Summer Happenings
by Al Baumann, president

This message probably will seem to ramble all over the place; and to be honest, the reason is because I intend to go all over the place. With this issue covering three months before the next issue, the September Tattler, I need to cover a lot of territory in a limited amount of space.

First, summer at Audubon House is full of excitement and wonder, thanks to the series of Summer Camps taking place from June 25 through August 4. Attendees range from Fledglings (ages 7-8) to Advanced Camp (ages 11+). Our Camp Co-coordinators, Grace McElhinney and Bev Spring, have done an exceptional job. That's great, but I'm not 8 yrs. old or 10 or 14! You probably are not either. My response to that is if you really, really want to feel 8, 10, or 14, pick a day and attend camp as an observer, and you will be 8, 10, or 14!

While talking with Grace, she mentioned an idea that I believe is fantastic and is something every one of us can do to make every child's camp experience memorable. Here it is: Every time you recycle a soft drink container or plastic bottle, how about sending that money to Audubon House, Attention - Camp. These dollars add up and allow for the purchase of snacks, juices, etc. for the campers. Thank you!

What else is at the Marsh this summer? The Summer Barbeque on Saturday, July 28. This year's speaker is Todd McGrath, former Audubon California Board member and an outstanding pelagic specialist. Mark your calendars now. This event has become very popular, and it is easy to see why: good friends, new friends, good food, great speakers, and summer under the stars - what a combination!

So far you have noticed everything I've mentioned is from late June into August. Let's jump back to June just for a second. June is the time to get your optics cleaned and adjusted because there is no time later - southbound shorebird migration begins at the Marsh in July. This is the time to view some of the beautiful breeding plumage before the birds molt, and to see a lot of juvénal plumage.

Away from the Marsh I know there are groups forming to travel the U.S. on the “Great Sparrow Search” brought about by Sylvia Gallagher's outstanding sparrow classes. The last two items are reminders. First, don't forget to purchase your new Duck Stamp beginning July 1 at any U.S. Post Office. It's just $15 and 98 cents of every dollar goes to the National Wildlife Refuges.

Lastly, whatever you do, wherever you go, be safe and have FUN!

General Meeting
June 15th - Friday - 7:30 pm

“Wild Parrots of Southern California”
presented by Mike Bowles and Loretta Erickson

Naturalist/photographers Mike Bowles and Loretta Erickson began photographing and documenting the wild parrots of Southern California in 2001. With increasing interest, their extensive research intensified and by 2004, they had joined forces with the California Parrot Project. As well as photographing and documenting their frequent observations, they are also studying individual birds among the flock.

Their presentation will outline the various species found in Southern California, the background of each species, the myths and probabilities of how the wild parrots arrived here and species identification. Along with some of their more interesting observations and stories, they will also address the wild parrots’ impact on native species and what sets the parrots apart from our native birds.

Mike and Loretta's photographs have been featured in PsittaScene Magazine (magazine of the World Parrot Trust), the Orange County Register and various other national and local publications. Their photographs can be seen at http://amazornia.us.

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

Jay and 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 Fwy (5) or San Diego Fwy (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.)
Salton Sea Restoration

Audubon thanks all who have responded to the alerts on the Salton Sea. Audubon California and the National Audubon Society report that the letters and emails have made a difference! In late April, the California Resources Secretary proposed a Salton Sea restoration plan that provides substantial habitat for the Salton Sea's more than 400 bird species and protects air quality and the endangered Desert Pupfish. It would be a big victory for birds and wildlife except that it also includes the construction of two lakes primarily for recreation and development that triple the cost and pose enormous risks to the environment.

However, Audubon is working to ensure that the legislation (SB 187) authorizing the restoration plan keeps the provisions that protect habitat and guard air quality, and puts the onus on local entities to take responsibility for additional costs of any lakes constructed for recreation. Audubon will also insist that the construction of such lakes complies with all environmental protection laws.

Once the legislation is finalized, Audubon will again call on all of us to contact our representatives to ensure the passage of this essential bill. If you would like to add your voice or receive updates, please contact Kathie Satterfield at advocate@audubonsaltonsea.org. (You may remember that last year, Kathie presented a program on the Salton Sea Restoration Plan at one of our General Meetings.)

More information is posted on the Sea and Sage Audubon website, including an updated “Salton Sea Story …so far” by Kathie Satterfield.

Potluck Picnic and Hot Dog Roast Wednesday, June 20th
Huntington State Beach

Immediately following the Talbert Marsh and Least Tern field trip, the Conservation Committee will host a potluck picnic and hot dog roast at Huntington State Beach. Sea and Sage is reserved at Ramada A (closest to the Talbert Channel).

Please bring your own plate and utensils, and a dish to share for eight people (your choice: side or main dish, dessert, salad, etc.). Sea and Sage will provide the hot dogs, buns and condiments, plus water and soft drinks.

We suggest sunscreen and something warm in case it turns chilly. We also suggest bringing your own folding chair. If you have any long bbq forks to use for roasting the hot dogs, we ask that you please bring those too.

You must “register” for the picnic so we can get a count for the hot dogs and drinks. Contact Nancy Kenyon, 949-261-7963; nancykenyon@cox.net and give her your name(s) and telephone number.

We look forward to seeing you.

