President’s Column
by Doug Lithgow

Welcome to my first column as your Sea and Sage President. It was an honor to be elected to serve, but also a humbling experience given the caliber of the people currently on our Board. It will be particularly challenging to try and fill the shoes of our past President, Vic Leipzig. I had the privilege of introducing Vic when he gave a program on the history of Audubon back in September 2015 and I was awed by his long list of accomplishments. Aside from his duties as President, he has been a very active member on the Conservation Committee, Archives Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, Sea and Sage field trip leader and serves on the Board of Directors for Audubon California, representing Southern California. He took a fair amount of his time to mentor me in the role of Vice President and I am pleased that Vic will remain on our Board in the position of Past President so that we continue to benefit from his experience in the next few years ahead.

I would like to take some time to introduce several of our new Board members. Gail Richards will be our new Vice President, was previously a Director on our Board, and is currently in charge of our Junior Naturalist program. Sandy Smith will be taking on the role of Secretary and works as our book sale co-coordinator for the Summer BBQ and Fall Pancake Breakfast. Tom Van Huss will be assuming the role of Treasurer and has previous experience as Vice President for LA Audubon. Debbie Hays will be a new Director and she works as a naturalist with the Outdoor Adventures program. Ann Harmer will be joining as a Director and is active on our Conservation Committee. I have had the pleasure of working with all of these individuals and I am excited to welcome them as members of our Sea and Sage Board.

As we head into Summer, I would encourage everyone to look into the upcoming activities of our chapter and consider your interest and role in our efforts. We have bat walks at the San Joaquin marsh July through September. There are volunteer opportunities for anyone interested in monitoring our Least Tern colony at Huntington Beach. Our annual Summer BBQ is on July 29th, which offers great food, nice people and a program after dinner. I look forward to meeting members at these events and working for you in this new role. Have a great summer!

General Meeting
Friday evening, June 16th - 7:30 pm

“The Jaguar and the Border”
presented by Diana Hadley

In 2016, millions of people across the United States learned that a wild jaguar was living in the mountains of Arizona. But with only one known jaguar residing in the U.S. at the time, many were left wondering where he came from and how he would find a mate. Since November, two new jaguars have been photographed north of the U.S.-Mexico border. Questions of where they came from and what threats they face are more relevant today than ever. More than 50 individual jaguars live on the 55,000-acre Northern Jaguar Reserve in Sonora, Mexico, which provides a permanently protected safe zone where jaguars can roam free from harm. Our June speaker, Diana Hadley, will bring us up to date on this unfolding story and help us understand why the Jaguar matters.

As an environmental historian, Diana Hadley has been President of the Northern Jaguar Project since its inception 14 years ago. After retiring as associate curator of ethnohistory at the Arizona State Museum and the University of Arizona, she has devoted her time to expanding the core-protected area at the Reserve. Raised in Arizona and the former operator of a family cattle ranch, Diana lived on the Mexican border and has worked and conducted research in Mexico. As the Northern Jaguar Reserve launches conservation initiatives, they are envisioning how jaguars will return to former habitats in the U.S. through safe-passage corridors between the reserve and the international border. Join us for an insightful look into the Jaguar and its future.

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
Program Chair
CONSERVATION MATTERS

As we head into summer, there is a sense of excitement and anticipation of good times ahead – a sentiment leftover from childhood when school let out. Unlike our school days, though, Conservation Matters don’t take a holiday and the work of the Conservation Committee will continue through the summer and beyond. If you are interested in becoming involved, please let me know.

Sea and Sage Audubon has the good fortune to have a strong and active Conservation Committee. And the Conservation Committee is fortunate to have a supportive Board of Directors that is committed to education, conservation, and birds and wildlife and their habitats.

All year the Conservation Committee has worked on myriad projects and attempted to stay abreast of various community projects and developments County-wide in order to weigh in, where necessary and as our manpower and resources allow, for the birds, wildlife and natural resources.

As Chair of the Conservation Committee, I am grateful to each member for his or her diligence, vigilance, participation, support, expertise and time. Thank you to these individuals who were on the Committee this year: Sam Berry, Shirley Reynolds, Darrell Wilson, Heather Brashear, Bruce Aird, Star Howard, Vic Leipzig, Susan Sheakley, Scott and Cheryl Thomas, Mary Joseph, Nancy Kenyon, Doug Lithgow, Norm & Chris Byrd, Cheryl Egger, Ann Hamer, Ralph Sugg, Al and Janet Baumann, Bettina Eastman, and Eva Lydick. A special thank you to Scott, Bruce, Vic, and Doug for sharing with me some of the Chairman’s tasks and leadership responsibilities and to the Coordinators of Citizen Science Projects. Another special thank you for Conservation help to Nancy for the newsletter and webpage, and to Doug and Sandrine Biziaux for Social Media.

