Annual Dinner
Friday, March 20th, 2009

We have an interesting program scheduled for this year’s Annual Dinner. Our guest speaker will be Paul Lehman who is a former editor of Birding magazine and chief editor of the ABA/Lane birdfinding guide, A Birder’s Guide to Metropolitan Areas of North America. He is the senior range-map researcher for the new editions of Roger Tory Peterson’s Field Guide to the Birds of North America and the two-volume Sibley East and West field guides. He has been an avid birder since the age of 9, has traveled extensively throughout the continent on birding trips, and is a tour leader for Wings.

Paul will take us on an illustrated tour of North America’s migrant and vagrant hot spots. His program entitled “Migrant and Vagrant Traps in North America” will include such topics as What Makes a Good Migrant/Vagrant Trap, When To Visit, and Characteristics and Special Birds Found at Many of the Sites. His program will address many interesting topics that extend far beyond visiting the migrant and vagrant traps. Paul is a biogeographer; one of his special interests is predicting where and/or when unusual migratory birds will show up in different locations throughout the country because of weather patterns and geographical locations. It’s a fascinating subject and we know you will find it interesting also.

The Annual Dinner will also include the presentation of the Fern Zimmerman Conservation Award and, of course, we’ll have our traditional Silent Auction. The dinner will again be held at the Irvine Hilton near the John Wayne Airport. Full information on this event will be in the next Tattler and will also be posted on our chapter webpage. We hope you will mark this date on your 2009 calendar so that you can join us for this special event!

N. Kenyon

General Meeting
Friday evening, January 16th
“Looking for Sparrows — 1 year, 21 states, 21,000 miles”
presented by Donelda Warhurst

Donelda Warhurst is a second grade teacher in the Placentia-Yorba Linda school district where she has her summers off to look for birds. With her travel trailer, dog, all her cameras and recording gear, she has spent the last five summers on the road.

Donelda started out not “doing” sparrows. She began the class with a very small sparrow life list. However, following Sylvia Gallagher’s Sparrow Class in 2007, that all changed. She spent a total of 11 weeks on the road in the trailer and two airline flights spread over the year to complete her goal. Donelda ended up seeing all the sparrows that are regular in the ABA area, except one. Come and hear about her adventures, view some of her pictures of the sparrows and find out which sparrow she did not see.

Donelda will focus on close up shots of the sparrows with a few other birds and animals thrown in. Most of the sightings and shots were taken on the breeding grounds or where the birds regularly spend their winters. This accounts for the 21,000 miles.

The doors open at 7:00 and the meeting starts at 7:30 pm. We hope you will join us. (See below for directions to our new meeting location.)

Marquita Miller, Programs Chair

From now on, we will be holding our meetings in the new Education Center, the big gray & white “house” near the Duck Club building & Audubon House, at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. (This is located at 5 Riparian View, Irvine.) Since the Education Center is so close to Audubon House, we will have Audubon House (and its bookstore) open from 6:30 until 7:15 so that you can stop by on your way to the meeting. There is ample parking. Priority needs to be given to those with special needs for parking in the area between Audubon House & the Duck Club; everyone else should park in the big parking lot by pond E. We recommend that you wear sturdy shoes and bring a flashlight. This will be a great time to listen to the birds in the ponds and become more familiar with the Sanctuary at nighttime! (The trails, however, are not open after dark.) Directions are on page 11.

* Remember to keep this issue of the Tattler until the end of January! *
Volunteers Needed!

As you may already know coastal Cactus Wrens are suffering declines throughout their range. In an effort to help assess the current populations and better understand the decline, Sea and Sage Audubon Society has joined with The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Audubon California, and the Nature Reserve of Orange County (NROC) in a collaborative effort to initiate the Orange County Cactus Wren Survey Team. The volunteer-based, scientist-led team will perform surveys and monitoring at select locations within Orange County. We hope to augment the efforts of a statewide recovery program, which includes conservation organizations, resource agencies (USFWS and CDFG), and scientists, who are all dedicated to keeping this remarkable bird off the Endangered Species List.

One of the first goals of any recovery effort is to develop baseline data and a clear understanding of population densities and conservation challenges. Later, as work begins to stabilize and begin recovery of a population, consistent monitoring becomes critical. Citizen science efforts, staffed by well trained volunteers can be very important to these types of recovery efforts. A good example is the great work being done all along the west coast with Least Tern monitoring projects, such as in Huntington Beach. We envision volunteers playing a long term role in the Cactus Wren recovery efforts.

This is a unique opportunity for naturalists and birders, beginning to advanced, to participate with noted Cactus Wren scientists and conservationists, to perform urgently needed surveys and nest monitoring at Audubon's Starr Ranch Sanctuary, Caspers Wilderness Park, UCI Reserve System, and NROC properties. Training, data collection materials, field assistance, and plenty of encouragement will be provided to all volunteers.

Skills Required: Basic birding skills (motivated beginners welcome), reliable transportation, ability to walk moderate distances, a good pair of binoculars, readiness to learn, and enthusiasm about birds! There will further opportunities for experienced volunteers to work with scientists on more intensive Cactus Wren breeding studies.

Training: Two single-day training sessions, which include field experience with noted ornithologists, will be scheduled as early as Jan./Feb. 2009. Ample classroom and field training will be available to make everyone who participates feel comfortable and supported during surveys. A team of support staff and scientists, with field experience, will provide assistance to the volunteer teams for the duration of the project.