Susan Sheakley and Scott Thomas

Activities Calendar

Please stay in touch with us by checking the website for updates on summer activities, starting now. Be sure to look at the Conservation Calendar!
http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org/Conservation/ConservationCalendar.html

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Rarities in Orange County
by Doug Willick

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.

With almost another month still to go, the spring of 2007 appears to have already been one of the most remarkable in memory for the exceptional variety and quantity of migrant songbirds (and other landbird species) moving through the county. One potential factor that could be linked to this event is the record drought that southern California experienced during the past winter. With native habitats relatively parched at this time, migrants may be forced to make use of non-native plantings and landscaping associated with urban parks and suburban neighborhoods. Due to irrigation, these artificial “habitats” may currently be more productive for the scores of migrants that are in need of replenishing their energy reserves. During more normal rainfall years, the healthier native habitats provide substantial resources for migrants over a broad front. During wet winters, therefore, encountering concentrations of migrants in urban settings is more atypical.

Before recapping some of the county’s highlights of the last month, the following are some of the winter rarities that lingered on into April (many of these tallied by teams competing in the Sea and Sage Birdathon competition: Reddish Egret at Bolsa Chica (BC) at least through Apr. 18; Greater White-fronted Goose at Village Pond Park, at least through Apr. 30; Brant at BC, through Apr. 27; late Hooded Mergansers at BC, Apr. 23; Lewis’s Woodpecker in Black Star Canyon, Apr. 28; an adult Bald Eagle at Irvine Regional Park, Apr. 28; up to three Pacific Golden-Plovers at Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station, Apr. 28; a young male American Redstart at Huntington Central Park (HCP), Apr. 24; a female American Redstart along the upper Santa Ana River (Orange), Apr. 26; a Black-and-white Warbler at HCP, Apr. 7; a Northern Waterthrush at HCP, Apr. 30; up to two Summer Tanagers at HCP, Apr. 7, and a White-throated Sparrow at HCP, Apr. 15. Two to three Horned Grebes at BC, through Apr. 25, were fairly late.

Breeding populations of Mountain Chickadees were formerly restricted in the county to upper elevations of the Santa Ana Mountains. They have now apparently become recent residents in such relative lowland areas as Mission Viejo, Lake Forest, Laguna Woods and Laguna Hills, with breeding being confirmed in a couple of these areas during the last couple years. One present in Newport Beach last summer (Peyton Cook), and again on May 9 (Doug Willick), Pappears to indicate resident birds moving into some coastal areas of the county as well.

As would be expected in the month of April, the majority of the reports pertained to various spring migrants that were moving through the county. Due to their volume, only the more significant of these, however, will be addressed in the following paragraphs. Two of the most noteworthy of the new discoveries, oddly enough, involved individuals of the same species that likely had been wintering in the area. Two Pine Warblers, both singing males, were found, with one in Costa Mesa (Estancia Park), Apr. 4-8 (Beverly Hargrove), and the other in Orange, Apr. 15-21 (Hugh Ranson). These represent the 10th and 11th records of Pine Warbler in the county, with the majority being wintering birds. A male Summer Tanager in a Yorba Linda residential area, Apr. 8 (Brian Leatherman), had undoubtably also been wintering in the area.

Both American Bittern (Peters Canyon Reservoir) and Least Bittern (Laguna Niguel Regional Park), were seen on Apr. 28, by the Birdathon team of P. Cook, Bruce Aird, Steve and Marian Alter. Other late Hooded Mergansers this month included two on the Anaheim Hills Golf Course, Apr. 9 (Dick Purvis). A Northern Saw-whet Owl was reported in Silverado Canyon, Apr. 28, by the Birdathon team that included Vic Leipzig and Tom Benson, et.al. Approximately 30 Lesser Nighthawks over Peters Canyon Reservoir, Apr. 23 (the Alters, B. Aird, P. Cook), was a significant concentration for the county.

Undoubtedly this was a record spring for the number of Calliope Hummingbirds reported in the county. Exceptional numbers were also being seen in other coastal southern California counties. Although reports of Calliopes were too numerous to cite individually, locations included such places as HCP (where up to four or five were possibly present at one time), Tree of Life Nursery, private residences, Harriet Wieder Reg. Park (HWRP), and a few other locations for which only limited information was obtained.

Other migrant highlights in the county recorded during the last month included a Green-tailed Towhee at HWRP, May 6, and Gray Flycatcher here, May 7 (both Brian Daniels). A Northern Parula at HWRP, May 4-5 (B. Daniels), and an Ovenbird at LNRP, May 3 (Sheri Smith), were rare warbler visitors to California. Individual Black-throated Sparrows at HCP, Apr. 9-11 (Sylvia Gallagher), and at Starr Ranch Sanctuary, Apr. 27 (Debbie Gley), were unexpected spring migrants for the coastal region. (B. Daniels). Yellow-headed Blackbirds were at BC, Apr. 22 (Larry Kaufman), and at PCRP, Apr. 28 (P. Cook, et.al.). A Plumbeus Vireo reported from Casper’s Regional Park, Apr. 15 (observer information unknown), may potentially have been wintering locally.
Audubon House Volunteers

We would like to thank the following people for helping to staff Audubon House in May and June: Sonia Appell, Donna & Mike Augustine, Barbara Chidester, Deana Collins, Carolyn Cooper, Tom Drouet, Fresia Escalona, Judy Fritts, Virginia Gochenour, Pat Heilig, Sarah Jayne, Steve Jelnick, Lois Jones, Nancy Kenyon, Mary Martineau, Joan McCauley, Sally Menzel, Joan Olafson, Rosemary Price, Betty Purdy, Barbara Reber, Mary Shandy, Bev Spring, Betty Swift, Celia Vorsanger, and Vic Westling.

