Come to our Annual Dinner on Friday evening, March 19th.

* Socialize with friends and new acquaintances
* Bid for some nifty items at our Silent Auction
* Rub elbows with the recipients of this year’s Conservation Award and the Gallagher Award
* Have fun browsing through our chapter displays
* Eat a delicious dinner and enjoy Jon Dunn’s program about warblers!

Space is limited so get your reservations in now!
See pages 6 & 7 for full information about this special event.

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Annual Dinner
Friday evening, March 19th
“Warblers of California and North America”
presented by Jon Dunn

Our speaker for this year’s Annual Dinner is Jon Dunn. Jon has been Chief Consultant/Editor for all five editions of the National Geographic Society’s *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*. He is the co-writer and host of the two-video set *Large and Small Gulls of North America*, as well as co-author (with Kimball Garrett) of *Birds of Southern California: Status and Distribution* and the *Peterson Field Guide to Warblers*.

Jon’s program will be about wood warblers. Some 120 species occur in the New World and roughly half of those have been found in North America. For easterners no other family better represents the phenomenon of migration. While most species are primarily found in eastern North America, nearly all occur at least casually in California. Jon will briefly review all North American species with emphasis on those that occur regularly in California. In addition he’ll review the migration routes and wintering areas for this diverse family.

We do hope you will join us for this special evening on March 19th. Jon’s program will appeal to birders of all levels of experience and expertise as well as those who are simply interested in nature. See pages 6-7 for additional information.
**Orange County Rarities**

by Doug Willick

To report a RARE or UNUSUAL bird, or to receive the current RBA report for Orange County, call the OrCoRBA at (949) 487-6869, or join OrangeCountyBirding; website directions tell you how to join. Go to: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OrangeCountyBirding/

Last month’s Rarities column touched on some of the highlights from two of the three Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) that are conducted each year in the county; these included the “San Juan Capistrano” CBC (conducted Dec. 19, 2009) and the “Northeastern” or “Inland” CBC (conducted Dec. 20, 2009). We’ll start off this month, then, by recapping some of the highlights from the last count, the Orange County Coastal CBC, which was held Jan. 3, 2010. [It should be noted, by the way, that these CBC recaps are somewhat preliminary, as the official CBC results are not yet available.] The Bar-tailed Godwit present at Upper Newport Bay (UNB) since late October has been one of the more unexpected birds to be found wintering in southern California this year (one of few that have ever wintered in the state). Though the godwit was rarely seen during early December, it was kind enough to make an appearance on count day (much to the relief of those assigned with the job of trying to find it). Although it’s a bit early to draw any conclusions at this point, the Bar-tailed Godwit was last reported on Jan. 12. Some of the other Coastal Count rarities which had also been discovered previously included such species as Greater White-fronted Geese at Mile Square Reg. Park (MSRP), Eurasian Wigeon at UNB, Common Goldeneye at San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary (SJWS), Reddish Egrets (three still) at Bolsa Chica (BC), Pacific Golden-Plover at BC, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at MSRP, Western Kingbird at SJWS, Vermilion Flycatcher at MSRP, Golden-crowned Kinglets at Huntington Central Park (HCP) and Harbor View Nature Park, Palm Warbler along the lower Santa Ana River (SAR), American Redstarts at MSRP and Mason Regional Park (MRP), Black-and-white Warbler at MSRP, Northern Waterthrush at SJWS, and White-throated Sparrow at HCP.

