other birds of prey, wind energy, and his adventures trapping these magnificent birds in the cold wintry weather of northern Sweden.

Scott’s program will be held in the Duck Club at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine. The doors open at 7 and the program begins at 7:30 pm. Please come at 7:00 for refreshments and fellowship.

Remember that you must access Riparian View from Campus Drive, not from Michelson, and bring a flashlight to light your way from the parking lot. See you there! (See page 11 for directions.)

Pat and Dick Cabe, Program Co-Chairs
Undoubtedly two of the biggest finds of the winter period included the Curve-billed Thrasher at Huntington Central Park’s Shipley Nature Center and the Yellow-breasted Chat at Doheny State Park. Of these, only the Chat was reported during the last month (Feb. 20; Robert McNab). The Chat is exceptionally rare during winter in California, and not surprisingly, it was the first documented winter record for Orange County. A male Eurasian Wigeon made several encore appearances at Upper Newport Bay during Feb. A Swainson’s Hawk, Feb. 9, and a Ferruginous Hawk, Feb. 21, just south of the Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station (SBNWS), were presumably birds known to be wintering at the Weapons Station. A Hairy Woodpecker was refound at Carbon Canyon Regional Park (CCRP), Feb. 12 (Valerie Wheeler), where it was spending its third consecutive winter; this is one of only five or six county records away from the upper Santa Ana Mountains. A well-seen Eastern Phoebe at Mason Regional Park (MRP) continued to at least Mar. 1 (Les Redpath). A drab (immature female type) Vermilion Flycatcher was still at El Modena Park on Mar. 5 (Doug Willick). A Gray Flycatcher at Santiago Oaks Regional Park (SORP), Feb. 8 (Steve and Becky Turley), was most likely a bird found back in early Dec. Continuing Red-breasted Nuthatches included a few at CCRP, Feb. 12, and at least one at Golden West College, Mar. 1 (Richard Thunen, Vic Leipzig). A Brown Creeper at MRP, Feb. 20 (Wayne Gochenour), was most likely the same bird originally reported in late Dec. A Black-and-white Warbler briefly seen in the California State University Fullerton Arboretum (CSUFA), Feb. 25 (Steve Kaye), was quite possibly a bird first reported in early Dec. Rare in California, especially so in winter, was a Black-throated Blue Warbler in a Tustin residential area; the bird was last noted on Feb. 20 (W. Gochenour).

Of the new discoveries, several involved interesting waterfowl sightings. A flock of at least a dozen Snow Geese flying over Huntington Beach, Feb. 16 (S. Morris), contained a “Blue” Goose (a color morph possibly not previously recorded in Orange County). A male Eurasian (“Common”) Teal at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary (SJWS), Feb. 6 (Brian Daniels), was unexpected; the bird was last reported here Feb. 28. A Common Merganser at Seal Beach National Wildlife Sanctuary, Feb. 14 (Nancy Kenyon), was rare for along the coast. A Long-tailed Duck at Bolsa Chica, Feb. 24 (Travis Vail), was a nice surprise. At least four, and possibly as many as eight, Swainson’s Hawks were flying over a Tustin residential area Feb. 28 (W. Gochenour). A Prairie Falcon, now a very rare winter visitor to the county, was observed just south of the SBNWS, Feb. 20 (S. Morris).

A first-year Glaucous Gull made a timely appearance at Doheny State Beach during a Los Angeles Audubon gull ID workshop, Feb. 27 (Larry Allen, Mary Freeman). A male Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at SORP, Feb. 4-8 (Brad Dawson), was intriguing. This bird was found in the very same location where a male was last seen in March 2009, that year marking its seventh consecutive year to have wintered at this site. Newly reported Red-naped Sapsuckers were at Irvine Regional Park (IRP), Feb. 8 (S. and B. Turley), and at Santiago Park, Feb. 17 (D. Willick). Impressive numbers of swallows were moving through the county during the latter part of February (e.g., up to as many as 500 individuals on Burris Basin, Feb. 26). At a few reservoirs along the upper Santa Ana River (Orange/east Anaheim area), Feb. 20, another concentration of early spring migrant swallows contained an estimated 150 Violet-green Swallows (D. Willick). New Summer Tanagers were at the CSUFA, Feb. 7 (Steve Kaye), and at MRP, Feb. 10 (S. Morris). A Swamp Sparrow was a surprise at IRP, Feb. 15 (S. Morris).