Our Nature Day Camp

There are still a few openings left in our popular Summer Nature Day Camps: Fledgling Camp for 7-8 year olds (June 25-29) and Marsh Bird Camp for 9-12 year olds (July 9-13 or July 16-20). Attending one of our camps will add a new dimension to your child’s summer vacation. Full information is on our chapter webpage or pick up a camp brochure at Audubon House today.

Summer Barbecue

at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary
Sat, July 28th, 5:30 to 10:00 p.m.

Bring the family and join us for this special occasion: dining under the stars, evening walks around the marsh, and a great program on pelagic birds presented by Todd McGrath. Bringing us his experience and expertise in pelagic birding, Todd McGrath, the holder of the L.A. County Big Year record, will take the Sea and Sage stage and accompany us on a feet-on-the-ground cruise off the California coast in search of our sea loving, aquatic neighbors. Along the way we will see fabulous photography, learn how the currents and winds affect our off shore habitat and pelagic birds, and be entertained by an enthusiastic expert...all in the comfort of our own Sanctuary.

Advance reservations are essential so that we know how much food to buy (see form below). Those with e-mail or a stamped, self-addressed envelope will be sent their reservation confirmation and tickets; all others can pick them up when they check in at the barbecue on July 28th.

Our menu will include hamburgers with the fixings, vegetarian beans, chips, fresh fruit, dessert, lemonade or Crystal Lite, and coffee. A vegetarian entree will be offered for those who specifically request it on their reservation form.

Tickets for the barbecue and program are $15.00 for adults, $7.00 for children under 5. Your ticket will include your meal & beverage, evening marsh walk, and program. (Beer, wine & soft drinks are extra.) Activities begin at 5:30 pm, dinner will be from 6:00 to 7:00 pm., followed by the program (as soon as it is dark). The first marsh walk will focus on the sights and sounds as the marsh life settles in for the evening. The post speaker marsh walk will focus on the sounds of the wildlife that frequent the Sanctuary at night.

This event is staffed entirely by chapter volunteers. If you can help us out in any capacity, we would really appreciate it. A signup sheet for volunteers is at Audubon House; it is also posted on the chapter webpage. For more information, contact Nancy Kenyon at (949) 786-3160 or by e-mail at nancykenyon@cox.net (Directions to the SJWS are on page 11.)

Summer Barbecue - Will YOU Be There?

Name_________________________ Number in your party:_________________________

Do you want a vegetarian entree?_________________________ If, so, how many?_________________________

E-mail Address or Phone __________________________

Do you want to go on one of the evening bird walks?_________________________

Amount enclosed____________ ($15 per person; children under 5 are $7)

Make your check payable to Sea & Sage Audubon and mail it with this form to: Barbecue, c/o Nancy Kenyon, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612
A Great Place to Spend 4 Hours!
If you are looking for an interesting way to spend 4 hours, we have just the thing for you — become an Audubon House Volunteer! Our chapter office is often a busy place and we could use a few more people to help us out by signing up for a 4-hour shift in the morning from 8-12 or the afternoon from 12-4. Volunteers greet visitors, answer the phone, talk with people about birds, check out videos, sell merchandise, help Trude with occasional small projects, etc. Our Audubon House Volunteer Committee will provide you with a short training session so that you will learn how to handle different situations. Now that summer is almost here, many of our regular AH Volunteers are away on vacation and we need additional help, especially on weekends. Please call Judy Fritts (949-551-4513) if you can help us. It’s a great place to spend 4 hours and it’s one of the ways you can really help your chapter.

Huell Howser in Orange Co.
Huell Howser visited Orange County in April and interviewed Dick Purvis and his network of people who work with Bluebird nestboxes; the program is part of series called California’s Green. It will air at 7:30 p.m. on KCET on Tuesday, June 19 and again on Tuesday, July 24.

Huell Howser also visited the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary as part of his series on California Water. This part of the program was about the Irvine Ranch Water District’s natural treatment system. The three guest speakers for this segment of the program were IRWD General Manager Paul Jones, IRWD Wetland Manager Norris Brandt, and Audubon’s Trude Hurd. This program will air on KCET at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, June 29 and again on Thursday, July 12 on KCET.

Those Yummy Cookies...
Thanks to our great cooks, we had a delicious and plentiful supply of cookies at our General Meetings this past year. We’d like to thank these generous people for bringing their goodies to share with us: Deana Collins, Carolyn Cooper, Carolyn Croom, Lucy Fischer, Mary Ann Hazlett, Nancy Kenyon, Gillian Martin, Sally Menzel, Bobbie Miller, Susan Monroe, Myra Porter, Margaret Renton, Larry & Diane Ryan, Barbara Sentovich and Mary Talley. Special thanks to Gretchen McCausland for filling in for Merri Levy in April.

