Requirement for 2007? Have Fun!
by Al Baumann, president

As I contemplate what to write in this first President's Message of 2007, three things jump out. First, I wish everyone a very healthy and happy 2007. Second, I say a very sincere "Thank You" to everyone for your generous response to my year-end appeal. Your generosity allows us not only to continue but also to expand our outstanding programs and help build the financial security of Sea and Sage. Third, a huge "Thank You" to all of our volunteers who make Sea and Sage such a terrific organization.

Well, what about 2007? Let's look at a few things that I know will make 2007 the best ever:

1. I am very excited and pleased to announce that our 2007 Annual Dinner to be held on Friday, March 16, will be dedicated to honoring Sylvia and Jim Gallagher for their extraordinary achievements and dedication to Sea and Sage. To help honor Sylvia and Jim, our speaker for the evening will be expert birder, teacher, and author of countless articles and books, including a field guide to birds, Kenn Kaufman.

2. Kenn Kaufman has offered to conduct a workshop on Saturday, March 17, in the Duck Club. Watch for sign-up information, as space will be limited.

3. Birdathon will be April 28 - a time for everyone to join in the fun.

4. The Summer BBQ will occur in July and the Pancake Breakfast will be in October. Both events are GREAT fun!

5. You can attend one or ALL of our tremendous field trips and our monthly General Meetings - the speakers are always terrific. Don't forget to leave room to sign up for one or ALL of Sylvia's bird classes.

6. Still in the planning stage, I would like to have a "Non-nutritional Birding Breakfast" at the Duck Club on January 1, 2008. Is there any better way to kick off a New Year than with friends and birds?

Lastly, I want to ask everyone to help Sea and Sage by considering one or more of the following:

1. Volunteer - be an Audubon House Volunteer, become a Naturalist or help with Summer Camp, join a committee (for example, Exhibits or Hospitality), or participate in whatever area most interests you.

2. New member recruitment - on your next visit to Audubon House, pick up a few membership applications to have with you everywhere you go, especially when you are out birding. If everyone could recruit just one new member in 2007, it would be tremendous.

3. Invite a friend to join you at any or ALL of our functions.

4. This request is not optional: everyone is hereby REQUIRED TO HAVE FUN this year with Sea and Sage!

General Meeting
Feb. 16th - Friday - 7:30 pm

“Birds of Botswana”
presented by Grant Reed

For February we thought we'd take you on a trip to Southern Africa. Our speaker is Grant Reed who is Director of Letaka Safaris and author of Okavango - Spirit of Life. Grant has been a guide for the past 15 years in five African countries. He holds a postgraduate degree in Nature Conservation and is currently working on a second post graduate degree analyzing the sound response of birds to predators. He also holds the highest guiding qualification for Southern Africa. He lectures both in Botswana as well as abroad primarily on birds and the ecology of the area.

Grant will discuss the geography and natural history of the region and show us photos of birds that folks are likely to see on the tours he leads. This includes the Southern Ground Hornbill, Wattled Crane, Red-billed Hornbill, Helmeted Guineafowl, Copper-tailed Coucal, Southern Carmine Bee-Eater, Broad-Billed Roller, Hamercop and many others.

We hope you will join us for this special program. The doors open at 7:00 and the meeting starts at 7:30 pm. We meet at the Irvine Ranch Water District Board Meeting Room at 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue in Irvine.

Jay & Marquita Miller, Program Co-Chairs

Our meetings are held in the Board Meeting Room of the Irvine Ranch Water District's main office on the east side of Sand Canyon Ave. at the intersection of Water Works and Sand Canyon, in the city of Irvine. If you are coming by freeway, Sand Canyon may be accessed from both Santa Ana Frwy (5) or San Diego Frwy (405); there are ramps from both the north and the south. (The Irvine Ranch Water District neither supports nor endorses the cause or activities of organizations which use the district's meeting rooms, which are made available as a public service.)
Conservation Committee 2006 Donations

In the pursuit of our objectives, the Conservation Committee is reminded frequently that success in conservation and preserving wildlife and habitats depends greatly on the combined efforts of many organizations and concerned citizens. Each year, the Conservation Committee budgets a portion of their expense money to give to other organizations in support of local environmental causes. In 2006, we pledged donations to the following organizations.

- Endangered Habitats League
- Friends of Coyote Hills
- Hills for Everyone
- Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks
- Wetlands & Wildlife Care Center, HB
- O.C. Bird of Prey Center
- O.C. Interfaith Coalition for the Environment
- Shipley Nature Center
- Save Central Park Foundation
- Surfriders Foundation

All these groups perform critical tasks in Orange County. Endangered Habitats League and Surfriders, with broader regional and state influences, are battling to save San Onofre State Park from the Toll Road. Hills for Everyone and Friends of Harbors, Beaches, and Parks work to protect open spaces, and parks all across the County. Wetlands & Wildlife Care Center and O.C. Bird of Prey Center provide vital rehabilitation services for birds and wildlife. The O.C. Interfaith Coalition brings people of all religious faiths together to help protect the environment. Shipley Nature Center and Save Central Park Foundation both work to protect habitats, important to many birds, in Huntington Beach Central Park. And, the Friends of Coyote Hills is attempting to save a very special place, full of CA Gnatcatchers in Fullerton.