In addition to the swallows already mentioned, evidence of early spring migrants already on the move included a few male Rufous Hummingbirds reported in February. With the arrival of this month’s newsletter, the peak of spring migration will be just around the corner. What better excuse is there to grab those binoculars and get outdoors.
Christmas Bird Count Report
Coastal CBC - 1/02/11

This CBC covers the Coastal Areas in Orange County from Corona del Mar north to Seal Beach. It is divided into the following sections: Westminster Mem. Park & the Corner of Seal Beach NWR; HB Pier, Beach Areas north to the edge of Sunset Beach, HCP, Wintersberg Channel & Seapoint; Bolsa Chica; Mile Square Park; SA River Mouth, 19th St. Willows, Canyon Park; Older Areas within Santa Ana; Centennial Reg. Park & the former MCAS Blimp Base; West side of Upper Newport Bay; East side of Upper Newport Bay; UCI, San Joaquin Marsh & SJWS; Mason Reg. Park, UC Foothills & Corona del Mar; Newport Harbor & Beaches; Pelagic Areas along the coast.

Special Thanks to the 131 CBC participants who did such a great job helping us with the count in spite of all the rain.

Your names along with all of the data for this count are posted on the Sea & Sage webpage under the heading of 2010 Coastal CBC.

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Special Thanks to the 131 CBC participants who did such a great job helping us with the count in spite of all the rain.
Thanks to Annual Direct Mail Appeal Donors!

Sea and Sage depends on your financial contributions to support our conservation and education programs. Your donations help make us a strong chapter. The following is a list of Annual Direct Mail Appeal Donors whose donations were received prior March 3, 2011. It is not too late to add your name to the list. Once again, a heartfelt thank you.

—Jay Miller

Christine Alden
Janet Alexander
Judith Altshuler
Neal Anderson
Anonymous (3)
Carole Arellano
Leslie Arnold
Lisa Baas
David & Delores Baden
Jan Barber-Doyle
Sandra Bauer
George & Judy Beaty
Robert Bein
Leland Bellot
Truman Benedict
Paula & Rik Bennett
Cedric Berggren
Robert Berkley
Hans Ulrich Bernard
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Steve & Kathy Blackmarr
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Ruth Boeckerman
Gail Bond
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Patricia Cahill
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David Campbell
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Donna Carroll
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Helen Clark
Deana Collins
Carolyn Cooper
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Joanne Cul
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Jim Ewing
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Frank Feller
Justin Feucht
Bob & Lyn Fisher
Sylvia Fisher
Zemula & John Fleming
Norma Jane Flickinger
Bonnie Foley
Sharon Ford
Jane Freeman
Ed & Carol Freund
Judy Fritts
Jim & Sylvia Gallagher
Dennis Geiler
Arleen Gelfand
Bob Gershman
Tom & Carol Getz
William & Ronda Gilbert
Valerie Glass
Philip Gold
Dan & Tamar Goldmann
Kathleen Gollette
Pamela Gosselin
Kathryn Grabenstein
Chuck Greening
Shirley Gregg
Joseph Grelick
Ingrid Gustavson
Eugene & Julie Hallsted
Beverly Hargrove
Barbara Harley
Elliott Harold
Debra Hays
Patricia Heilig
Don & Mary Hendricks
Gene Hiegel
Phillip Hill
Ed & Sally Hirsch
Kenneth & Cynthia Hogan
John Homme
Donald & Carolyn Honer
Jane Hopper
Dennis Houle
Star Howard
Sandra Ippolito
Debra Iverson
Daniel Jacobson
Susan Jarrett
Annie & Steve Jelnick
Curtis & Lynn Johnson
David Johnson
Jerome & Darline Johnson
Richard Johnson
Lois Jones
Phil Jones
Stephen & Sharon Jones
Mary & Jerry Joseph
Holly Joslin
Fran Jutzi
Sharon Kahan
Robert Kanne
Betty Kanne
Dennis & Joanne Keith
Karen Keller
Ike & Ginny Kempler
Nancy Kenyon
Louise Kim
Martin Klein
Julie Kline
Patty Knight
Shirley Knopf
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Carol Koelle
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Michael LaRocca
J. C. Laughlin
Anna Marie Bowll Lea
Chuck & Cecile Leavell
Junko Lee
Victor Leipzig
Peggy Lenney
Merri Levy
Elizabeth Lewis
Doug Lithgow
Martin & Mildred Liket
Thomas Livengood
Andrew Lloyd
Craig & Deborah Lockwood
James Long
Kenneth Lund
Donna Malloy
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Margaret Romdall
William Ross
Nancy Ryder
Ann Sakai
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Matching Funds from Bonterra Consulting LLC
Matching Funds from The Capital Group Companies Charitable Foundation