A number of other rarities known to be wintering in the county lingered into January, including several waterfowl species. For example, the possibly resident Ross’s Goose was still at Twin Lakes Park, Jan. 23, up to four Greater White-fronted Geese continued through Jan. at MSRP, and three male Eurasian Wigeons were at UNB, Jan. 16 (both Neil Gilbert). Small numbers of Black and White-winged Scoters continued to be seen off Newport and Huntington Beach (this being one of the better winters for these “hard-to-come by” scoter species in years). A peculiar-looking duck at Anaheim Lake, Jan. 23 (Doug Willick), showed the apparent features of a male Northern Shoveler x Blue-winged Teal hybrid. This is the second consecutive year this bird has wintered in the upper Santa Ana River area of the county. Hooded Mergansers lingered at several sites. At least two American Bitterns continued at BC till at least the end of Jan. (many observers). One of two or three Zone-tailed Hawks known to be in the county this winter was in the East Irvine area, Jan. 12 (Evelyn Brown). As many as three Ferruginous Hawks were again seen at the former MCAS El Toro Base (Jan. 29; N. Gilbert), and two were at the Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station (SBNWS), Jan. 5 (Bob Schallmann). A recent showing of Burrowing Owls, possibly all wintering birds however, appeared again at several sites (e.g., UNB and BC); one at SJWS since late fall has been frequenting a somewhat atypical location. At least eight Lewis’s Woodpeckers in the Limestone Canyon area, Jan. 16 (Paul Klahr), where at least four were present in Dec., was an excellent tally for this county. The somewhat illusive Williamson’s Sapsucker in the Los Pinos Camp area of the Santa Ana Mountains, discovered last month, turned up again on Jan. 16. An adult male Yellow-shafted Flicker was refound at Burris Basin, Jan. 24. Other continuing birds included the Vermilion Flycatcher and Northern Waterthrush at SJWS (through at least Jan. 16); a Gray Flycatcher, Plumbeous Vireo and Hermit Warbler along the upper SAR (Jan. 9); another Plumbeous Vireo at Laguna Niguel Regional Park (Jan. 15); Golden-crowned Kinglets at several locations; Mountain Bluebirds at the former El Toro Base (through Jan. 29); the Palm Warbler along the lower SAR (through Jan. 30); the Black-and-white Warbler and American Redstart at MRP (both through Jan. 30), as well as the Black-and-white Warbler and adult male American Redstart at MRP (Jan. 16 and Jan. 31, respectively); and the White-throated Sparrow at HCP (through Jan. 28).

During January, a number of new rarities have been reported. Two Tundra Swans were observed flying over the SBNWS, Jan. 5 (B. Schallmann). Complicating matters, swans seen in the BC and Hellman Ranch area have turned out to be young Mute Swans. Nine Brant at the mouth of Newport Harbor, Jan. 28 (Richard Thunen), were of note, though 25 at SBNWS, 31 Dec. (N. Gilbert) was exceptional, especially considering the date. A male Eurasian Wigeon was at HCP, Jan. 28 (Pat Cabe). A Common Goldeneye at Anaheim Lake, Jan. 23 (D. Willick), was inland. A Red-throated Loon at MRP, Jan. 24-26 (Les Redpath, found dead on the latter date), was also inland. A Ferruginous Hawk in Brea, Jan. 12 (N. Gilbert), was at a more notable location. A juvenile Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Pacific View Cemetery, Jan. 3 (D. Willick), and a male reported at Carbon Canyon Reg. Park, Jan. 30 (Ryan Abe), were an unprecedented fourth and fifth to occur in the county since November 2009. It seemed to be another good winter for Red-naped Sapsuckers, with several more reported this past month. A Tropical Kingbird on the backside of BC, Jan. 28 to at least Feb. 2 (Steve Smith), was undoubtedly wintering in the area, and possibly the same individual that wintered in the HCP/BC area during the previous two winters. A briefly seen Myiarchus sp. flycatcher (most likely an Ash-throated) at Burris Basin, Jan. 9 (D. Willick), was also likely wintering in the area. “New” Plumbeous Vireos were noted near UNB, on University Dr., Jan. 3 (Joel Weintrub), and at Portola Park, Jan. 12 (D. Willick). Encouraging were the number of Loggerhead Shrikes reported from around the county, which were too numerous to cite individually. A Brown Creeper at MSRP, Jan. 4-30 (Jim Roe), was one of only a couple reported in the county this past fall/winter.

Warbler rarities of any significance continue to be few and far between in the county this winter. There were several more discoveries in Jan., however, of some of our western warbler species that “rare but fairly regular” in winter, including Nashville, Yellow, Black-throated Gray and Wilson’s Warblers. Approximately four Hermit Warblers found during Dec. was noteworthy for winter. A total of five previously unreported Summer Tanagers were discovered in the last month, with three individuals found during the Jan. 3 Coastal
The 2010 Fern Zimmerman Conservation Award

The Sea and Sage Audubon Conservation Committee and Board of Directors have chosen Trish Smith to receive the 2010 Fern Zimmerman Conservation Award for her efforts to ensure the long term existence of the Coastal Cactus Wren in southern California. Trish is the Senior Ecologist with Newport Beach Office of The Nature Conservancy.

Following the 1993 Laguna Beach wildfire, scientists with the Nature Reserve of Orange County (NROC) began to identify a steady decline in Cactus Wren breeding territories, even in areas that had not burned. Trish, along with many others began to pay close attention to this seemingly local trend. But by the mid 2000s it had become clear that Cactus Wren populations were shrinking in most habitats in southern California habitats, and the Laguna Beach population was all but gone.