Conservation Field Trip in March to Snowy Plover Nesting Sites

Loren Hays will lead a field trip 1:00 pm Thursday, March 8, 2007 to existing or best potential nesting sites for Snowy Plovers in Orange County. We will meet at the Least Tern Nesting Colony at Huntington State Beach. Dave Pryor of California State Parks, will join us for a briefing on the nesting colony. Use the park entrance at Magnolia and Pacific Coast Highway. The $10.00 entrance fee will be waived for participants joining this educational tour. Bring binoculars and, if you like, a scope. For questions, call Susan Sheakley.

Conservation Committee Watch List for 2007

Following is a list of items of current conservation concern. Join us at our monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of the month to learn more about these issues. Our meetings take place at Audubon House from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

- Foothill-South Toll Road
- Orange County Regional & Wilderness Parks
- Upper Newport Bay
- Bolsa Chica
- Orange Coast River Park
- Banning Ranch
- Irvine Ranch Land Reserve
- San Mateo Watershed
- Cleveland National Forest

Foothill-South Toll Road

The proposed route of the Foothill-South Toll Road will cut just inside the eastern edge of the Donna O'Neill Land Conservancy and will run through San Onofre State Beach Park. To learn more about the ecological importance of these areas, join the Sierra Club (Sierra Sage) and Friends of the Foothills hikes shown below.

BRING WATER, SUNSCREEN & HAT. RAIN CANCELS.

Sun., February 11, Donna O'Neill Land Conservancy.
Enjoy natural beauty of area on slow-paced, nearly level walk. Expect early wildflowers. Meet at 8:30 am at the South Orange County Rideshare parking lot. Conservancy donation of $5 to support the work of the DOLC is appreciated. 3 miles round trip.

Saturday, March 17, Trestles Beach.
Enjoy this walk to the famous surfing beach at Trestles and the extensive wetlands area through which the San Mateo Creek flows. Meet at 8:30 am Trestles surfers’ parking lot. (Take Cristianitos off-ramp from 1-5 at south end of San Clemente, go left one block and left to lot.) 4 miles round trip, 100’ gain.

Sunday, May 5, Donna O'Neill Land Conservancy.
Enjoy the natural beauty of the area on a slow-paced, nearly level walk. Meet at 8:30 am at the South Orange County Rideshare parking lot. Conservancy donation of $5 to support the work of the DOLC is appreciated. 3 miles.
Rarities in Orange County
by Jim Pike

To report a RARE or UNUSUAL bird, or to receive the current RBA report for Orange County, call the OC RBA at (949) 487-6869.

After what was viewed by many as a fairly uneventful fall migration in the county, especially for rare warblers, November proved to be a godsend. Doug Willlick and Peyton Cook started the parade off on Nov 4 with, respectively, a Magnolia Warbler along the upper Santa Ana river in Anaheim and a Pine Warbler at Barton Spendlove Park in Mission Viejo. Surprisingly, on Nov 12, another Pine Warbler (Jim Pike) and a Yellow-throated Warbler (D Willick) were found in adjacent trees at Tewinkle Park in Costa Mesa. While the Yellow-throated continues to be seen, both Pine Warblers proved to be “one-day wonders”. Also on Nov 12, a late Blackpoll Warbler (Brian Daniels) was at San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary (SJWS) in Irvine. On Dec 17, the county’s second record of a wintering Hooded Warbler was found at Aurora Park in Mission Viejo (J Pike). Another rare wintering warbler, a MacGillivray’s, is present at Huntington Central Park (HCP) (B Daniels). In addition, several Black-and-White Warblers, Northern Waterthrushes, and American Redstarts (P Cook et al.) are wintering around the county.

A Red-throated Pipit found by Leo Ohtsuki at SJWS Nov 22-Dec 20 was apparently attempting to winter. To date, this hasn’t been successfully accomplished by any Red-throated Pipsits in North America, with the latest record being a Dec 22-28,1990 bird in Delta, British Columbia (fide Guy Monty).

Two first-cycle (ie., first-winter) gulls seen at Doheny State Beach Dec 12-19 showed the characters of a ‘Kumlien’s’ Gull rather than the similar but vastly more expected Thayer’s Gull. There is currently great uncertainty as to whether ‘Kumlien’s’ is a valid subspecies of the Old World Iceland Gull or is simply a product of widespread hybridization between Iceland and Thayer’s Gulls.

A female Broad-billed Hummingbird found Nov 25+ has returned to spend a second winter in Mission Viejo (D Willick), as have two Reddish Egrets to Bolsa Chica (BC). Other birds of note wintering at BC include 2 Snow Geese, 1-2 Pacific Golden-Plovers, and 1-2 Green-tailed Towhees (Dick Erickson). Dick also photographed at BC what was apparently a small Canada Goose of the parvipes race. This race is difficult to separate from the largest race of Cackling Goose, B.h. tawerneri, and had not been previously recorded in the county with a high degree of certainty. One or two individuals of another interesting subspecies, the “Large-billed” Savannah Sparrow, have been seen at BC this winter, while an impressive 65 were tallied at Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge (SBNWR) Nov 6 (Loren Hays et al.). Other noteworthy birds at SBNWR include 12 Tundra Swans, 3-4 Pacific Golden-Plovers, 3 Nelson’s Sharp-tailed Sparrows, an immature Bald Eagle, and 2 Short-eared Owls (Bob Schallman, John Fitch). Another Short-eared Owl was seen at BC Dec 4-5 (Peter Knap) and one was at Upper Newport Bay Nov 29+ (John Luther, Jim Lomax).