Chapter News

Audubon House Volunteers
We would like to thank the following people for helping to staff Audubon House in March and April: Sonia Appell, Pat & Dick Cabe, Deana Collins, Carolyn Cooper, Jeanette DiAnda, Tom Drouet, Fresia Escalona, Judy Fritts, Lynne Hayes, Pat Heilig, Sarah Jayne, Steve Jelnick, Lois Jones, Nancy Kenyon, Lauretta Kyle, Joan McCauley, Eunice Morita, Bobbie Miller, Shirley Price, Betty Purdy, Roberta Ray, Barbara Reber, John Shaddy, Susan Sheakley, Bev Spring, Betty Swift, and Beryl Vogel.

Audubon House is open daily from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Our Volunteers greet visitors, answer the phone, sell merchandise, answer questions about birds, check out binoculars, etc. If you are interested in helping at Audubon House, please call Judy Fritts at 949-551-4513.

Owl Pellets Needed for Camp
An important part of our camp program is studying what birds eat and one of the lessons focuses on our local owls here in Orange County. For this lesson, the campers dissect owl castings (commonly called owl “pellets”). If you have the good fortune to live near an owl here in Orange County and are able to collect some of its “pellets” from the ground beneath its roost or nest, please contact Nancy Kenyon at 949-786-3160. Thanks!

News from our Bookstore
Our bookstore inside Audubon House is open daily from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. It is also open 45 minutes before our monthly meetings. New arrivals include: The Atlas of Birds; Hawks at a Distance; Kaufman's Field Guide to Advanced Birding; Life Cycle of a Bat; and Wild Guide: Bats. Other new items include sticky notes; mini journals; coaster sets; coffee mugs (bluebirds, mallards, bats, etc); and new t-shirt designs (birds of prey; owls; loons, etc). Specials this month include A Guide: ID and Natural History of Sparrows of the US/Canada and Ecology and Evolution of Darwin's Finches.

The Birds and the Bees. . .
It's just as you suspected! It really is all about the birds and the bees! Join the Seasons of Nature naturalists on Sunday, April 17, to find out all about what those birds and bees are busy doing in the marsh. We will focus on pollination, and before you get back in your car to go home, you'll know just how vital (and in danger) pollination is to life on earth. You will hear about native bees, those pollinators we don't often think about, and search for flowers blooming on the wildlife sanctuary's native plants. You may even discover California's largest native flower! Spring means you will meet adorable Tree Swallows and other birds that nest at the wildlife sanctuary. Our easy nature walk lasts about an hour and a half, and everyone is welcome. We'll meet you in front of Audubon House at 9:00 a.m.

—Jean Drum, Seasons of Nature Coordinator
Sea & Sage Audubon Invites you to our 2011
**Spring Brunches & Summer Bat Walks**
Sign up now — while there is still room!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Spring Brunch at the Marsh</strong></th>
<th><strong>Summer Bat Walks</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday, April 16</strong></td>
<td><strong>ADULTS ONLY:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Sunday, May 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>Thursdays</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Saturday, May 14</strong></td>
<td><strong>May 26</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Saturday, May 21</strong></td>
<td><strong>June 2</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Sunday, May 1</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Saturday, May 21</strong></td>
<td><strong>June 23</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Time:</strong> 10:00 a.m. to Noon</td>
<td><strong>August 11</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cost:</strong> $25 per person, pre-paid reservation</td>
<td><strong>FAMILIES &amp; ADULTS:</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Fridays</strong></td>
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<td><strong>May 27</strong></td>
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<td><strong>June 3</strong></td>
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<td><strong>June 10 (full)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>June 24</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>August 12</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Time:</strong> 6:45 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.</td>
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<td><em>(Times vary according to time of sunset)</em></td>
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Bring yourself and/or treat friends to a gourmet brunch and enjoy the sights, sounds and smells of Spring at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine. We will serve you a truly gourmet outdoor brunch (menu varies) and take you on a leisurely stroll through the marsh to see it at its most colorful best. This program is for adults only. A 48-hour cancellation notice is required for refund.