Trish decided that a coordinated effort was needed to begin to identify the rate of decline, search for causes, and begin to develop a response to reverse the decline. As Trish was planning in 2007 for the first Coastal Cactus Wren Symposium to take place in spring 2008, the extraordinary 2007 wildfires decimated Cactus Wren habitats all though the birds' range in Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego Counties. The majority of known Coastal Cactus Wren habitats were all toasted in less than a week and real concern about Cactus Wrens and other CSS birds began to spread and Trish's conviction to bringing all interested parties together increased.

Nearly 100 wildlife researchers, ornithologists, wildlife agency representatives, and conservation organization representatives have joined the statewide Coastal Cactus Wren Conservation Network because of Trish's vision and persistence. These highly interested and dedicated individuals meet regularly to forge a collaborative approach to Cactus Wren conservation efforts. In fact these meetings prompted leaders of Sea and Sage Audubon and Starr Ranch to join forces with TNC and the NROC to form the Orange County Cactus Wren Team. Similar efforts were launched by Audubon leaders in Los Angeles County and the US Fish and Wildlife Service began conducting targeted surveys in San Diego.

Trish is well known for her dedication to conservation and habitat protection in Orange County through her role with The Nature Conservancy. We believe she has gone way beyond the call of duty in her work with Cactus Wrens and we are very pleased to recognize her efforts with the 2010 Conservation Award.

The Pelicans Are in Trouble!

Severe storms pounded the Californian coast in late January, literally battering pelicans and other seabirds. Compounding the effects of the storms, there has been mass pollution caused by run-off which has washed toxins and rubbish into the sea through storm drains, off coastal roads, and from agriculture alongside the Pacific Ocean. Seabirds have been poisoned, hurt, exhausted, and killed in huge numbers. Literally hundreds and hundreds of Brown Pelicans are being cared for and the bill for cleaning, looking after, and feeding them is enormous - and growing all the time.

At the Wetlands & Wildlife Care Center in Huntington Beach, they are caring for 50 weak & starving Brown Pelicans, as of Feb.15, and more are arriving daily. All of the volunteers have been working overtime, trying to keep up with the influx of sick and starving sea birds.

Now is a critical time for these animals and your help is needed to save them. It takes 300 pounds of fish per day to feed our feathered friends, and fish is expensive! The volunteers are working tirelessly on oiled birds, storm tossed animals, starving pelicans and cormorants, and the baby season is just around the corner!

Your help is urgently needed. You can contribute online though their website at www.wwccoc.org. Every penny goes towards saving the lives of these animals. For those without internet access, send your donations to: WWCC, 21900 Pacific Coast Highway, Huntington Beach CA 92646. (Make check payable to WWCC.) Thank you.

Orange County Rarities - continued

CBC: one at Mesa Verde Golf Course (Jim Pike), one at U.C. Irvine (Brian Daniels) and one at Harbor View Nature Park (Wayne Gochenour). Subsequently, two more Summer Tanagers turned up, with one at Ralph Clark Reg. Park, Jan. 11-28 (Ryan Abe), and one at the Santiago Park Nature Reserve, Feb. 5 (D. Willick). Three Vesper Sparrows were near the former MCAS El Toro base, Jan. 29 (N. Gilbert). A young male Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Pearson Park (Anaheim), Jan. 6 (D. Willick), was the third in the county so far this winter. A female Orchard Oriole was discovered on private property in Costa Mesa, Jan. 3 (J. Pike), where an adult male was subsequently found, Jan. 9-23+ (Vic Leipzig). A female type Purple Finch at MSRP, Jan. 23 (N. Gilbert), was in the coastal lowlands, where it has become quite rare in recent years. More expected (in the foothills) was a male Purple Finch at Oak Canyon Nature Center, Jan. 16.
Audubon House Volunteers
We would like to thank the following people for helping to staff Audubon House in February and March: Sonia Appell, Pat & Dick Cabe, Deana Collins, Carolyn Cooper, Joanne Cull, Tom Drouet, Fresia Escalona, Judy Fritts, Pat Heilig, Cindi Hererra, Marina Hornby, Sarah Jayne, Steve Jelnick, Lois Jones, Nancy Kenyon, Lauretta Kyle, Joan McCauley, Bobbie Miller, Eunice Morita, Shirley Price, Betty Purdy, Roberta Ray, Barbara Reber, John Shaddy, Bev Spring, Betty Swift and Beryl Vogel. Audubon House is open daily from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Our Volunteers greet visitors, answer the phone, sell merchandise, answer questions about birds, check out binoculars, etc. If you are interested in helping at Audubon House, please contact Judy Fritts at 949-551-4513.

