President’s Message
by Vic Leipzig

Sea & Sage has just scored two important conservation victories thanks to two dedicated members!

Long-time conservation leader Scott Thomas recently gave an outstanding talk on anticoagulant pesticides and his talk had surprisingly great results. Here’s some background. Scott has long been concerned about the indiscriminate use of these pesticides. Although they are intended to kill rats, they can also be consumed by pets and wild animals with fatal consequences. Their toxicity can be passed along the food chain so that hawks, owls, and other predators can be poisoned after they consume prey animals that had consumed the pesticide. Today, anticoagulants are widely used by homeowners, farmers, public agencies, and commercial pest control companies all across the USA. Fortunately for the environment, there are other more effective and less toxic ways to control rodents.

At our 4th Tuesday Conservation Lecture Series on Tuesday, April 28, Scott reviewed his extensive research on the subject. Present in the audience that night were the two top executives of the Orange County Vector Control District, Mike Hearst, District Manager, and Larry Shaw, Director of Operations. They have already been cutting back on anticoagulant usage, but were so impressed by Scott’s talk that they called a staff meeting the following morning with the goal of reducing their usage even further. And they plan to have Scott give his talk to a regional conference of pest control agencies later this year.

We owe a debt of thanks to Scott for his dedication and to the Vector Control District for their responsiveness.

Another Sea & Sage member has also made a great single-handed victory. A few weeks ago, the city of Huntington Beach began an extensive project of tree trimming in Huntington Central Park. It was clear to many birders that the middle of spring was the wrong time to do a project of this type! The work began in the heart of nesting season for resident species, and migratory birds that rest in Central Park on their journey north on the flyway. Sherry Meddick, a dedicated birder, decided to speak up. She raised these issues first with the tree trimmers, then with their foreman, then with the city’s chief of park maintenance. With all of them she patiently and politely explained the impacts of the project. The city responded with a temporary pause in the work. They hired one of the area’s leading bird experts to examine the work area and flag any nests that need to be protected.

Certainly it would be better if the project was postponed until the end of nesting season. But Sherry’s single-handed efforts have won at least a partial victory. As with Scott, we owe Sherry a debt of thanks.

And since no environmental victory is ever complete or permanent, we need to dedicate ourselves to continuing the struggle. Both Vector Control and the city of Huntington Beach deserve to be commended for what they have done right and need our encouragement to do even more.

General Meeting
Friday evening, June 19 - 7:30 pm

“Northward through Canada . . . Birds and Geography”
presented by Sylvia Gallagher

Our June program will feature our very own Sylvia Gallagher, who will relate the experiences she and her late husband, Jim, had as they towed their trailer from southern Alberta to the Arctic Coast. Watch the landscape change from the rolling treeless prairie to the boreal forest, and then to that other rolling treeless prairie called tundra, while finally ending up in the huge riparian labyrinth that is the Mackenzie River delta. The highlight of this adventure will be the weeks they spent on the unpaved 460-mile-long Dempster Highway in the northern Yukon and Northwest Territories in 1991 and again in 2011. The program will also explore the geology of this northern country, as well as the plants, animals, and BIRDS. Most of the photography featured will be Jim’s with some sprinkled throughout from Sylvia.

Sylvia Gallagher attended Occidental College and Purdue University and earned a PhD from UCLA. She has held several positions in the Sea and Sage Audubon Society chapter, including Director, and Christmas Bird Count Chair, and currently serves as the Bird Information Chair. Sylvia conducts Birding Skills Workshops for birders and biologists on visual and aural bird identification and behavior. These workshops also cover the natural history of the areas where the birds are found.

The program will be longer than usual for a Sea and Sage General Meeting, but there will be an intermission for those who need to leave at the usual time.

Our program will be held in the Duck Club at the SJWS in Irvine. The doors open at 7:00 for refreshments and fellowship, and the meeting and program begin at 7:30 pm. We hope you will join us.

—Doug Lithgow
Chapter News & Announcements

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

Audubon House Volunteers

We would like to thank the following people for helping to staff Audubon House in May and June: India Arnold, Sherry Bass, Dick Cabe, Pat Cabe, Deana Collins, Fresia Escalona, Carol Freund, Judy Fritts, John Hargrove, Lynne Hayes, Pat Heilig, Patti Henshaw, Cindi Herrera, Star Howard, Sarah Jayne, Nancy Kenyon, Lauretta Kyle, Joann Lemberger, Doug Lithgow, Joan McCauley, Sally Menzel, Bobbie Miller, Eunice Morita, Roberta Ray, Barbara Reber, Annette Richie, Ana Rubyn, Ira Sadis, Susan Sheakley, Beryl Vogel, Ron Waller, Marilyn Walter, Pat Wells.

Our Volunteers greet visitors, answer the phone, sell merchandise, answer questions about birds, check out binoculars, etc. If you are interested in helping at Audubon House, please leave your name and contact information with the Audubon House volunteer on duty.

News from our Bookstore

Our bookstore inside Audubon House is open daily from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. We accept credit cards (Visa, Mastercard, and American Express) with a $10 minimum purchase. New arrivals: Peterson Reference Guide to Birding by Impression; Peterson Field Guide: Finding Mammals in NA. Back in stock: Turtles, Tortoises, Terrapins. Other new items: aromatherapy candles (eucalyptus; rose geranium; etc.); ankle bracelets; cord necklaces; charms; charm bracelets; new earring designs. New children’s items: Handy Science kits (water experiments); Ocean Life Excavation kits; Activity Rock kits (each kit contains rocks with various properties: floating, metal attracting, crystal growing, sparkling); bamboo flutes; glow sticks (frogs; bees; ladybugs); new finger puppets. Back in stock by mid June: birding bags in medium and large sizes.