Of course, thank you to the volunteers who participate in the Citizen Science programs and all who took the time to write letters or send emails on Conservation issues.

Some Conservation Projects and Issues, 2016 - 2017

‘4th Tuesday’ Conservation Lecture Series: We conduct this series to learn, ask questions, and assess answers! To provide an opportunity for the Conservation Committee, Chapter leaders and members, and the public to understand the world around us; learn about the current environmental challenges and impacts on wildlife and natural resources, and identify and assess public and private efforts that are being made to mitigate or change the situation.

This year’s lectures covered a variety of topics, including Recycling - Mike Carey; Salton Sea - Garry George; Wildlife Corridor - Elisabeth Brown; Story of Saving the Bolsa Chica - Amigos de Bolsa Chica; Toll Road Settlement Agreement - Scott Thomas; Local Ocean Restoration - Nancy Caruso; Climate Change – Mark Talbert; and the Cryptic Story of the Andean Seedsnipe - Gabriela Ibarguchi. Coordinators: Susan Sheakley, Shirley Reynolds, Doug Lithgow, Bruce Aird, Ann Hamer, and Scott Thomas.

Citizen Science Projects:
BirdSeasons CA at the Marsh: weekly surveys to collect information on bird behavior to assess whether climate change is affecting it. Coordinators: Darrell Wilson, Bettina Eastman, Susan Sheakley and Sandy DeSimone, 16 surveyors.

Snowy Plovers Survey Project: Quarterly Beach Wide Surveys for the presence and activities of the Western Snowy Plover. This year is our 5th year doing these surveys. Volunteer and Survey Coordinator: Cheryl Egger, 59 surveyors.

California Least Tern Volunteer Monitoring at Huntington State Beach Least Tern Natural Preserve: Volunteer Coordinator: Cheryl Egger, 33 monitors.

Brown Pelican Survey: A project initiated and supported by Audubon California to survey twice yearly for presence and number of Brown Pelicans. Coordinator: Scott Thomas, 8 surveyors.

Just Some Conservation Issues

- Protection of habitat and resources for birds and wildlife, inland and along the coast, especially Western Snowy Plover, California Least Tern, California Gnatcatcher and Cactus Wren.
- Safe Trails Coalition
- Tree Care for Birds
- Huntington Beach Central Park Citizen Landscape Committee
- Emergent Tree Pests
- Coyote Hills
- Banning Ranch
- Climate Change
- City General Plans
- Coastal Act Local Conservation Plans
- National Monuments
- Federal Budget
- Desalination Plant
Bring the family and join us for this special occasion: dining under the stars, live music, evening walks around the marsh, and an interesting program about “Citizen Science and Mammal Research” presented by Miguel Ordeñana. 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 Gail Richards at (714) 267-2420; agrich@me.com

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 29 - 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.
Orange County Rarities
by Doug Willick

To report a RARE or UNUSUAL bird, or to receive reports from other birders about rare or unusual bird sightings here in Orange County, send an email to: OrangeCountyBirding-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

It seemed (to me) like the first two-thirds of this spring (especially March and April), birding wise, was less exciting than most years. Although there were definitely a few rarities and uncommon migrants around to spice things up, the diversity—and especially numbers—of migrants (especially land bird species) seemed well below average. Some similar thoughts were also expressed from other coastal southern California counties as well. Spring migration is not yet over, however, and perhaps things will pick up during the latter few weeks of May.

To start off, we’ll summarize a few of the wintering rarities that have stuck around into April, or beyond. A Snow Goose that has been lingering at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary and vicinity since March continued to be present through at least Apr. 25. A Lewis’s Woodpecker (one of originally two) that has been known to be present since January in Santiago Canyon, near its confluence with Modjeska Canyon, was last reported Apr. 24. A Black-and-white Warbler remained at Huntington Central Park through at least Apr. 9. A Palm Warbler continued at Mason Regional Park (MRP) through at least Apr. 12. Two wintering Summer Tanagers (how’s that for an oxymoron) were known to be lingering in the county, with a female type at the Santiago Park Nature Reserve (Santa Ana), through Apr. 13, and an adult male at MRP through Apr. 11. An adult male Orchard Oriole known to be wintering in the “nature area” of Mile Square Regional Park, through early Jan., was found to still be present here on Apr. 6-14. An adult male Baltimore Oriole was reported along San Diego Creek, near SJWS, on May 3 (Alex Coffey). Although there’s no way to know for sure, this was possibly the same adult male Baltimore that was known to be wintering at MRP, only a half-mile away (where it was last reported on Mar. 29).