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. They’re in pdf format and will look and print exactly like the original. Email nancykenyon@cox.net to start your paper-free Tattler delivery today! (offer good only for chapter members in good standing)

Barn Owl Webcam at Starr Ranch
Viewers from around the world are flocking to Audubon Starr Ranch live bird webcams. Bird enthusiasts from as far away as the Netherlands have written in to say that they’re watching a Barn Owl nest live on the Internet. The webcams tend to be seasonal, with the best viewing in January and running through the summer. The Barn Owl webcam can be viewed now at www.starrranch.org

Bookstore News
New titles for March include Woodpeckers of North America and Nat Geo’s Backyard Guide to the Night Sky. Also available are books by Jon Dunn, our Annual Dinner speaker: Peterson Field Guide to Warblers of N. America; Birds of the LA Region; the Nat Geo titles: Illustrated Birds of NA; Birding Essentials; FG to the Birds of N. America; Field Guide to the Birds of Western N. America and Peterson Reference Guide to Gulls of the North Americas.

List of Donors
Next month we will publish the list of all the donors to Sea and Sage for the fund appeal. It’s not too late to add your name to the list of people who gave financial support to our chapter.

Camp Scholarships Needed
We are looking for chapter members who would be willing to make donations or sponsor a scholarship for a child who wants to attend our summer nature day camp this year but needs financial assistance in order to do so. For questions or information about our camp and its scholarship program, please contact Grace McElhiney (714) 969-9617 or see our chapter webpage for information on the camp program.

An Extra Special Thanks
An extra special thank you goes to those volunteers who staffed the Audubon House for 60 hours or more in 2009. Kudos go to Steve Jelnick (313), Nancy Kenyon (302), Betty Purdy (294), Judy Fritts (284), Lois Jones (271), Joan McCauley (259), Betty Swift (228), John Shaddy (191), Barbara Reber (171), Tom Drouet (156), Bobby Miller (151), Sonia Appell (121), Bev Spring (119), Pat and Dick Cabe (110). Eunice Morita (71), Mary Shandy (68), Pat Heilig (62) and Pam Degarimore (60). Those who have retired in 2009 after many years of appreciated service at Audubon House are: Donna and Mike Augustine, Charlie Austin, Betty Brittingham and Mary Shandy. Many thanks for the time you spent with us to enlighten our visitors.

Silent Auction Items Still Needed
Cheryl Thomas has been working diligently to obtain some items for our Silent Auction at this year’s Annual Dinner. Do you know a person or a business which might have something special to donate? We are looking for unique items that would appeal to a large group of people with varied interests. Please contact Cheryl if there is anything you can contribute, or if there is someone you know who can. Thanks!

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

Photographers’ Meeting - March 5
The photographers meet three times a year at Jim Gallagher’s house in Huntington Beach to share photos and discuss various photographic techniques. The next Photo Meeting will be held on Friday evening, March 5th at 7:30 pm. The limit is 30 photos per person. For information on these meetings and/or directions to Jim’s house, call Jim at 714-962-8990. If you will be bringing digital pictures, please follow the guidelines listed on our webpage at: www.seaandsageaudubon.org/Meetings/meetings.htm

For more information on Sea & Sage activities, check out our schedule of chapter activities at: http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org/Chapter/ChapterSchedule.html
This Christmas Bird Count was organized & coordinated by Jessica Griffiths & Nancy Kenyon; Jessica compiled all of the data after the count. A copy of the data for each section of the count can be found on the Sea and Sage webpage at www.seaandsageaudubon.org. For a printout of the entire report showing each section's data as well as the totals and the birders involved, send a stamped, self-addressed, legal sized envelope to: CBC, c/o Nancy Kenyon, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine 92612; be sure to specify which CBC you are interested in.

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<tr>
<td>White-tailed Kite</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Eurasian Collared-Dove</td>
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<td>Northern Mockingbird</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northern Harrier</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Mourning Dove</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>California Thrasher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sharp-shinned Hawk</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Greater Roadrunner</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>European Starling</td>
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<td>Cooper's Hawk</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Barn Owl</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>American Pipit</td>
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A Workshop devoted to Warblers presented by Jon Dunn
Saturday morning, March 20th
9:00 — 11:00 a.m.

Jon Dunn will be presenting a Warbler Workshop for us on the morning after our Annual Dinner. In the workshop, Jon will cover the regularly occurring Orange County warbler species in detail as well as the various subspecies issues like Orange-crowned, Nashville, Yellow-rumped and Wilson’s. Timing and dates and western migration in general will be discussed. We’ll also work through the more thorny warbler identification problems such as Orange-crowned and Tennessee and the other yellowish warblers, “Myrtle” and “Audubon’s” Warblers, the Blackpoll, Bay-breasted and Pine trio, the Waterthrushes, and the Oporornis group.