Pick up a registration form at Audubon House or from our chapter webpage. Call Helen Nicholas at 949-726-0858 if you have any questions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Summer Bat Walks</strong></th>
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**Cost:** $15 per adult and $7.50 for children ages 7-12
Participants must be pre-paid; walk-ins are not accepted.

Due to the length of the program and the fact that anyone leaving early must be escorted back to the parking lot, we have a minimum age of 7 years for participation.

Come discover first-hand that this freshwater wetland is a magical place at dusk. We begin with an indoor presentation by Stephanie Remington, a local bat biologist. We then take a short walk along the ponds to watch the sun set, listen to the night sounds, and smell the fresh scent of sage plants. The highlight is locating the two species of bats that come in small numbers to the marsh to feed.

This popular Irvine event fills up quickly, so register early! 48-hour cancellation notice required for refund. Please dress warmly; wear long sleeves and pants, and use insect repellant.

Pick up a registration form at Audubon House or from our chapter webpage. Call Helen Nicholas at 949-726-0858 if you have any questions.
Birdathon 2011

Sun, April 24th - Sun, May 1st - Great Marsh Bird Count

Sat, April 30th - Birdathon (24 hour event)

Sun, May 1st - Celebration at the Marsh for all participants

Come have some fun at Birdathon 2011. Participate in the traditional 24-hour Birdathon event or the Great Marsh Bird Count (or both) and then join us for the Celebratory Get-Together on the final day. Regardless of your level of birding skills, you will find Birdathon a rewarding experience.

The purpose of a Birdathon is to raise funds through birding-related activities. We want to provide opportunities for many people to participate in our event and, in doing so, have lots of fun, as well as raise funds to help support Sea & Sage’s programs. The species seen during all our Birdathon events will be combined to make one big county list. Here is the basic information: more detailed info will be available on the chapter webpage after April 1st.

“Great Marsh Bird Count” - Like the Birdathon, this is a fundraiser and it can be competitive, or not; the difference is that this bird count can only be done at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. The Marsh Count runs from Sun, April 24th to Sun, May 1st, so you have more choices of which day to choose for your count. Each participant must contribute $5 or have a sponsor who contributes that much or more. You can bird alone or have up to 3 people join you to form your team. Like the Birdathon, teams must bird together in one party and at least 2 members must identify the bird in order to count it. Teams compete in number of species seen and/or amount of money raised.

“Birdathon” - a 24-hour event on Saturday, April 30th. Birding is done by a team of no more than 4 members and can be competitive, or not. The 24-hour period begins at 12:01 am Sat. morning and ends at 11:59 pm Sat. night; of course, few people bird for the entire 24 hour period. Two or more members of the team must see or hear the bird in order to count it. Teams compete in number of species seen and/or amount of money raised.

“Celebration and BBQ at the Marsh” for all participants - Sunday afternoon, May 1st, 3:00 - 6:00 pm. We will share some hot dogs, burgers, cookies, drinks, and stories about our birding adventures, and generally just have a good time together at the Marsh.

Sign up forms and Event Info - detailed event information will be posted after April 1st at Audubon House and on the Sea and Sage website at: www.seaandsageaudubon.org

We hope you will join in the fun by signing up to take part in one of these exciting events this year. Hope to see you on the trail at the Marsh, Bolsa Chica, Crescent Bay, Upper Newport Bay, Santiago Oaks, Peters Canyon, or any other birding spot in Orange County.

