President’s Message
by Bruce Aird

April is here, and spring migration is already well underway. Those of you who get out and bird frequently will already be aware of this. There were Great Horned Owl chicks calling by early January. The Sage Thrashers went through in February as usual, though the one lingering one at Irvine Park was a revelation to many. Orange-crowned Warblers began to sing in early February, a little bit late this year. Ruby-crowned Kinglets are flashing that crown at anything now. Spotted Towhees are drinking tea. In my neighborhood, the mockingbirds began singing about two weeks ago, and between now and November, they will only shut up when they have chicks to feed. Overseas, the silent, flowing river of birds deposits avian transients in our green spaces on a nightly basis. This river is not as broad as it used to be, for a huge and daunting list of reasons. Now it is more important than ever to track them.

Fortunately, we have an app for that, and it’s completely free. You don’t even have to download it! I’m talking about the Orange County Spring Count (OCSC). The OCSC is a nationwide migration count, similar to a Christmas Bird Count, but timed to the opposite half of the migration cycle. Every year on the weekend of International Migratory Bird Day (second Saturday in May), dedicated birders go out nationwide and count birds everywhere. The spring count is taking place over just a 3-day stretch, this year from May 9th through the 11th. The OCSC is not bounded by circles; rather, we count the entire county. We try to focus on the best areas for birds since comprehensive coverage of Orange County is not a realistic goal. We’ve done quite well with this the past two years, with over 100 participants birding in 60-70 locations, and tallying over 200 species each time.

I wish to acknowledge Steve Alter, whose brilliant idea the OCSC was, and who has so ably organized and run it for two years. Steve is stepping down as OCSC coordinator and compiler. Please join me in thanking him for his hard work. The new OCSC coordinator will be Darrell Wilson. Please join me in welcoming Darrell to this new role. Darrell’s contact information is on the website and elsewhere in the Tattler. So sign up for areas you’d like to count soon. We’ll see you out there.

General Meeting
April 18th - Friday evening - 7:30 pm

“How Free-Flight Birds Up Close
 and Personal: Heightening a More Intimate Knowledge and Awareness of Birds to the Public”

presented by Melissa Loebl

Our speaker, Melissa Loebl, will explore the subject of training rescued and rehabilitated free-flight birds for showing, using operant conditioning with an emphasis on positive reinforcement. Featuring the beauty and grace of these majestic birds to the public helps to bring awareness and support to their issues and needs. We will learn how training birds of prey, parrots and others can be done successfully using natural behaviors. Through video, we will examine successes and failures of bird training strategies.

Originally hailing from Oregon, Ms. Loebl studied at CSU Long Beach, receiving her B.A. in Psychology. She is completing her Master’s degree in fisheries and wildlife administration through Oregon State University. She is an active member of the Raptor Research Foundation (RRF), the International Association of Avian Trainers & Educators (IAATE) and the editor/founder of the Raptors of North America Facebook page. The Aquarium of the Pacific employed her as a marine mammal and bird trainer from 2005 to 2011. She’s currently an animal trainer for the LA Zoo, performs field biology work focusing on raptor biology and migration, and volunteers with South Bay Wildlife, teaching their education programs.

She is a wife and mother of two children, two dogs, two cats, two tortoises, and will soon to be adding a new addition to the family: a Peregrine falcon. Melissa is known for her passion for education and conservation of all wildlife and enjoys spending her free time outdoors with her family.

The program will be held in the Duck Club at the SJWS in Irvine. The doors open at 7:00 for refreshments and fellowship, and the meeting and program begin at 7:30. Audubon House will be open from 8:30 to 7:15 for those who arrive early. We hope you will join us. Directions on p. 11.
Sea and Sage Audubon Supports Conservation Efforts, and Needs Your Hands-On Help

Thankfully, there are many conservation organizations working on various local conservation matters, helping to preserve vital natural resources and wildlife habitats, clean up or restore habitat, protect or rehabilitate wildlife, and teach us how to share the world and perhaps minimize our impacts. One of the Conservation Committee’s tasks is to be aware of these organizations and the environmental issues that affect our communities and to assist where we can, with active participation, education and by spreading the word.

Frankly, we could use some help with these jobs. We need more eyes and ears out there, more people to shoulder responsibility for our environment. We welcome your ideas and assistance. Join us at our Conservation meetings on the 1st and 4th Tuesdays, or give me a call if you have an item you want to discuss with the Committee.

Sea and Sage Audubon gives monetary support, from time to time, as projects come up and our budget allows. Our donations of this sort in 2013, listed below, reflect a fairly broad spectrum of conservation activities as well as fairly wide geographic and habitat coverage in Orange County. For more information on these organizations activities, check out their websites.