Cost of the workshop is $25 per person. SPACE WILL BE LIMITED, SO DON’T WAIT until the last minute to send in your reservation. Make check payable to Sea & Sage Audubon and mail to: Workshop, c/o Nancy Kenyon, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612.

Please do not combine your payment for the dinner and the workshop into one check; use separate checks for the workshop and the dinner. Your workshop ticket will be mailed back to you in early March, so you will need to include a self-addressed stamped long envelope with your payment.

Workshop Reservation Form

Name(s)________________________________________________________

Email address or phone for confirmation. ____________________________________________

Amount enclosed _________ Stamped, self-addressed envelope enclosed? ________

Make check payable to Sea & Sage Audubon and mail to: Workshop, c/o Nancy Kenyon, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612.
Our Annual Dinner this year will be held at the Irvine Hilton on Friday evening, March 19th. Our guest speaker, Jon Dunn, has been the Chief Consultant and Editor for all five editions of the National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America. The evening’s program will include the presentation of our chapter’s Fern Zimmerman Conservation Award and the Gallagher Award. We will also have a Silent Auction. The Irvine Hilton is located one block from the John Wayne Airport at 18800 MacArthur Blvd. in Irvine. Free parking will be available. Below is the schedule for the evening:

No Host Bar: 6:00 p.m.
Dinner: 7:15 p.m.
Program: 8:00 p.m., sharp!
Location: Hilton Irvine/Orange County Airport
Tickets: $52 per person
Entrees: chicken or vegetarian

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY. Seating will be assigned in the order the reservations are received. If you wish to sit with friends, make sure they send in their reservations on the same date you do. To reserve a seat, make your check payable to: Sea & Sage Audubon; include the name of each person for whom a reservation is made. If you wish group seating, please indicate that on the reservation form; each table will seat 10 people.

Mail your check and the reservation form to: Annual Dinner, c/o Nancy Kenyon, 32 Almond Tree Ln., Irvine CA 92612. A message confirming your reservation will be sent back to you along with directions and a map. Be sure to include your email address and phone number on the reservation form. All reservations must be received by 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 15th.

Please note: payment for the Saturday workshop, as described on page 6, must be made by separate check and must include a self-addressed stamped long envelope so that we can mail the ticket back to you. Both checks and reservation forms may be mailed in one envelope.

### Annual Dinner Reservation Form

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With whom do you wish to sit? ____________________________________________________________

Email address for confirmation & map ____________________________________________________

Phone (in case we need to contact you quickly) ____________________________________________

**Entrees:**

- [C] CHICKEN - Rosemary grilled breast of chicken with pesto mashed potatoes and wild mushroom cream sauce
- [V] VEGETARIAN - Portabella mushroom stuffed with spinach, goat cheese, sun-dried tomatoes & peanuts (can leave out the goat cheese if requested in advance) All dinners will include a mixed green salad, fresh vegetables, specialty breads, coffee, tea, or decaf, and New York Cheese Cake. Mail your reservations to: Annual Dinner, c/o Nancy Kenyon, 32 Almond Tree Ln., Irvine CA 92612
Monthly Bird Walk at Santiago Oaks
1st Sun: March 7, April 4, May 2 - 7:30 a.m.
Join Linette Lina for a monthly bird walk at Santiago Oaks Regional Park at 7:30 am. Directions: Take the 55 freeway to Katella Ave in Orange. Exit and drive east on Katella 3.2 miles to Windes Dr. Turn left on Windes Dr. and follow the signs to the park. Be prepared to pay the $3 entrance fee if you don’t have a county parks pass. Meet in the upper end of the parking lot.

Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS
2nd Sun: March 14, April 11, May 9 - 8:00 a.m.
Join Chris Obaditch for a monthly bird walk around the ponds of the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine. (See directions on page 11.) The walk, which is open to interested birders of all ages, will meet by the front door of Audubon House. Children under the age of 11 must be accompanied by an adult.

Upper Newport Bay by small boat ®
3rd Wed: (March & April trips are already full)
May 19, June 16, July 21, Aug. 18 - 8:15 a.m.
Join us for the rare chance of birding the Upper Newport Bay from the deck of a small boat. Spotting birds from the water offers one a different perspective and the birds seem to view us differently also. Trip duration is about 3 hours. Space is very limited. Contact Nancy Kenyon for trip reservations at 949-786-3160 or nancykenyon@cox.net .