For further information —
Great Marsh Bird Count - Nancy Kenyon: (949) 786-3160; nancykenyon@cox.net
Birdathon - Scott Thomas: (949) 293-2915; redtail1@cox.net
**April Field Trips**

For trip updates & additional trip information, check our chapter website at: [www.seaandsageaudubon.org](http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org). Trips marked with an (R) require advance reservations. Questions about field trips? Contact Field Trip chair, Nancy Kenyon, at 949-786-3160 or by email at: nancykenyon@cox.net. Many trips fill up quickly, so don’t wait until the last minute to sign up for them!

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**Monthly Bird Walk at Santiago Oaks**

**1st Sunday - April 3rd & May 1st - 7:30 am**

Join Linette Lina for a monthly bird walk at Santiago Oaks Regional Park at 7:30 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. Be prepared to pay the $5 entrance fee if you don’t have a county parks pass. Bring binoculars, Meet in the upper end of the parking lot.

**Leader:** Linette Lina

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**Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS**

**2nd Sunday - April 10th & May 8th - 8:00 am**

Join Chris Obaditch for a monthly bird walk around the ponds of the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine at 8:00 am. (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.

**Leader:** Chris Obaditch

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**Upper Newport Bay by pontoon boat®**

**3rd Wed - April 20, May 18, June 15 - 8:15 am**

Join us for the rare chance of birding the Upper Newport Bay from the deck of a pontoon boat. Spotting birds from the water offers one a different perspective and the birds seem to view us differently also. Trip duration is 2½ hours. Trip limited to 15 persons and there is a $10 trip fee. Directions will be provided to those with reservations.

**Reservations:** Nancy Kenyon, 949-786-3160; nancykenyon@cox.net

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**O’Neill Reg. Park Semi-Monthly Bird Walks**

**1st Wed, April 6 and 3rd Wed, April 20 - 8 am**

Join Mike Clayton, Naturalist, on a bird walk and learn about Trabuco Canyon birds and nature. All levels of birders are welcome. Easy, level walk on mostly paved roads. **Directions:** From the 405 or 5 Fwy, exit on El Toro Road & head inland toward the mountains. Turn right on Live Oak Canyon Rd. & follow it to O’Neill Park. After entering the park, take 1st right to parking lot. We will meet in the Nature Center which is on the left side of the parking lot. Be prepared to pay the entrance fee ($3 on weekdays; $5 on weekends) if you don’t have an county parks pass.

**Leader:** Mike Clayton

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**O’Neill Park Saturday Bird Walks**

**1st Saturday - April 2nd and May 7th - 7:00 am**

Join Mike Clayton for an early morning bird walk at O’Neill Reg. Park on the 1st Sat. morning of each month. At 7:00, the park will be quieter then and we will be able to avoid the weekend activity that occurs later in the morning. **Directions:** From the 405 or 5 Fwy, exit on El Toro Road and head inland toward the mountains. Turn right on Live Oak Canyon Road and follow it to O’Neill Park. After entering the park, take 1st right to the big parking lot. We will meet in the Nature Center which is on the left side of the parking lot. Be prepared to pay the park entrance fee ($5 on weekends) if you don’t have a county parks pass.

**Leader:** Mike Clayton

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**Canyon Park & Talbert Nature Preserve**

**Monday - April 11th - 8:00 am**

Canyon Park, 970 Arbor St, Costa Mesa, is an interesting 35-acre community park tucked into a residential neighborhood in Costa Mesa. Besides a picnic area, the park includes a small marsh, a quiet woodland and some sandstone geology. Canyon Park and nearby Talbert Nature Preserve support an interesting variety of bird life. We will meet at 8:00 am in the park’s lower parking lot. (There are no restroom facilities in the park or nature preserve, so go slow on that morning coffee!) **Directions:** From the end of the 55 Fwy: head west (right) on 19th St, then a quick left on Arbor. The park will be on your right. Drive to the lower parking area. From PCH: go north on Newport Blvd. for 1.3 miles. Turn left on 17th St, and right on Placentia. In 0.5 miles, turn left on 19th St., right on Monrovia and then a quick left on Arbor. The park will be on your right. Drive to the lower parking area.

