Come to our Annual Dinner on Friday evening, March 18th

* 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 Letter of Commendation  
* Have fun browsing through our chapter displays  
* Eat a delicious dinner  
* Enjoy Phil Unitt’s program on Avian Discoveries in Baja California’s Cape Region.

Space is limited so get your reservations in now!  
See page 3 for full information about this special event.

Annual Dinner Program
March 18th - Friday evening - 6:00 pm

“Discoveries of Baja California’s Cape Region . . . Avifauna and More!”

presented by Philip Unitt

This year’s Annual Dinner speaker, Philip Unitt, will focus on discoveries in the Baja California Cape Region, and the endemic discoveries among the birds. In 2013, the San Diego Natural History Museum initiated a biological inventory of the Sierra Cacachilas, an isolated range of mountains overlooking La Paz, Baja California, an area basically unexplored biologically. One goal of the survey was to search for new organisms thought endemic to the area. Phil will review the identification of regional endemic birds—100 species so far, including the subspecies of the Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Cassin’s Vireo, and Red-tailed Hawk. Two other goals of the study were to assess the use of the Sierra Cacachilas by the Gray Vireo and variation in species’ abundance by elevation.

Phil has served as collection manager for the San Diego Natural History Museum since 1988 and curator since 2005. His expertise includes the distribution, status, history, identification, subspecies, and conservation of the birds of California and Baja California. He has written over 50 scientific papers, including the seminal paper on the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and taxonomic analyses of the Marsh Wren and Brown Creeper. He was the project manager and author of the San Diego County Bird Atlas (2004) and served on the technical advisory committee to the California Department of Fish and Game for revision of its list of bird species (2008). Since 1986, Phil has served as the editor of Western Birds, the quarterly journal published by the Western Field Ornithologists, and editor of the Condor, the international journal of avian biology published by the Cooper Ornithological Society. We know you will enjoy this interesting presentation by Phil Unitt on his discoveries of birds in Baja California’s Cape Region.

—Doug Lithgow, Programs Chair
2016 Fern Zimmerman Conservation Award and Letter of Commendation

Each year since 1967, the Conservation Committee has presented Letters of Commendation and the Conservation Award to individuals who have made noteworthy contributions to the protection of habitats, natural resources, birds and wildlife in Orange County. This year we are pleased to honor:

FERN ZIMMERMAN CONSERVATION AWARD

Fern Zimmerman Conservation Award: Dr. Sandy DeSimone, Director of Research and Education, Audubon Starr Ranch, for her work to foster present and future conservation-minded generations through the integrated ecological research, education and land management programs at Audubon Starr Ranch Sanctuary.

As the Director of Research and Education at Audubon Starr Ranch since 2001, Sandy has worked to promote a “culture of conservation” in Orange County through various education and research programs which offer internships and field research opportunities to recent college graduates and stimulate both children and adults to a greater appreciation of nature through participation in field ecology projects.

Under Sandy’s adaptive management approach, field ecology research leads to more effective land management practices at Starr Ranch. One example is the development of effective non-toxic methods to control invasive plant species as part of a project to restore Starr’s native habitat in a sustainable manner. The land management practices being developed on the 4000-acre sanctuary provide a successful management model for other land managers and agencies.

Sandy’s expertise, which she shares willingly, and her education and research programs, are a valuable resource to Orange County and California Audubon chapters. Sea and Sage Audubon is grateful for Sandy’s many contributions, which will live on in future generations.

LETTER OF COMMENDATION

Emergent Invasive Plant Management Committee of the Orange County Chapter of the California Native Plant Society for its program for the early detection and control of non-native invasive plant species. We applaud the committee for this volunteer program, which has been operating since 2010, as it seeks to spot non-native plant species that have recently appeared in Orange County and to work with land managers and owners to take action for their removal and possible eradication.

Who is Fern Zimmerman?