Bookstore News
Summer is a great time to sit back, relax in the sun and read a good book. We have over 500 titles, from light reads to regional guides, to bird biology. Also, check out the natural history section with plenty of titles ranging from insects, dragonflies, butterflies, reptiles, mammals & plants to geology. And try the new shade grown coffee (Cerulean Warbler Conservation Coffee) with your breakfast. On sale throughout the summer are various t-shirt designs that have been discontinued, from warblers to loons to owls etc., so be sure to check our sales cart located on the front porch.

Save Those Old Photos!
If you have any old photos showing chapter personnel and/or events, please drop them off at Audubon House for Cheryl Thomas. We’ll be celebrating Sea & Sage’s 50th Anniversary at next year’s Annual Dinner & Cheryl is preparing a powerpoint presentation for it.

Video & DVD Rentals
Did you know we have a good selection of nature videos you can check out at Audubon House? Many are just $2 for 2 weeks and some are free. We also have two new DVDs: Hooked on Hummingbirds and Hooked on the Galapagos Birds. Stop by and check them out.

Birding Skills Workshops presented by Sylvia Gallagher
The following workshops will be offered during the coming year:

Birds of Southern California: An Introductory Workshop
This ten-week workshop covers the common birds of various local habitats as well as a variety of other topics, such as families of birds, plumages & molts, bird topography, distribution and habitat preferences, behavior, birding ethics and etiquette. It is designed for beginning birders and also for relatively inexperienced intermediates who are searching for some organization to their bird knowledge. Starts Nov. 7-8. Full info in Oct. Tattler and on the website now. Registration starts Oct. 9.

Observing Birds
Five workshops which can be done as a series or separately. Topics: Parts of Birds, Sounds of Birds, Shapes of Birds, Colors of Birds, Behaviors of Birds. Suitable for intermediate and advanced birders. Starts Jan. 5. Full information in Nov. Tattler and on website now. Registration starts Nov. 13.

Learning California Bird Sounds: an Introduction to Aural Birding
Covers the sounds of about sixty common birds that are frequently heard, but not seen. Also lectures on the nature and meaning of bird sounds. Designed for people who have visual familiarity with the common local birds, such as that provided in the INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP described above. Starts Feb. 4-7. Eight weekly meetings plus one field trip. Full information in Dec. Tattler and on website by early fall. Registration begins Dec. 10.
June, July, August 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.

**Santiago Oaks Regional Park**

**Sunday, June 3, July 1, Aug. 5 at 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. Even after the fire, there were a lot of birds found in the park last month. **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. OR, take Jamboree towards the mountains, all the way to its intersection with Santiago Cyn. Rd; turn left and follow Santiago to Windes Dr. Turn right on Windes and follow it 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**

**Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS**

**Sunday, June 10, July 8, Aug. 12 - 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**

**Monthly Boat Trips at UNB ®**

**Wed., June 20, July 18, Aug. 15 - 8:15 a.m.**

Join us for the rare chance of birding the Upper Newport Bay from the deck of a small skiff. 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. Participants may be asked to help count birds seen or heard from the boat. 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**

**San Onofre Trestles**

**Wednesday, June 6 - 8:00 a.m.**

Join us for our annual trip to the San Onofre Trestles to search for the Yellow-breasted Chat, Bullock’s Oriole, CA Gnatcatcher, Black-headed Grosbeak, nestling swallows & swifts, woodpeckers, etc. in willow-sycamore riparian, coastal sage scrub, shoreline & lagoon habitats. **Directions:** Take the #5 freeway south past San Clemente and exit on Cristianitos. Turn left, cross over the freeway and take the first left turn along the frontage road towards Carl’s Jr. Park in the big parking lot before you reach Carl’s. **Bring:** water, binoculars, and a jacket. The trip will end by 12 noon. **Co-Leaders: Gary Meredith and Nancy Kenyon**

**Kern River Preserve & Vicinity ®**

**Sat/Sun - June 16 & 17 (weekend trip)**

This special trip is one you won’t want to miss! It is also one you need to plan ahead for because finding accommodations in the Kernville area can be tricky if done at the last minute. We are fortunate to have our field trip led by Bob Barnes who lived in the area for many years and knows the area well. This trip will cover a variety of habitats: high desert, Great Basin, cottonwood/willow riparian, forest, redwood meadows, and mountains. Some of the nesting season bird species available in June (assuming full accessibility in mountains) include: Sooty Grouse, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Black Swift, Williamson’s Sapsucker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Clark’s Nutcracker, Mountain Bluebird, Mountain White-crowned Sparrow. (Summer heat should not be a problem because Bob plans to bird in the lower elevations in the morning and higher elevations in the afternoon.) **Trip fee:** $40. **Contact Nancy Kenyon before sending in your check; reservation deadline is Friday, June 1st.** Make check payable to Sea & Sage Audubon & mail it to: Kern River FT, c/o Nancy Kenyon, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612.