**Leader:** Beverly Hargrove

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**Laguna Niguel Regional Park**

**Wednesday - April 27th - 7:30 to 11:30 am**

This park in the southern end of the county is a great place to see orioles and other spring migrants, as well as water birds on the lake. **Directions:** From the San Diego Fwy (I-5), exit at La Paz Rd. and drive south towards Laguna Niguel. The park entrance is on the right shortly after crossing Aliso Creek Road. Entrance fee is $3, or by annual county parks pass. Meet at the first parking lot to the left of the entrance by Picnic Shelters 4 and 6. Bring binoculars, scope if you have one, water, and a snack.

**Leader:** Paul Klahr
Plan Ahead for these Trips

For trip updates & additional trip information, check our chapter website at: www.seaandsageaudubon.org . Trips marked with an (R) require advance reservations. Questions about field trips? Contact Field Trip chair, Nancy Kenyon, at 949-786-3160 or by email at: nancykenyon@cox.net . Many trips fill up quickly, so don’t wait until the last minute to sign up for them!

Both the Eastern Sierra trip and the Owl Prowl trips are full.

Spring at Huntington Central Park

Friday - April 29th - 8:00 am
Huntington Central Park is considered by many birders to be one of the best birding spots in Orange County, especially in the spring. We hope you will join Pat & Dick Cabe there for a great morning of birding. Meet at the north end of the Huntington Beach Library parking lot, just above the bandstand area. Directions: Exit the 405 or 22 Freeway at Goldenwest; drive south past Slater and turn left at the Huntington Beach Library sign (also known as Talbert). Drive forward to the second stop sign and turn left into the northwest corner of the parking lot. The trip will end around noon.

Leaders: Pat & Dick Cabe

Big Morongo Preserve

Sunday - May 1st - 7:00 am
Mark your calendar for this wonderful spring desert oasis trip. Full information on the trip will be posted in the next Tattler. Trip info & directions are on our webpage now. No advance reservations are needed.

Southern Utah 3-day Trip ®

Fri-Sun, - May 13th to 15th - 7:00 am
We will bird beautiful southwestern Utah during spring migration visiting desert scrub, riparian, pinyon-juniper, and montane habitats in various elevations. Zion National Park will be one of our stops along with other scenic areas. Some of the birds you can expect to see on this trip are: Common Black Hawks, Crissal Thrashers, Brown-crested, Cordilleran and Dusky Flycatchers, Virginia and Grace’s Warblers, Painted Redstarts, Gray & Plumbeous Vireos, Green-tailed Towhees, & Brewer’s and Vesper Sparrows.

There will be a lot of Great Basin birds in breeding plumage and plenty of mountain species for those people taking Sylvia’s class. Quite a bit of walking will be involved, but nothing really strenuous. Come prepared for hot or cold temperatures, either of which is possible at this time of year. St. George will be our home base for this trip. Advance reservations are needed; trip limited to 20 people. Trip fee is $25. Make check payable to Sea & Sage Audubon and mail to: Utah Trip, c/o Nancy Kenyon, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612. Be sure to include your phone number and email address for trip information.

Leader: Larry Tripp

Southern Sierra Spring Migrants and Vagrants Trip with Bob Barnes ®

Fri, May 27 - Mon, May 30; meet 5:30 am Friday
It can be difficult to get accommodations in this popular vacation area at the last minute, so you need to plan ahead for this trip & make your reservations as soon as possible.

Birding Locations will be selected based on current birding conditions, participant birding styles, and participant wishes from among the following areas: Butterbredt Spring, California City, Kelso Valley, Kern River Valley sites, Southern Sierra Nevada BLM and Sequoia Nat. Forest sites.

A wide variety of habitats will be covered: cliffs and rocky hillsides, chaparral, desert oases, desert scrub, dry and wet mountain meadows, Fremont cottonwood & red willow riparian forest, freshwater ponds and marshes, Giant Sequoia groves, grasslands and pastures, Joshua tree woodland, mixed conifer and fir forests, oak woodland, pinyon pine & juniper woodland, Lake Isabella, residential, and rivers and streams.