Our goal is to conserve natural resources for the protection of birds and wildlife and to share the conservation view with as many people as possible. Supporting other conservation and environmental organizations helps us reach our conservation goals. In a future issue, we will share the conservation donations generated by the 4th Tuesday Conservation Lecture Series.

Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks for the Safe Trails Coalition, Trabuco Canyon, & Coyote Hills
Canyon Lands Conservation Fund
Naturalist for You
Endangered Habitats League
Hills for Everyone
Orange County Interfaith Coalition for the Environment
Banning Ranch Conservancy
Bolsa Chica Land Trust
Orange County Bird of Prey Center
Wetlands and Wildlife Care Center
Songbird Care and Education Center
Summertree Institute, for responsible tree maintenance at Covington Park in Morongo Valley

4th Tues. Conservation Lecture
Tuesday, April 22nd – 7:30 pm in the Learning Center, SJW'S

“Wintering Snowy Plovers and Least Tern Research”
presented by Thomas Ryan, Consulting Biologist, Ryan Ecological Consulting

In 2013, Sea and Sage became involved in important surveys of Threatened Snowy Plovers on Orange County Beaches through a grant and support from both the USFWS and CDFW. With the help of our wonderful volunteers for the program, in March 2014 we conducted the fourth quarterly beach-wide survey for the first year. These surveys gather spatial and temporal data on Snowy Plovers and provide information on how wintering and breeding birds use our local beaches over time. Surveys such as these are being conducted in Los Angeles county also, and have been in progress there since 2007.

Tom Ryan, of Ryan Ecological Consulting, who is the Consulting Biologist for the Snowy Plover surveys in Los Angeles and Orange Counties, will be our guest lecturer this month. Mr. Ryan will summarize observations of winter roosting Snowy Plovers in Los Angeles and Orange County. He will discuss the results of the first year of this program in Orange County, including information gathered on the population status, locations of roosts, when the roosts are active and whether there are on-going threats to these roosts.

As a bonus, Tom will also discuss the on-going studies to place light-level geolocators on California Least Terns in an effort to discover their wintering grounds.

Please join us for this interesting program. Doors open at 7:00 PM; the program starts at 7:30 PM.
Now that it’s March, and the early spring migrants are showing up in So Cal (Rufous Hummingbird, swallows, Warbling Vireo, Western Flycatcher, Hooded Oriole, etc.), thoughts of the county’s winter rarities were beginning to fade into the sunset. That is until a Painted Redstart is discovered in an Irvine residential neighborhood, Mar. 2-6+ (by a friend of Jeff Bray, who I currently only know as “Dennis”). The bird was seen by several birders over the next few days. Being early March, this fancy bird had undoubtedly been wintering somewhere in the area—certainly a nice late winter surprise. A young male Baltimore Oriole at Mile Square Regional Park (MSRP), Feb. 18-Mar. 1+ (Wendy Miller), was another colorful, recent find that had likely also been wintering in the area. A rundown of some of the other late-winter, first-time discoveries are as follows:

A female Common Goldeneye was in Anaheim’s Burris Basin, Feb. 15-Mar. 2 (Bruce Aird). Three Hooded Mergansers were at Carl Thornton Park, Feb. 10 (Tim Hipp), with a few coming and going until at least the 23rd. A Parasitic Jaeger was seen among an exceptionally large Black-vented Shearwater flock close to shore, off Doheny State Beach, Feb. 17 (Robert McNab). An intergrade Yellow-shafted x Red-shafted Flicker was at the Santiago Park Nature Reserve, Feb. 26 (Doug Willick). An adult male Vermilion Flycatcher, near the mouth of Bommer Canyon, Mar. 2 (Ryan Winkelman), was at least the sixth to be found in the county this winter. A Gray Flycatcher and a Rock Wren in the community garden area of Orange Coast College, 11 Feb. (Vic Leipzig), were also new discoveries that had likely been wintering here, or in the vicinity. An Empidonax flycatcher species in MSRP’s nature area, Feb. 14-Mar. 1+ (various observers), was carefully examined and determined to be a Dusky Flycatcher (next to Willow Flycatcher, the rarest of the Empidonax that breed in western U.S. to be found in winter). It is quite likely that this was the same individual seen briefly by Neil Gilbert during the county’s Coastal Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Dec. 29, 2013. A relatively cooperative Sage Thrasher at Irvine Regional Park, Feb. 14-19 (Gretchen Mavrovouniotis) was undoubtedly an early spring migrant at this date. A “Gray-headed” Junco at Gibbs Park, Huntington Beach, Feb. 17 (Rick Shearer), was undoubtedly the same individual found by Pat Cabe on the Coastal CBC, Dec. 29.