**Talbert Marsh Field Trip**

**Wed., June 20 - 2:15 p.m.**

Join Lena Hayashi on a tour of the Talbert Marsh, ending at the Least Tern Natural Preserve in Huntington Beach. Please note that the Conservation Committee is hosting a hot dog roast and pot luck picnic immediately following the field trip. RSVP is required for the picnic. More details on both the field trip and the picnic are on the Conservation News page 2. **Lena Hayashi, Leader**

**San Bernardino Mountains**

**Sat., June 23rd - 8:00 a.m. ®**

This trip will explore the forest and meadow habitats of Bluff Lake. This scenic area, at approximately 7600 ft. elev., has had breeding bird species that are quite unique or rare south of the Sierra Nevada, such as Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets, Williamson’s Sapsucker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-crowned Sparrow, and Lincoln’s Sparrow, to name only a few. We will look for other montane species that are possible in this area, such as the Calliope Hummingbird, White-headed Woodpecker, Dusky Flycatcher, Brown Creeper, Townsend’s Solitaire, and
San Bernardino Mountains - continued Saturday, June 23rd - 8 am ®

Cassin’s Finch. This field trip will be limited to 20 persons because of narrow trails. You will need to email or phone your reservation to Nancy Kenyon nancykenyon@cox.net or (949-786-3160). We will meet at the Aspen Glen Picnic Area on the south side of Big Bear Lake at 8:00 am. (Remember, you MUST make reservations ahead of time before going on this field trip. No exceptions will be made at the roadside!) Directions: Take Hwy. 330 north to Running Springs, then east on Hwy. 18 to Big Bear Lake. Stay on #18 along the south shore, which is also called Big Bear Blvd. After about 3 miles, turn right on Tulip Lane and proceed to the picnic area which is less than 1/2 mile. We will be driving on dirt roads which are often fairly rough; carpooling will be encouraged. Bring: a picnic lunch; there will be no facilities until we return to the Big Bear Valley area after mid-day. (PLEASE NOTE: You will need a U.S. Forest Service Adventure Pass to park in this area; Adventure Passes are available at many sporting goods stores.) The AAA has an excellent map of the area “Guide to the San Bernardino Mts.” Driving Time: Allow about 2.5 hrs. driving time from central Orange County. The trip will end around 3 pm.

Doug Willick, Trip Leader

Shorebirding in the Antelope Valley ® Saturday, Aug. 4 at 7:00 a.m.

The main focus of this trip will be to observe shorebirds at the Piute Ponds and other west Mojave “hot spots” (literally and figuratively) in the Antelope Valley of northern Los Angeles County. Thousands of sandpipers and plovers stage at these isolated wetlands during their southerly migration and we will be there to meet them. Baird’s Sandpiper is nearly guaranteed to be present and Semipalmated Sandpiper is possible. In addition to shorebirds (if this weren’t enough), the surrounding desert can produce Prairie Falcon, LeConte’s Thrasher, and lots of Horned Larks and Sage Sparrows. Note: The Piute Ponds are located on Edwards Air Force Base which has restricted entry. The meeting place and time will be arranged.

Jon Feenstra, Leader Nancy Kenyon, Trip Reservations 949-786-3160 nancykenyon@cox.net

Thanks for a Great Job!

As you know, a program of varied field trips depends solely on the dedicated leaders who willingly give of their time and expertise to lead our chapter outings. Not only must they carefully scout out the trip ahead of time, but they also need to be very familiar with the birds in the area and be able to guide a group of diverse birders toward identifying any birds they find. Field trips are a vital part of our chapter activities and the following people helped to make our field trip program a success this year: Bruce Aird, Steve & Marian Alter, Bob Barnes, Pete Bloom, Peyton Cook, Pete DeSimone, Jon Feenstra (Aug. FT), John Fitch, Sylvia Gallagher, Kirk Gilligan, Beverly Hargrove, Curtis Johnson, Nancy Kenyon, Paul Klahr, Vic Leipzig, Linette Lina, John McKeever, Gary Meredith, Dick Newell, Chris Obaditch, Kaaren Perry, Roy Poucher, Bob Shanman, Rich Sonnenberg, Steve Sosensky, Scott & Cheryl Thomas, Jerry Tolman, Doug Willick.

Nancy Kenyon, Field Trip Chair

WFO Conference in Las Vegas/Henderson Area September 27-30, 2007

Western Field Ornithologists are having their 32nd annual meeting in Las Vegas/Henderson, Nevada, September 27 - 30, 2007 at Sam’s Town Resort. WFO’s two-half day science sessions combined with expert led birding for Mojave Desert and Great Basin specialties and migrants are geared to every range of birder and ornithologist. Beginners and seasoned birders are welcome. Chris Elphick, principal editor of The Sibley Guide to Bird Life and Behavior will be giving the keynote address. Other activities will include a book signing, welcoming reception, sound and slide expert identification panels and pre and post meeting field trips. Check the WFO website, http://www.wfo-cbrc after June 1 for full information on this event.

New Field Trip Schedule

As new field trips are scheduled for the coming year, they will be posted on our chapter webpage. The complete schedule will be included in the September Tattler.

Birders Needed to Help the Junior Naturalists

The Junior Naturalists are looking for a few experienced birders to help with the birding part of their field trips next year. Planned trips are:

October – Irvine Lake
February – Salton Sea
March – Santa Rosa Plateau
May – Big Morongo
June – Camping, Kern River (?)