Fern Zimmerman was one of Sea and Sage’s all-time most inspirational and enthusiastic members. Fern was a true conservationist, grass roots organizer, and chapter leader who contributed much to the development of Sea and Sage Audubon Society. She helped us find our voice in the world of environmental advocacy and bird identification.

Many of the chapter’s early Conservation Committee Meetings were organized by Fern and held in her living room. Fern was a constant source of optimism about our ability to effect change in our environment, especially in the protection of open spaces.

Sea and Sage named its conservation award the Fern Zimmerman Conservation Award in 1997, shortly after Fern’s death, to honor one of our most cherished members and conservationists.

Orange County Snowy Plover Survey: March 20-26! Training: March 12!

Won’t you join the Orange County Snowy Plover Survey in looking for Snowy Plovers on our local beaches? Training will be held on March 12, at 10:00 to 12:00 in the Learning Center at San Joaquin WS (reservation required).

This is the beginning of the Snowy Plover breeding season and it is important to see how many Snowy Plovers are using our beaches and where they are. Each beach segment takes approximately 1-2 hrs. to survey, with one or two surveyors per segment. Volunteer surveyors may choose their Orange County beach segment to survey and reserve a place in the training session by contacting our Volunteer Coordinator, Cheryl Egger at ocsnplsurvey@gmail.com

Walk the beach of your choice and enjoy all the birds while helping “the cutest bird on the beach”, our Threatened Snowy Plover!
The Sea & Sage Annual Dinner will again be held at the Mile Square Park Banquet Center on Friday evening, March 18. This year’s speaker is Phil Unitt who will present a program on “Discoveries of Baja California’s Cape Region Birds.” He is an active southern California birder best known for his work on the status and distribution of birds in San Diego County, and long-time editor of *Western Birds*, the journal published by the Western Field Ornithologists.

Phil is a native San Diegan, attended San Diego State University, and has spent his entire professional career in San Diego, where he is the collections manager of the birds and mammals department for the San Diego Natural History Museum. His expertise includes the distribution, status, history, identification, subspecies, and conservation of the birds of California and Baja California. Despite this heavy emphasis within San Diego County, Phil birded widely in the southern California desert oases in the mid-1970s, and spent some time living in the San Francisco area in the late ’70s/early ’80s.

The evening’s program will include a limited item raffle and silent auction and the presentation of our chapter’s Fern Zimmerman Conservation Award and Letter of Commendation. The Mile Square Park Banquet Center is located at the south end of Mile Square Park, at the intersection of Warner & Ward. Free parking is available. Below is the schedule for the evening:

- **No Host Bar:** 6:00 p.m.
- **Dinner:** 7:00 p.m.
- **Program:** 8:00 p.m., sharp!
- **Location:** Mile Square Park Banquet Center
- **Tickets:** $46 for all reservations received before March 1st
- **Entrees:** $51 for reservations received on or after March 1st

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 and your entrée choice 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 14th.

**2016 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  [V] Vegetarian. All dinners will include a salad, fresh vegetables, freshly baked rolls, coffee, tea, or decaf, and dessert. (The California Chicken entrée – Fresh Chicken marinated with lemon, orange, lime and grapefruit zest seasoned with sea salt and fresh peppercorns, topped with mango and strawberry relish, mashed sweet potatoes with fresh garden vegetables. The Vegetarian Entrée – Jumbo Portobello Mushroom stuffed with an Asian vegetable quinoa mix, topped with a tomatillo and D’Ajou pear sauce.)

**Mail your reservations to:** Annual Dinner, c/o Nancy Kenyon, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612

*Wandering Tattler*  March 2016
Audubon House Volunteers
We would like to thank the following people for helping to staff Audubon House in February and March: Sherry Bass, Pat & Dick Cabe, Deana Collins, FRESIA EScALoNA, Carol Getz, John Hargrove, Lynne Hayes, Pat Heilig, Patti Henshaw, Cindy Herrera, Sarah Jayne, Cailey Jonas, Nancy Kenyon, Lauretta Kyle, Joann Lemberger, Doug Lithgow, Maya Matkin, Joan McCauley, Bobbie Miller, Eunice Morita, Dagmar Muthamia, Roberta Ray, Barbara Reber, Annette Ritchie, Ana Rubyn, Susan Sheakley, Bev Spring, Beryl Vogel, 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 Ana Rubyn at 949-351-5393.