Some new discoveries of note were made during the last month. A young male Long-tailed Duck was found in Sunset Harbor, Apr. 19-May 7 (Brandon Leonard); it is quite possible that this was one of two Long-tailed Ducks present at the nearby Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve through the end of December 2016. Five Brown Boobies were encountered during the Sea & Sage pelagic trip, out of Dana Point Harbor, held May 6 (Tom Benson, et. al.). A Solitary Sandpiper was in the concrete-lined drain basin at John Baca Park, April 9-10 (Roger Schoedl); this was the same location where a Solitary Sandpiper wintered during 2012-2013, and again in 2015-2016. Somewhat late migrant male Calliope Hummingbirds were seen at Moulton Meadows Park (Laguna Beach), Apr. 9 (Robert McNab), in a Rancho Santa Margarita yard, Apr. 9 (Ryan Winkleman), and in Coal Canyon, Apr. 22 (R. McNab). An Acorn Woodpecker at Harriett Wieder Regional Park, Apr. 21 (Jerry Tolman), was apparently quite lost.

A Gray Flycatcher was carefully identified in the Villa Park flood basin, on May 13 (Linette and Art Davenport). A Plumbeous Vireo at Mile Square Regional Park, Apr. 7-9 (Jeff Bray), had potentially been wintering locally; records of spring migrant Plumbeous Vireos in Southern California are thought to be extremely rare. A Black-and-white Warbler at Crystal Cove State Park, Apr. 9 (Corey Finger), had possibly been wintering at this location; most records of spring migrant Black-and-whites are in May and early June.

A Green-tailed Towhee was a nice find in Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park, Apr. 12 (Jim Currie). A White-throated Sparrow in Pinecrest Park (Mission Viejo), Apr. 10-19 (R. Winkleman), had most likely been wintering in the area. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Canyon Community Park (Costa Mesa), May 6-7 (Mark Johnston), was apparently an early migrant. A single Yellow-headed Blackbird was seen in Fairview Park (Costa Mesa), May 4-5 (Barbara Boethling); on May 8, there were apparently from three to four present here. During spring, Yellow-headed Blackbirds are rare, but fairly regular, migrants through the county. A nesting pair of Lawrence’s Goldfinches was present at Carbon Canyon Regional Park, Apr. 30-May 8 (Linette and Art Davenport). Although this goldfinch is a regular spring migrant through the county’s foothills, records of confirmed breeding in the county are infrequent at best.

A nesting pair of Lawrence’s Goldfinches was present at Carbon Canyon Regional Park, Apr. 30-May 8 (Linette and Art Davenport). Although this goldfinch is a regular spring migrant through the county’s foothills, records of confirmed breeding in the county are infrequent at best.
Sea and Sage Junior Naturalists:
The Next Generation—Need Your Support

The Sea and Sage Junior Naturalists program is for teens 13-18 years old who are passionate about birds and their environments. The year-long program provides enriched birding experiences, fosters leadership skills, and provides social interaction with other teens with similar interests.

In late summer, the teens meet with their Coordinator, Gail Richards, to establish the calendar of events for the coming year. Each year their outings vary. This past year, the Junior Naturalists participated in both the Christmas Bird Count and Spring Bird Count as citizen scientists. They birded locally at Crystal Cove and Aliso Niguel Regional Park and went on a full day Pelagic Trip through Sea and Sage Audubon. Our big trip this year was an overnight trip to Salton Sea. We also did a full day trip to Big Morongo Preserve and Joshua Tree National Park.

The program currently includes 27 teens, most of whom have been attending our Sea and Sage Summer Camps for many years and many are summer camp naturalists who help with the younger campers. They are amazing role models for these young children and inspire their interests in birds. Twelve Junior Naturalists attended the Annual Dinner in March and another twelve volunteered to help with both the Pancake Breakfast and the Summer BBQ. In addition, several of these teens are participating in the Least Tern and Snowy Plover surveys.