If you can help us out, or if you have another location to suggest for a field trip, especially one that you can lead, please contact Kate Grabenstein 714-540-6768 or by email at papians@sbcglobal.net. Thanks!
**Marsh Education Project Naturalists**

Each year, the volunteer Audubon naturalists donate their time and talents to allow elementary schoolchildren to make personal connections with nature. This happens during our Outdoor Adventures science programs at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary where naturalists help students use microscopes and binoculars to closely observe wildlife.

Teachers praise our naturalists and science program with comments such as: “Audubon Outdoor Adventures is an outstanding, informative, hands-on program. The docents are knowledgeable and relate well with the students. The students learned and enjoyed the trip.” “[the students] were thrilled; at each of the 3 stations I saw ‘light bulbs’ going on and smiles on their faces.” “Each staff member showed enthusiasm and his/her love of birds and the earth.”

The naturalists made a positive impact in 1,700 children’s lives in addition to mentoring 12 new naturalists this year. Who are these enthusiastic, friendly, and knowledgeable naturalists? Deborah Brin, Teresa Cullen, Frank Feller, Carol Getz, Beverly Hargrove, Bobbie Miller, Jay Miller, Sharon Nantell, Martin Natland, Helen Nicholas, Carolyn Noble, Sharon O’Brien, Joan Olafson, Bob Polkinghorn, Gloria Schlaepfer, Mary Shandy, Margo Stuart, Don Thomas, and Pat Vranicar. Because of them, “no child will ever look at a bird in the same way again.”

We thank all of our naturalists for a wonderful tour season! —Trude Hurd

**A Unique Opportunity**

*We no longer need any volunteers — Thanks!*

Haven’t you always wanted the opportunity to do something cool, something that very few people have had the opportunity to do? Well, that opportunity is waiting for you right here in our own Orange County.

Come along as an assistant on one of our bat walks this summer. Unlike most of the visitors to the marsh, you will be able to explore the marsh at dusk and later. Most of nature that you observe in the daylight has gone to sleep, but there is life in the marsh at night and all your senses will affirm that. All that we ask of you as an assistant is to answer simple questions about the marsh and make sure that no one gets lost or hurt. You don’t have to know anything about birds, bees or bats, just show up, commit about three hours to Sea & Sage, and make sure that everyone including yourself is having a good time. Call Helen Nicholas @949-726-0858 if you’d like to list yourself among the few! Walk dates are May 25, June 8, June 22, August 10. August 17. — Helen Nicholas

**Can You Lend Us a Hand?**

One of the projects for campers attending Marsh Bird Camp this summer will be to build a wooden bird feeder. The parts have been precut so that all the campers will be doing is sanding the feeders and hammering them together. We need volunteers to help our 9-12 year olds with the hammering; if possible, we’d like to have one adult for each child. Can you spare an hour and half on Friday, July 13th, or Friday, July 20th, from 12:30 to 2? Call Grace McElhinney at 714-969-9617 if you can help us with this project. (Please bring along a hammer if you have one that is suitable for a child to use.) Thanks!

**Join The Audubon Naturalist Team!**

Our volunteer naturalists interact with school children to help them understand the importance of wetlands to both wildlife and people. Through the naturalists’ enthusiasm, interest and dedication, thousands of school children and their teachers conclude that this is the best outdoor field program they have ever attended.

We are proud of our naturalists and how they help Sea & Sage Audubon achieve its mission. Perhaps you have some experience teaching children and have wondered about participating in our exciting outdoor field program. Now is the time to sign up!

Each one of us should share what we love and pass it on to the next generation. If you think educating children about nature is vital and you love being around others who care about nature, then join our naturalist team!

Our school tours are held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. One-morning orientation meetings have been scheduled for Sept. 20, Oct. 18, and Nov. 15, from 9 am to 12:30 pm. To find out more about this great program and/or to sign up for the orientation, contact Trude Hurd, Project Director of Education, by phone at 949-261-7963 or by email at seaandsage@sbcglobal.net.

—Trude Hurd

“You cannot live a perfect day without doing something for someone who will never be able to repay you.” —John Wooden
Bird Embroidery Class
presented by Sylvia Gallagher

Many people have enjoyed looking at Sylvia Gallagher’s embroidered birds — on quilts, pictures, and shirts — and wondered how she does it. For at least ten Saturday mornings, July 21 through Sept. 1, and also Nov. 3 through 17, 2007, 9:00 am to noon, she will teach a workshop, sponsored by Sea & Sage Audubon, on how to do this sort of embroidery. Participants will learn how to select a bird picture, transfer it to cloth, select thread colors, and do the stitches to bring the bird to life. The stitches involved are mostly satin stitch and a version of long-and-short stitch which is quite different from that described in most western embroidery books. (It is used in Asian embroidery; the Chinese call it “shan tao.”) Occasionally other stitches such as French knots, outline stitch, and blanket stitch are used for accents. Individualized instruction will allow the class to accommodate all levels of embroidery skill—beginner to expert—and all will find themselves learning new techniques. You will be taught how to do any stitches you are unfamiliar with—and maybe even a better way to thread a needle. The cost for the class is $80.00 for new students, $50 for continuing students who will need less assistance. You will supply your own materials.

At the first session, Sylvia will present a slide-illustrated program, which has been presented to several embroidery clubs. In this program, she will take you step-by-step through the entire process of converting to stitches a painting or photograph of a bird. (This process is fully applicable to subjects other than birds.)