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 include: ABA Field Guide to Birds of CA; Bird Droppings: Writing About Watching Birds and Bird Watchers by Pete Dunne; Sibley Folding Guides (So. CA; CA Coast; Desert SW); A Walk in the Woods Movie Tie-in Edition by Bill Bryson; and Secret Lives of Bats by Merlin Tuttle. Also just in: Match a Pair of Birds (game); t-shirts (new designs: bluebird lace; and Advice from Sea Otters); candles; and garden décor.

Bolsa Chica Break-In Reminder
When you visit Bolsa Chica and park in the PCH parking lot, DO NOT LEAVE ANY VALUABLES IN YOUR CAR! It is a sad state of affairs that thieves abound in this area, just waiting to break into your car to steal your photographic gear, binoculars, scope, wallet, anything of value regardless of whether it is locked up and out of sight or not. Be real careful!!! Furthermore, when you return to your car with camera in hand and drive off, don’t stop somewhere and leave your car with the items inside because they may be following you, just waiting for you to leave the car so they can take the valuables they saw you with before you drove away.

Donors continued from the Feb. issue:
Robert Buckley        Gregory Shaffer
Kathy Cooper          Richard Shearer
John Corcoran         Sandra Smith
Lynee Domash          Stanbridge family
Catherine Fisher      Joseph Stemler
Laura Goldberg        Roberta Taylor
Barbara Hannegan      Marjorie Thomas
Roger & Beverly Kleinman  Debby Thysen
Doris Koegel          Edith & Thomas Van Huss
Joan McCauley         Hilary Viscount
Grace & Robert McElhinney  Judith Westin
Jennifer Meyer
Rosalind Munro
Amy Puziantian
Eugenia Schuhmacher

California Least Tern Watching
Help is needed for the Endangered Least Terns by keeping your eyes on their very active nesting colony. Volunteers watch for breeding behavior, eggs, chicks, fledglings, and predators, and record observations as well as watch for Western Snowy Plovers. Two hours per week, at a beautiful beach location: The Natural Tern Preserve at Huntington State Beach at the Santa Ana River.

New and returning volunteers are welcome to our Season Kick-off and Volunteer Training, featuring Peter Knapp’s slide show of the Breeding Biology of the Least Tern and Snowy Plover. The Kick-off will be held Wed., April 20, 6:30-8:30 pm, at the Huntington State Beach Lifeguard Headquarters at PCH and Magnolia Ave.

Field Orientation (mandatory for new volunteers) will be on a Sat., morning, date to be determined, at the Least Tern Natural Preserve, Huntington State Beach. Parking is free for both events. Enter at Magnolia. All new volunteers will become members of the Volunteers in Parks Program for State Parks. Paperwork and instructions will be emailed. All returning and new volunteers who have completed their paperwork and are actively volunteering will receive a free beach parking pass for the State Beaches in the Orange Coast District. Additional information about the program can be found on our chapter website. If interested, please contact Cheryl Egger at leastternshb@gmail.com
This seemed to be a very busy winter for birders in Orange County (OC). Birders seemed to be out in record number, and the county received excellent coverage once again. Sightings of noteworthy birds are, as usual, too numerous to include in their entirety here, so this will just provide an overview, while touching on the more significant of the findings.