So you can see that these are amazing young people who are very involved in our chapter, but they need your support. In order to continue this quality program, we need to raise $4500 from member and community donations to help pay for van rentals, insurance, hotels for overnight trips, support for pelagic trips, and cutting the costs for these teens to attend the Pancake Breakfast and Annual Dinner.

If you think that this program is a vital component of our future, and you have the means, please consider making a donation to support these young Audubon members. Send your check (payable to Sea and Sage Audubon) to Junior Naturalists, Sea and Sage Audubon Society, 5 Riparian View, Irvine, CA 92612. Thanks for your support! — Gail Richards, Junior Naturalists Coord.

Bat Walks are Summer Fun-tastic!

A calm summer night. Sun setting over a large still pond. Sounds of birds and crickets. And small bats flying along the trails. Join us for a summer Bat Walk and discover the magic of a freshwater wetland at dusk. Our 8 summer Bat Walks are over half full already with two closed, so if you have been thinking about attending, do not wait until they are closed! Last year’s participants said “it was a fun experience and interesting to learn about how many bats actually live right here” and “I have recommended the bat walks to many because first, I think they are a delightful way to spend a summer evening, and second, they are a chance to see and learn about a fascinating creature.”

Bat Walks are July 7, July 8, July 22, August 11, August 12, August 26; September 8 and 9 are closed. Get the registration form from our website at www.seaandsageaudubon.org (under special events). Then you and your friends will have “a great summer memory!”

How Does Your Garden Grow?

Sea and Sage’s new Pollinators’ Garden at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary grew beautifully in its first year. But we ran into trouble when unusually abundant winter rains soaked in and didn’t drain from the garden. The weed-block fabric and thick layer of mulch also helped retain water. Sadly, we lost a majority of the gorgeous native plants! We consulted with the Irvine Ranch Water District and LandCare who recommended a French drain (buried trench with perforated PVC pipe surrounded by gravel). We had it installed and hopefully this will help with drainage in wet seasons. Meanwhile, we removed dead plants and planted some new ones. Combined with surviving plants, this should improve aesthetics until we replant in Fall when it is more appropriate weather for natives. Understand that gardens are living and growing so take a look on your next visit to the SJWS to see the progress.

Trude Hurd
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: Sherry Bass, Mary Converse, Fresia Escalona, Ann Harmer, Lynne Hayes, Pat Heilig, Patti Henshaw, Sarah Jayne, Cailey Jonas, Nancy Kenyon, David Kramer, Laurette Kyle, Joann Lemberger, Maya Matkin, Joan McCauley, Bobbie Miller, Barbara Mitchell, Eunice Morita, Dagmar Muthamia, JoAnn Nothhelfer, Roberta Ray, Barbara Reber, Susan Sheakley, Bev Spring, Beryl Vogel, Marilyn Walter, and Pat Wells.

Our Volunteers greet visitors, answer the phone, sell merchandise, answer questions about birds, check out binoculars, etc. If you are interested in helping at Audubon House, please call Barbara Mitchell at 949-646-4115 or Susan Sheakley at 949-552-5974.

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 books: Finding Birds in San Diego County, CA (Detwiler); Birds of Prey: Hawks, Eagles, Falcons and Vultures of NA (Dunne & Karlson); new children’s titles from Dawn Publications. Restocked items: You Nest With Me, boxed soap samplers, bamboo flutes. New stocking designs, t-shirts (Advice from a Robin, Advice from a Chickadee), lens cloths, coffee, jewelry, shell jewelry boxes, soapbarri, plush toy, fossil kits, feather pens. Summer sales on many items that will no longer be stocked. June specials: Geology Underfoot in SCA (reg. $14-sale $9.75; 4 in 1 Explorer Compass Kit (reg. $7.50-sale $4.50).

Our Active Exhibits Volunteers

From July 2016 to June 2017, our active Exhibits Volunteers represented our chapter at numerous events, under the very capable leadership of Mary Joseph, Exhibits Committee Chair. We’d like to thank these enthusiastic volunteers who helped staff our many exhibits this year: Bruce Aird, Sara Betherum, Deborah Brin, Linda Daily, Ann Harmer, Debbie Hays, Star Howard, Lynne Jeffries, Doug Lithgow, Eva Lydick, Donna Medina, Maggie Ratranapratum, Claire Readey, Cheryl Thomas, Scott Thomas, Pat Vranicar, Riley, Hannah, and Amy-Grace.