The class will be held at the Gallagher home in Huntington Beach and limited to 15 participants. It will be cancelled if fewer than eight people enroll. Please do not sign up if you expect to miss more than two meetings. (Exceptions may be made if there is room; inquire after July 14.) If you have not seen the introductory program, you must not miss the first meeting. There will be a limited number of additional spaces the first meeting (July 21) for those who just want to attend the slide program (cost $10.00).

The class location is the Gallagher residence in Huntington Beach. Since Sylvia will be away until just before the program starts, send your reservation form, a check for the fee, and a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) to: Pam Kling, 3727 Mesa Oak Ln, Pomona CA 91767. Reservations must be postmarked no earlier than June 18 (2-day penalty for early reservations). Confirmations and further information will be mailed July 14, along with a map to the meeting place.

Sylvia will be away until around July 19. If you have questions before then, call either Pam Kling (909-596-7604), email her at pamtone@verizon.net, or Marilyn LaBollita (714-963-7983). After Sylvia returns home around July 19, phone her at (714-962-8990).

Reservation Form - Bird Embroidery Workshop (2007)

Names of all participants

Address(es)

City & Zip Code

Phone(s)

Check one: Entire series, new student ($80) 
Entire series, continuing student ($50) 
July 21 lecture only ($10)

Check for $ _________ to SEA & SAGE AUDUBON enclosed. SASE enclosed? ______

Wandering Tattler, June, July, August 2007
Are You a BirdNapper?
You found a Baby Bird on the Ground... Now What?
Info from “Songbird Care & Education” by Vicki Anderson & Susan DiGregorio
Wetlands & Wildlife Care Center, HB (714-374-5587; 714-964-0666)

Parent birds will feed their babies after you have touched them. Birds have a poor sense of smell and the parents won’t know that you have touched their babies. They will even foster parents for an abandoned baby of the same species and age as their own young. Additionally, there is no danger to you from picking up a baby bird and returning it to the nest, and no need to be afraid to do this.

Parent birds will search for their babies even after 24-48 hours of absence. Most birds have their own territories. Even if the nest and babies are gone, the parents remain in their home territory, waiting to welcome their babies home. Once you have returned the babies to their nest, or created a new nest for them and replaced the babies, the parents will start right back in caring for them where they left off before disaster struck, such as nest blown down in the wind.

Birds only need to be rescued if they are: injured, cat caught, icy cold, naked, orphaned or abandoned. Determining that a baby is orphaned can be tricky, and many people step in to rescue what they believe to be an orphaned bird when in fact it is not. People often believe the parents are not feeding a baby when it is simply a matter of them not seeing the parent coming in to feed, as this is usually done very quickly, since a parent bird does not want to attract the attention of a predator to the location of the nest. They will quickly fly in, poke the food down the baby’s throat and fly back out in a matter of seconds. Watch for the parents: observe the baby bird continuously for 60-90 minutes from a distance of 50 feet. Watch carefully; the parents fly in and out quickly. If the babies aren’t crying, you can assume they are being fed. NOTE: Even if one parent bird has been killed, there is no need to rescue the babies, since the other parent will take over feeding the babies.

SYMPTOMS OF AN INJURY OR ILLNESS:
• Falling over on side
• Unable to flutter wings
• Weak or shivering
• Attacked by a cat/dog

If you have the bird in a box, check the feces.
• Clear with white poop (or green bile) indicates a baby bird is not being fed, and is likely abandoned.
• Color in the poop indicates that the parents are feeding the baby, and the bird should be put back where it was found.

Fallen Babies: Naked & pin-feathered birds should be kept warm while trying to locate the nest. Babies get chilled quickly.

HERONS/EGRETS. There are some species of birds that MUST be rescued once they fall from the nest. These birds nest in very high trees and once fallen from the nest, cannot be replaced and should be brought immediately to the center as they will quickly die from exposure, chilling, or predators. Herons and egrets should be easily recognizable from other birds by their longer, sharp beaks and bigger size than songbirds.

RE-NESTING: An entire nest of birds can be placed in a small tissue-filled wicker basket or butter tub with drainage holes in the bottom. Nail back near the original location.

One single nestling must be returned to the original nest with his siblings. The parents will only sit on and feed the babies in one nest. If the nestling cannot be returned, call Vicki.

FLEDGLINGS: These birds have feathers and short tails, and can perch, hop or walk. They are learning to fly, a process that may take two weeks. They should be left alone to practice hopping and fluttering from low shrub branches to the ground. The parents are close by, and continue to feed the babies until they learn to fly and eat on their own. Parents will guide the fledglings into the bushes at night to hide from predators.

SAFE RETURN OF THE FLEDGLING
• Keep pets and children indoors so that the parents will return to the baby.
• If a bird can perch on your finger, place him on a branch in a bush near the area you found him.
• If you found him in a high traffic area, move him to a safe area under the cover of bushes.
• Parents communicate with their young by a series of voice calls. They are able to locate their babies and move them where they wish.
• At a distance, (indoors is best), watch continuously for 1 hour for the parents to return. They fly in & out very quickly. If the parents don’t return, call a wildlife rehabilitator.