Many of the county’s wintering rarities, which had been reported earlier in the season, continued to be seen at least through January. Among others, these included two Cackling Geese at Mile Square Regional Park (MSRP), a few Eurasian Wigeons and Common Goldeneyes, an above average number of Hooded Mergansers; three Pacific Golden-Plovers at Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station (SBNWS); raptor highlights such as Ferruginous Hawk and Prairie Falcon [primarily at the former MCAS El Toro, and the Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station (SBNWS)], and Bald Eagles (Irvine Lake); a Lewis’s Woodpecker (Irvine Regional Park), several Red-naped Sapsuckers; several Vermilion Flycatchers, a “Western” Flycatcher (MSRP), a Gray Flycatcher at Carl Thornton Park (CTP); Golden-crowned Kinglets at Huntington Central Park (HCP); Black-and-white Warblers at Laguna Niguel Regional Park (LNRP), HCP, Santiago Park Nature Reserve; a Northern Waterthrush at HCP; a Summer Tanager at HCP; a Red Fox Sparrow at MSRP; a couple White-throated Sparrows; two Nelson’s Sparrows at SBNWS; and two Orchard Orioles at MSRP. Montane birds that continue to make appearances in OC through the winter include Red-breasted Nuthatches, Purple Finches, Red Crossbills and Pine Siskins.

During recent weeks several new OC discoveries were made. Clearly the highlight for this winter so far was the female Tufted Duck found along the Santa Ana River (SAR), in Anaheim, Jan. 23-Feb. 6+ (Roger Schoedl); this was the first ever to be recorded in OC. Single Snow Geese were found at San Juan Capistrano, near Doheny State Beach, and at MSRP (Joel Weintraub, Sara Bethurum, Trish Gussler). A young male Eurasian Wigeon was at Tewinkle Park, Jan. 12-18 (Tim Hipp). Single Common Goldeneyes appeared in San Juan Capistrano (Bettina Eastman), and on a small reservoir directly north of Burris Basin (Jeff Bray). A Red-necked Grebe on Burris Basin, Jan. 8-17+ (John Fitch), was exceptional; although there are only three inland records of this grebe in OC, this was the second to turn up at Burris.

Zone-tailed Hawk observations in the county have been relatively numerous this winter; sightings during roughly the last six weeks included singles in Lake Forest, Irvine Lake, Anaheim (along the upper SAR), Rancho Santa Margarita, Mission Viejo and Irvine (R. Schoedl, T. Gussler, Ryan Winkleman, Anthony Gliozzo, Rick Shearer and Mike Sanders). Up to two adult Bald Eagles being seen along the SAR, in Anaheim, after about Jan. 20 (Valerie Sinex), were at an unexpected location. A Solitary Sandpiper at John Baca Park, Dec. 19 (R. Schoedl), was at the same location where OC’s only other winter record occurred (three years ago). A Black-legged Kittiwake recorded off Newport Beach, Jan. 3 (J. Bray), was the only one reported in the county this winter. A White-winged Dove at Gibbs Park, Jan. 18 (J. Bray), was a surprise. New Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers included a female at Craig Regional Park (CRP), Jan. 27 (Valerie Wheeler), and a young female at MSRP, Feb. 5-6+ (R. Shearer). A Prairie Falcon at San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary, Jan. 28-31 (B. Eastman), was at an atypical location.

An Ash-throated Flycatcher at Anaheim Coves Park, Jan. 8-9 (Mike Huang), was likely a bird heard (but not seen) on Dec. 6 (Doug Willick); this bird was likely the same individual known to have wintered here the previous two years. A Tropical Kingbird was well-studied at Gibbs Park, Jan. 4-Feb. 2 (Cris Whetstone, et al.). Single Plumbago Vireos were found in Harbor Lawn/Mt. Olive Memorial Park, Dec. 19 (Tom Wurster), and at Bart Spendlove Park, Jan. 24-30 (A. Gliozzo). A Brown Creeper was discovered at HCP, Jan. 20-22 (Jim Roe).