Donations

The following people made donations to Sea and Sage after our list of donors was published in the March Tattler: Michael Bressler, Andee Burrell, Dick & Pat Cabe, Christine Dickey, Jay & Marquita Miller, Suzanne Moore, Alan Nestlinger, Elenore Prukop, Barbara Sentovich, the Stanbridge Family, Andrea & Jeffrey Sward, Jean & Lance Thompson-Hailstone, and James Yacenda.

Potluck Picnic at Starr Ranch

Saturday, June 13th

Afternoon Bird Walk (2:30) - Potluck (6:00)

Evening Walk into Bell Canyon

We hope you will join us on Saturday, June 13th, at Starr Ranch for our annual Potluck Picnic. Everyone is invited and you don’t need to make any advance reservations to attend; just come and have fun!

Come at 2:30 for an afternoon bird walk with Holly Garrod, the Starr Ranch ornithologist. We’ll be back in plenty of time for dinner.

Those people who are not going on the afternoon bird walk should plan on arriving at 5:30 pm. This will give you time to unpack your food, choose your picnic table, then sit down in the shade with a cool drink to relax and chat with friends. Dinner will be at 6:00 and we’ll be eating at the picnic tables in the shade of the eucalyptus trees adjacent to the old citrus orchard. While we eat, we can watch the deer, listen to the birds, and see the shadows lengthen on the hillsides. After dinner when we’ve cleared off the tables and put away the food, Starr Ranch Manager, Pete DeSimone, will lead us on a short evening walk into Bell Canyon where we can search for bats and listen for possible owls or poorwills.

◆ BRING A POTLUCK DISH TO SHARE, and
◆ Bring your own dishes, silverware & beverage.
◆ Bring your binoculars, of course!
◆ Bring a jacket & flashlight for after dinner activities.
◆ Wear sturdy shoes for uneven ground.

Directions to Starr Ranch:

From the San Diego Fwy, exit on Alicia Pkwy. Drive inland, towards the mountains, through Mission Viejo to Santa Margarita Pkwy and turn right. Follow Santa Margarita Pkwy until it dead-ends at Plano Trabuco where you will again turn right. At the Dove Canyon entrance, turn left. At the Security Gate tell them you’re going to Starr Ranch. Drive past the Dove Canyon Country Club and up the hill, to Deer Ridge where you will turn left at Gray Rock. Follow this road a short distance to a road on the right marked Starr Ranch (there’s a large white mail box there). Carefully descend the grade down into the Sanctuary. Remember the road is two-way. Drive slowly past the willows, across the streambed, past the ranch house & other buildings, to the old orchard where you will see a fence & find signs directing you where to park. The picnic tables where we will eat are close by. The restroom is in a small red wooden “house” across the road. Stay close to the picnic area and do not try to go off birding by yourself. Please note: directions to Starr Ranch using the internet driving directions are not accurate and will take you to the wrong location.

Nancy Kenyon 949-786-3160; nancykenyon@cox.net
Bring the family and join us for this special occasion: dining under the stars, evening walks around the marsh, and a great program on “Birds, Art and Inspiration” presented by Catherine Hamilton. For more information, see our chapter webpage. Look under Special Events on the home page.

Our menu will include chicken, freshly grilled hot dogs, salad, beans, chips, watermelon, cake, lemonade, soft drinks, 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 $20.00 for adults, $7.00 for children under 5; tickets for the BBQ volunteers are $15.00. Your ticket will cover your meal & beverage, evening marsh walks, and program.

Activities begin at 5:00 pm when the Used Books Sale opens. 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 take in the sights and sounds as marsh life settles in for the evening. The marsh walk after the program will focus on the night (sounds and scents) at the sanctuary. Signup sheets for these night walks will be at the Welcome Table. Get there early to sign up if you want to go on one of the Night Walks because each walk will be limited to 20 persons.

This event is staffed entirely by chapter volunteers. If you can help us out in any capacity, we would really appreciate it, and you will save $5 on your barbecue ticket! A signup sheet for volunteers is at Audubon House and will be at the June General Meeting; it will also be posted on our chapter webpage. For information on volunteering, contact Nancy Kenyon at (949) 786-3160; nancykenyon@cox.net

Advance reservations for the Summer BBQ are essential so that we know how much food to buy. Those people who provide their email address or a stamped, self-addressed envelope, will receive a note from Nancy that their reservation has been received; they will also receive information about the evening’s activities. Everyone will need to pick up their ticket at the Welcome Table when they arrive. The tickets will not be mailed out ahead of time. A word of caution: don’t wait until the last minute to sign up! We expect this event to fill long before the day of the event.

Summer Barbecue on July 25 - Will YOU Be There?

Name ___________________________   Number in your party ______
Email Address or stamped envelope _______________________________________________________________
Do you want a vegetarian entree? ________ If so, how many? _______
Amount enclosed _____________ ($20 per person; children under 5 are $7 each)
                   ( $15 for Volunteers helping with the BBQ)

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.
Fascinating Facts about Insect-Eating Bats

Bats have tremendous ecological value not only as plant pollinators but also as insect-eaters. Most of North America’s bats are natural predators of insects that are considered agricultural pests. In fact, bats’ value for agricultural pest control nationwide has been estimated at about $23 billion per year. That’s a huge benefit! A recent study conducted in California’s Central Valley placed the value of bats to the walnut industry alone at around $6 per bat. Without bats, farmers would be forced to increase their use of chemical pesticides with negative consequences to other animals and, potentially, to humans as well.