HUMMINGBIRD TIPS
• The young birds secure themselves to the nest by weaving their tiny toes around the nest fabric. So firm is their hold that if lifted from the nest, most often the legs are left behind. Never remove them from the nest.
• If you find an injured or orphaned hummingbird on the ground, scoop up what he is sitting on with him and place him on crumpled tissue paper in a shoebox with holes in the lid. Always use tissue or paper towels, NOT cloth; his feet may become entangled in the cloth.
• Call a wildlife rehabilitator. Hummingbirds will die within 4 hours if not fed. Babies that are fed sugar water or hummingbird nectar for more than 24 hours may develop crippling deformities.

TEMPORARY CARE INSTRUCTIONS FOR ALL BIRDS
• NO food or water.
• Keep the baby warm. Tissue-filled shoebox or other small box with holes in lid. Place on a heating pad on LOW.
• Keep bird in a dark, quiet place.
• Leave the bird alone; don’t handle or bother it.
• Keep children and pets away.
• Call a wildlife rehabilitator.

RAISING AN ORPHANED BIRD
Keeping a native wild bird in the State of California is against the law if you don’t have a permit, even if you plan to release it. Raising an orphaned bird takes from four to eight weeks. Naked and pin-feathered nestlings must be fed every 20-30 minutes. The feeding schedule then extends to 45 minutes and so on. The baby birds are fed from 7 am to 8 pm for four to six weeks. When they become self-feeding, they are provided with a natural diet for that specific species; grains, etc. for seed eaters; mealworms, fruit & berries for the insect and fruit eaters. After being self-feeding for one week, they are placed in an outdoor aviary for two weeks to fly and compete with others.

NON-NATIVE POLICY: The center cannot accept European Starlings, House Sparrows, America Crows, Common Ravens, or Rock Doves (Pigeons) because they are non-native. Call the center for referral information to rehabilitators who will accept these species. (714-374-5587)
Your Membership Payment

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 renewal 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.

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 [✓]

[ ] 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
June, July, Aug,’07

Wandering Tattler, June, July, August 2007
~ Save this date! ~
Saturday evening,
July 28th
5:30 - 10:00 p.m.
for our Annual Summer
BBQ at the Marsh!

DATED MATERIAL  PLEASE EXPEDITE!

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

Chapter Office (AUDUBON HOUSE) .... 949-261-7963
Marsh Education Project Director... Trude Hurd ...... 949-261-7963
Marsh Education Project Dir. Assist Deborah Brin ......... 949-261-7963
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

Other Personnel
Bluebird Information ............... Dick Purvis ....... 714-776-8878
OC Rare Bird Alert Hotline.... Joel Weintrub ....... 949-487-6869
Slide Lending Library ............ Claudine Casey ..... 714-968-3463

June
03 Sun Monthly Bird Walk at Santiago Oaks ........ 7:30 am
05 Tues Conservation Committee Meeting.......... 6:30 am
06 Wed San Onofre Trestles trip.................. 8:00 am
08 Fri Bat Walk.................................. 7:00 pm
10 Sun Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS ......... 8:00 am
15 Fri GENERAL MEETING ................. 7:30 pm
16/17 S/S Kern River Area weekend trip .......... dawn
20 Wed Monthly Boat Trip at UNB............ 8:15 am
22 Fri Bat Walk......................... 7:00 pm
23 Sat San Bernardino Mountains trip........ 8:00 am
25-29 M-F Fledgling Camp............... 9:00 am

July
01 Sun Monthly Bird Walk at Santiago Oaks .... 7:30 am
08 Sun Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS ........ 8:00 am
09-13 M-F Marsh Bird Camp session 1 ......... 9:00 am
16-20 M-F Marsh Bird Camp session 2 .......... 9:00 am
18 Wed Monthly Boat Trip at UNB............ 8:15 am
23-27 M-F Advanced Bird Camp (week 1) ....... 9:00 am
28 Sat Summer Barbecue.................. 5:30 pm
30-04 M-S Advanced Bird Camp (week 2) ....... 9:00 am

August
04 Sat Shorebird Trip in the Antelope Valley .... 7:00 am
05 Sun Monthly Bird Walk at Santiago Oaks .... 7:30 am
12 Sun Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS ........ 8:00 am
15 Wed Monthly Boat Trip at UNB............ 8:15 am
Dear Fellow Sea and Sage Audubon Chapter Members and Friends:

Planning chapter activities and raising funds to support them are critical parts of Sea and Sage Audubon Society, and we want your help to make sure we do the best job possible.

We currently offer many activities and programs including, field trips, birding skills workshops, general meetings, the Wandering Tattler newsletter, volunteer programs and nature workshops. Thanks to many dedicated volunteers, we staff Audubon House year round, with our research library, bookstore, visitor center and access to the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. Volunteer naturalists and the entire chapter support the Marsh Education Program and we have initiated a Conservation Program. All of these activities, and more, have made Sea and Sage Audubon one of the most successful Audubon chapters, and we need your ongoing support and fresh ideas to continue to improve.

Please, take a minute to give us your suggestions.
We have a very short survey/questionnaire for you to fill out. Our members who receive their tattler in the mail, must fill out their questionnaire on paper and mail it in; you, however, can do it online. It will only take a couple of minutes. Please go to the “home page” of our website and click on the link for the Questionnaire.
http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org

Thanks for your help.