Nancy Kenyon, Leader

Owl Prowl at Starr Ranch ®
Saturday, March 20 - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
The Owl Prowl is a short nighttime excursion into Starr Ranch Sanctuary in search of owls. The evening will begin with an indoor orientation where we will watch the live owl cam and learn about the owls which inhabit Starr Ranch. We will then board the big open bed truck for a short ride into Bell Canyon to search for some owls. Advance reservations required: trip size is limited due to space on the truck. Trip fee is $10. Make check payable to Sea and Sage Audubon and mail to: Owl Prowl, c/o Nancy Kenyon, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612. Be sure to include your phone number for last minute trip updates and your email address or a stamped self-addressed long envelope for trip confirmation & information.

Trip Leader: Pete DeSimone
Reservations: Nancy Kenyon, nancykenyon@cox.net

Limestone Canyon ®
Saturday, March 27 - 7:00 a.m.
Limestone Canyon is one of the great remaining pieces of open space left in Orange County. This property has year-round water, and a patch-work of oak-sycamore, grassland and coastal sage scrub habitats as well as some of the most spectacular canyons in the county. Due to the amount of rainfall, early spring flowers should be excellent this year. The trail goes up and down a 900-ft elevation change, so wear sturdy hiking shoes, bring adequate water, snacks if you want them, binoculars and a digital camera (scope not required). We’ll be done by noon. Group size limited to 15; advance reservations required. Directions to meeting spot will be given to those with reservations. Contact Nancy Kenyon for trip reservations at 949-786-3160 or nancykenyon@cox.net.

Bruce Aird, Leader

Irvine Regional Park
Wednesday, March 31 — 8:00 a.m.
Join us for a weekday walk in this regional park which supports an interesting array of birds, both resident and migratory. Birds you may expect to see and/or hear include Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks, White-tailed Kites, nuthatches, woodpeckers, wrens, titmice, etc. Directions: Take Jamboree NE (toward the mts.) & follow it across Santiago Cyn. Rd. into the park. Or, from the #55 Frwy, exit on Katella & drive east . Katella turns into Villa Park Rd. & then Santiago Cyn. Rd. which you will stay on until it intersects with Jamboree. Turn left on Jamboree & follow it into the park. Be prepared to pay the $3 entrance fee at the gate if you don’t have a county parks’ pass. We will meet in the first parking lot on the right, after you enter the park.

Beverly Hargrove, Leader

East Mojave Weekend Campout ®
Sat & Sun, April 10-11 — 7:00 am
This spring desert trip will take place in the Mojave National Preserve, a desert area SE of Baker. This is a great chance to explore new desert areas and see desert birds and other wildlife. 4-wheel drive vehicles or those with good road clearance are advised for this trip; those without can carpool. When you make your reservation, please let me know if you have a high clearance vehicle or if you need to carpool with someone else who does. This will be a camping trip since motel accommodations are a long way away from the area we will be birding. The best place to camp is Hole-in-the-Wall campground. Information and directions will be provided to those with reservations. The habitat there is desert sage scrub. Target birds are: the desert thrashers — Bendire’s, Crissal, LeConte’s and
April & May overnight Field Trips

Additional information, including bird lists from previous trips, will be posted on our chapter webpage at: www.seaandsageaudubon.org For questions about these trips or to make reservations, contact Field Trip Chair, Nancy Kenyon, at 949-786-3160, or nancykenyon@cox.net. The status of each trip (whether or not it is full) is posted on the webpage Field Trip Schedule.

East Mojave Campout trip continued —

Sage. You may also see and/or hear Black-throated Sparrows and Phainopeplas. The group will also visit an area in higher elevation to search for Juniper Titmouse, Pinyon Jay & Ladder-backed Woodpecker. At another area, we will search for Scott’s Oriole and a possible Gilded Flicker. On Sunday, the group may visit Zzyzx which is an oasis research station, or Pechalka Springs on the west side of Clark Mountain which can be an interesting spot for migrating birds. (This is dependent on a recent rainfall.) Another possibility may be the Kelso Dunes which contains the second tallest sand dunes in CA. The Lucy’s Warbler is often found there.

Reservations are necessary; trip fee is $25. Make check payable to Sea & Sage Audubon and mail to: East Mojave Trip, c/o Nancy Kenyon, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612. Additional trip information and a map will be posted on the chapter webpage.

Steve Sosensky, Leader

Southern Sierra Spring Migrants and Vagrants Trip with Bob Barnes ®

Friday, May 14 - Monday, May 17; 5:30 am Fri.

The birding locations will be selected according to current birding conditions and the wishes of the participants. Habitats to be covered include: chaparral, cliffs & rocky hillsides, desert oases, desert scrub, dry & wet mountain meadows, Fremont cottonwood & red willow riparian forest, freshwater ponds & marshes, giant Sequoia groves, grasslands & pastures, Joshua Tree woodland, mixed conifer & fir forests, oak woodland, pinyon pine & juniper woodland, reservoir (Lake Isabella), residential, & rivers and streams.