The two dominant bat species at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary are both insect-eaters: the Mexican Free-tailed Bat and Yuma Myotis. These bats begin flying soon after sunset and depend on echolocation to locate their insect prey. They also use echolocation to identify obstacles that may be as thin as a piece of thread. That’s good “seeing” in the dark!

The Mexican Free-tailed Bat is the speedster of the bat world and has been clocked flying as fast as 60 miles per hour using a tail wind. That’s as fast as the cheetah which is the fastest land animal. Amazing! This bat is also a high flyer, reaching altitudes of 10,000 feet which is higher than any other bat species. Mexican Free-tailed Bats feed exclusively on flying insects, mostly moths, winged ants, and beetles.

The Yuma Myotis occupies a different space within the SJWS. They fly closer to the ground, skimming over ponds and streams and consuming mostly aquatic insects such as mayflies, caddisflies, mosquitoes and midges. Because they fly low, Yuma Myotis remain more visible to us in the dark so we are able to count their passes during our Bat Walks.

We hope you will join us to see the marsh at night and learn more about these fascinating and environmentally helpful mammals. Our popular Summer Bat Walks began on June 5 and are selling out fast. Visit our website for an application form. And the next time you munch a walnut or other food that is protected from insect damage by bats, be sure to give thanks to bats!

—Ellen Mansour and Trude Hurd

New Naturalist Training This Fall 2015

Who has enthusiasm and respect for nature? Who puts their commitment to birds into action? Who comes to the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary twice a month to help school children explore nature? The answer is . . . our Outdoor Adventure Naturalists! They are the reason that Sea & Sage is praised for our science discovery programs. Each naturalist brings his or her talent, kindness, and knowledge about the natural world to share with children who will one day be stewards of the environment.

This September, you can join our naturalist team and discover how much fun we have. The work we do at the wetland is more like outdoor play but it has a very important mission. We are changing lives and protecting California habitat! Training is on Tuesday and Thursday mornings in Fall and continues throughout the school year at a comfortable pace. For more information and a training schedule, contact Project Director Trude Hurd at 949-261-7964 or seaandsage@sbcglobal.net. We hope that you will join us in leading children in nature discovery!

Fluor Foundation Sponsors Science Education for Elementary School Children

Sea and Sage’s Marsh Education Project is pleased to report that Fluor Foundation has sponsored our Outdoor Adventures Science Discovery Program this year. Their grant of $5,000 will provide scholarships for underprivileged elementary school children from Santa Ana who have few opportunities for field trips, science and hands-on nature exploration. We appreciate Fluor Foundation’s generous support of our wetland discovery program!
As I unfortunately was not able to write the "Rarities" column last month, I am back on "catch-up" mode again. This column will be a summary of the more significant observations that were reported during the months of March and April. Spring migration for the year definitely got off to a good start, with most of the expected migrants, for the time period, being seen in the county. We'll start off by noting some of the most exceptional discoveries made during the March/April 2015 period. As many as four **Gull-billed Terns** were present at the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve (BCER), with two initially reported on Apr. 16+ (Roger Schoedl). A "sometimes cooperative" **Dusky-capped Flycatcher** was at Gilman Park (Fullerton), first discovered on Mar. 16 (Mike Huang); this bird had undoubtedly been wintering at the site, which is the case with most California records of this Ash-throated Flycatcher relative. The bird was still being seen well into May. March 16 was apparently the day for finding exceptional rarities, as Jeff Bray, on a visit to the Environmental Nature Center, hit the jackpot by finding a colorful male **Pine Warbler**, as well as a **Palm Warbler**. The Pine Warbler proved to be rather elusive, but was seen by several birders through at least March 21.

A number of the rarities found last winter have lingered on into early spring. These included such previous finds as the **Black Scoter** at BCER; **Eurasian Wigeon** at the Santa Ana River mouth; **Lewis's Woodpecker** at Riley Wilderness Park; **Vermilion Flycatchers** at Irvine Valley College and Mile Square Regional Park (including an adult male observed doing a courtship display flight, April 22); a **Dusky Flycatcher** at Laguna Niguel Regional Park; **Varied Thrushes** at many locations around the county (following the unprecedented showing of this species in So Cal this past winter); and single **Black-and-white Warblers** at Huntington Central Park (HCP), Craig Regional Park, and Harriett Weider Regional Park. **A Northern Waterthrust** at HCP, April 18-30 (R. Schoedl, et al.), was most likely a bird that had been present earlier in the winter.

During the March/April 2015 period, Orange County birders discovered a number of new rarities (in addition to the more significant ones discussed above). The remainder of this column will highlight some (but certainly not all) of the more noteworthy finds during the period. For the second spring in a row the county enjoyed numerous **Calliope Hummingbirds** (which turned up over a broad portion of the county during April). **Gray Flycatchers** put in a good showing, with two at HCP, April 19-25 (R. Schoedl, Tom Wurster), one at Gilman Park, April 25 (Tom Ford-Hutchinson), and one at Santiago Oaks Regional Park, April 26 (Andy Lazere). A **Brown Creeper** was at Carbon Canyon Regional Park, March 19 (Jim Roe). A long-staying **Sage Thrasher** was seen by many on the bluffs above the BCER, March 8-19 (M. Huang). A **Black-and-white Warbler** was at Hummingbird Park, March 17-20 (J. Bray). Single **Palm Warblers** were at BCER, March 6-8 (David Evans), and at HCP, April 13-May 2 (J. Roe). A **Green-tailed Towhee** was in a Buena Park residential area, April 23 (John Fitch), while a **White-throated Sparrow** was in Lake Forest, April 1 (T. Ford-Hutchinson). A "Thick-billed" **Fox Sparrow** photographed in Bommer Canyon, April 3 (Ryan Winkleman), was at a lowland and somewhat coastal location, where this subspecies is typically quite rare in the county. A male **Summer Tanager** was observed and photographed in Serrano Creek Park, April 5 (Mike Sanders, Anthony Gliozzo); at this date it is quite likely the bird had been wintering here.