SCHEDULE:
* **November 25th** Sea and Sage Audubon 4th Tuesday Conservation Lecture Series, presented by Robb Hamilton "Coastal Cactus Wrens in Orange County - A Species in Decline"
* **December 6th** Lecture Series Related Field Trip, led by Robb Hamilton - Location TBA - For information see www.seaandsageaudubon.org
* **January** NROC Field Trip led by Dr. Kristine Preston, Date and Location TBA

* **January-February** First Training Sessions Begin
* **February** Make-up Training
* **February-March** - Surveys Begin

To Sign Up Early, Contact:
Sandy DeSimone - Audubon's Starr Ranch Sanctuary
(949) 858-0309
Scott Thomas - Sea and Sage Audubon (949) 261-7962
Nancy Kenyon - Sea and Sage Audubon (949) 786-3160

Or For More Info on Cactus Wrens, see the Sea and Sage Website, Conservation, and Robb Hamilton's Cactus Wren Article at www.seaandsageaudubon.org

4th Tuesday Conservation Lecture Series
Jan. 27th at 7:00 pm at the Duck Club
San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary, Irvine

"Whales, Dolphins and Porpoises"
presented by the O.C. Chapter of the ACS

We will kick-off the new year with a program presented by Wellington Rogers, supported by members of the Orange County Chapter of the American Cetacean Society (ACS). He is a retired teacher of marine biology and is currently president of the OC Chapter.

Rogers will talk about the myriad of marine mammals that inhabit and travel the waters off our local coast, such as baleen whales, toothed whales, dolphins, porpoises, and pinnipeds (seals and sea-lions). Special emphasis will be given to the annual migration of the Pacific Gray Whales. Bert Vogler will describe how the OC chapter of ACS is monitoring the health of our CA ocean environment through "Day of the Dolphin", a quarterly shore-based census of Bottlenose Dolphins. This program utilizes volunteers to staff 13 sighting stations along our coast. New volunteers are welcome. We will also discuss issues that currently threaten whale and dolphin species from around the world, such as by-catch, sonar, ship-strikes, pollution, whaling activities, and problems connected with global warming.

Bring the entire family along for an evening that promises to be both enlightening and entertaining. We hope to see you there.

Related Field Trip: You are invited to join the OC ACS’s annual “Around Catalina” boat trip on a Sunday in March 2009. This all-day adventure begins in Balboa and travels to Catalina’s spectacular backside for sightings of whales and other marine species. Shipboard naturalists will provide narration on whales, dolphins, pinnipeds, pelagic birds, nesting Bald Eagles, and the geology of our off-shore islands. Many gray whale mother/calf pairs should be migrating northward to Alaska at this time of the year. Various species of dolphins are often seen in the crossing. Large pods of sea lions haul out on island beaches. There is always the unexpected, such as a wandering sea-turtle, a huge mola-mola ocean sunfish, a large Elephant Seal at sea, or perhaps a giant Blue Whale. More field trip information, including date and cost, will be provided at the meeting.
Orange County played host to a wide assortment of fall migrants in October, which is typically one of the more interesting months of the year in southern California for avian rarities. Due to an above average number of highlights that occurred over the last month, this recap will focus on the more significant of the recent discoveries. To start off with, a Brant at Carr Park, Oct. 31 (Jim Pike), was at an unexpected location, being away from the immediate coast. Not only was an adult Tricolored Heron at Bolsa Chica, Oct. 16, noteworthy (this being the first reported in the county in five years), the finder was of note as well (Gary Graves, who just happens to be the curator of birds at the Smithsonian Institute, as well as avian research scientist and well-published author). The heron was seen through at least the 31st.

Reddish Egrets continued to be seen at Bolsa Chica, with now up to three being widely reported (two adults and one juvenile). A Cattle Egret was along the “upper” Santa Ana River (SAR), in Orange, Oct. 18 (Doug Willick). An adult Sandhill Crane photographed as it flew over the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary (SJWS), Oct. 18 (Kirk Benson), was a nice surprise. American Bitterns were reported by several observers (at Bolsa), and a Least Bittern was at Laguna Niguel Regional Park (LNRP), Oct. 11 (Steve and Marian Alter).

There were a few decent raptor sightings in the county during this past month. An immature Broad-winged Hawk that briefly visited Huntington Central Park (HCP), Oct. 10 (J. Pike), was a first for this well-birded site, and only about the eighth county record overall. An adult Bald Eagle reported last month at Peters Canyon Regional Park, was last reported Oct. 15 (Neil Gilbert). An immature Swainson’s Hawk was photographed on Oct. 16 (Sheri Peterson) circling over fields along the south edge of the Seal Beach Naval Weapon’s Station. A Short-eared Owl was observed at Bolsa Chica, Oct. 26 (S. & M. Alter). A Baird’s Sandpiper along the SAR (Orange), Oct. 19 (D. Willick), and two Pectoral Sandpipers at the SJWS, Oct. 25-Nov. 2 (Dick Cabe), were both late for these uncommon shorebird species. A 1st year Herring Gull, on the other hand, at Burris Basin (Orange), Oct. 11 (D. Willick), was one of the county’s earliest for a fall arrival.