While last winter was a banner season for flycatchers of the empidonax genus (e.g., Pacific-slope), they have been notably scarce this season. To date, a Gray Flycatcher at SJWS Nov 22+ (J Pike) and a Hammond’s Flycatcher at Laguna Hills Country Club Dec 17 (Larry Tripp) have been the only ‘empids’ found. Other flycatcher species seen include two continuing male Vermilion Flycatchers at SJWS, a Tropical Kingbird in Irvine Nov 27 (Tom Aver) and an Eastern Phoebe along Laguna Canyon Road Dec 16 (Jim Blackburn). An adult Zone-tailed Hawk was at SJWS Nov 6 (Vic Leipzig). A wintering Clay-colored Sparrow at SJWS was first found on Dec 2 (L Ohtsuki). Another Clay-colored was in Mission Viejo Dec 22 (Matt Brady et al.). Although other interesting species of sparrows have been sparse, a Swamp Sparrow was a nice find at Laguna Niguel Regional Park Dec 16 (L Tripp, P Cook).

On Dec 3, Baltimore Orioles were at UC Irvine and Pacific View Cemetery in Newport Beach (both P Cook). A Scott’s Oriole, a rare winter visitor to inland Orange County, was in Limestone Canyon Dec 17 (Bruce Aird). Also, a Black-headed Grosbeak continues to be seen at a Laguna Beach bird feeder (Kaaren Perry), as are 1-2 Winter Wrens at HCP (B Daniels).

Thirteen Eurasian Collared-Doves in San Juan Capistrano (SJC) Dec 3 is a high count for the county (P Cook). Also in SJC was a Cackling Goose of the minima race Dec 16 (Joel Weintraub). Another rare goose, a Ross’s, has returned for another winter to Twin Lakes Park in Garden Grove Nov 13+ (D Willick). Elsewhere in the county, a few Summer Tanagers, Varied Thrushes, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Lewis’s Woodpeckers, Mountain Bluebirds, and Brown creepers have been sighted. And it appears to be a good year for Horned Grebes, with above average numbers present along the coast, and a couple even appearing at inland locales.

Have a great 2007! Be kind to your neighbors, unless they are over-trimming their trees (and, hence, ruining them for birds). Then feel free to yell at them (in moderation).
Chapter News & Announcements

For more information on Sea & Sage events and activities, check out our chapter webpage at:  http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org

Audubon House Volunteers

We would like to thank the following people for volunteering their time to staff Audubon House in January and February: Donna & Mike Augustine, Barbara Chidester, Carolyn Cooper, Tom Drozet, Jean Drum, Judy Fritts, Virginia Gochenour, Keats Hayden, Pat Heilig, Sarah Jayne, Steve Jelnick, Lois Jones, Nancy Kenyon, Donna Krebs, Mary Martineau, Joan McCauley, Bobbie Miller, Rosemary Price, Shirley Price, Betty Purdy, Roberta Ray, Barbara Reber, Gloria Schlaepfer, Mary Shandy, Robin Simon, Bev Spring, Betty Swift, Celia Vorsanger, Vic Westling.

Birding Software Needed

Do you have an old copy of the Thayer Birding Software (Birds of North America) lying around that you’re no longer using?  It has to be Version 2 (V2).  Mine is cracked, and I use it to prepare sound workshops.  Call Sylvia Gallagher, 714-962-8990, if you’re willing to sell yours.  Thanks.  —Sylvia Gallagher

It’s Annual Dinner Time!

It is Annual Dinner time again!  A wonderful group of volunteers have been devoting time and energy to planning this yearly event for the Chapter for March16, 2007.  An exciting evening has been planned.  Social hour, annual update on Sea & Sage’s successful, long-standing and continuing conservation efforts, silent auction that includes time, talent and treasured items plus Kenn Kaufmann to entertain us.  Wonderful friends of Sea & Sage have donated their time, talents, and treasured items to make this event a success.  Make sure you purchase your dinner tickets early, bring your check book and be there.  We are looking forward to seeing you at the Irvine Hilton on March 16th.

Summer Bat Walks Coordinator

Last summer was the most successful Bat Walks Program we ever had.  Over 150 people attended five walks held at the Marsh.  These outings were held at twilight when the Marsh is the most enchanting.  Stephanie Remington, Orange County’s foremost bat expert, gave a presentation at each event and then led a walk to locate the bats.  The bats were plentiful and each walk was exciting.

Jay and Marquita Miller have coordinated the bat walks for the past five years and are now looking to hand over the reins to someone new.  Duties include: publicity, registration and volunteer coordination.  They will be happy to show you the ropes and assist you in getting started.

This is a great way to meet new people and get involved with Sea and Sage.  Please call Jay or Marquita Miller at 714-549-2912 for further information.

Your Help is Needed!

Do you have a talent you are willing to share?  Theater or musical tickets?  An offer of services you can make available to others (accounting, dentistry, sports lessons, dance lessons, etc.)?  Do you have a week or weekend at your vacation home when you will not be using it?  Are you an artist?  A baker?  A chef?  Do you love to entertain and cook?  Can you sponsor a campership for our camp program?  Give musical instrument lessons?  Or do you have other items or ideas that might be of interest?  Small or large, please consider helping us with our annual silent auction.  Absolutely every cent raised goes into our many ongoing programs.  Items will be accepted until the day before the dinner.  Email Nancy Kenyon (nancykenyon@cox.net) and cc Catherine Waters (robcatwaters@earthlink.net), or call Nancy at 949-786-3160.