A couple bird reports involved species that are resident within Orange County, but were of interest due to the location, or because of their rare status in OC. A **Ridgway’s Rail** that was well-seen and photographed in the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary, March 28-April 8+ (many observers), was a surprise; this species is usually a very sedentary resident in saltmarsh habitat along the immediate coast (e.g., at locations such as Upper Newport Bay (UNB), and the Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge, and more recently at BCER). Presumably this bird had wandered up from nearby UNB, where more typical habitat for this rail occurs (approximately only two miles to the southwest). **A Northern Saw-whet Owl** was heard, and eventually seen, in the Santa Ana Mountains, in the vicinity of the Los Pinos trail, April 10 (J. Bray and M. Sanders). This owl is considered to be a rare resident in the Santa Ana Mountains, where suitable habitat is found.
Summer Field Trips
Nancy Kenyon, Field Trip Chair
For trip updates & additional trip information, check our chapter webpage at: http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org. Trips marked with an ® require advance reservations. Questions about field trips? Contact Nancy Kenyon, Field Trip Chair, at 949-786-3160 or nancykenyon@cox.net

Caspers Wilderness Park Bird Walk
WED: June 3 - 8:00 to 11:00 am
Join Diane Etchison for a bird walk at Caspers Wilderness Park. The park is home to an abundant number of native species of birds and mammals. The walk may meander through old grove Sycamores, Coast Live Oak, Riparian, or Coastal Sage Scrub habitats. If we’re lucky, we may find some nesting birds. Directions: Take the I-5 Fwy south to Ortega Hwy and turn left (toward the mts.). Drive 7.6 miles to Caspers Park, which will be on your left. Be prepared to pay the $3 entrance fee if you don’t have a county parks pass. Meet in the Old Corral day use area at Caspers Wilderness Park, 33401 Ortega Hwy (#74), San Juan Capistrano. Leader: Diane Etchison

Monthly Wildlife Walks at the SJWS
SAT: June 6, July 4, Aug.1, 9:00 to 10:30 am
We’ll be exploring the birds, plants and creatures of the marsh on this wildlife walk at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. Meet in front of Audubon House at 9:00 am for a 1 ½ hour nature walk. (See directions to the SJWS on page 11.) Leaders: Audubon Naturalists

Bird Walk at Starr Ranch
SAT: June 13 – 2:30 pm
The walk is in conjunction with our Annual Potluck Picnic. See information on page 2. Leader: Holly Garrod

Monthly Bird Walks at the SJWS
SUN: June 14, July 12, Aug. 9, 8 am to 12
Join Chris Obaditch for a monthly bird walk around the ponds of the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine at 8:00 am. While the variety of ducks here at this time of year may be lacking, the number of Mallard ducklings will make up for it. Avocets and stilts should be nesting at the start of the summer, along with a variety of other species which summer here, and shorebirds will begin to show up in July. The walk, which is open to interested birders of all ages, will meet by the front porch of Audubon House. Children under the age of 11 must be accompanied by an adult. Directions on page 11. Leader: Chris Obaditch

UNB by Pontoon Boat Trips
Join us for the rare chance of birding the Upper Newport Bay from the deck of a pontoon boat. Spotting birds from the water offers one a different perspective, and the birds seem to view us differently also. Usually, these boat trips are on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. However, this summer, our June, July and August trips will be on Fridays because the Newport Sea Base will be using the pontoon boats for their summer programs on Wed. The June & July trips are already full, but the August 14th trip still has room for more people. In September, we will resume our regular schedule of having our trips on the 3rd Wed. of each month. It’s best to sign up long in advance because these trips fill up quickly. Check the webpage under “Upcoming Trips” to find out which still has room. Reservations: Nancy Kenyon

Craig Regional Park bird walk
SUN: June 21 – 7:30 am to 11:30 am
Join us as we explore Craig Regional Park, focusing on summer breeding. This park provides a number of birds in the park's different habitats, from the natural area near the dam, park areas, ponds and creeks. Notable at this park is the year-round Chipping Sparrow population. Parking is free with an OC parks pass or if you park outside the park; $5 if you park inside. Directions: The park is located at: 3300 N. State College Blvd. in Fullerton. We will meet just behind the ranger station in the nearest parking lot just after you enter. See you there!
Leader: Garett Lepper

Dragonflies & Butterflies at the SJWS
FRI: June 26, July 24, Aug. 28, 10:00 to 12:30
Join Mike Clayton for a Dragonfly & Butterfly walk at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine. We will walk from Audubon House to the footbridge to the Urban Forest Trail and cross over to San Diego Creek and return along the creek to the Audubon House. This is a leisurely walk of approximately 2 miles. . . Like birds and butterflies, dragonflies are beautiful, colorful, interesting and diverse creatures. We will meet by the front porch of Audubon House. All children 8 years old and older are welcome. Don’t forget your binoculars and cameras. (Directions on page 11.) Leader: Mike Clayton