A few new warbler rarities were found mid-way through the winter period, including two that are especially of note. A Northern Parula was uncovered at LNRP, Dec. 31-Feb. 10+ (RJ Baltierra, a visiting birder from Washington state); there have been very few winter records of this species in OC. A Painted Redstart at Irvine Lake, Dec. 20-Feb. 7+ (D. Willick), was a colorful surprise on the Inland Christmas Bird Count. Oddly enough, this was the second Painted Redstart to be recorded on this count, as a wintering bird known to be present in Silverado Canyon was also recorded on count day.

A male Black-and-white Warbler was at CRP, Jan. 1 (Sam Bressler), where a male was known to have wintered in recent years as well. A Palm Warbler was in Fairview Park, Jan. 12 (Robb Hamilton). New Summer Tanagers for the winter (sounding a bit paradoxical) included adult males at Dorrin Park, Dec. 20-21 (B. Eastman), at MSRP, Dec. 30 (Don Hocelin), and at CTP, Jan. 11 (Tom Benson), and a female at Canyon Park, Jan. 18 (Sandy Remly). An adult male Baltimore Oriole was on private property in Santa Ana, Feb. 1 (R. Winkleman).
# Northeastern CBC Report - 12/20/15

The Northeastern CBC covers the inland areas of Orange County and is divided into the following sections: Irvine Reg. Park, Irvine Lake & vicinity, Silverado Canyon, Upper & Lower Black Star Canyon, Mountain Areas, Modjeska & Harding Canyons, O’Neil Reg. Park & Plano Trabuco, Lion Country & Areas south of the 405, Mission Viejo-Lake Forest-El Toro & foothills, El Toro Marine Base & foothill areas, Rattlesnake & Siphon Reservoirs, Peters Canyon Reg. Park & Lemon Heights. The count was coordinated and compiled by Steve Alter. Full information on this count can be found on our chapter webpage. ([http://tinyurl.com/d25g9p4](http://tinyurl.com/d25g9p4))

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Special thanks to the CBC participants who did such a great job helping us with the count. We couldn’t have done it without you! There is not enough room to list them here on this page, so you will need to check the Sea & Sage website for the complete report on this count.
Coastal CBC Report – 1/03/16

The Coastal CBC covers the coastal areas of Orange County and is divided into the following sections: Westminster Memorial Park & Corner of the Seal Beach NWR; HB Pier, Beach Areas north to edge of Sunset Beach, HCP, Wintersberg Channel, Seapoint; Bolsa Chica; Mile Square Park; SA River Mouth, 19th St. Willows, Canyon Park, SA Golf Course; Older Areas within Santa Ana; Centennial Reg. Park & former MCAS Blimp Base; West Side of Upper Newport Bay; East Side of Upper Newport Bay; San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary & UCI Marsh; Mason Reg. Park, UCI Foothills, Corona del Mar; Newport Harbor & Beaches; and Pelagic Areas along the coast. The count was coordinated and compiled by Steve Alter. Full information on this count can be found on our chapter webpage. (http://tinyurl.com/25hctax)

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Special thanks to the 171 CBC birders who did such a great job helping us with this count. We couldn’t have done it without you! See our chapter webpage for a complete report of this count: http://tinyurl.com/25hctax
March 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

Dana Point Headlands and Harbor
Wed, March 2nd – 8:00 to 11:00 am
Join Diane Etchison for a bird walk at the Dana Point headlands and harbor. We will start at the headlands to check out the songbirds on the hill and enjoy the great views of the ocean and harbor. From there, we will descend to the lower side of the bluffs, the point, and Baby Beach where terns, loons, and other water birds are found. The last area will be the mouth of San Juan Creek to check out the gulls. Directions: Take the San Diego Fwy [5] to Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) in Dana Point where you will take the PCH exit. Follow PCH. After you cross the San Juan Creek, the road you’re on will merge with the Coast Hwy 1. Drive north on Hwy 1 a short distance to Dana Point Harbor Drive, where you will turn left. Park in the lot at the corner of Golden Lantern and Dana Point Harbor Drive. We will carpool up the hill to the headlands, back down the hill to the Ocean Institute parking area, and then on to Doheny State Park. Be prepared to share expenses for the entrance fee at the state park.
Leader: Diane Etchison