Donations

The following people made donations to Sea and Sage after our list of donors was published in the March Tattler: Kathleen Compton, Robert Ferguson, Sachiko Fukuman, Lance and Jean Hailstone, Barbara Metzger, Charlene Pinder, Jennifer Robins, Anna Somes, Andrea Sward, Jean Watt, Antoinette Winders.

Bloom-Hays Ecological Research Grants

The student proposals which were selected to receive this year’s Bloom-Hays Research Grants will be announced at this summer’s BBQ; information on the students and their projects will be listed on our webpage in June.

Bird Embroidery Class

The Bird Embroidery Class taught by Sylvia Gallagher, still has room for a few more students; class is limited to 15 people. Meetings will be held on Saturday mornings from 9 o’clock to noon during July and August. Full information is in the May Tattler and on the chapter webpage.

Hospitality at Our Meetings

Peggy McGlone and Carol Freund, Co-Chairs of the Hospitality Committee, do a wonderful job organizing the refreshments for our monthly meetings, and they have a great team of helpers who show up each month to help out in a variety of ways. This is the wonderful group of people who make our general meetings so warm and friendly, inviting people into the Duck Club and offering them refreshments and a friendly place to socialize before our meetings begin.

Peggy McGlone, Doreen Johnson, and Bev Krassner-Bulas help before, during, and after the meetings. Doug Lithgow is always there long before anyone else to set up the tables and his AV equipment, and help Carol Freund unload her car and carry things into the Duck Club. Phyllis Anderson and Bev have brought decorations or cheese and crackers to the meetings. Nancy Kappelmann brings home baked goodies even though she may not always be able to stay for the program. Doreen, Nancy, Bev, Phyllis, Beryl and Ralph Vogel, Barbara Sentovich, Maureen Myers and Nancy Kenyon brought cookies or some kind of refreshment to our meetings this year. Jan Gaffney greets everyone, asks them to sign-in, and provides name badges for them. Carolyn and Matt Biller set up the chairs and make sure they are put away again afterwards. Clean-up after the program is done by Doreen, Bev, Phyllis, Bettina Eastman, and Peggy and Mike McGlone. And Carol who provided the information for this article and carefully left herself off the list of people who help, comes to every meeting, often bringing cookies and other goodies, and helps with everything!
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)

Our Summer BBQ Program

The speaker for this year’s Summer Barbecue is Miguel Ordeñana, a local wildlife biologist who works for Cooper Ecological Monitoring and the LA County Natural History Museum. He has been studying the local mammal population at Griffith Park and has set up cameras at the few wildlife corridors which cross over major freeways. He will be discussing what he has learned about the mammals he has studied and how technology and citizen science have allowed researchers to expand the scope of their research. He is an excellent speaker who has some interesting information to share with us. Information about the Barbecue and how to make reservations can be found on page 3.

Least Tern & Snowy Plover Monitoring Projects are Underway

Both of these important Sea & Sage Citizen Science Projects are in full swing and are in the excellent hands of our super volunteers! The Least Terns arrived at Huntington State Beach Natural Preserve on April 9th and will be monitored into August. The OC Snowy Plover and Least Tern Surveys will be conducted the end of May and then again in September. Information on these projects and how you can help is on the chapter webpage. Thank you, volunteers!

Orange County Spring Count Status Update for April 2017

234 species have been recorded at 40 locations. There have been 306 checklists shared with the Sea and Sage Audubon eBird account. The total individual birds counted is over 50k.

Some individual highlights:
1. Long-tailed Duck at Anaheim Bay
2. Mountain Quail at Blue Jay Campground
3. Golden Eagle at Harding Truck Trail
4. Swainson’s Hawk at Upper Santa Ana River
5. Solitary Sandpiper at John Baca Park
6. Northern Saw-whet Owl at Silverado Canyon Rd., Maple Springs gate
7. Calliope Hummingbird at Moulton Meadows Park
8. Rufous-crowned Sparrow at Harding Truck Trail
9. European Goldfinch at W.O. Hart Park

—Darrell Wilson

We Couldn’t Have Done it Without You!