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

Upper Newport Bay Bird Walk
SUN: June 28, July 26, Aug. 30 – 8 am to 11 am
Join Mark Kincheloe for a monthly bird walk in Upper Newport Bay to check out the seasonal shorebirds, ducks, grebes, herons & egrets, etc. that frequent the bay. Bring binoculars, a field guide, and a scope if you have one. Directions: We will meet in the Big Canyon parking lot in Newport Beach. This is easily reached from Jamboree. Take San Joaquin Hills Road west toward the bay where it intersects with Back Bay Drive. Turn right on Back Bay Drive & follow it to the Big Canyon parking lot on your left. Leader: Mark Kincheloe

PELAGIC TRIPS coming up
Summer Pelagic – Sat, July 11
Fall Pelagic – Sat, Sept. 19
All of our pelagic trips meet at the Ocean Institute in Dana Point at 6:30 am, are 8 hours long, return to the dock at 3:00, and cost $60. Pre-payment is mandatory; info on the trips and how to sign up is on our webpage. We have 6 excellent co-leaders for these trips: Jon Dunn, Tom Benson, Curtis Marantz, Jerry Tolman, Tom Ford-Hutchinson, and Robert McNab. The trips fill fairly quickly so it’s advantageous to sign up for them in advance instead of waiting until the last minute.
Reservations: Nancy Kenyon
949-786-3160; nancykenyon@cox.net

Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve bird walk
THURS: July 16 - 8:00 am to 12 noon
Come prepared for a great morning of birding to check out the resident birds as well as summer nesting species. Bring binoculars, a field guide, and a scope if you have one. We will meet in Harriet Wieder Park in the lot north of Garfield Avenue. Directions: From Pacific Coast Hwy, turn inland on Seapoint Ave. Follow Seapoint to its terminus at the corner of Garfield. Continue straight across Garfield into Harriett Wieder Reg. Park where there is plenty of free parking. Follow the drive lane (shown on some maps as Overlook Drive) about 1/4 mile to its end and park. (From there, we will drive to other parts of Bolsa Chica.) Leader: Vic Leipzig

Mammoth Lakes weekend trip ®
Sat – Sun, July 18-19, 5:15 am

This will be a fast-paced trip covering numerous widely scattered sites; it is not the most appropriate field trip for beginning birders. We will visit a wide variety of habitats, see spectacular scenery and lots of birds. The trip will involve two full days of birding at relatively high elevations (6,000-9,000 ft), though we will not be doing any extensive hiking. Vic will provide an itinerary and bird checklist.

On Saturday, we will visit Virginia Lakes, Mono Lake, and Saddlebag Lake. On Sunday, we’ll spend the morning in Devil’s Postpile National Monument and the afternoon in the Mammoth Lakes area. Since these will be two full days of birding), it will be necessary to drive up to Mammoth on Friday and return home on Monday. Most participants will stay Friday, Saturday, and Sunday in motels or rental condos in Mammoth Lakes. Lodging is also available in Lee Vining and June Lake.

Target species include Sooty Grouse, Common Nighthawk, Black Swift, Black-backed Woodpecker, Mountain Bluebird, Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, Red Crossbill, Pine Grosbeak, and Evening Grosbeak. (See the webpage for a more complete list of birds.)

Our meeting time on both Saturday and Sunday will be at 5:15 am and we will bird until late afternoon both days. The group will visit pine/fir forests, sagebrush prairie, and some high desert on the shores of Mono Lake. Besides birds, we expect to see some spectacular vistas, and natural features such as old volcanoes, waterfalls, and glacial moraines. We also can expect to see interesting mammals such as Yellow-bellied Marmot, Pika, Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel and Douglas Squirrel, Mule Deer, Coyote, and Black Bear.

Advance reservations are necessary; trip size is limited. Trip fee is $40. Make check payable to Sea & Sage Audubon and mail to: Mammoth Lakes trip, c/o Nancy Kenyon, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612. Be sure to include your phone number and email address, or a long self-addressed envelope for trip confirmation and additional information. Leader: Vic Leipzig
Chapter News

For more information about Sea & Sage activities, check our "Calendar of Chapter Activities" and/or our new "Chapter Activities Schedule" for the year. Both are posted on the home page of our website under the heading of MAIN AREAS. (http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org)

Sunset Stroll for Couples

Are you ready to relax with your favorite companion on a Sunset Stroll at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary? Join Sea & Sage biologist and project director Trude Hurd on Thursday, July 2, 2015 for a quiet evening in nature at the beautiful San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine. After light refreshments, we will stroll around the freshwater ponds as the day slowly wanes. Adult couples will listen to birds, smell the unique fragrance of coastal sage plants, and witness the spectacular changing colors of the sky. Finally, we will sit and watch the sun set as we enjoy a delicious dessert. This event is pre-paid only and space is limited. First, send an email inquiry to Cheryl Thomas at cthomas1313@cox.net to verify space, then send check for $30 per couple (payable to Sea and Sage Audubon) with both adult names, email address and phone number to Cheryl Thomas, 24911 Hayuco, Mission Viejo, CA 92692. Proceeds benefit our conservation and education programs. Questions? Contact Trude Hurd at seaandsage@sbcglobal.net or Cheryl Thomas at cthomas1313@cox.net (Note: This is the first in a series of Sunset Walks for a variety of audiences.)