Many of the county’s highlights from earlier in the winter continued to be seen into February or beyond. The following account will recap some of the more noteworthy of these. At Village Pond Park up to two Aleutian Cackling Geese were seen through at least Feb. 13. Also here was a male Eurasian Wigeon through Mar. 6. A Ross’s Goose at Community Center Park in Garden Grove, Feb. 16-Mar. 3+, was quite possibly a resident individual that had been frequenting the general area (e.g., Twin Lakes Park) going back to the winter 2004-2005. A female Hooded Merganser continued at the Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve (UNBER) through Mar. 1. Also at UNBER, the adult Little Blue Heron was reported again on Mar. 2, and one or two Reddish Egrets remained into early Mar. as well. Up to three Reddish Egrets were still at the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve (BCER), Feb. 27, while three near the mouth of the Santa Ana River was unexpected, Feb. 15. A wintering American Bittern was last reported at BCER on Feb. 27. An oystercatcher in Laguna Beach, Feb. 10, was quite possibly a continuing individual that observers have debated whether it more likely shows the features of an American x Black hybrid, or those of an “acceptable” American Oystercatcher.

Continuing Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were last reported at Carbon Canyon Regional Park and Huntington Central Park (HCP), on the identical date of Feb. 12. A wintering Ash-throated Flycatcher continued at Anaheim Coves Park through at least Mar. 2. A Western Flycatcher at MSRP, found on the Dec. 29 Coastal CBC, was finally refound on Feb. 22. Up to two Vermilion Flycatchers (an adult male and a female) continued at MSRP into early Mar., while another pair was at Irvine Valley College into early Mar. as well. A female Vermilion at El Modena Park, since Nov. 3, was last seen Feb. 28. The Cassin’s Vireo, back for another winter at the Fairhaven Memorial Park/Santa Ana Cemetery complex, was last reported Feb. 10. The group of 2 or 3 Golden-crowned Kinglets present at HCP all winter were last reported Mar. 3. A male Varied Thrush played hide-and-seek at Yorba Regional Park through at least Feb. 8. A Lapland Longspur wintering at the Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station was still present through at least Mar. 1.

A Black-and-white Warbler wintering at Laguna Niguel Regional Park was last seen Mar. 4 (with two possibly present on Feb. 10), while one wintering at HCP was last reported Feb. 16. Two Northern Waterthrushes were wintering in the county this year, with one long-staying bird at HCP through at least Feb. 22, and one at Santiago Park Nature Reserve (SPNR), Feb. 4-Mar. 7. A Summer Tanager at SPNR through the winter was also detected again on Mar. 7. The cooperative Rusty Blackbird at HCP drew a lot of attention from birders since its discovery Jan. 25; the bird was most recently reported Mar. 3. Although small numbers of Bullock’s Oriole typically winter in the county’s lowlands, a group of as many as six to eight at MSRP, Feb. 9-23+, was an exceptional concentration for one location. A Scott’s Oriole or two will occasionally winter in OC, usually in the interior foothills of the county; as many as four, including a couple adult males, at the Starr Ranch Audubon Sanctuary this winter (last reported approximately Feb. 22), was also a remarkable tally.

By the time this issue of the Tattler is received, spring migration will be just about in full gear. Make sure to keep those binoculars handy, and if at all possible, be sure to get outdoors and try to catch some of the show.
**Thanks so much!**

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 to February 28, 2014.

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*Wandering Tattler* 4  April 2014
Chapter News & Announcements

For more information about Sea & Sage activities, check our Calendar of Chapter Activities on our website (www.seeandsageaudubon.org). It lists the dates of Meetings, Field Trips, Special Events such as the Annual Dinner, Summer BBQ, Pancake Breakfast, Summer Nature Day Camp, Summer Bat Walks, Christmas Bird Counts, Great Backyard Bird Count, Orange County Spring Count, etc.

Donors - continued from page 4
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Eva-Marie Swedlow

Audubon House Volunteers

We would like to thank the following people for helping to staff Audubon House in March and April: Sherry Bass, Terri Brewster, Pat & Dick Cabe, Deana Collins, Carolyn Cooper, Fresia Escalona, Judy Fritts, John Hargrove, Lynne Hayes, Pat Heilig, Sarah Jayne, Nancy Kenyon, Laureta Kyle, Doug Lithgow, Donna Malloy, Joan McCauley, Grace & Bob McElhinney, Bobbie Miller, Eunice Morita, Helen Nicholas, Shirley Price, Barbara Reber, Susan Sheakley, Bev Spring, Monte Taylor, Beryl Vogel, Ron Waller, and Pat Wells.

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.