Wildlife Walk at the SJWS
Sat, March 5th- 9:00 to 10:30 am
Explore the diverse life of the Marsh - its birds, plants, insects and other animals. Meet at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in front of Audubon House at 9:00 am for a 1½ hour nature walk. Children under the age of 11 must be accompanied by an adult. (See page 11 for directions)
Leaders: Jean Drum & Audubon Naturalists

Bird Walk at the SJWS
Sun, March 13th - 8:00 to 12:00 noon
Join us for a monthly bird walk around the ponds of the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine at 8:00 am. The walk, which is open to 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 to the SJWS on p. 11)
Leader: Chris Obaditch

Upper Newport Bay by pontoon boat
Wed, March 16 & April 20 - 8:15 -11 ®
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 in cash on the morning of the outing. Advance reservations are necessary; contact Nancy Kenyon to reserve a spot on the boat. Directions will be provided to those with reservations. Leader: Nancy Kenyon 949-786-3160; nancykenyon@cox.net

Bolsa Chica Bird Walk
Thurs: March 17th- 8:00 to 12:00 noon
Join Vic Leipzig for a bird walk at the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve. Come prepared for a great morning of birding. Bring binoculars, a field guide, and a scope if you have one. We will meet in Harriet Wieder Park in the lot off Garfield. 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.
Leader: Vic Leipzig

Carbon Canyon Reg. Park Bird Walk
Sun, March 20th - 7:30 to 11:30 am
Discover the local birds of our canyons and foothills at Carbon Canyon Reg. Park with leader, Garett Lepper. Offering different habitats, this park provides a glimpse of some birds that are uncommon throughout most of the county. Directions: From the 57 fwy, exit Lambert. Go east on Lambert to Carbon Canyon; park will be on the right. Upon entry to the park, turn left and park in the 1st parking area on the right, in front of the pond and the children’s play-ground. Be prepared to pay the $5 entrance fee if you don’t have a county parks pass.
Leader: Garett Lepper

Upper Newport Bay Bird Walk
Sun, March 27th – 8:00 to 11:30 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
Owl Prowls ® at Starr Ranch
6:30 – 8:30 pm

Fri, March 11th
Sat, March 12th
Fri, March 25th
Sat, March 26th

For those of you who are unfamiliar with Starr Ranch, it is a 4,000 acre preserve owned and operated by the National Audubon Society and is located in the foothills of the Santa Ana Mountains of southeastern Orange County. It is not open to the public except for special occasions such as our owl prowls & bird walks, annual potluck picnic, and Starr Ranch bird banding classes.

Our Owl Prowls are short nighttime excursions into Starr Ranch Sanctuary in search of owls. Our evening will begin at 6:30 PM with an orientation by Pete DeSimone who has been manager of Starr Ranch since the mid 1980’s and knows all about the owls and hawks which inhabit Starr Ranch in Bell Canyon. He will talk about Barn Owls and possibly show us photos of the Barn Owls which have nested in a high eucalyptus tree at the Ranch for several years, as well as answer owl questions about their nesting activity, food, territory, and other items of interest. If there is time, he will also show us the actual tree where they nest and where he has installed a camera to record their activities within the nesting cavity. We will then board Pete’s big open bed truck for a short ride down Bell Canyon to search for some owls. At each stop, Pete will play some recordings of owl calls while we listen carefully for owl responses and watch for any sight of them. . . Starr Ranch is a magical place at night and we will have the canyon to ourselves with vistas of dark hillsides, the silhouettes of oak and sycamore trees, the fresh scent of sagebrush, a sky full of stars if it’s clear, and the sounds of many small frogs croaking in the creek bed. If we’re lucky, we will catch sight of a Barn Owl flying silently overhead, or hear the soft calls of the Western Screech-Owls from a distant hillside.