Sibley Guide to Birds (2nd edition) - DEFECTIVE

The first printing of the 2nd edition (March 2014) has defective color and bad printing. Replacement copies can be obtained from the publisher. Cut the bar code from the back cover of your 2nd edition (first printing) and send it along with your name and address to Penguin/Random House, Attn: Consumer Services/DMS, 400 Hahn Road, Westminster, Maryland 21157. They will replace it for a copy of the 2nd edition - 2nd printing, which has corrected color and better printing. **PLEASE NOTE:** Penguin/Random House will only exchange individual customer copies. Sea and Sage bookstore CANNOT RETURN and EXCHANGE them for you OR give you credit for a defective copy, as the publisher will not accept copies from retail stores. Also when our bookstore receives shipment of the Sibley Guide, 2nd edition - 2nd printing, we CANNOT exchange your first printing for a second printing. Please exchange your copies through the publisher only.

Special Science Awards

At this year's 60th Orange County Science and Engineering Fair held in April, Sea & Sage honored two students with Special $50 Awards for their efforts in researching environmental science related issues and concerns. The first award went to 8th grader Benjamin Chang for his study titled "An Evaluation of the Optimal Location to Restore Eelgrass in Newport Bay." The locations were ranked in regard to temperature, phosphate, salinity, and turbidity to determine optimal eelgrass growth. The second awardee was 10th grade student Daisy Chen for her study titled "Multimethod Analysis and Spatial Predictive Modeling of Bacterial Dynamics in Newport Bay Watershed." The results reflected a relatively well-mixed, dynamic bay system. Our congratulations to both students for their outstanding work and best wishes for their continued study in maintaining healthy ecosystems and environmental conservation.

-- Cathy Glasgow

Dear Sea and Sage Audubon Society,

We are a group who entered a project regarding bacteriological water quality into the 2015 OCSEF competition. Thank you so much for your special award and generous gift.

During our numerous trips to San Joaquin Marsh and Newport Bay for our project's field work, we saw a variety of birds and aquatic wildlife—not to mention the landscape itself, especially the Upper Newport Bay Preserve, is really beautiful.

We realize the water quality of the area not only impacts humans, but also, more directly, wildlife such as birds. We'll continue to do research to protect our environment, and look up to Audubon all the while.

Thanks once again,
Daisy Chen and Annie Chang

Dear Ms. Cathy Glasgow,

Thank you so much for awarding me a special award at the Orange County Science and Engineering Fair. I am very grateful for the recognition that your organization has given me, and for the work that you have done. I especially would like to thank you for the Barnes and Noble gift cards.

Thank you,
Benjamin Chang
Thanks to our wonderful volunteers!

For more information about Sea & Sage activities, check our “Calendar of Chapter Activities” and/or our new “Chapter Activities Schedule” for the year. Both are posted on the home page of our website under the heading of MAIN AREAS. (http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org)

Thanks for a great job!
I would like to thank all the dedicated Field Trip Leaders who gave of their time and expertise to lead our Sea & Sage field trips this year. Field Trips are a vital part of our chapter activities and the following people helped make our field trip program a success:

Chris Obaditch – monthly bird walks at the SJWS
Jean Drum – monthly wildlife walks at the SJWS helped by her team of Audubon Naturalists
Mike Clayton – Monthly Laguna Niguel Reg Park bird walks, Dragonfly & Butterfly walks at the SJWS
Garett Lepper – Bimonthly bird walks at Carbon Cyn, Oak Cyn, Mile Square Park, & Craig Park
Sally Menzel & Darrell Wilson who helped me with the monthly UNB pontoon boat trips
Mark Kincheloe – UNB Monthly bird walks
John Fitch, Slader Buck, Carolyn Vance – Seal Beach NWR
Pat & Dick Cabe – HCP bird walks
Pete DeSimone – Owl Prowls at Starr Ranch
Holly Garrood – Starr Ranch bird walks
Pete Bloom & Scott Thomas – Antelope Valley Hawk Trip
Co-Leaders for Our Pelagic Trips – Jon Dunn, Tom Benson, Brian Daniels, Curtis Marantz, Jerry Tolman, Robert McNab and Tom Ford-Hutchinson
Vic Leipzig – Salton Sea Trip, Eastern Sierra Trip, CBC Specialties, Bolsa Chica bird walks, Mammoth Lakes Trip
Bruce Aird – Big Morongo Preserve & CBC Specialties
Kaaren Perry – Morro Bay trip
Bob Barnes & John Schmitt – Southern Sierra Trip
Linda Oberholtzer – Eastern Sierra Trip along with Vic Leipzig & Ken Wells
Diane Etchison – Bimonthly bird walks at Dana Point Headlands & Harbor and Caspers Reg. Park
Bettina Eastman – Blacklighting for Insects

Thanks so much for all your help!
— Nancy Kenyon, Field Trip Chair

Hospitality at our Monthly Meetings
We really appreciate our wonderful Hospitality Duo of Carol Freund and Peggy McGlone who set up the refreshment tables with a variety of delicious items and welcome everyone who enters at each meeting. Our members who come early to our meetings, not only are able to enjoy the tempting refreshments, but also have the chance to join in the fellowship.

Doreen Johnson, Nancy Kappelmann and Phyllis Anderson help every month with either home baked goodies or cheese and crackers. Program Chair, Doug Lithgow, arrives early before each meeting to set up the hospitality tables and carry in the supplies. Carolyn and Matt Biller set up all the chairs for the meetings. Jan Gaffney and Chuck George greet visitors and also welcome them as they arrive.