News from our Bookstore

Our bookstore inside Audubon House is open daily from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. We accept credit cards (Visa and Mastercard) with a $10 minimum purchase. New arrivals include: Field Guide to: (the Common Bees of CA; the Spiders of CA and the Pacific Coast States; Grasses of CA); The CA Naturalist's Handbook; Intro to CA Desert Wildflowers; The Essential Muir; Laws Pocket Guide to the

Birds of the Sacramento Valley; A Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Orange County. Also new t-shirt designs (osprey; songbirds); steel mugs; candles (pastel colors and carved egg designs); note cards (watercolor birds). Just arrived: Sea and Sage patch birding bags. New design includes outside pockets for pen and checklists and an inside Velcro pocket for valuables plus a key chain holder for car and house keys. Bags come in three colors. Bookstore catalog updated each month – see webpage for information.

Birders - We need Your Help!

We need the help of a few birders this summer to help us out at Marsh Bird Camp (June 23-27 for 9-12 year olds) or at Fledgling Camp (June 23-27 for 7-8 year olds). You don't have to be an expert but you do need to enjoy working with kids. Birders are needed to lead a group of 4 campers on their morning bird walk from 8:30 to 10:30, help them identify the birds and take notes in their journals. A camp teen will also be there to assist the campers. If this sounds like something you would like to do to help us out, please contact Grace McElhinney at 714-969-9617 or Sophiss@socal.rr.com

* There are ONLY 2 openings left for this field trip. You'll see lots of birds! Trip days will begin early with the Dawn Chorus & end early.

Southern Sierra Trip with Bob Barnes ®
Fri-Mon, May 16 -19; meet 5:30 am Friday

This is a great trip for birders who like to see new areas and lots and lots of birds. Each day will begin early when the day is fresh, the air is cool, and the Dawn Chorus has just begun. Habitats we may visit include chaparral, clifs and rocky hillsides, 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 and juniper woodland, reservoir (Lake Isabella), residential, and rivers and streams. We'll see spring migrants, residents and some vagrants. Bob is a knowledgeable and experienced leader and he's great for those who like to bird by ear. Advance reservations are needed and only 4 spaces are left. 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 e-mail address or a long self-addressed, stamped envelope for trip information. See webpage for past trips list.

Leader: Bob Barnes
Least Terns Are On Their Way!

They are on their way from points south and a good number will be landing and nesting at the Least Tern colony at the Natural Preserve at Huntington State Beach, located next to the mouth of the Santa Ana River! You can be a part of the 10th successful year of docent/monitoring, beginning mid-April 2014.

In a partnership with CA State Parks and Sea & Sage Audubon, our docents spend two hours each week observing and collecting data at this site. This 13 acre preserve was established in 1973 for the endangered Least Tern as a breeding site. It is one of many breeding sites in California and provides protection from beach activities and ground predators. However, docents are needed to watch for avian predators as well as to educate the public about the Least Terns and Snowy Plovers, who also frequent this area.

New and Returning Docents, please join us at our season kick-off Volunteer training with updates Wed., April 16 from 6:30 – 8:30 PM. Peter Knapp, Photographer of the Natural World, will be presenting “The Breeding Biology of the Least Tern and Snowy Plover” at the Huntington State Beach Lifeguard Headquarters.

Field Orientation & Training is scheduled for May 3
8:30 – 10:30 AM, at the Preserve
Mandatory for new Docents

PARKING IS FREE FOR BOTH EVENTS.
ENTER AT MAGNOLIA

Live Scans will be available at the kick-off for $16 for those who are new to the program and who wish to become a CA State Parks Volunteer for this project. If you have already had a Live Scan for CA State Parks, you do not need to repeat. All Live Scan paperwork will be emailed to you before the Kick-off so that you can fill it out prior to the Live Scan processing.

If you are interested in becoming a Least Tern docent, please contact Cheryl Egger at dc.egger@verizon.net to RSVP for the kick-off or On-Site Training. If you would like to read more about the project and see pictures and stats, please look at the Least Tern section on the chapter website at: www.seaandsageaudubon.org

SUMMER BAT WALKS
Registration Opens April 1st

Summer will be here soon, and that means bats will become more active at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine. These flying mammals may be small but they are very important in keeping the pesky mosquito and midge fly populations under control. Because bats are not birds, they do not have feathers; they have fur. Bats have such interesting lives: they are active at night, hang upside down to rest, use high-pitched sonar to locate their prey, and can find their babies in a large colony by sight and smell.

The San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary is normally closed to the public at night except for special events. So if you have always wanted to experience sunset and a night walk at the marsh in addition to the chance to see live bats, then our Summer Bat Walk programs are just for you! Bring a friend or the whole family to meet Stephanie Remington, Orange County’s expert bat biologist, to hear interesting stories about the 16 species of bats in Orange County and her research in the wild and urban areas of the county. We then take you on a walk around the ponds as bats fly over the trails and ponds searching for their meal of flying insects. We will use sonar detectors to help notify us when bats are near as well as identify the species.