Save These Camp Dates!

Fledgling Camp:  June 25 - 29th (times may change from last year)

Photo Workshop:  July 5 - 7, from 3:00 to 7:00 pm, for ages 12 to adult

Marsh Camp I:  July 9 - 13

Marsh Camp II:  July 16 - 20

Advanced Camp I:  July 23 - 27

Advanced Camp II:  July 30 - Aug. 4

For additional information about our Summer Nature Day Camp Program, pick up a camp flyer at Audubon House after January 18th, or get one from our chapter webpage:  http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org
Join the Great Backyard Bird Count! Help Scientists Track Birds in Your Community!

This special annual event is a joint project of the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab. of Ornithology.

Here’s what you do:

1. Count the birds in your backyard, local park, or other natural area on any of the four count days. For each species of bird that you see, record the highest number of individuals that you observe at any one time during your count. Don’t add a bird every time you see one at your feeder; you could be counting the same individual.

2. Watch the birds for at least 15 minutes on each day that you participate.

3. Write down your list for each day and check it over to be sure it is accurate.

4. If you have a computer with internet access, you can enter your count on-line at the Great Backyard Bird Count site. Go to the following site and follow the directions.
   http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc

View your results. After you’ve entered your count for the day, visit the Map-room and see results from across the continent.

5. If you do not have a computer or cannot log on to the internet, you can still participate! Mail your bird list to Nancy Kenyon or drop it off at Audubon House. Nancy will enter the data for you. BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR NAME, PHONE, EXACT LOCATION OF YOUR BIRD COUNT, & THE DATE YOU DID YOUR COUNT. Turn in your bird list immediately after the count; if you wait too long, the count will be closed! We must receive it no later than Feb. 25. Please print and be as legible as possible so that we can read it. Mail to:
   GBBC c/o Nancy Kenyon
   32 Almond Tree Ln
   Irvine CA 92612

6. For questions or assistance, contact Nancy at 949-786-3160 or by e-mail nancykenyon@cox.net

Come to Audubon California Starr Ranch Sanctuary and join sanctuary manager, Pete DeSimone, and Scott Thomas on a tour of the ranch and have the unique opportunity to observe hawk and owl chicks right at their nests. These special Hawk & Owl Banding field trips are conducted as part of a long term study of raptors here in Orange County. Previously, the public attended these trips annually, but now these trips occur much less frequently.

This is a wonderful opportunity to meet science and raptors up close and personal. Pete and Scott have both been working with raptors for decades (longer than they like to admit); this is an opportunity to really learn about our Southern California hawks and owls. On each trip, Pete, Scott, and other biologists, will bring hawk and/or owl chicks (of the proper age) down from their nests to the group, where they will take their measurements and place identification bands on them, before returning them to their nests. Field trip participants will be able to help out and get right in the action with the young raptors. (This is also a great opportunity for those of you with cameras to photograph the young birds up close.)

The field trips, which fill up fast, will take place in March (when we expect owl chicks), April (mostly hawks and maybe some owls), and May when there should be lots of hawk chicks, maybe even some Cooper’s hawks. Each trip consists of about 20-25 people who are shuttled around in our special people mover open-bed truck and several SUVs. The trips include about 3-4 hrs. in the field and lunch is provided.

Trips run from 8 am to 1 pm and 12 pm to 5 pm. The overlap from 12 to 1 is lunch hour for both the morning and afternoon groups. Sandwiches, chips, fruit and drinks are included.

Trip fee is $40 per person; full time students and children under 10 are $25. Advanced reservations are necessary. Make checks payable to SEA & SAGE AUDUBON and mail to: Hawk & Owl Banding Trips, c/o Nancy Kenyon, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612. Be sure to include your phone number and your email address or a self-addressed, stamped envelope for trip confirmation & info.

Owls: Saturday, March 17 — 8 am - 1 pm and 12 - 5 pm
Owls: Sunday, March 18 — 8 am - 1 pm and 12 - 5 pm
Hawks: Saturday, April 28 — 8 am - 1 pm and 12 - 5 pm
Hawks: Sunday, April 29 — 8 am - 1 pm and 12 - 5 pm
Hawks: Saturday, May 12 — 8 am - 1 pm and 12 - 5 pm
Hawks: Sunday, May 13 — 8 am - 1 pm and 12 - 5 pm
Our Guest Speaker, Kenn Kaufman

We are happy to announce that Kenn Kaufman will our guest speaker at this year’s Annual Dinner. Many of you already are familiar with Kenn as an ornithologist, artist, naturalist, author, and conservationist. He is the author of many books including *Lives of North American Birds*, *the Peterson Field Guide to Advanced Birding*, *Kingbird Highway*, and the *Focus Guides to Birds, Butterflies, and Mammals of North America*. His most recent publication is the *Focus Guide to Birds of North America* translated into Spanish and in February 2007, his *Focus Guide to Insects of North America* will be released. His articles on birding regularly appear in such publications as Birders World, Bird Watchers Digest, and WildBird. He is a tour leader for Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, has led birding tours on six continents, and has been responsible for developing VENT’s program of educational birding workshops.