Advance reservations are needed for these Owl Prowls and trip size is limited. **Trip fee:** $25 per person. Make check payable to Sea & Sage Audubon and mail to: Owl Prowl, c/o Nancy Kenyon, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612. Include your email address & phone number, or a stamped self-address envelope for trip confirmation and additional info. Check our webpage for space availability; trips fill quickly!

**Leader:** Pete DeSimone
Reservations: Nancy Kenyon 949-786-3160; nancykenyon@cox.net

Reservation Trips to Plan Ahead for —

• **KERN COUNTY SPRING MIGRATION TRIP:** (F-M, May 6-9) led by Bob Barnes
http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org/FieldTrips/Trips/KernCountySpringMigration.html
Trip size limited to 8-10 people. Kern County is justifiably known as one of a handful of "Best in the West" areas to go birding in to witness spring migration. The second weekend in May is an excellent time for experiencing species diversity and impressive numbers of individuals of numerous western migrant landbird species as well as the chance for finding some vagrant eastern species. Species diversity is likely to be high each day of this 4-day trip allowing a decent or better chance to witness a spring migration phenomenon.

• **SPRING PELAGIC TRIP:** Sat, April 30 led by Jon Dunn with assistance by 4-5 co-leaders. (only 5 spots left!)
http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org/FieldTrips/Trips/PelagicTrips.html

• **BIG MORONGO & VICINITY TRIP**
Sun, May 1 - led by Bruce Aird (only 10 spots left!)
Trip starts at 7:00 AM to take advantage of the cooler morning temperatures. This will be a full day of birding. Full information & a trip list is on the Upcoming Field Trips webpage.

• **MAMMOTH LAKES TRIP**
Fri-Sun, June 24-26 – led by Vic Leipzig
http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org/FieldTrips/Trips/MammothLakesTrip.html
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.

Our meeting time on Saturday will be 5:15 am so we can catch the sunrise over Mono Lake and see the Common Nighthawk. On Sunday morning, our meeting time will also be 5:15 am and we will bird until late afternoon both days. We will visit pine/ fir forests, sagebrush prairie, and some high desert on the shores of Mono Lake. Besides birds, we expect to see spectacular vistas, old volcanoes, waterfalls, and glacial moraines. We also can expect to see some interesting mammals such as Yellow-bellied Marmot, Pika, etc.
**ANNUAL REPORT** (part 2)

Last month, I wrote about our education accomplishments at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. Thanks to Sea and Sage Audubon’s wonderful Audubon Naturalists, we led science discovery programs for elementary school children plus special tours of the wetlands for community groups. We offered many Bat Walks and Wildlife Walks for the public. We discovered the joy of birding and stewardship projects with our teenage Junior Naturalists and summer camp children. We loaned Nature Discovery Kits to local educators. We helped keep our collection of taxidermy specimens in the best condition. We helped with grant-writing and kept updated on IRWD activities in the wetland.

During these diverse programs, our Audubon Naturalist team of adult and youth volunteers share several important traits: dedication, kindness, and concern for the environment. We especially appreciate the education coordinators who put in many hours to make our programs the very best in the county: Chris Byrd, Teresa Cullen, Christine Dickey, Jean Drum, Grace McElhiney, Ellen Mansour, Jay Miller, Carolyn Noble, Laura Osteen, Bob Polkinghorn, Gail Richards, Bev Spring, Judy Vlastakis, Pat Vranicar and Marilyn Walter.