We will see spring migrants, resident and montane species and some vagrants. Some of the birds you can expect to see include: Western & Clark's Grebe, American White Pelican, Prairie Falcon, up to 5 sp. of hummingbirds, up to 10 sp. of woodpeckers, Pinyon Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, 6 sp. of wrens, American Dipper, Townsend's Solitaire, Green-tailed Towhee, Black-chinned Sparrow, Tricolored Blackbird, Scott's Oriole, Cassin's Finch, and Lawrence's Goldfinch. A copy of the bird list from last year’s Southern Sierra trip can be found on our webpage.

Advance reservations are needed and space is limited. Trip fee is $15 for each day you plan to attend ($60 for 4 days). Make check payable to Sea & Sage Audubon & mail to: Southern Sierra Trip, c/o Nancy Kenyon, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612. Be sure to include your phone number and your e-mail address or a long self-addressed, stamped envelope for trip confirmation and information.

Leader: Bob Barnes
Audubon Naturalist Volunteer Hours in 2010

Trude Hurd, Project Director of Marsh Education

For more information about our Education Program, please visit our chapter website at: http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org/Education/Education.html

What do the following have in common: dusting, wading, typing, planning, phoning, sharing, and laughing? They are all skills used by our Marsh Education Project Volunteers! Each volunteer uses his or her special talents to ensure that adults and children living in Orange County understand the importance of native habitat and birds. For example, these volunteers dust our taxidermy birds to keep them free of pests that destroy feathers. A few like Deborah Brin and Gretchen Mavrovouniotis pull on rubber boots and carefully wade into the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary ponds to collect aquatic insects and crustaceans for elementary school programs. Dawn Zuniga contacts nature center staff throughout the county to plan outings for our Junior Naturalists, while Deana Hendrixson and her daughter design an attractive e-newsletter of past and upcoming events for these teens.

We have a large Camp Committee managed by Grace McElhiney and Bev Spring that begins work in January, or even earlier, because three of our six camp programs are entirely new each year. These lively and brilliant volunteers prepare brochures and flyers, do research on California habitats and bird families, design new camp lessons, write daily handouts and worksheets appropriate for the different ages of campers, pre-test crafts to make sure children will like them, search the country for cute snacks, and all materials necessary to make thirty days of camp both educational and fun for over one hundred children.

What else do our Education volunteers do? Dan Trinidad lends his technical expertise to keep our education computers and wireless technology working flawlessly. Felicia Lee researches and writes grants to keep us funded properly. Helen Nicholas and her volunteers cook wonderful attractive meals for each Spring Brunch, keep track of hundreds of participants, and lead walks for Bat Walks and Spring Brunches, and more. Carolyn Noble attends Board of Director meetings to represent all of the things we do and brings decisions and suggestions back to us.

Christine Dickey and the Art Meets Science volunteers use their art expertise to help fourth-graders observe plants and animals and document their adaptations using brightly colored markers on mural paper. Jean Drum and the Seasons of Nature researchers examine the monthly changes of the marsh and share these with visitors four times a year. Joan Olafson and Marilyn Walter carefully check-out our five Nature Kits to dozens of educators seeking to enhance their science lessons.

Outdoor Adventures Naturalists come to the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary varying times each month to set-up microscopes and binoculars and then lead small groups of elementary school children around the facilities and ponds. They share their enthusiasm and love of nature while directing the children’s attention to the common birds and aquatic insects of the marsh. Through many emails and phone calls, Naturalist Scheduler Joan Curtis makes sure that enough naturalists are present for every tour.

In summary, 67 adults and 19 minors donated over 7,400 hours for the education programs at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in 2010. That is not an estimate but actual quantifiable hours tallied from each volunteer’s timesheet. Our enthusiastic and fantastic team enabled thousands of children and adults to experience first-hand the importance of nature in our lives. Thank you to each one of you for the vital role you perform at Sea and Sage Audubon!

If you would like to become a part of this wonderful team and share in the important role of environmental education, please contact Project Director of Education Trude Hurd at 949-261-7964 today. You will be glad you did!