You don’t want to miss out on this special opportunity. Registration opens on April 1st. These popular events fill quickly, so be sure to complete the Bat Walks registration form on our chapter website under “Bat Information” or pick up a copy of the form at Audubon House. We offer a variety of dates between June and September on Thursday, Friday or Saturday nights. What else could you do that is more interesting to tell your friends about later?

As a bonus, there is no charge for your attendance if you volunteer to help; however, you must attend the Bat Walk Volunteer Training Class. You may volunteer by contacting Ellen Mansour, Bat Walk Volunteer Coordinator by phone at (949) 854-3358 or by e-mail at ellenmansour@cox.net.

— Ellen Mansour and Trude Hurd

See Registration Form On Page 10.
The Coastal CBC covers the coastal areas of Orange County and is divided into the following sections: Westminster Memorial Park & Corner of the Seal Beach NWR; HB Pier, Beach Areas north to edge of Sunset Beach, HCP, Wintersberg Channel, Seapoint; Bolsa Chica; Mile Square Park; SA River Mouth, 19th St. Willows, Canyon Park, SA Golf Course; Older Areas within Santa Ana; Centennial Reg. Park & former MCAS Blimp Base; West Side of Upper Newport Bay; East Side of Upper Newport Bay; San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary & UCI Marsh; Mason Reg. Park, UCI Foothills, Corona del Mar; Newport Harbor & Beaches; and Pelagic Areas along the coast. The count was coordinated and compiled by Steve Alter. Full information on this count can be found on our chapter webpage. (http://tinyurl.com/25htcx)

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Special thanks to the 171 CBC birders who did such a great job helping us with this count. We couldn’t have done it without you! Unfortunately, there is not enough room in this issue to post everyone’s name. Instead, the names of all this count’s participants are now posted on our chapter webpage along with the complete report of this count. (http://tinyurl.com/25htcx)
April Field Trips
Nancy Kenyon, Field Trip Chair

For trip updates & additional trip information, check our chapter webpage at: http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org. Trips marked with an ® require advance reservations. Questions about field trips? Contact Nancy Kenyon, Field Trip Chair, at 949-786-3160 or nancykenyon@cox.net

Caspers Wilderness Park bird walk
Wednesday, April 2nd - 8:00 am to 11:00
Join Diane Etchison for a bird walk at Caspers Wilderness Park. This will be a good time to check out nesting birds. Directions: Take the I-5 Fwy south to Ortega Hwy and turn left (toward the mts.). Drive 7.6 miles to Caspers Park, which will be on your left. Be prepared to pay the $3 entrance fee if you don’t have a county parks pass. Meet in the Old Corral day use area.
Leader: Diane Etchison

Monthly Wildlife Walk at the SJWS
Saturday, April 5th - 9:00 to 10:30 am
We’ll be exploring the birds, plants, and creatures of the marsh on this wildlife walk at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. Watch winter at the marsh. Meet in front of Audubon House at 9:00 am for a 1 ½ hour nature walk. (See directions to the SJWS on page 11.)
Leaders: Audubon Naturalists

Eastern Sierra weekend trip ® - TRIP FULL
Sat & Sun, April 12-13

Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS
Sunday, April 13th - 8:00 am to 12:00 noon
Join Chris Obaditch for a monthly bird walk around the ponds of the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine at 8:00 am. Watch for nesting birds around the ponds. The walk, which is open to interested birders of all ages, will meet by the front porch of Audubon House. Children under the age of 11 must be accompanied by an adult. (See directions to the SJWS on page 11.)
Leader: Chris Obaditch

UnB by Pontoon Boat ®
Monthly on 3rd Wed. – 8:15 to 11:00 am
The April & May trips are already full. Sign up now for the June 18th, July 16th, or August 20th trip.

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 2 ½ hrs. Trip is limited to 15 persons and there is a $10 trip fee payable in cash on the morning of the outing. Advance reservations are necessary; contact Nancy Kenyon to reserve a spot on the boat. (nancykenyon@cox.net; 949-786-3160) Directions will be provided to those with reservations. Leader: Nancy Kenyon

Villa Park Flood Basin
Sat: April 19 - 7:30 am to 11:00 am
The Villa Park Flood Control Basin is situated in the east Orange foothills between the Villa Park Dam on the north and Irvine Regional Park on the south. We will explore the basin’s fairly extensive riparian and freshwater marsh habitats, which are associated with the Santiago Creek drainage. The area is known to provide breeding habitat for a wide variety of riparian and marsh birds including the Least Bell’s Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Green Heron, White-tailed Kite, Virginia Rail, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Swainson’s Thrush, California Gnatcatcher, Hutton’s Vireo, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Blue Grosbeak. Depending on conditions during the time of the trip, we will be walking a loop trail of approximately 2 to 2 ½ miles. The trails are unimproved, but of reasonably good condition. The walk should last less than four hours, although it should be noted that there are no restrooms, water, or other amenities once we leave the parking area. Directions: Take Chapman Ave. east from the Newport Freeway, to Irvine Regional Park. Immediately after entering the park (just past the entrance booth), make a left turn at the first opportunity. After passing the 1st parking lot on the left side of this loop road, we will meet in the 2nd parking area along this road, which will be on the right-hand side. This is the closest parking lot to the Villa Park Flood Basin. We will meet at 7:30 am, and we should be returning to the cars around 11:00.
Leader: Linette Lina