Kenn will speak to us on “Birds of the Undiscovered World”. A close look at the world of birds and nature is enough to remind us that we are surrounded by fascinating mysteries. Kenn Kaufman will draw on the adventures of his own life to talk about the unknown realms of nature, the potential for discovery, and the power of personal observation to rekindle our sense of wonder.

Bill Thompson, Editor of Bird Watcher’s Digest said, “No one person can begin to fill the shoes of Roger Tory Peterson, but perhaps Kenn Kaufman comes the closest. After all, he, too, is an expert field birder, artist, conservationist, and author.”

We hope you will join us on March 16th to hear what Kenn has to say.

Marquita & Jay Miller, Program Co-Chairs

A Birding Workshop with Kenn Kaufman
Saturday morning, March 17th

As an added treat, Kenn Kaufman has agreed to conduct a workshop for us, Saturday morning following the dinner, on the “Principles and Pitfalls of Bird Identification”. The workshop will be held in the Duck Club at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine. Details concerning hours of the workshop and size of the group are still being worked out. Kenn is an outstanding teacher and trip leader; this will be an opportunity that serious birders won’t want to miss.

Most birders learn to identify birds by jumping in and learning field marks for a few species at a time. In this workshop we will learn about general principles that apply to identifying all birds and pitfalls that we should try to avoid. This workshop is aimed at exploring these principles and pitfalls, to enhance our understanding of what we see in the field, and improve our ability to identify all birds. A walk around the marsh will follow the indoors part of the workshop.

Cost of the workshop is $25 for those attending the dinner and $50 for those not attending. As we receive more information on this special event, it will be posted on the webpage and at Audubon House. Space will be limited, so don’t wait until the last minute to reserve your spot. (Those of you who will be attending the dinner & the workshop may combine your payment into one check; however, please use the Workshop Reservation Form below.) Make checks payable to Sea & Sage Audubon and mail to: Nancy Kenyon, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612.

Kenn Kaufman Workshop Reservation Form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name(s)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Email address or SASE for confirmation &amp; info</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount enclosed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sea & Sage Audubon, Feb. 2007
Our Annual Dinner this year will be held at the Irvine Hilton on Friday evening, March 16th. Our guest speaker will be Kenn Kaufman who will speak on the “Birds of the Undiscovered World”. Kenn, who is a world renowned ornithologist, author, naturalist, and artist, is a very interesting speaker and we do hope you will be able to join us for this special event! The evening’s program will include the presentation of our chapter’s Fern Zimmerman Conservation Award and Letters of Commendation as well as honor Sylvia and Jim Gallagher for their extraordinary achievements and dedication to Sea and Sage.

The Irvine Hilton is located one block from the John Wayne Airport at 18800 MacArthur Boulevard in Irvine. We will have free parking; the hotel will validate our parking tickets. Directions & a map will be in the March Tattler. Below is the schedule for the evening.

No Host Bar: 6:00 p.m.
Dinner: 7:15 p.m.
Program: 8:00 p.m., sharp!
Location: Hilton Irvine/Orange County Airport
Tickets: $50
Entrees: Chicken or Vegetarian

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY. Seating will be assigned in the order the reservations are received. For reservations, make your check payable to “Sea & Sage Audubon”; include your choice of entrée as well as the name of each person for whom a reservation is made. If you wish group seating, please indicate that; each table will seat 10 people. Mail your reservations to: Annual Dinner, c/o Nancy Kenyon, 32 Almond Tree Ln., Irvine CA 92612.

You can mail your reservations to Nancy, deliver them to Audubon House, or hand them to her at our General Meeting. The tickets will not be mailed back to you; proof of your reservation will be your name badge on which will be marked your table number — which you will pick up at the check-in table the night of the dinner. Those who wish to receive confirmation of their dinner reservations should include their email address or a SASE; a confirmation message will be sent to you as soon as your reservation has been received. All reservations must be received by 6:00 p.m., Monday, March 12th.

Annual Dinner Reservation Form
Name ________________________________________________ Entree ___________________________
Name ________________________________________________ Entree ___________________________
Who do you wish to sit with? ____________________________________________________________
Email address or phone (in case we need to contact you) __________________________________________
Entrees: [C] Chicken [V] Vegetarian. All dinners will include a garden salad, fresh vegetables, specialty breads, coffee, tea, or decaf, and carrot cake for dessert. (Specific information on the entrees will be available at a later date.) Please note: The $50 is the cost of the meal and any additional donations will be appreciated. (Any donations above the cost of the meal are, of course, tax deductible.)
## Two Month Overview of Field Trips

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 3/4</td>
<td>Salton Sea weekend trip</td>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun. Feb. 4</td>
<td>Santiago Oaks (monthly)</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat. Feb. 10</td>
<td>San Jacinto Wildlife Area</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun. Feb. 11</td>
<td>Bird Walk at the SJWS (monthly)</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. Feb. 14</td>
<td>Laurel Canyon</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat. Feb. 17</td>
<td>Seal Beach NWR</td>
<td>7:30 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. Feb. 21</td>
<td>Electric Boat Trip (full)</td>
<td>8:15 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S/S Feb. 24/25</td>
<td>Kern &amp; Pixley NWR</td>
<td>tba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat. Mar. 3</td>
<td>Minus Tide Boat Tour at UNB</td>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun. Mar. 4</td>
<td>Santiago Oaks (monthly)</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun. Mar. 11</td>
<td>Bird Walk at the SJWS (monthly)</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. Mar. 14</td>
<td>Santa Rosa Plateau (full)</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat. Mar. 17</td>
<td>Owl Banding Trip at Starr Ranch</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat. Mar. 17</td>
<td>Owl Banding Trip at Starr Ranch</td>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat. Mar. 17</td>
<td>Minus Tide Boat Tour at UNB</td>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun. Mar. 18</td>
<td>Owl Banding Trip at Starr Ranch</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun. Mar. 24/25</td>
<td>East Mojave weekend trip</td>
<td>tba</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Salton Sea Weekend Trip ®