A Black-billed Cuckoo that made an all-too-brief appearance at HCP, Oct. 14 (J. Pike), was one of two very exceptional discoveries made here this fall; the cuckoo was only the 2nd to be found in the county. An American Tree Sparrow at HCP, Oct. 26 (Leo Ohtsuki), was also a 2nd county record. Both birds were firsts for HCP, which now (according to HCP record-compiler Brian Daniels) boasts a list in excess of 315 species. An adult male Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Santiago Oaks, Oct. 31-Nov. 9.+ (N. Gilbert), was remarkable in that this is presumably the same individual returning for its seventh winter here. Flycatchers of note included a rare and somewhat early Eastern Phoebe in Orange, Oct. 20 (N. Gilbert). A Tropical Kingbird at HCP, Oct. 14 (J. Pike), was probably a bird continuing in this area from late September. There were several Plumbeous Vireos over the last month, including continuing birds at LNRP and Westminster Memorial Park (WMP); others were along the SAR (Orange), Oct. 19, and at Eisenhower Park, Oct. 26 (D. Willick). A few Red-breasted Nuthatches began appearing in the county after mid Oct., when singles were noted at WMP, Oct. 17 (Robb Hamilton), on the U.C. Irvine campus, Oct. 18 (B. Daniels), and at Harbor View Nature Park (HVPN), Nov. 8 (D. Willick). Other visitors from montane, or northern, coniferous forest areas included a Golden-crowned Kinglet in an east Orange neighborhood, Oct. 30 (N. Gilbert), a Varied Thrush at HCP, Oct. 15 (Jim Roe), and a Pine Siskin at HCP, Oct. 25 (Irene Horiuchi).

Rare warblers may have been a bit scarcer than normal, compared to past Octobers, but the county did have a Black-throated Blue Warbler at LNRP, Oct. 5 (Robert McNab), a Chestnut-sided Warbler at Mile Square Park (MSP), Oct. 5 (J. Pike), and a long-staying Magnolia Warbler at HCP, Oct. 19-31 (L. Ohtsuki). Also at MSP, Oct. 5, was an adult male American Redstart and a Summer Tanager. Another adult male American Redstart at LNRP, Oct. 11-25+ (S. & M. Alter), is possibly a bird returning for its sixth consecutive winter here! Blackpoll Warblers were at Yorba Regional Park (YRP), Oct. 10 (Brian Leatherman), and at Dana Point Harbor, Oct. 13 (R. Hamilton). Black-and-white Warblers were at YRP, Oct. 6-15 (B. Leatherman); at HCP, Oct. 21 (D. and Pat Cabe); and at LNRP, Oct. 26 (R. McNab). In addition to MSP, Summer Tanagers were also seen at LNRP, Oct. 25+ (R. McNab), and at HVPN, Nov. 8 (D. Willick). Possibly here for the winter was a Baltimore Oriole and a Clay-colored Sparrow at Mason Regional Park, Nov. 5 (R. Hamilton).

To report your rare bird sightings by email, send them to JWeintraub@Fullerton.edu. (Be sure to sign your name to your email & list your city beneath your name so that people will know where your message is coming from.)

To receive the RBA updates by email, subscribe to: OrCoRBA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com by sending a message with Subscribe as the subject.

OrangeCountyBirding is another yahoo group for birders. Most birders send in their emailed reports about bird sightings to this group and then, if the bird is really unusual, they send in a report to the OrCoRBA also. Website directions will tell you how to join. http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OrangeCountyBirding/ (Joining Yahoo is free.) To report your bird sightings by email, send them to: OrangeCountyBirding@yahoogroups.com (Be sure to sign your name & list your city below your name.)
Audubon House Volunteers
We would like to thank the following people for helping to staff Audubon House in November, December, & January:

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 videos, etc. It’s fun to be an Audubon House Volunteer and it’s a great way to support our chapter. If you are interested in helping at Audubon House, please contact Judy Fritts at 949-551-4513.

Silent Auction Items Needed
Cheryl Thomas is working diligently to obtain some special donations for our silent auction at this year’s Annual Dinner. Do you know a person or business who might have something special to donate? We are looking for unique items that would appeal to a large crowd. Please contact Cheryl if there is anything you can contribute or if there is someone you know who can.

Cheryl Thomas
949-294-2275; cthomas1313@cox.net

Holiday Shopping at our Sea & Sage Bookstore
There is still time to get those one-of-a-kind presents for the holiday season: the new Sea & Sage logo water bottles (blue with white print), dove pens & mood pencils both with our logo, as well as birding/tote bags with the Sea & Sage patch. 2009 calendars are still available as well as a lot of great bargains throughout the store.

Bookstore Catalog
A catalog listing all the books and other items for sale at our Audubon House Bookstore will be available on Dec. 1. Copies can be picked up at Audubon House and will also be posted on our chapter webpage. We hope you will make use of this catalog when planning your holiday shopping.

This Year’s Pancake Breakfast
All of us who attended the Pancake Breakfast this year had a commanding view of an Osprey perched on a high branch in the Eucalyptus tree next to Audubon House, munching on a large fish. The Osprey didn’t seem at all bothered by so many people looking at him from down below in the parking lot. We had a great turnout of 206 people, the food was delicious, the weather was perfect, the book sales table did a brisk business selling over 341 books to 83 people, and everyone had a great time. Mary Joseph and Gretchen McCausland did an outstanding job organizing and coordinating the event, but they could not have made the breakfast such a success without all our wonderful volunteers, many of whom arrived early and stayed late, pitching in to help wherever needed. (Neal Anderson, Sara Bethurum, Sheryl Blevins, Megan Booth, Deborah Brin, Dick Cabe, Pete DeSimone, Barbara Dixon, Sheila Fitzgerald, Jan Gaffney, Ali George, Carol Getz, Kate Grabenstein, Anne Halim, Beverly Hargrove, Star Howard, Leilani Hubbs, Sarah Jayne, Mary Joseph, Cyrus & Darius Kay, Nancy Kenyon, Lauretta Kyle, Chuck & Ce Leavell, Merri Levy, Ken Louie, Samantha Masaki, Joan McCauley, Gretchen & Michelle McCausland, Bob & Grace McElhinney, Eunice & Shiz Morita, Susan Munson, Sun Na, Helen Nicholas, Carolyn Noble, Linda Oberholtzer, Nora Papian, Barbara & Mike Sentovich, Hal & Susan Sheakley, Margo Stuart, Betty Swift, Cheryl & Scott Thomas, Jim Vance, Giselle Velazquez, Donelda Warhurst, Byron Wilkinson, & Dan Young. We also thank Optics4Birding and Wild Birds Unlimited.)