Carbon Canyon Regional Park bird walk
Sunday, April 20th - 7:30 am to 12:00
Join Garett Lepper to explore the local birds of our canyons and foothills at Carbon Canyon Regional Park. This is an interesting park to bird because it offers different habitats and some birds that are uncommon throughout most of the county. Directions: From the 57 Fwy, exit on Lambert. Go east on Lambert to Carbon Canyon; the park will be on your right. Upon entry to the park, turn left and park in the 1st parking area on the right, in front of the pond and the children’s playground. Be prepared to pay the $5 entrance fee if you don’t have a county parks pass.
Leader: Garett Lepper

Wandering Tattler 8 April 2014
Upper Newport Bay bird walk

Sun, April 27th - 8:00 to 11:00 am

Join Mark Kincheloe for the monthly bird walk in Upper Newport bay to check out the shorebirds, waterfowl, herons & egrets, and raptors. (This will be a high tide, so the shorebirds will be clustered on the higher ground spots because of the usual mud flats will be obscured by water.) Bring binoculars, a field guide, and a scope if you have one. **Directions:** Meet in the Big Canyon parking lot in Newport Beach. This is easily reached from Jamboree. Take San Joaquin Hills Rd west toward the bay where it intersects with Back Bay Dr. Turn right and follow Back Bay Dr. to the Big Canyon Parking lot on your left.  
**Leader:** Mark Kincheloe

Big Morongo Preserve

Sunday – April 27th – 7:00 am to 1:00*  

Big Morongo Preserve is a mecca for migratory birds as well as resident desert species. This willow-cottonwood, riparian oasis, is surrounded by mesquite woodland and desert, and attracts a wide variety of birds including the nesting Vermilion Flycatcher, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Summer Tanager, Yellow-breasted Chat, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Lucy’s Warbler, Gambel’s Quail, Verdin, Lawrence’s Goldfinch and often, many migrants. Least Bell’s Vireos, Sora and Virginia Rail may be found in the marsh beneath the cottonwoods.  

We will eat lunch in the picnic area at Covington Park after finishing birding there. After lunch*, we will drive 15-20 miles east to the nearby Black Rock unit of Joshua Tree National Park for desert birds such as Scott’s Oriole, Black-throated Sparrow, Cactus Wren (interior subspecies) and Costa’s Hummingbird to the mix. Occasionally, Pinyon Jays can be numerous here, as well as the pale desert form of the Great Horned Owl.  

After finishing at Black Rock, those of you with enough time may wish to join us as we go up to Idyllwild and Humber Park on the way back. This segment has previously yielded Hairy Woodpecker, Violet-green Swallow, Pygmy Nuthatch and White-headed Woodpecker among other species.  

An excellent source of information about the preserve can be found on the Big Morongo Canyon Preserve website at: [www.bigmorongo.org](http://www.bigmorongo.org)

A bird list showing species seen on last year’s trip can be found on our webpage — see "Upcoming Trips".  

**Directions:** Take the Riverside Fwy. (#91) to the San Bernardino Fwy. (#10) towards Palm Springs. Drive past Banning and the Palm Springs exit to Route #62, the Yucca Valley/Joshua Tree exit where you should turn off. Drive approximately 7 miles to the center of Morongo Valley. Turn right on East Street across from Rocky’s Pizza; then take the first driveway to the left, into the preserve parking lot where we will meet. Bring binoculars, a hat, water, snack, jacket & lunch. Scopes are optional but can be useful. For trip participants who arrive before 7:00, we will be birding in Covington Park, adjacent to the Big Morongo Preserve.  
**Leader:** Bruce Aird

Spring Pelagic Trip out of Dana Point ®

Saturday, May 3rd – 6:30 am to 3:00 pm

Join us on our Spring Pelagic Trip on the 70 foot Sea Explorer, a research vessel belonging to the Ocean Institute of Dana Point. This large comfortable boat has ample deck space & seating for great views of the ocean, good restroom facilities, great deck stability, two decks (upper & lower) and good power for quickly covering the distances not occupied by birds. Our destination is the Fourteen Mile Bank where we will search for Northern Fulmar, Pink-footed, Sooty, Flesh-footed & Black-vent ed Shearwaters, Leach’s Storm-Petrels (dark-rumped), Red-necked & Red Phalaropes, Pomarine & Parasitic Jaegers, Common Murres, Pigeon Guillemots, Xantus’ Murrelet, Cassin’s Auklets, and other seasonal migrants, along with a variety of shorebirds, terns, and gulls, as well as some whales and dolphins. As Terry Hunefeld says, “Pelagic trips are truly trips into the land of the unknown and unexpected, a land of wonder and wonderful things, which is precisely why they are so addicting. You never know what you will find ‘out there’ even just a few miles out in the Pacific Ocean.”