Mike McGlone and Bettina Eastman help with the cleanup after the meetings along with Doreen, Nancy, and Phyllis. Mary Joseph helped at the February meeting.

Many others have contributed refreshments for the meetings: Beryl Vogel, Donna Malloy, Maryette Beers, Kendra Jones, Barbara Sentovich, Kate Graberstein, Bev Krassner-Bulas and Nancy Kenyon.

— Peggy McGlone and Carol Freund

Our Active Exhibits Volunteers
From September 2014 to May 2015, our active Exhibits Volunteers represented our chapter at eight different events, under the very capable leadership of Mary Joseph, Exhibits Committee Chair:

OC Childrens’ Book Festival, OCC, Costa Mesa; Woodcarver’s Show and Competition, Elks Club, SA
Coyote Hills Walk-a-Thon, Fullerton Equestrian Center
Festival of Whales-Ocean Awareness Day, Dana Point
Orange County Women’s Chorus - The Birds and the Bees
Concerts, Newport Beach and Huntington Beach
Davis Magnet School - EcoNight, Costa Mesa
Earth Day 25th Anniversary Celebration, Muth Interpretive Center, Newport Beach
Shipley Nature Center - Open House, Huntington Beach

We’d like to thank these enthusiastic volunteers who helped staff the exhibits: Bruce Aird, Sara Bethurum, Sandrine Biziaux, Louis Biziaux, Deborah Brin, Bettina Eastman, Chuck George, Jenny Golden, Kate Grabenstein, Beverly Hargrove, Ann Hamer, Star Howard, Trude Hurd, Mary Joseph, Doug Lithgow, Gillian Martin, Donna Medina, Helen Nicholas, Claire Readey, Shirley Reynolds, Cheryl Thomas, and Pat Vranicar.

— Mary Joseph
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 eight Saturday mornings, July 11 through Aug. 29 (maybe longer) 9:00 a.m. to noon, she will teach a workshop, sponsored by Sea and 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 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, $50.00 for continuing students, who will need less assistance. Repeaters are urged to sign up again and continue to develop their skills. This class is open to men, as well as women. Come on, guys, be the fourth man to give it a try!

At the first session, beginners will learn and practice two stitches and learn how to get started on their choice of one of the class projects. Continuing students should come ready to work on and receive help with a project.

At the second session, (July 18), 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 limited to 15 participants and will be cancelled if fewer than eight people enroll by June 30. Please do not sign up if you expect to miss more than two meetings. (Exceptions may be made if there is room.) If you have not seen the introductory slide lecture, you must attend the second meeting. There will be a number of additional spaces for those who just want to attend the July 18 slide lecture (cost $10.00).

The class location is the house just south of the Gallagher residence in Huntington Beach. Send your reservation form, a check for the fee, and a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) to Sylvia Gallagher, 21562 Kaneohe Ln, Huntington Beach, CA 92646. Reservations must be postmarked no earlier than June 8 (2-day penalty for early reservations). Confirmations and further information will be mailed July 1, along with a map to the meeting place.

If you have questions, email or telephone Sylvia: sjrgallagher@yahoo.com or 714-962-8990.

Reservation Form - Bird Embroidery Workshop 2015

Names of all participants _______________________________________________________________

Address(es) & Zip ________________________________________________________________

Phone ____________________________________________________________

E-mail ________________________________________________________________

Check one: ___ Entire series, new student ($80)

___ Entire series, continuing student ($50)

___ July 18 lecture only ($10)

SASE enclosed? _______ Check for $______ to SEA AND SAGE AUDUBON enclosed.
Directions and Membership

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

Tattler Subscriptions
Non-Audubon members or members from other Audubon chapters who wish to subscribe to our chapter newsletter, may do so for $14.00 per year. Make check payable to “Sea & Sage Audubon” and mail to: Tattler Subscriptions, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612

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

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

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

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

Your Membership Payment
If you are signing up as a new Audubon member, be sure and use the membership form below that has the code C5ZC150Z in the lower right hand corner. This tells National Audubon who to credit for your recruitment. Sea & Sage gets 100% of a new member’s dues, even if you sign up for more than one year. If you are feeling generous at renewal time and you want Sea & Sage to benefit, you should send your renewal fee to National Audubon and a separate check to Sea & Sage for your donation to the chapter. If you have any questions, please contact Membership Chair, Jim Kissinger, at sea.sage.membership@gmail.com

Temporarily Away or Moving?
Please notify Membership, Chuck George, cgeorge@george-sd.com of your new address if you are temporarily, or permanently, moving from your current address. Let him know if you do not want to continue to receive the Tattler at your new address. This will save us postage.

Audubon Membership Application
We invite you to become a member of the National Audubon Society and the Sea & Sage Audubon chapter. Members receive the AUDUBON magazine as well as the WANDERING TATTLER newsletter.

NEW MEMBERSHIP is $20 for an individual or for a family. (The membership is good for one year.)

To join: Complete the form below & mail it along with your payment to: National Audubon Society, PO Box 422250, Palm Coast FL 32142. Make your check payable to: NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY. Please pay by check only; do not send cash. Or, go online to: http://www.audubon.org/membership (Be sure to include our chapter code on your membership form.)