Tree Trimming Season Is Almost Over!
Protect nesting birds and help keep your trees healthy by restricting your tree trimming season to September through early January. Raptors such as hawks and owls begin their nesting activities in mid to late January; the other birds follow soon afterwards. The trees themselves should be trimmed before they begin their new spring growth. Help us provide a safe nesting habitat for the birds. If you must trim your trees, please plan ahead and do so during the proper season. Thank you!

Tree Trimming Packets
are available at Audubon House as well as on the chapter webpage. Pick up a packet if you want to help spread the word about bird-friendly tree trimming. The folder includes information and a letter on Sea and Sage Audubon stationery with tree trimming suggestions that you can send to your homeowners association, local school, golf course, or other organization.
Dec. & Jan. Field Trips

For trip updates & additional trip info, visit our webpage at http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org/FieldTrips/fieldtrips.htm

Trips marked with a ® require advance reservations. If you have any questions about the field trips or would like to make a trip reservation, contact Field Trip Chair, Nancy Kenyon, at nancykenyon@cox.net or 949-786-3160.

Bolsa Chica (wintering birds)
Thursday, Dec. 4 — 8:00 a.m.
Bolsa Chica is one of the best wetlands areas in Southern California to watch grebes, loons, pelicans, shorebirds of all sizes, gulls and terns, waterfowl, egrets and herons, foraging raptors, etc. Now that it has been opened to tidal flow, it is even better! We will meet in the parking lot of the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve at 8 am. Bring binoculars, scope if you have one, and a field guide. Dress warmly. It can be quite cool and breezy there in the morning.

Directions: Meet in the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve parking lot on the inland side of Pacific Coast Highway at the only sign between Seapoint Ave and Warner in Huntington Beach. Pat & Dick Cabe, Co-Leaders

Seal Beach NWR trip on Dec. 6 is full.

Cactus Wren Field Trip
Saturday, Dec. 6 - Location & Time TBA
For more information, see: www.seaandsageaudubon.org
Robb Hamilton, Leader

Santiago Oaks Regional Park
Sun, Dec. 7, Jan. 4, Feb. 1 — 7:30 a.m.
Join Linette Lina for a monthly bird walk at Santiago Oaks 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. Meet in the upper end of the parking lot.
Linette Lina Leader

San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary
Sunday, Dec. 14, Jan. 11, Feb 8 — 8:00 a.m.
Join Chris Obaditch for a monthly bird walk around the ponds of the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine at 8:00 am on the 2nd Sunday morning of each month. (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.

Chris Obaditch, Leader

Upper Newport Bay by small boat ®
Wed., Dec. 17 (full), Jan. 21 (open) — 8:15 a.m.
Join us for the rare chance of birding the Upper Newport Bay from the deck of a small boat. Spotting birds from the water offers one a different perspective and the birds seem to view us differently also. Trip duration is about 3 hours. Space is limited because the boat is very small; advance reservations are mandatory. Contact Nancy Kenyon for trip reservations at 949-786-3160 or nancykenyon@cox.net. Nancy Kenyon, Leader

CBC Specialties Trip
Saturday, Jan. 3 — 8:00 a.m.
The purpose of this trip is to search for some of the more unusual birds seen on this year’s CBCs. We will meet either in the parking lot by Audubon House or the Slater Street Parking lot at Huntington Central Park. Be sure to bring an Orange County map with you. The length of the trip depends on the number of birds to be seen & locations to visit. Trip meeting location will be decided by Jan. 1. To verify meeting place, call Audubon House (949-261-7963), FT Chair Nancy Kenyon (949-786-3160; or check our chapter webpage at: www.seaandsageaudubon.org

Antelope Valley Hawk Banding Trip
Sunday, Jan. 4 — 7:00 am

In the fall and winter months, migratory raptors flood into the Antelope Valley and upper desert regions. Red-tailed Hawks are a sure bet with many others such as Prairie Falcons, Rough-legged and Ferruginous Hawks, American Kestrels, Northern Harriers, and even Golden Eagles. Unlike most birding trips, this one offers close-up views of the raptors because Pete and Scott are going to be banding those they catch. Very early risers may also see owls.

Directions: We will meet at Ave. A and Hwy. 14 in the Antelope Valley. From Orange County, take the #5 Fwy. north to #14 (Antelope Valley Fwy.); exit on #14 and drive north approximately 45 miles (through Lancaster) until you reach Avenue A. Turn left on Avenue A and park. Dress in layers; bring lunch, a map, and a full tank of gas. We will be out until at least 2:00, rain or shine.

Pete Bloom and Scott Thomas, Co-Leaders

Winter Pelagic Trip out of Dana Point ®
Saturday, Jan. 10 — 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 pm

Our 6 hour fall pelagic trip was such a success that we have scheduled this winter trip for a 6 hour period also. The additional time will allow us to get out to the 14 mile bank where the more interesting birds are. Possible birds for this trip include: Rhinoceros Auklet, Xantus’ Murrelet, Cassin’s Auklet, Ancient Murrelet, Common Murre, Black-vented Shearwater, Pink-footed Shearwater, Sooty Shearwater, Northern Fulmar. Our leader, Jerry Tolman, is an experienced leader and pelagic birder. We will be using the 70 ft. Sea Explorer, a research vessel belonging to the Ocean Institute of Dana Point. Advance reservations are necessary. Trip fee is $50 per person, (payable to Sea & Sage Audubon). Mail to: Pelagic trip, c/o Nancy Kenyon, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612. Include your phone number & your email address, or a self-addressed legal size envelope for trip confirmation and additional information. Jerry Tolman, Leader
January & February Field Trips