Education volunteers in 2010 were Karen Beckman, Sara Bethurum, Jon Boss, Deborah Brin, Toni Bryant, Pat Cabe, Mary Jo Carew, Constance Cassady, Christine Cooper, Carol Counter, Teresa Cullen, Joan Curtis, Mary Ann Desmond, Christine Dickey, Jean Drum, Evalie DuMars, Frank Feller, Shirley Feller, Sheila Fitzgerald, Carol Freund, Sharon Gasior, Alison George, Trevor George, Susan Gibb, Jenny Golden, Beverly Hargrove, Deana Hendrixson, Janna Hobbs, Fran Howard, Trude Hurd, Mary Joseph, Jerry King, Felicia Lee, Tim Maas, Gillian Martin, Gretchen Mavrovouniotis, Larry McCloskey, Bob McElhiney, Grace McElhiney, Bobbie Miller, Jay Miller, Marquita Miller, Sharon Nantell, Martin Natland, Helen Nicholas, Carolyn Noble, Joan Olafson, Ellen O’Leary, Nora Papian, Linda Petersen, Bob Polkinghorn, David Randel, Margaret Renton, Rich Schilk, Barbara Sentovich, Pat Sparks, Bev Spring, Margo Stuart, Carol Swanson, Don Thomas, Dan Trinidad, Judy Vlastakis, Pat Vranicar, Marilyn Walter, David Weber, Jan Wilson, and Dawn Zuniga.


The list of naturalists with top hours will be in the May Tattler.
Directions and Membership

Directions to Audubon House, Chapter Meetings, and the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary, Audubon Membership Form, Tattler subscriptions, and Remember Us in Your Will or Trust

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. Make check payable to “Sea & Sage Audubon” and mail to: Tattler Subscriptions, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612

Go Paperless!
Sign up to receive your newsletter via email — get your issues faster, help save natural resources, reduce waste, and help our chapter save money! You can read it online or print out the pages you need to refer to more frequently. They’re in pdf format and will look and print exactly like the original ones. Send an e-mail to nancykenyon@cox.net to start your paper-free Tattler delivery today! (offer good only for chapter members in good standing)

Remember Us in Your Will or Trust
Please remember to include “Sea and Sage Audubon Society” by name (tax ID#23-7003681) in your will or trust.

Directions

to Audubon House, our Chapter Meetings & the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary

Our entrance is now from Campus Dr., not Michelson
From the San Diego Fwy (405): Exit on Jamboree, south toward Newport Beach. At the 1st signal, Michelson, turn left. Continue on Michelson (past the old entrance to the SJWS) to the 5th signal which is Harvard and turn right. Drive to University & turn right. Drive to Campus Drive & turn right. Stay in the far right lane and immediately turn right onto Riparian View which will enter the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. The entrance road is marked by a green sign. If you miss the turn and reach Carlson, turn right and go around the block again to Harvard. The sanctuary is open every day from dawn until dusk.

Audubon House
Open daily: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
949-261-7963

Your Membership Payment
If you are signing up as a new Audubon member, be sure and use the membership form below that has the code C9ZC150Z in the lower right hand corner. This tells National Audubon who to credit for your recruitment. Sea & Sage gets 100% of a new member’s dues, even if you sign up for more than one year. If you are feeling generous at renewal time and you want Sea & Sage to benefit, you should send your renewal fee to National Audubon and a separate check to Sea & Sage for your donation to the chapter. If you have any questions, please contact membership chair, Phil Brobst, at brobstpr@cox.net

Temporarily Away or Moving?
Please notify Sea and Sage Audubon of your new address if you are temporarily, or permanently moving from your current address. If you do not want to continue receiving the Tattler at your new address, please advise accordingly. This will save us from paying return postage fees.

Audubon Membership Application

Membership: we invite you to become a member of the National Audubon Society and the Sea & Sage Audubon chapter. To join: Please pay by check only; do not send cash. 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.

National Audubon Society Membership: Check one [ ]
[ ] NEW MEMBERSHIP: $20 - Individual or Family members [ ] RENEWAL: $35 - Regular Membership
[ ] NEW MEMBERSHIP: $15 - Senior (62+ yrs) or Student [ ] RENEWAL: $15 - Senior or Student

Members receive: AUDUBON magazine as well as the WANDERING TATTLER newsletter.

Name
Address
City, State, Zip
Phone
E-mail

Chapter Code
C9ZC150Z

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Sea and Sage Audubon Society

Chapter Mission Statement: Sea and 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.