**Sat. & Sun., Feb. 3 to 4 - 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. In the past, we’ve had woodpeckers, Verdins, Abert’s Towhees, Burrowing Owls, American & Least Bitterns, Sandhill Cranes, White-faced Ibis, and vast numbers of geese, pelicans, ducks, grebes, gulls, and shorebirds. Advance reservations are necessary; trip size is limited. Trip fee is $20. Make check payable to Sea & Sage Audubon and 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 information and confirmation.

**Vic Leipzig, Leader**

### Santiago Oaks Regional Park

**Sunday, Feb. 4 - 8:00 a.m. (Monthly walk)**

Join Linette Lina for a monthly bird walk at Santiago Oaks at 8:00 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.

**Linette Lina, Leader**

### San Jacinto Wildlife Area

**Saturday, Feb. 10th - 8:00 a.m.**

Don’t miss this field trip to the San Jacinto Wildlife Area in Riverside County. The wildlife area (SJWA) consists of a series of ponds, with a backdrop of Mt. San Gorgonio and the San Bernardino Mts. which support an abundance of waterfowl and shorebirds. In addition to the ponds, there are grasslands where you may see foraging Golden Eagles and a variety of other raptors. **Directions:** From Orange County, take the #55 Frwy. to the #91 Frwy. towards Riverside; in Riverside, #91 turns eastbound into #215 south/#60 east. Take the #215 south/#60 east towards Moreno Valley. Immediately before Moreno Valley, #215 SOUTH and #60 EAST diverge. To enter SJWA from the southern entrance, take the #215 south. From #215, exit on Ramona Expressway and go east past Lake Perris to Lakeview, then north on Davis Rd. 2.3 miles to the SJWA. (The entrance to the SJWA from the north, on Theodore Road, is permanently closed.) **Bring:** binocs, a scope if you have one, warm layered clothes, water and your lunch. Be prepared to pay a $2 entry fee. Restrooms are available at the headquarters. The trip will involve a lot of walking. **Rain before the trip** may make the dirt roads impassible. If in any doubt, contact Nancy Kenyon before setting forth at 949-786-3160 or by email at nancykenyon@cox.net

**John McKeever, Leader**

### Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS

**Sunday, Feb. 11 - 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**

---

**February & March Field Trips**

For trip updates & additional trip information, visit the chapter webpage at [http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org](http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org). Trips marked with a ® require advance reservations. If you have any questions about the field trips or would like to make trip reservations, contact Field Trip Chair, Nancy Kenyon, at 949-786-3160, or nancykenyon@cox.net
February Field Trips

For trip updates & additional trip information, visit the chapter webpage at http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org. Trips marked with a ® require advance reservations. If you have any questions about the field trips or would like to make trip reservations, contact Field Trip Chair, Nancy Kenyon, at 949-786-3160, or nancykenyon@cox.net

---

Field Natural History Walk into Laurel Canyon with Dick Newell ®

Wed., February 14th - 9:00 a.m.

Spend a delightful morning exploring and contemplating the beauty and mystery of nature with a local naturalist. We will examine the geology, plant life, birds, herps and other animals of this pristine area. More than just learning plant names or identifying birds, we will explore behavior, habitat and look at relationships of the natural community during a relaxed, casual hike through native grasslands, along a streambed and through its riparian habitat where native oaks, sycamores and willows abound.

The trip will take a little over three hours to complete. It will cover about three miles and perhaps a 400' elevation gain. Anyone who is reasonably fit should find these tours relatively easy to complete.

Bring a sandwich to enjoy after the walk, perhaps a cookie to munch on along the way and lots of water. Also suggested are hiking boots, suntan lotion, binoculars and most importantly, an open, inquiring mind.

Rain or natural disaster will cancel. However, we will try to reschedule the following week if possible. To ensure a quiet contemplative walk each tour is limited to only ten participants. Contact Nancy Kenyon at 949-786-3160 or nancykenyon@cox.net for trip reservations and directions. Be sure to leave your name & phone number so that she can call you back.

Dick Newell, Leader

Seal Beach NWR ®

Monday, Feb. 17th - 7:30 am

This 923-acre refuge contains an extensive, unspoiled salt water marsh, heavily vegetated, with tidal channels throughout. Mudflats do exist and are exposed at low tides and are used by thousands of shorebirds. The refuge, supports a great variety of raptors, waterfowl, shorebirds, and songbirds. This field trip is held at the Seal Beach NWR which is located on the grounds of the Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station; trip size is limited to 20 persons and advance reservations are mandatory. Photo ID may be required in order to enter the premises. Contact Nancy Kenyon at 949-786-3160 or nancykenyon@cox.net for trip reservations. Leave your name and phone number so that your reservation can be confirmed. Meet in the parking lot outside the main gate of the Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station at 7:30 am. The station is located on the east side of Seal Beach Blvd. about 2 miles south of the #405 Fwy. and 1 mile north of Pacific Coast Hwy. We will be using government vans rather than personal vehicles to enter the facility. Late comers will not be admitted. Bring binocs, field guide, and a scope if you have one. Restrooms will be available at one of the stops. The trip will end at noon.