**Batiquitos Lagoon**
**Saturday, Jan. 24 — 8:00 a.m.**
Batiquitos Lagoon is located on the coast of northern San Diego county, just north of Encinitas. The lagoon is bordered by the ocean on the west, steep hills on the south, gentle slopes to the north, and San Marcos Creek on the eastern end. There is a small nature center and an excellent trail system at the lagoon. 165+ species have been reported there. Our field trip will be led by Steve Brad, a former Sea & Sage member who now lives in the area and birds Batiquitos frequently. **Directions:** From Orange County, drive south on the I-5 to Carlsbad and exit on Poinsettia Lane. Drive east and turn right (south) on Batiquitos Drive (the 2nd stoplight past the freeway). Drive down the hill toward the lagoon and then right on Gabbiano Lane. Drive to the end and park; we will meet there. Steve says it is a great place to bird by ear. **Steve Brad, Leader**

**Salton Sea weekend trip**
**Sat. & Sun, Feb. 7 & 8 - 9:30 a.m.**
The Salton Sea area provides some of the best year around birding in Southern California. In species diversity alone, the area is one of the leading localities in the country; some 360 species have been sighted there. Check our webpage for a list of expected species & other trip info. Advance reservations needed; trip size is limited. Trip fee is $25. Make check payable to Sea & Sage Audubon & mail to: Salton Sea FT, c/o Nancy Kenyon, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612. Be sure to include your phone number & email address or a stamped, legal sized envelope for trip info & confirmation. **Vic Leipzig, Leader**

---

**Sea & Sage & Starr Ranch Christmas Bird Count**

---

**THE SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO CBC - Dec. 20**
01. **Laguna Niguel Regional Park**
   Robert McNab
02. **San Clemente area**
   Sachi Fukuman (949- 498-4407)
03. **Starr Ranch Sanctuary & Caspers Park**
   Stephan Lorenz (949-858-0309)
04. **Pelagic Areas & Saddleback College**
   Kaaren Perry (949-497-0884)
05. **Roaming**
   Doug Willick
06. **Upper San Juan Creek**
   Laura Camp (949-370-3303)
07. **Aliso-Wood Canyons & Zigerot-Cosco area**
   Gary Meredith (949-218-7575)
08. **Donna O'Neil Land Conservancy & Rancho Mission Viejo.**
   Heidi Keller rmvic@sbcglobal.net
09. **San Clemente backyard**
   Kim Lopina
10. **Dana Point & Doheny State Beach**
    Joel Weintraub (949-248-8205)
11. **Owling at Starr Ranch & Caspers Park**
    Dan Lockshaw

---

**Christmas Bird Count sign-up form**

**San Juan Capistrano (South County) Count ~ Sat., Dec., 20th**

1. **Name**
   Address, City, Zip ________________________________
   Phone ________________________________
2. **Email address** ________________________________
3. **Please indicate the hours you can work**
   [ ] ALL DAY: Most people spend the entire day on the count.
   [ ] OWLING: Nighttime hours, either predawn or after sunset
4. **Please classify your birding ability:** This will help us assign you to the proper section.
   [ ] NOVICE   [ ] AVERAGE   [ ] PRETTY GOOD   [ ] EXPERT
5. **Is there a particular area or count leader you especially want to work with?**

**PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM TO:** Stephan Lorenz, 100 Bell Canyon Rd., Trabuco Canyon CA 92679
or contact him by phone him at: 949-858-0309 or by e-mail at: slorenz@mail.com

**Note:** The results of all the Christmas Bird Counts will be published in NAS’s American Birds publication, “The Christmas Bird Count.” In order to cover the expense of compiling & editing the data for this publication, each CBC participant will be asked to pay $5.
THE NORTHEASTERN CBC - Dec. 14
01 Irvine Regional Park
Curtis Johnson (714-739-5373)
02 Irvine Lake & vicinity
Nancy Kenyon (949-786-3160)
03 Silverado Canyon
Steve Alter (714-669-9482)
4A/4B Upper & Lower Black Star Canyons
Al & Janet Baumann (949-859-5081)
4C Mountain Areas
Brian Leatherman (714-779-7077)
05 Modjeska & Harding Canyons
Bruce Aird (949-458-1520)
6/7 O’Neill Regional Park & Plano Trabuco
Jerry Tolman (714-539-8040)
8A/8B Lion Country & areas south of 405. (Area between Lake Forest & El Toro from Trabuco Rd to Glenn Ranch Rd excluding Oso Reservoir) Kaaren Perry (949-497-0884) and Tom Benson <thomasabenson@aol.com>
9/10 Mission Viejo, Lake Forest, El Toro & Foothills
Dick Purvis (714-776-8878)
11/12. El Toro Marine Base & Foothill Areas
Kaaren Perry (949-497-0884) & Tom Benson
13 Rattlesnake & Siphon Reservoirs
Phil Swan (714-328-5927)
14/15 Peters Canyon Regional Park & Lemon Heights area
Linda Oberholtzer (562-699-9738) and Brad Dawson (562-438-8898)