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

Chris Obaditch — SJWS monthly bird walks, assisted by Garett Lepper, Jeff Bray & others when Chris was out of town
Mark Kincheloe — UNB monthly bird walks
Jean Drum — SJWS monthly wildlife walks assisted by her team of Audubon Naturalists
Diane Etchison — Bird Walks at Laguna Niguel Reg. Park, Riley Wilderness Park, Dana Point Headlands & Harbor, and Caspers Wilderness Park
Mike Clayton — Dragonflies & Butterflies walks at the SJWS
Jon Dunn & Jon Feenstra with Co-leaders for our Pelagic Trips — Tom Benson, Bruce Aird, Jeff Bray, Robert McNab and Steve Morris
Vic Leipzig — Bolsa Chica bird walks, Salton Sea Trip, Eastern Sierra Trip assisted by Linda Oberholtzer & Ken Wells, and Mammoth Lakes Trip
Pete DeSimone – the 4 Owl Prowls at Starr Ranch
Linette Davenport – Irvine Reg. Park trips
Pete Bloom & Scott Thomas – Antelope Valley Hawk Trip
Bruce Aird — Big Morongo Preserve & vicinity
Kaaren Perry — Morro Bay trip
John McKeever & Gary Meredith — San Diego & vicinity
Bruce Aird & Jeff Bray — CBC Specialties
Jeff Bray & Ryan Winkleman — Seal Beach NWR
Sharon Harrow, Sally Menzel, Darrell Wilson, Mark Kincheloe and Chuck Nichols who assisted me on the monthly UNB Pontoont Boat trips.

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

Upcoming Field Trips, Birding Classes, and Chapter Events —

Those of you who like to plan ahead for field trips, Birding Skills Workshops, and other chapter events, please keep an eye on our chapter webpage. Sylvia’s upcoming birding classes are already posted, major events such as the BBQ, Pancake Breakfast, CBCs, and the Annual Dinner are also posted, but next year’s field trips will be scheduled during the summer. As the trips are scheduled, they will be added to the new field trip schedule. Any trip that is scheduled may be signed up for right away. —Nancy
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

Monthly Wildlife Walks at the SJWS
SAT: June 3, July 1, Aug.5, 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

Monthly Bird Walks at the SJWS
SUN: June 11, July 9, Aug. 13, 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
WED: June 21, July 19, Aug. 27
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. Trips are limited to 15 persons and there is a $10 trip fee per person payable on the morning of the outing. Contact Nancy to reserve a spot on the boat. Directions will be provided to those with reservations. Usually, these boat trips are on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.
Please note: This summer our June, July and August trips will be on different days because the Newport Sea Base will be using the pontoon boats for their summer program on the 3rd Wed. In Sept, we will resume our regular schedule of having our trips on the 3rd Wed. of each month. Leader: Nancy Kenyon 949-786-3160; nancykenyon@cox.net

Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve bird walk
THURS: July 20 - 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 at the playground in Harriett Wieder Reg. Park. Directions: From PCH, turn inland on Seapoint St. Follow Seapoint 1 mile to Garfield Ave. and make a U-turn. Drive entry to the playground will be on the right side in 0.25 miles. Leader: Vic Leipzig

Butterflies & Dragonflies at the SJWS
WED: June 21, July 19, Aug. 16, 10:00 -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 are welcome. Be sure to bring your binoculars and cameras. (Directions on page 11.) Leader: Mike Clayton

Upper Newport Bay bird walk
SUN: June 25, July 30, Aug 27, 8:00 – 11:00
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. 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 Dr. and follow it to the Big Canyon parking lot on your left. Leader: Mark Kincheloe
**Summer Field Trips**

**Nancy Kenyon, Field Trip Chair**

For trip updates & additional trip information, check our chapter webpage at: [http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org](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

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**Mammoth Lakes weekend trip ®**

**Sat – Sun, July 8-9, 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 Gossbill, 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**

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**Seasonal Tree Trimming**

When to trim your trees so that the birds are not harmed

**Wait, before you trim that tree. . .**

Did you know tree trimming in spring and early summer may be irresponsible and possibly illegal? It can damage trees and devastate nesting birds.

**Keep trees healthy!**

Cutting, trimming and pruning during spring and early summer can lead to diseased trees and intrusion of pests that harm trees. Fall is the best time to trim branches when trees are dormant.

**Keep nesting birds safe!**

Hawk nests are large and visible, but the majority of songbird nests are small and camouflaged. Tree trimmers may not see nests until too late. Also, loud activity of tree trimming can disturb birds in surrounding trees.

**What does the law say?**

Birds and active nests are protected from harm or harassment by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The CA Dept. of Fish & Game and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service will issue citations and levy fines to individuals and companies that blatantly disregard the regulations.

**Actions to help trees & birds:**

- Trim and prune during the fall and winter when trees are dormant.
- Hire arborists, landscapers and tree trimmers who are concerned with the health of your trees and the birds that nest in them.