Kirk Gilligan & Tim Anderson, Leaders Nancy Kenyon. Trip Coordinator 949-786-3160; nancykenyon@cox.net

Kern/Pixley NWR weekend trip ®

Sat/Sun, February 24/25

We get to enjoy an area our chapter has not birded before - an area very close to home with a captivating diversity of bird life. On Saturday, we will bird the Kern NWR, in southern San Joaquin Valley, which has wintering ducks numbering up to 80,000 individuals. Refuge staff are working hard to keep many ponds shallow for shorebirds. We’ll have lunch in Allensworth where there is a museum, nice picnic facilities, and is a great place to see Burrowing Owls. After lunch, we will bird some agricultural ponds and flooded fields for ducks, shorebirds and other waterfowl. Other wetlands & oases of trees include a lovely canal walk where we will search for riparian birds; warblers, vireos, woodpeckers and winter sparrows. We’ll bird Pixley NWR in the late afternoon to watch the Sandhill Cranes come in to roost for the night. On Sunday, we will take Bakersfield’s Kern River County Park River Walk to look for flycatchers, kingfishers, etc., visit Hart Memorial Park, the showcase for Bakersfield birding, Lake Ming where Bald Eagles winter and migrating waterfowl inhabit the lake and the river nearby, and the Tule Elk State Preserve. (Due to space limitations in this newsletter, we cannot list all the places Roy plans to take us on this trip; however, a full description of the outing can be found on our webpage.) Advance reservations are necessary because the trip size is limited to 14 people. Trip fee is $30. Make check payable to Sea & Sage Audubon and mail to: Kern/Pixley FT, c/o Nancy Kenyon, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612. Be sure to include your phone number & email address or SASE for trip information and confirmation.

Roy Poucher, Leader

Minus Tide Boat Tours in UNB ®

Saturday, March 3 and 17 - 2:00 pm

These trips are scheduled to view the bay at a minus tide. This will provide birders with an unequaled opportunity to see vast numbers of shorebirds. Advance reservations are needed; trip fee is $10. Make check payable to SEA & SAGE AUDUBON & mail to: Nancy Kenyon, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612. Include your phone number & email address or a SASE for trip info & confirmation.
**Education Volunteers**

The Marsh Education Project is proud to recognize its fifty-five education volunteers who donated over 4,300 hours in 2006. The largest projects are staffing summer camp and the school tours. Other activities that the volunteers coordinate and/or assist are group tours, teenage Junior Naturalists, summer bat walks, Seasons of Nature walks, Art Meets Science program, nature kits for loan, grant-writing, taxidermy collection, and taking care of the Audubon House live animals. No task is too small as all positions are important for the smooth functioning of our education programs.

Special praise goes to these twelve who each volunteered over 100 hours: Bev Spring (412), Grace McElhiney (411), Tim Maas (315), Teresa Cullen (205), Helen Nicholas (200), Pat Vranicar (195), Nancy Kenyon (174), Constance Cassady (155), Kate Grabenstein (143), Deborah Brin (140), Carolyn Noble (132), Lori Kiesser (105) and Scott Hendrixson* (105).

Volunteers who donated between 50-99 hours were Robert McElhiney, Alex Thomas*, Lois Taylor, Mary Shandy, Trude Hurd, Olivia Simon*, Beverly Hargrove, Jay Miller, and Gloria Schlaepfer.


We thank these dedicated volunteers who have enabled us to provide high-quality environmental education program to the residents of Orange County.

(* denotes student volunteers)

**New Naturalists-in-Training**

Since September 2006, a total of twelve new volunteers have attended single-day orientation meetings about our Outdoor Adventures science program for school children. This fall and winter, they have been learning how to assist and lead the 2-hour school tours at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. We give a big welcome to Sherry Bass, Lynn Becker, Sara Bethurum, Barbara Dixon, Anissa Housley, Mary Joseph, Gretchen Mavrouniotis, Jay Miller, Marquita Miller, Susan Monroe, Sheri Smith, and Karl Von Herzen. If you would like to be a part of our exciting school tour program, contact Trude Hurd, our Project Director of Education, at 949-261-7963. The next orientation days are Thursday February 15 and Thursday March 15 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**A California Woman’s Story**

In December, 2006, Mrs. Joan Irvine Smith graciously donated twenty signed copies of her new book, *A California Woman’s Story*, to the Marsh Education Project. This lovely book details the life of Mrs. Smith as an environmental activist and her efforts to protect Orange County’s wild habitats in addition to her other philanthropic endeavors. Especially exciting are the thousands of photographs and California Impressionism and plein-air artwork that richly document California’s natural resources. It is beautiful!

Most of our copies are reserved for our financial sponsors, but a few remain that will be given to anyone who donates $100 or more to the Marsh Education Project in February. Don’t wait until we are sold out! Call Trude Hurd at 949-261-7963 to reserve your copy today.