THE COASTAL CBC - Dec. 28
02 Westminster Mem. Park, Corner Seal Beach NWR
Vic Leipzig (714-848-5394)
03 HCP, Wintersberg Channel, Seapoint
Phil Swan (714-328-5927)
04 Bolsa Chica
Terry Hill (714-891-2567)
05 Mile Square Park
Irene Horiuchi (714-847-1880)
06 SA River Mouth, HB Pier, 19th St. Willows, Canyon Park, SA Golf Course . Jim Pike (714-968-7977)
07 Older Areas within Santa Ana
Carol Getz (949-559-5219)
8/9 Centennial Reg. Park, MCAS Blimp Base
Dick Purvis (714-776-8878)
10/11 Upper Newport Bay - West Side
Bettina Eastman (714-963-3751)
12 Upper Newport Bay - East Side
Steve Alter (714-669-9482)
13 UCI, San Joaquin Marsh, SJWS
Jan Gaffney (562-439-5631) and Nancy Kenyon (949-786-3160)
14 Mason Reg. Park, UCI Foothills, Corona del Mar
Doug Willick (714-288-9972)
15 Newport Harbor & Beaches
Gary Meredith (949-218-7575)
16 Pelagic areas along the coast
Jerry Tolman (714-539-8040)

2008 ~ Christmas Bird Count sign-up form
[ ] Northeastern CBC - Sun, Dec. 14 ~ [ ] Coastal CBC - Sun, Dec. 28

1. Name ____________________________ Phone ____________________________

   Address, City, Zip ____________________________

2. Email address ____________________________

3. Please indicate the hours you can work
   ____ ALL DAY: Most people spend the entire day on the count.
   ____ OWLING: Nighttime hours, either predawn or after sunset

4. Please classify your birding ability: This will help us assign you to the proper section.
   [ ] NOVICE  [ ] AVERAGE  [ ] PRETTY GOOD  [ ] EXPERT

5. Is there a particular area or count leader you especially want to work with? ____________________________

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM TO: Curtis Johnson, 5271 Marview Drive, La Palma CA 90623, or contact him by phone him at: 714-739-5373 or by e-mail at: cojntlj@sbcglobal.net

Note: The results of all the Christmas Bird Counts will be published in NAS’s American Birds publication, “The Christmas Bird Count.” In order to cover the expense of compiling & editing the data for this publication, each CBC participant will be asked to pay $5.
Comprehensive workshops on raptor identification will be presented during two weekends in Feb., 2009. The instructor for the course will be Bill Clark, coauthor of Hawks, the raptor field guide in the Peterson series, and the Photographic Guide to North American Raptors.

Although the pace and emphasis will vary with the experience of the participants, both workshops will first cover the basic field marks for the identification of California raptors. Then, a more thorough coverage of the field ID of accipiters, eagles, and buteos will be presented. Also discussed will be molt and its use in field ID, terminology, albinism and other unusual plumages. The field ID of vagrants to be expected in California will be covered, as well as how to document their sightings.

An **INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP** will be presented the weekend of Feb. 13-15. The workshop will start with classroom instruction on Friday evening from 7:15 - 10:00. It will meet all day Saturday and Sunday with a break for lunch. On each of those days some of the time will be spent in the classroom and the rest in the field visiting a variety of Orange County raptor locations. Details will be announced at the Friday evening session.

The **ADVANCED WORKSHOP** on Sat. and Sun., Feb. 21-22, will consist of six hours of classroom instruction on Saturday (9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with a break for lunch) and an all-day field trip on Sunday to the Antelope Valley. This workshop is designed for people who have had some experience observing hawks. Although the basic field marks will be presented, emphasis will be on the more advanced topics.

Transportation will be in private vehicles; carpools will be arranged. You will be required to sign a liability release form in order to participate in the field trip. Each vehicle must have an FRS radio (short-range radio for communication between vehicles). Bring yours, if you have one; loaners will be available.

The required text for the workshop will be the second edition of Hawks by Clark and Wheeler (Houghton Mifflin Co., 2001). Copies will be available for purchase at the workshop.

Bill Clark has over 30 years of experience working with birds of prey and has published on a variety of raptor subjects, including many papers on raptor identification.

Classes will be held at the home of Sylvia and Jim Gallagher in Huntington Beach. A map to the meeting place will be enclosed with workshop confirmation.

The cost of the workshop is $150.00 for the Feb. 13-15 weekend, $120.00 for the Feb. 21-22 weekend—to be enclosed with your registration.

Enrollment each weekend will be limited to 25 participants and may be cancelled if there is insufficient registration by mid-January. Don't wait until the last minute to register; your workshop may have been cancelled because you forgot to register! Confirmations and further information will be mailed out on Jan. 23, 2009.

Mail your enrollment form, check for the workshop fee, and a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) to Raptor Workshop, Sylvia Gallagher, 21562 Kaneohe Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92646. Your form should be postmarked no sooner than Dec. 8, 2008 (two-day penalty for early reservations). If you have questions, call Sylvia at 714-962-8990.

### Raptor Weekend with Bill Clark, (2009)

**Names of all participants** _______________________________________________________________

**Address(es)** ______________________________________________________________

**City & Zip Code** ______________________________________________________________

**Phone(s)** ______________________________________________________________

**E-mail** ______________________________________________________________

Check your choice(s) of weekends. (Some people attend both since field trips are different.

___ Introductory (Fri. evening - Sun., February 13-15) — $150 per person

___ Advanced (Sat. - Sun., February 21-22) — $120 per person

Workshop fees enclosed? ____ (Make check payable to Sea and Sage Audubon Society)

SASE enclosed? _____ Do you plan to buy the required book (see above) at the workshop? _____
Sylvia Gallagher will present an eight-to-ten-week workshop, LEARNING MORE CALIFORNIA BIRD SOUNDS, covering around 80 species. This workshop will focus on lowland, non-desert birds that were not covered in the introductory series, Learning California Bird Sounds. Although there will be considerable review, it will presume that you have fairly well learned the sounds in that workshop. The appearances of the birds will not be the main emphasis, although they will be covered for birds that were not dealt with in the introductory visual workshop, Birds of Southern California.