- **If you see tree trimmers disturbing an active nest, TAKE A PICTURE of the nest, the destruction, and the company’s name. Report violations to the Law Enforcement Office of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service at 310-328-1516 (Office of Investigations and Compliance Inspection).**

**YOU can help protect our trees by learning more about them. . .**

The International Society of Arboriculture is a non-profit organization supporting tree care research around the world and is dedicated to the care and preservation of shade and ornamental trees. Their website covers the following areas: Tree buying and planting ~ What your tree needs and why ~ Proper tree care and planting ~ Pruning your trees ~ Tree hazards and treatments. [http://www.treesaregood.com](http://www.treesaregood.com)
Mallards & their Ducklings  
Breeding Season: Spring through Summer

This information was provided by the Wetlands & Wildlife Care Center in Huntington Beach.  
www.wwccoc.org    714-374-5587. Located at the corner of Newland & Pacific Coast Highway

A week before egg-laying, the female Mallard exhibits persistent quacking - she is looking for nest sites - this occurs mostly in the evening - she is in the lead and the male is waiting nearby. If this behavior is observed, you may find this is a good time to deter her from laying her eggs. As the last egg is laid, the female starts to incubate. She sits very tightly, and her brown plumage helps her blend perfectly into the background. She rarely leaves the nest except for short breaks to feed and stretch her legs. About 28 days later the eggs hatch together.  
This process takes about 24 hours.

The ducklings stay in the nest for at least 10 hours while they dry and get used to using their legs. Then, usually in the early morning, the female leads them to water. Bad weather may delay this exodus, but the sooner the ducklings get to water to feed, the better their chances of survival. The nest is abandoned, although if it is close to the feeding area, the family may continue to use it for brooding and roosting.

Traveling to water
If the nest is some distance from water, this first journey can be the most perilous time in a duckling's life. When a nest is high up (such as up a tree or on a balcony) the birds must first jump to the ground. Being very light and covered in down they usually come to no harm during the fall. If the landing area is very hard and there is cause for concern, placing something soft like straw or a blanket underneath will cushion the fall. Next, they will have a long and potentially hazardous walk before they can reach water. The mother duck knows where the nearest water is to take her young to, although it may be a couple of miles away. In most instances it is best to leave her alone, because interference can cause extra stress and risk the mother panicking and abandoning her brood. In many instances keeping an eye from the distance and shepherding the family across a danger point, such as a busy road, is all that is needed.

Duck's should be discouraged from building their nests where the ducklings will be at risk on hatching. Such instances would be in backyards near pools, especially if the property is not close to any parks or golf courses that have water. There is normally no second chance for abandoned ducklings, their best chance for survival is with their mother. If you try to catch the mother, she may panic and fly away. She may not return to her young. In a few situations, the ducks nest where the ducklings will be at real risk on hatching. In such cases the birds could benefit from being caught and taken to water, but this must be well planned and prepared. If there are absolutely no other solutions but to move the mother and her babies, please consider the following points:

• Count the ducklings carefully before you start - it is surprisingly easy to lose one or two.
• First, catch the mother; an easy way is to gain her confidence over the weeks when she is incubating. Put out food for her in a pet carrying basket with the door wedged open. She will get used to feeding inside. When her young are ready to leave, give the normal meal, making sure that the door can easily be closed on her. Once she is inside, cover the basket so she is in darkness and unlikely to panic. If this fails or you are too late to begin feeding, try throwing something over her, such as a coat or a towel. Hold the duck around her body, pinning her folded wings to her sides. Ducks are relatively docile as long as you can stop them from flapping their wings.
• Chasing should be kept to a minimum because the ducklings, which normally stand together in a tight bunch, may panic and scatter, making it difficult to find them again later. Get someone to watch where the ducklings go while you catch the mother.
• Collect the ducklings carefully into a second box and count them. Do not be tempted to place them in with their mother because she might try to escape in the process.
• Handle the duck and ducklings as little as possible. However gentle you are, the whole experience will be very stressful for them.
• Keep the boxes together during the journey so the mother is constantly aware of her young.
• When you get to the water, let the ducklings go first on an open bank where they can stand, be seen by the mother and get in and out of the water easily.
• When you release the mother, make sure she has seen the ducklings before letting her go. Place the box she is in carefully on its side so that the opening faces the ducklings. Stand behind the box so that when it is opened she can walk straight out to her family.
• Please note that a new mother with her babies in a new area will be vulnerable to attack from resident ducks and other predators. This is hard to witness, but is almost inevitable. Mallards hatch approximately 12 ducklings and usually only 2 survive until fledging. Nature has planned for this attrition and this is why the Mallard begins with so many babies.