**Special Grant from Joan Irvine Smith & Athalie R. Clarke Foundation**

The Marsh Education Project is pleased to announce that we have received a check for $10,000 representing the first installment of a $50,000 grant approved for our environmental educational programs at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. James Irvine Swinden, vice-president of the foundation, wrote that “the Foundation is delighted to be able to continue to support your educational outreach programs and commends you on the extraordinary work the Sea & Sage Audubon Society has accomplished over the years in creating greater public awareness of California’s nature wildlife and habitat treasures.”

continued on page 11
The Joan Irvine Smith & Athalie R. Clarke Foundation has been an integral part of the success of our Marsh Education Project at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. Mrs. Smith donated an extraordinary $100,000 to initiate our program in 1992. These funds were evenly divided with National Audubon Society which used the money to design the 28-page bird book “Birds of the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary” that we now give to each student attending one of our hands-on science programs. We used the funds to hire a full-time Project Director of Education (me!) and to purchase all of the tour supplies such as student binoculars and microscopes.

Mrs. Joan Irvine Smith followed-up with another $100,000 that was given as $10,000 a year for ten years. This reliable source of income, along with another large anonymous donor, has provided continuity and permanence to our Marsh Education Project. We are honored and appreciative of such generous support, and want our membership to know how much we value Mrs. Smith’s gift. Thank you, Mrs. Smith!

Directions to AUDUBON HOUSE and the SJWS
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 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.

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
Those of you who read the Tattler cover to cover, know that Sea and Sage is trying to cut their expenses. We now post the Tattler on our chapter website. Members who wish to receive 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.

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 ________________________________
Email address ___________________________

C15 7xCH  Feb. 2007
Chapter Mission Statement: Sea & 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.

Sea & Sage Audubon Society
PO Box 5447, Irvine CA 92616

Executive Committee:
President: Al Baumann............. 949-859-5081
Vice President: Kaaren Perry........ 949-497-0884
Secretary: Marcia Marlowe............ 949-644-0559
Treasurer: Hal Sheakley............. 949-552-5974
Director 2007: Laura Wantz........ 949-494-4046
Director 2007: Pete DeSimone...... 949-858-0309
Director 2008:.......................... 949-858-0309
Director 2009: Mary Joseph.......... 714-848-8362
Director 2009: Chuck Leavell........ 714-630-6497
Past President: Tom Croom........ 714-692-9683

Committee Chairpersons:
Audubon House Volunteers: Judy Fritts........ 949-551-4513
Birdathon:.......................... 949-786-3160
Bird Information: Sylvia Gallagher..... 714-962-8990
Christmas Bird Counts: Curtis Johnson..... 714-739-5373
Conservation: Susan Sheakley......... 949-552-5974
Council: Rick DeRevan............. 714-427-7016
Development: Cheryl Thomas.......... 949-294-2275
Education (interim): Kaaren Perry.... 949-497-0884
Exhibits:.......................... 714-441-0491
Facilities: Neal Anderson........ 714-441-0491
Field Trips: Nancy Kenyon........ 949-786-3160
Finance:.......................... 949-786-3160
Great Park Liaison Co-Chair: Diane Bonanno..... 714-572-9911
Great Park Liaison Co-Chair: Pat Overby..... 714-572-9911
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
Program Co-Chairs: Jay & Marquita Miller... 714-549-2912
Publicity: Catherine Waters.......... 562-869-6718
Publishing: Sam Berry............. 949-646-1488
SJWS Liaison: Chris Obaditch....... 949-640-7234
Starr Ranch/Envir. Liaison: Pete DeSimone..... 949-858-0309

CALENDAR

February
3/4 S/S Salton Sea weekend trip................................................................. 9:30 am
04 Sun Santiago Oaks Regional Park......................................................... 8:00 am
06 Tues Conservation Committee Meeting.................................................. 6:30 pm
10 Sat San Jacinto Wildlife Area............................................................ 8:00 am
11 Sun Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS..................................................... 8:00 am
13 Tues Board Meeting................................................................................. 7:30 pm
14 Wed Laurel Canyon Natural History Walk.............................................. 9:00 am
16 Fri GENERAL MEETING............................................................................ 7:30 pm
17 Sat Seal Beach NWR................................................................................. 7:30 am
21 Wed Electric Boat Trip.............................................................................. 8:15 am
24/25 S/S Kern/Pixley NWR weekend trip................................................... tba

March
03 Sat Minus Tide Boat Tour at UNB......................................................... 3:30 pm
04 Sun Santiago Oaks Regional Park......................................................... 8:00 am
06 Tues Conservation Committee Meeting................................................. 6:30 pm
11 Sun Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS...................................................... 8:00 am
13 Tues Board Meeting................................................................................. 7:30 pm
14 Wed Santa Rosa Plateau Natural History Walk.................................... 9:00 am
16 Fri ANNUAL DINNER............................................................................... 6:00 pm
17 Sat Birding Workshop with Kenn Kaufman........................................... tba
17 Sat Owl Banding Trips.............................................................................. 8:00 am & 12 pm
17 Sat Minus Tide Boat Tour at UNB........................................................... 3:30 pm
18 Sun Owl Banding Trips............................................................................ 8:00 am & 12 pm
19 Mon Audubon CA Starr Ranch Sanctuary................................................. 8:00 am
21 Wed Electric Boat Trip.............................................................................. 8:15 am
23 Fri Irvine Regional Park............................................................................ 8:00 am
24/25 S/S East Mojave weekend trip............................................................ tba