**For reservations:** Make check payable to Sea & Sage Audubon and mail it to: Pelagic Trip, c/o Nancy Kenyon, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612. Be sure to include your email address, or a stamped, self-addressed long envelope for trip confirmation, trip waivers, and additional information. See “Pelagic Trips” on our chapter Field Trips section of the webpage for more information.  
**Leaders:** Jon Dunn, Tom Benson, Curtis Marantz, Brian Daniels, Jerry Tolman, Robert McNab.
Sea & Sage Audubon Invites You to our 2014
Summer Bat Walks
Sign up now — while there is still room!

Funds Needed for New Children’s Bat Walk Program:
Support Junior Batologists!

How often have you seen the pride and excitement on a child’s face when they earn an award?

Sea and Sage Audubon’s Bat Walk committee has developed a new program which will generate that same anticipation and excitement for the children who walk with our bats.

The program is called Junior Batologists and it rewards children for participating actively in the walks and for learning facts about bats from our displays and the presentation by biologist Stephanie Remington. The program is simple. At the end of each Bat Walk, the children will meet with a naturalist who will check off their accomplishments. This includes 1) respecting nature and walking quietly while looking for bats, 2) using a counting device to record bat sightings, and 3) reporting two facts learned about bats from the educational displays, the biologist’s presentation, and their personal observations during the walk. In conclusion, each child will answer the question: What is the most important thing you discovered about bats tonight? Notice there is no wrong answer!

How can you help? The cost to develop this new program is $550. We are soliciting funding for the design and printing of the Junior Batologist badge that will be awarded to each child. It will be a high-quality glossy decal that children can put on a notebook, bike, or any place special. We anticipate a lot of very happy new Junior Batologists in the future, so we would like to order a 5-year supply of the decals.

If you would like to participate, please make your checks payable to “Sea and Sage Audubon” and in the memo line of your check, write “Junior Batologist badge”. Then mail to Junior Batologists, Sea and Sage Audubon, 5 Riparian View, Irvine, CA 92612. Project Director of Education Trude Hurd will make sure your donations are directed to this new and fun program! Thank you for your support.

- Christine Dickey, Bat Walk Committee member

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Summer Bat Walks 2014

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<tr>
<td>AUG. 21</td>
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TIME: 6:45 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Start times vary according to time of sunset.

COST: $18 per adult and $10 for children ages 7-12

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

Participants must be pre-paid; walk-ins are not accepted.

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, and then take a short walk along the ponds to watch the sun set and listen to night sounds. The highlight is locating the two species of bats that come in small numbers to the marsh to feed.

Hey, kids, do you want to be a Junior Batologist? It’s easy, and we’ll show you how!

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

Questions?
Call Laura Osteen at (714) 841-1214.

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~ REGISTRATION FORM FOR BAT WALKS 2014 ~

REGISTRATION OPENS APRIL 1, 2014. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY.

1st choice __________________ 2nd choice __________________ 3rd choice __________________

Name ___________________________ # adults _______ # children________

Phone (____) ______________________ Email __________________________

How did you hear about this event? ___________________________ Today’s date ____________

* RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED AND MUST BE PRE-PAID *

Make check payable to “Sea and Sage Audubon”. Clip bottom form and mail with check to:

Bat Walks, c/o Laura Osteen, 7738 Ellis Ave, Huntington Beach CA 92648
Directions and Membership

Directions to Audubon House, our Chapter Meetings, and the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary, Audubon Membership Form, Tattler subscriptions & delivery, Remember Us in Your Will or Trust, and Who to Notify if you are going to be temporarily away from home or are moving.

Tattler Subscriptions
Non-Audubon members or members from other Audubon chapters who wish to subscribe to our chapter newsletter, may do so for $14.00 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. It is in pdf format and will look and print exactly like the original ones. Photos will be in color. 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 C4ZC150Z 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, Chuck George, at cgeorge@george-sd.com

Temporarily Away or Moving?
Please notify Membership Chair, Chuck George, 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, let him know. 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
C4ZC150Z