Growing up
Young ducklings can feed themselves as soon as they reach water, but must learn what is edible. They depend on their mother for warmth for a few days. She broods them regularly, particularly at night, as they easily chill in cold weather. The down of the ducklings is not naturally waterproof. They get the waterproofing for their down from their mother. She also protects her ducklings from attacks by other Mallards. Ducks do not tolerate stray ducklings close to their own brood, and females kill small strange young they encounter. Ducklings take 50-60 days to fledge (fly) and become independent. They are able to breed when they are a year old.

Orphans
The journey to the water is hazardous for the whole family, and on occasions, the mother dies, or part or all of the brood becomes separated from her. When faced with a handful of endearing duck orphans, think carefully before you take on the task of rearing them. Rearing ducklings is a long, messy, time-consuming process. It takes at least two months to raise a brood. It is best to pass the youngsters on to an expert rehabilitator. It is against the law in California to raise native wildlife unless you are a licensed rehabilitator with the California Department of Fish and Game.
Directions and Membership

Sea and Sage Audubon Society’s mission is to protect birds, other wildlife, and their habitats through education, citizen science, research, and public policy advocacy.

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 and 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

Do you want to join National Audubon and Sea and Sage? Use the membership form at the bottom of this page. An Individual Membership or a Family Membership is only $20. Sea & Sage receives 100% of a chapter generated new member’s dues for the first year. Mail the form and your check - payable to National Audubon Society - to Sea and Sage Audubon, PO Box 5447, Irvine CA 92616. If you want to use a credit card for your membership payment, go online to: http://www.audubon.org/membership
If you have questions, please contact Membership Chair, Jim Kissinger, at membership@seaandsageaudubon.org

Temporarily Away or Moving?

Please notify Jim Kissinger of your new address if you are temporarily, or permanently, moving from your current address; or, let him know if you do not want to continue to receive the Tattler. This will save us postage. Jim Kissinger, Membership Chair membership@seaandsageaudubon.org

Audubon Membership Application

We invite you to become a member of the National Audubon Society and the Sea and 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: Sea and Sage Audubon, PO Box 5447, Irvine CA 92616
Make your check payable to: NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY. Please pay by check only; do not send cash.
Or, go online to: http://tinyurl.com/hyeaw67 (Our chapter code is C15)

To renew membership: renew directly with National Audubon by direct mail or online: (Renewals are $20 per year.)
http://tinyurl.com/zjbs5tt

Name _____________________________________________
Address ____________________________________________
City, State, Zip ______________________________________
Phone ______________________________________________
E-mail ______________________________________________

Wandering Tattler 11
June, July, August 2017
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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 songbirds. 714-964-0666. www.songbirdcareandeducation.org

SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

June 2017
03 Sat Monthly Wildlife Walk at the SJWS........ 9:00 am
06 Tues Conservation Committee Meeting .... 6:30 pm
11 Sun Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS .... 8:00 am
13 Tues Board Meeting................................. 7:00 pm
14 Wed UNB by pontoon boat ®...................... 8:15 am
16 Fri GENERAL MEETING ....................... 7:30 pm
21 Wed Dragonflies & Butterflies walk at the SJWS 10:00 am
25 Sun Monthly bird walk at Upper Newport Bay .... 8:00 am

July 2017
01 Sat Monthly Wildlife Walk at the SJWS .... 9:00 am
09 Sun Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS .... 8:00 am
19 Wed Dragonflies & Butterflies walk at the SJWS 10:00 am
20 Thurs Bolsa Chica bird walk .................. 8:00 am
21 Fri UNB by pontoon boat ®...................... 8:15 am
22 Sat Summer Pelagic Trip ®...................... 6:30 am
29 Sat Summer Barbecue at the SJWS ® .... 5:00 pm
30 Sun Monthly bird walk at Upper Newport Bay .... 8:00 am

August 2017
01 Tues Conservation Committee Meeting .... 6:30 pm
05 Sat Monthly Wildlife Walk at the SJWS .... 9:00 am
08 Tues Board Meeting................................. 7:00 pm
13 Sun Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS .... 8:00 am
16 Wed Dragonflies & Butterflies walk at the SJWS 10:00 am
25 Fri UNB by pontoon boat ®...................... 8:15 am
27 Sun Monthly bird walk at Upper Newport Bay .... 8:00 am