Among the groups to be covered in this workshop are waterfowl, rails, herons and egrets, swallows, shorebirds—plus a wide variety of hard-to-see and/or rare Passerines of riparian and open country habitats on the coastal side of the mountains.

Five sections will be offered, each meeting once a week for eight to ten weeks, including holidays.

- Mon. evenings, 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. Starts Feb. 16.
- Tues. mornings, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. Starts Feb. 17.
- Wed. evenings, 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. Starts Feb. 18.
- Thurs. mornings, 9:00 a.m. - noon. Starts Feb. 19.
- Thurs. evenings, 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. Starts Feb. 19.

The “textbook” for the workshop will be Sylvia's new CDs and worksheets, LEARNING MORE CALIFORNIA BIRD SOUNDS. These will be on sale ($35.00) at Audubon House by early February—maybe sooner. Be sure to purchase them in advance, for you will need to fill in the Group 1 worksheets prior to the first meeting. In addition, you should also have the following tapes or CD’s:


The maximum enrollment for each section is 23. If any section does not have at least 12 people enrolled by Feb. 7, it will be cancelled. Reserve early though, because sections frequently fill rapidly. A donation of $100.00 or more is requested, if you can afford it. (Bring money to first meeting—installment plan OK.)

Although there will be no formal field trips accompanying the workshop, a large number of informal ones, coordinated by workshop participants, will be arranged. This worked out very well in last winter's introductory aural workshop. We'll even have another GREAT SOUNDS SEARCH. Let's see if we can surpass last year's totals! To keep the two surveys comparable, start tallying Southern California sounds (species, type of sound, place, date) starting Thursday, Feb. 12. More information will be passed out at the first workshop session.

To reserve a space in the workshop, please send the form below, postmarked no sooner than Jan. 5 (two day penalty for early reservation), to Sylvia Gallagher, 21562 Kaneohe Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92646. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE). Confirmation, further information, and a map to the house will be mailed Feb. 9. If you have questions, call Sylvia, phone 714-962-8990.

---

### Enrollment Form - Learning More California Bird Sounds (2009)

Names of all participants ________________________________

Address(es) ____________________________________________

City & Zip Code _________________________________________

Phone(s) ________________________________ SASE enclosed?

E-mail ________________________________________________

Check or rank at least two choices of section:

- MON p.m.____
- TUES a.m.____
- WED p.m.____
- THURS a.m.____
- THURS p.m.____
**Spring Brunch at the Marsh**

How long has it been since you’ve been to the marsh? Hopefully most of you have been here recently. But, in the off chance that you haven’t yet seen our new and expanded facility, you are invited to Brunch at the Marsh. This event is also a unique opportunity to introduce the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary to your friends or family who have never been here. This is the second spring that we have offered a series of outdoor gourmet brunches at a fee of $24 per person (adults only). In addition to brunch, you will be treated to a guided mini-tour of the Marsh so you and your guests can enjoy the sights, sounds and smells of the Marsh in the springtime. These brunches will be offered on the following dates from 10:00 a.m. to noon:

- Saturday, April 4
- Saturday, April 18
- Saturday, June 6

Registration will open on March 1st. You are promised an enjoyable morning of great food, interesting and personable company, and spectacular ambiance. Consult our website www.seaandsageaudubon.org or the February and March issues of the Wandering Tattler for registration information. Be sure to register early. We look forward to entertaining you and your friends and family at Brunch at the Marsh.

—Helen Nicholas and Lois Taylor, co-coordinators

---

**Save These Camp Dates!**

- **Fledgling Camp** (7-8 years): June 22 - 26
- **Marsh Camp 1** (9-12 years): July 6 - 10
- **Marsh Camp 2** (9-12 years): July 13 - 17
- **Advanced Camp** (11+ years): July 20 - 24

For more information or to register, pick up a camp flyer at Audubon House on Jan. 8, or visit our chapter web page at www.seaandsageaudubon.org, or call Grace McElhiney at 714-969-9617, or Bev Spring at 714-505-9980. Camp registration will begin January 15.
Your Membership Payment

Your Membership Payment & Donations

If you are signing up as a new Audubon member be sure and use the application in the Tattler or on our website that has the C15 in the lower right hand corner. This tells National Audubon who to credit for your recruitment. Sea & Sage gets 100% of the first year's dues of new members (even if you give more than the minimum membership fee). When renewing your membership and you pay more than the standard renewal fee ($35 for regular and $15 for senior/student membership), the extra you contribute goes to National Audubon; the chapter does not get any of the contribution back. So, if you are feeling generous at renewal time and you want Sea & Sage to benefit, you should send your membership fee to National and a separate check with your donation to the chapter. If you have any questions please contact Phil Brobst at (949) 261-7963.

Audubon House
8:00 am - 4:00 pm daily
(949) 261-7963

From the San Diego Frwy. (405), exit on Jamboree south toward Newport Beach. At the 1st signal, Michelson, turn left. Continue on Michelson to the 4th signal which is Riparian View; turn right toward the Irvine Ranch Water District plant. Follow the signs directing you to Audubon and the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. Follow the sign directing you to turn right down a short hill into our parking lot. The first building you see will be Audubon House; parking is ample. Beyond Audubon House are the ponds and marsh mitigation areas of the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary which are open every day from dawn until dusk.

Directions to: AUDUBON HOUSE, Chapter Meetings, and the SJWS

Directions to: 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, for regular mailing. Those who wish to receive their newsletter faster, by 1st class postage, may do so for an additional $6.00. Make check payable to: SEA and SAGE AUDUBON and mail to: Tattler Subscriptions, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612.