BIRDS:

Spring migrants (swifts, flycatchers, viresos, swallows, warblers, tanagers, sparrows, grosbeaks, buntings, orioles with fingers crossed for one or more spring morning migration spectacles), resident widespread and montane (mountain associated) species, and chances for one or more vagrant species. All nesting season species possible except the exception of Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Common Nighthawk which first arrive late May into June.

Besides migrants we are hopeful of seeing many species from among Wood Duck, Chukar, Mountain Quail, Western Grebe, Clark's Grebe, American White Pelican, Prairie Falcon, up to five hummingbird species, up to ten species of woodpecker (including Red-breasted Sapsucker, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, White-headed Woodpecker, and Pileated Woodpecker), Pinyon Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, wrens (including Cactus, Rock, Canyon, Bewick's, House, and Winter Wren), American Dipper, Townsend's Solitaire, Green-tailed Towhee, Black-chinned Sparrow, Tricolored Blackbird, Scott's Oriole, Purple Finch, Cassin's Finch, and Lawrence's Goldfinch.

Other birding options (e.g.: dawn chorus birding, owling) will be discussed and planned during the trip, especially at the end of each birding afternoon.

Advance reservations are needed and space is limited.

Trip fee is $15 for each day you plan to attend ($60 for 4 days). Make check payable to Sea & Sage Audubon & mail to: Southern Sierra Trip, c/o Nancy Kenyon, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612. Be sure to include your phone number and e-mail address or a long self-addressed, stamped envelope for trip confirmation and information.

Bob Barnes, Leader

Roy Poucher, Leader

Sea & Sage Audubon, March 2010
**Summer 2010 Bat Walks**

Don’t let any more time go by before registering for one of nine bat walks scheduled for this summer. Our local bat biologist, Stephanie Remington, will give an excellent power point presentation and answer questions for about 30 minutes and then will lead the group out into the Marsh at dusk to observe two species of bats that fly through the Marsh eating mosquitoes and other bugs as they fly. Although the series does not start until Thursday, May 13, registration opens on March 1. Download a copy of the Bat Walks Enrollment Form from our website at www.seaandsageaudubon.org. Fill it out and mail it, along with your check, to the address shown on the flyer. Priority will be given to those on the waiting list from 2009. Otherwise, participation will be assigned on a first come first served basis, beginning March 1. Register early. This is a very popular program and it fills quickly. If you have any questions or cannot download the enrollment form, call me at 949-726-0858. I’ll see you on a BAT WALK!

—Helen Nicholas, Coordinator

**Taxidermy Birds Awaiting Sponsors**

Sea and Sage Audubon maintains a wonderful taxidermy collection of local birds and mammals. These specimens play an important role in our Education Program. Preparing these specimens is costly and we need your help. You can sponsor one of the following birds or mammals and have a special sponsor plate with your name attached. Taxidermy sponsorships are a great way to commemorate a birthday or anniversary present or special person.

We’d like to say thank you to Carol Counter who sponsored an Anna’s Hummingbird after our last request. The following birds can be sponsored for $190 each: Lesser Goldfinch, American Goldfinch, Calliope Hummingbird, Allen’s Hummingbird, Common Yellowthroat, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Wilson’s Warbler and House Finch.

We are also in need of contributions for our taxidermy general fund which help us pay for supplies for our collections - including the wings, tail and feet collection and study skins. We have a few small rodents that we recently prepared as study skins. A contribution of $40 will pay for one study skin.

To sponsor a taxidermy specimen or contribute to the taxidermy general fund, please pick up a sponsor form at the Audubon House or contact Sea & Sage’s Taxidermy Coordinator Gretchen Mavrovouniotis at gmmavro@earthlink.net or (949) 552-8266.

**2010 Spring Brunches**

Spring will have sprung before you know it! Our first brunch of spring 2010 will take place on Saturday, April 10. Registration for this series of five 4-course gourmet brunches held in the meadow behind the Duck Club opens March 1. It’s a perfect way to introduce friends, family and neighbors to this jewel of Orange County. It’s also a great birthday or anniversary present. Not only will brunch be served, but a seasoned naturalist will take you on a tour of the Marsh when plants are blooming and the babies of the animal residents are being born. The program is limited to adults only and we like to keep guest participation to 15. An enrollment form can be downloaded from our website at www.seaandsageaudubon.org and then filled out and mailed with your check to the address shown on the flyer. Participation will be assigned on a first come first served basis, beginning March 1. Register early to assure your choice of dates. If you have any questions or cannot download the enrollment form, call me at 949-726-0858.