11
April 2014
BOARD MEMBERS

Executive Committee:
President ................. Bruce Aird ....................... 949-458-1520
Vice President ........... Vic Leipzig ....................... 714-848-5394
Secretary ................ Linda Davis ....................... 949-643-3789
Treasurer (interim) ...... Hal Sheakley ....................... 949-552-5974
Director 2015 .......... Garet Lepper ....................... 714-921-9375
Director 2014 .......... Shirley Reynolds ....................... 949-429-2161
Director 2016 .......... Bobbie Miller ....................... 714-960-5724
Past President .......... Kate Grabenstein ....................... 714-540-6768
Past President .......... Jay Miller ....................... 949-707-1287

Committee Chairpersons:
Audubon House .......... Susan Sheakley ....................... 949-552-5974
Audubon House Volunteers ...... Judy Frtits ....................... 949-551-4513
Bird Information .......... Sylvia Gallagher ....................... 714-962-8990
Christmas Bird Counts ... Steve Alter ....................... 714-669-9482
Conservation Co-Chair ... Susan Sheakley ....................... 949-552-5974
Conservation Co-Chair ... Vic Leipzig ....................... 714-848-5394
Counsel ..................... Sean Sherlock ....................... 714-427-7036
Development .......... Cheryl Thomas ....................... 949-294-2275
Education ................ Carolyn Noble ....................... 714-731-9091
Exhibits ..................... Mary Joseph ....................... 714-848-8362
Facebook ................ Chuck George ....................... 714-319-6166
Field Trips .............. Nancy Kenyon ....................... 949-786-3160
Finance .................... Hal Sheakley ....................... 949-552-5974
Membership ............ Chuck George ....................... 714-319-6166
Newsletter Editor ......... Nancy Kenyon ....................... 949-786-3160
Orange County Spring Count ..... Darrell Wilson ....................... 949-559-4542
Partners in Flight .......... Janet & Al Baumann ....................... 949-859-5081
Programs ............... Doug Lithgow ....................... 714-962-4145
Raptor Research .......... Scott Thomas ....................... 949-293-2915
Science .................. Amber Heredia ....................... 714-812-2430
SJWS Liaison .......... Chris Obaditch ....................... 949-640-7234
Starr Ranch/Envr. Liaison Pete DeSimone ....................... 949-858-0309
Webmaster ............... Nancy Kenyon ....................... 949-786-3160

WEB PAGE: http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org

AUDUBON HOUSE ....................... 949-261-7963

STAFF
Marsh Education Project Director Trude Hurd ............... 949-261-7964
Education Assistant .......... Deborah Brin ....................... 949-261-7964
Sales Manager .......... Debby Thyssen ....................... 949-261-7963
Administrative Aide ........ Rebecca Craft ....................... 949-261-7963

OTHER CONTACTS
Bluebird Nestbox Info........ Dick Purvis ....................... 714-776-8878
Wetlands & Wildlife Care Center – for injured or sick birds and other native wild animals in need of help (corner of Newland & PCH in HB) 714-374-5587. http://www.wwcoc.org/
Call Songbird Care & Education Center for injured or sick native songbirds. 714-964-0666. www.songbirdcareandeducation.org

CALENDAR OF CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

April 2014
01 Tues Conservation Com. Meeting ....................... 6:30 pm
02 Wed Caspers Wilderness Park bird walk .... 8:00 am
05 Sat Wildlife Walk at the SJWS ....................... 9:00 am
08 Tues Board Meeting ....................... 7:30 pm
12-13 S-S Eastern Sierra weekend trip ® (Full) ....................... 7:30 am
13 Sun San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary bird walk ... 8:00 am
16 Wed UNB by pontoon boat ® - (Full) ....................... 8:15 am
18 Fri GENERAL MEETING ....................... 7:30 pm
19 Sat Villa Park Flood Basin field trip ....................... 7:30 am
20 Sun Carbon Canyon Reg. Park bird walk ....................... 7:30 am
22 Tues 4th Tues Conservation Lecture ....................... 7:30 pm
27 Sun Big Morongo Preserve & vicinity ............... 7:00 am
27 Sun Upper Newport Bay bird walk ....................... 8:00 am

May 2014
02 Fri Huntington Central Park bird walk ....................... 8:00 am
03 Sat Spring Pelagic Trip ® ....................... 6:30 am
03 Sat Wildlife Walk at the SJWS ....................... 9:00 am
07 Wed Bugs & Butterflies walk at Riley Wilderness Park 10:00 am
07 Fri-Su Orange County Spring Count ....................... Time is up to you
11 Sun San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary bird walk ... 8:00 am
15 Thurs Dana Point Headlands & Harbor bird walk ... 8:00 am
16-19 F- M Southern Sierra Trip ® ....................... 5:30 am
18 Sun Laguna Niguel Reg. Park bird walk ....................... 7:30 am
21 Wed UNB by pontoon boat ® (Full) ....................... 8:15 am
23 Fri Dragonflies & Damselflies walk at the SJWS ... 10 am
25 Sun Upper Newport Bay bird walk ....................... 8:00 am