Tattler Delivery

We post the Tattler on our chapter website. Members who wish to receive a monthly e-mail notification that the latest issue of the tattler is online, should send an e-mail to nancykenyon@cox.net. This method of Tattler delivery not only helps cut costs and conserve resources, it also is much faster since the Tattler is posted immediately after it has been delivered to the printer.

Remember Us in Your Will or Trust

Please remember to include “Sea and Sage Audubon Society” by name (tax ID#23-700-3681) in your will or trust.

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 92616-5447.

National Audubon Society Membership: Check one [V]

[ ] NEW MEMBERSHIP: $20 - Individual or Family members
[ ] RENEWAL: $35 - Regular Membership
[ ] NEW MEMBERSHIP: $15 - Senior Citizen or Student
[ ] RENEWAL: $15 - Senior Citizen or Student

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

Name ____________________________________________________________
Address ___________________________________________________________________
City ___________________________ State ______ Zip ___________
Phone ____________________________ E-mail address ____________________________

C15 7xCH
Dec. '08 - Jan. '09
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.

BOARD MEMBERS

Executive Committee:

President................................ Jay Miller..................... 714-549-2912
Vice President.......................... Susan Sheakley......... 949-552-5974
Secretary................................ Gretchen McCausland... 949-249-8258
Treasurer................................. Betsy Flynn .............. 949-548-6432
Director 2009......................... Mary Joseph ............. 714-848-8362
Director 2009.......................... Chuck Leavell .......... 714-630-6497
Director 2010.......................... John Avise ................. 949-856-2215
Director 2010.......................... Donelda Warhurst...... 714-473-3405
Director 2011.......................... Susan Munson .......... 949-497-3906
Director 2011.......................... Joel Weintraub ......... 949-248-8205
Past President....................... Al Baumann .............. 949-859-5081

Committee Chairpersons:

Audubon House Volunteers.. Judy Fritts............. 949-551-4513
Bird Information............... Sylvia Gallagher .... 714-962-8990
Christmas Bird Counts....... Curtis Johnson .......... 714-739-5373
Conservation....................... Susan Sheakley ....... 949-552-5974
Counsel............................... Rick Derevan ........... 714-427-7016
Development....................... Cheryl Thomas ........... 949-294-2275
Education............................ Kaaren Perry ............. 949-497-0884
Exhibits.............................. Mary Joseph .......... 714-848-3906
Facilities............................ Neal Anderson .. 714-441-0491
Field Trips........................... Nancy Kenyon .. 949-786-3160
Finance............................... Hal Sheakley ......... 949-552-5974
Hospitality-General Mtgs.... Merri Levy .............. 949-495-9482
Membership.......................... Phil Brobst .............. 949-261-7963
Newsletter Editor............. Nancy Kenyon ......... 949-786-3160
Oak Cyn Nature Center...... Cathy Glasgow ....... 714-998-8380
Partners in Flight.............. Janet Baumann ......... 949-859-5081
Programs............................ Marquita Miller ....... 714-549-2912
Publicity............................. Sheryl Blevins ...... 949-831-3639
Publishing......................... Sam Berry .............. 949-646-1488
SJWS Liaison....................... Chris Obaditch ....... 949-640-7234
Starr Ranch/Envir. Liaison... Pete DeSimone ......... 949-858-0309
Webmaster............................ Nancy Kenyon ......... 949-786-3160

Audubon House.......................... 949-261-7963
Marsh Education Project Director Trude Hurd ........... 949-261-7964
Marsh Education Project Dir Assist Deborah Brin ........ 949-261-7964
Conservation Director Orange Co..Scott Thomas......... 949-293-2915
Administrative Aide............... Rebecca Craft ........... 949-261-7963
Sales Manager....................... Debby Thysen ......... 949-261-7963
Chapter Website................... http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org

Contacts:

Bluebird Information........... Dick Purvis .............. 714-776-8878
OC Rare Bird Alert Hotline.... Joel Weintraub ........... 949-487-8689
Slide Lending Library......... Claudine Casey ......... 714-968-3463

December 2008

02 Tues Conservation Committee meeting............. 6:30 pm
04 Thurs Bolsa Chica field trip.......................... 8:00 am
06 Sat Seal Beach NWR field trip....................... 7:30 am
09 Tues Board meeting........................................ 7:30 pm
10 Sat Winter Pelagic Trip................................... 7:30 am
11 Sun SJWS monthly bird walk.......................... 8:00 am
16 Fri GENERAL MEETING in December..................
17 Wed UNB by small boat................................. 8:15 am
19 Fri NO GENERAL MEETING in December................
20 Sat San Juan Capistrano CBC.......................... tba
23 Sat Coastal CBC............................................. tba
28 Sun SJWS monthly bird walk.......................... 8:00 am

January 2009

03 Sat CBC Specialties Trip............................... 8:00 am
04 Sun Antelope Valley Hawk Banding Trip .......... 7:00 am
06 Sat Winter Pelagic Trip................................. 7:30 am
06 Sat Santiago Oaks monthly bird walk............... 7:30 am
07 Sun SJWS monthly bird walk.......................... 7:00 am
10 Sat Winter Pelagic Trip................................. 7:30 am
10 Sat Open House for chapter volunteers............... tba
11 Sun SJWS monthly bird walk.......................... 8:00 am
16 Fri GENERAL MEETING ........................................
18 Sun Seasons of Nature at the SJWS................... 9:00 am
21 Wed UNB by small boat................................. 8:15 am
24 Sat Batiquitos Lagoon................................... 8:00 am
27 Tues Conservation Lecture Series.................... 7:00 pm

Sea and Sage Audubon, Dec. '08/Jan. '09