To renew membership: renew directly with National Audubon by direct mail or online: http://www.audubon.org/contact-us

Name ___________________________________________________________
Address ___________________________________________________________
City, State, Zip ______________________________________________________
Phone _____________________________________________________________
E-mail ______________________________________________________________

C5ZC150Z
chapter code
BOARD MEMBERS

Executive Committee:
President .................. Vic Leipzig ............ 714-848-5394
Vice President .......... Susan Sheakley ........ 949-552-5974
Secretary ................. Chris Byrd ............ 714-639-0967
Treasurer .................. Kate Grabenstein .... 714-540-6768
Director 2016 .......... Jonathan Aguayo ....... 805-204-6986
Director 2016 .......... Star Howard ............ 949-770-3177
Director 2017 ............ Claire Readey ........ 949-679-7167
Director 2017 ............ Chris Johnson ........ 714-528-9928
Director 2018 ............ Gail Richards ......... 714-281-0706
Director 2018 ............ Ralph Sugg .......... 949-855-6575
Past President .......... Bruce Aird .............. 949-458-1520

Committee Chairpersons:
Audubon House (temporary) .... Joan McCauley .... 949-642-1938
Audubon House Volunteers .... Ana Rubyn .... 949-351-5393
Bird Information ........ Sylvia Gallagher .... 714-962-8990
Christmas Bird Counts ...... Steve Alter ........ 714-669-9482
Conservation (temporary) .... Vic Leipzig .... 714-848-5394
Counsel ..................... Sean Sherlock .... 714-427-7036
Development ............... Cheryl Thomas ..... 949-294-2275
Education .................. Carolyn Noble .... 714-731-9091
Events ...................... Jay Miller ............ 949-707-1287
Exhibits .................... Mary Joseph .... 714-848-8362
Facebook .................. Chuck George .... 714-319-6166
Field Trips .................. Nancy Kenyon .... 949-786-3160
Finance ..................... Hal Sheakley .... 949-552-5974
Membership ............... Jim Kissinger .... 949-713-1148
Newsletter Editor .... Nancy Kenyon ...... 949-786-3160
Orange County Spring Count ... Darrell Wilson .... 949-559-4542
Partners in Flight .......... Janet & Al Baumann 949-859-5081
Programs .................. Doug Lithgow .... 714-962-4145
Publicity .................... Marlene Brajdic .... 714-905-6641
Raptor Research .......... Scott Thomas .... 949-293-2915
Science ..................... Amber Heredia .... 714-812-2430
SJWS Liaison ............. Chris Obaditch .... 949-640-7234
Starr Ranch/Envir. Liaison Pete DeSimone 949-858-0309
Webmaster ............... Nancy Kenyon .... 949-786-3160
Webpage: http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org

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

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

OTHER CONTACTS
Wetlands & Wildlife Care Center – for injured or sick birds and
other native wild animals in need of help (corner of Newland & PCH in HB) 714-374-5587. http://www.wwccoc.org/

Call Songbird Care & Education Center for injured or sick native
gobirds. 714-964-0666. www.songbirdcareandeducation.org

SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

JUNE 2015

02 Tues Conservation Com. Mtg. ............................... 6:30 pm
03 Wed Caspers Reg. Park bird walk ................................ 8:00 am
06 Sat Wildlife Walk at the SJWS .................................. 9:00 am
09 Tues Board Meeting ............................................. 7:30 pm
13 Sat Starr Ranch bird walk (2:30) & potluck picnic ............ 6:00 pm
14 Sun San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary bird walk .......... 8:00 am
19 Fri GENERAL MEETING .......................................... 7:30 pm
21 Sun Craig Reg. Park bird walk .................................. 7:30 am
22-26 M-F Fledgling Camp & Marsh Camp 1 ..................... 9:00 am
26 Fri Dragonflies & Butterflies walk at the SJWS .... 10:00 am
28 Sun Upper Newport Bay bird walk .............................. 8:00 am

JULY 2015

02 Thurs Sunset Stroll for Couples ® .................................. tba
04 Sat Wildlife Walk at the SJWS .................................. 9:00 am
06-10 M-F Marsh Camp 2 .............................................. 9:00 am
09 Sun Dragonflies & Butterflies walk at the SJWS .... 10:00 am
11 Th, Sa Bat Walks ® ................................................. 7:00 pm
11 Sat Summer Pelagic Trip ® ...................................... 6:30 am
12 Sun San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary bird walk .......... 8:00 am
13-17 M-F Coastal Birds Camp ..................................... 9:00 am
16 Thurs Bolsa Chica bird walk ..................................... 8:00 am
16, 17, 18 Th, Fr Bat Walks ® ......................................... 7:00 pm
18-19 Sa-Su Mammoth Lakes weekend trip ® .................... 5:15 am
20-24 M-F Advanced Bird Camp I .................................. 9:00 am
24 Fri Dragonflies & Butterflies walk at the SJWS .... 10:00 am
25 Sat SUMMER BARBECUE ® ...................................... 5:00 pm
26 Sun Upper Newport Bay bird walk .............................. 8:00 am
27-1 M-S Advanced Bird Camp II ................................ 9:00 am

AUGUST 2015

01 Sat Wildlife Walk at the SJWS .................................. 9:00 am
04 Tues Conservation Com. Mtg. ................................. 6:30 pm
06, 7 Th, F Bat Walks ® .............................................. 6:45 pm
09 Sun San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary bird walk .......... 8:00 am
11 Tues Board Meeting ............................................. 7:30 pm
14 Fri UNB by pontoon boat ® ..................................... 8:15 am
21, 28 Fri Bat Walks ® .............................................. 6:45 pm
28 Fri Dragonflies & Butterflies walk at the SJWS .... 10:00 am
30 Sun Upper Newport Bay bird walk .............................. 8:00 am

Join us at the Summer BBQ!

Wandering Tattler 12 June, July, August 2015