COME, RELAX, AND ENJOY!

—Helen Nicholas, Coordinator

**Audubon Naturalist Volunteer Hours in 2009**

In the February Tattler, we listed the top naturalist hours for 17 naturalists and students who donated over 100 hours during the year. Here is a revised list: Helen Nicholas - 500, Bev Spring - 477, Grace McElhinney - 456, Constance Cassady - 330, Dan Trinidad - 310, Pat Vranicar - 294, Bobbie Miller - 280, Teresa Cullen - 265, Bob McElhinney - 214, Deborah Brin - 202, Dawn Zuniga - 134, Hunter Craft (student) - 124, Tim Maas - 120, Andrea Hendrixson (student) - 111, Trude Hurd - 254, Gretchen Mavrovouniotis - 102, Pat Sparks - 100.

**Summer Nature Day Camps**

Registration is now open for our Sea & Sage Audubon Summer Nature Day Camps. Some of them are filling up fast and one session is already full. Below are the camp dates. Full information can be found on our chapter website, or pick up a camp brochure at Audubon House. Make this summer a special one for a child in your family!

- **Fledgling Camp** (7-8 year olds) June 28 - July 2
- **Marsh Bird camp** (9-12 year olds) Session I: June 28 - July 2  
  Session 2: July 5 - 9
- **Birds, Bugs and Blossoms** (11 + years)
- **Advanced Bird Camp** (11+ years) Week I: July 19 - 23 (This week is already full.)  
  Week 2: July 26 - 31
Tattler Delivery
We post the Tattler on our chapter website. Members who wish to receive monthly e-mail notification that the latest issue of the tattler is online, should send an e-mail to nancykenyon@cox.net. This method of Tattler delivery not only helps cut our costs and conserves resources, it also is much faster since the Tattler is posted immediately after it has been delivered to the printer. You can read it online, or print out the pages you want to keep.

Tattler Subscriptions
Non-Audubon members, or members from other Audubon chapters, who wish to subscribe to our chapter newsletter, may do so for $12.50 per year for regular mailing. Those who wish to receive their newsletter faster, by 1st class postage, may do so for an additional $6.00. Make check payable to “Sea & Sage Audubon” and mail to: Tattler Subscriptions, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612.

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
From the San Diego Fwy. (405), exit on Jamboree south toward Newport Beach. At the 1st signal, Michelson, turn left. Continue on Michelson to the 4th signal which is Riparian View; turn right toward the Irvine Ranch Water District plant. Follow the signs directing you to Audubon and the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. Continue down the road to a short hill into a parking lot. The first building you see will be Audubon House; the Duck Club is adjacent to Audubon House. Between Audubon House and the Duck Club is a path which will take you to the Education Center where 4th Tues. Conservation lectures are held. Beyond this area are the ponds and marsh mitigation areas of the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary which are open every day from dawn until dusk.

Audubon House
Open 8 am - 4 pm daily
(949) 261-7963
Stop by Audubon House for a trail map; browse through our bookstore & gift shop; look at our taxidermy birds and check our reference library. Be sure to stop by; we’re there to help!

Your Membership Payment
If you are signing up as a new Audubon member be sure and use the application in the Tattler or on our website that has the C9ZC150Z in the lower right hand corner. This tells National Audubon who to credit for your recruitment. Sea & Sage gets 100% of the first year’s dues of new members (even if you give more than the minimum membership fee). When renewing your membership and you pay more than the standard renewal fee ($35 for regular and $15 for senior/student membership), the extra you contribute goes to National Audubon; the chapter does not get any of the contribution back. So, if you are feeling generous at renewal time and you want Sea & Sage to benefit, you should send your renewal fee to National and a separate check with your donation to the chapter. If you have any questions please contact Phil Brobst at (949) 261-7963.

Audubon Membership Application
Membership: We invite you to become a member of the National Audubon Society and the Sea & Sage Audubon chapter. To join: Please pay by check only; do not send cash. Make your check payable to: NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, complete this form, and mail it along with your payment to: Sea & Sage Audubon, PO Box 5447, Irvine CA 92616-5447.

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

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

Name
Address
City State Zip
Phone
E-mail address

C9ZC150Z
2010 chapter code
Sea and Sage Audubon Society

Chapter Mission Statement: Sea and Sage Audubon is a leader in creating an understanding of nature in Orange County, through conservation, research and environmental education programs for children and adults. This is accomplished with classes, field activities, publications and volunteer opportunities.

Come join us at the Annual Dinner! We’ve got a great evening planned for you!

Dated Material  Please Expedite!