Many thanks to the 86 adult volunteers who help people understand the importance of our natural world: Phyllis Anderson, Kat Avila, Linda Barker, Sara Bethurum, Sandrine Biziaux-Scherson, Dejoie Blumberg, Jon Boss, Deborah Brin, Toni Bryant, Chris and Norm Byrd, Claire Capin, Helen Chang, Sarah Crestol, Teresa Cullen, Linda Daily, Christine Dickey, Jean Drum, Sujata Dutt, Bettina Eastman, Jeff Evans, Carol Freund, Susan Gibb, Jenny Golden, Pam Gosselin, Beverly Hargrove, Debra Hays, Star Howard, Penny Horstman, Trude Hurd, Steve Jelnick, Mary Joseph, Nancy Kapplermann, Debra Kent, David Kramer, Susan Kramer, Babs Levitan, Doug Lithgow, Josh Lithgow, Eva Lydick, Tim Maas, Ellen Mansour, Gillian Martin, Jay Matchett, Maya Matkin, Gretchen and Michael Mavrovouniotis, Wanda McCargar, Larry Mccloskey, Grace and Bob McElhiney, Bobbie Miller, Jay Miller, Marquita Miller, Sharon Nantell, Martin Natland, Maria Nguyen, Carolyn Noble, Ellen O’Leary, Linda Ormes, Laura Osteen, Marsha Owen, Bob Polkinghorn, Claire Readey, Margaret Renton, Catherine Reynolds, Gail Richards, Brenda Sabin, Mel Sanchez, Jean Savage, Rich Schilk, Paul Schmidt, Barbara Sentovich, Caleb Speakman, Sofia Speakman, Pat Sparks, Bev Spring, Kyle Teague, Linda Thomas, Dan Trinidad, Judy Vlastakis, Pat Vranicar, Marilyn Walter, David Weber, Diane Weinhold and Sophie Wickramasinghe.

Many thanks to the 22 volunteers under age 18 who are already important stewards of the environment: Kirah Andreychuck, Arielle Blumberg, Andrew DeKoeeyer, John DeKoeeyer, Matthew DeKoeeyer, Cameron Diiorio, Lee Evans, Aoefe Galvin, Brendan Galvin, Cate Harrington, Ryan Kaneko, Emma Lyall, Katie Marks, Maia Nguyen, Moss Noble, Clark Noble, Sierra Plys, Kyra Schmidt, Ryan Seppala, Shannon Theisen, Ryan Vosbigian and Elisa Yang.

These amazing interpreters and volunteers are the heart of our programs and we appreciate all of them! There’s room for more; perhaps you? To learn how you can become involved with the Audubon Naturalists, contact Trude Hurd at 949-261-7964 or by email at seaandsage@sbcglobal.net.

**Make Your On-line Donation for Education during OC Giving Day on April 27-28**

Thanks to Orange County Community Foundation, you can make a donation directly to our Marsh Education Project and we will receive additional money based on the total of all donations. So if you have considered making a donation this year, on-line OC-Giving Day on April 27-28 is the best way to make your gift count even more! Specific information will be in the April issue of Wandering Tattler.

**Education grant from OCCF Environmental Fund**

We are pleased to announce that our request for funding from the Orange County Community Foundation’s Environmental Fund was approved for $8,000. As a result of these funds, we have enrolled at least 55 elementary school classes from Santa Ana School District in our Outdoor Adventures science program. Teachers value our program as one Taft School teacher writes: “These field trips make classroom lessons have real-world meaningfulness. Kids are owning their own understanding of the importance of conservation.” Thanks to OCCF Environmental Fund for making this happen!

**Camp Scholarships Needed**

We are looking for chapter members who would be willing to make donations, or sponsor a full scholarship or even a partial scholarship, for a child who wants to attend our summer 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 at 714-969-9617. See our chapter webpage for information about our summer camp program:

http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org/Education/Camp/NatuReDayCamp.html
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 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 sea.sage.membership@gmail.com

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 Inc, 225 Varick St 7th Floor, New York NY 10014, Attn: Chance Mueleck

Make your check payable to: NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY. Please pay by check only; do not send cash.

Or, go online to: Or, go online to: http://tinyurl.com/pt7pf9r

To renew membership: renew directly with National Audubon by direct mail or online: https://secure.audubon.org/site/Donation2?df_id=8000&8000.donation=form1

Name ____________________________ ____________________________
Address ____________________________ ____________________________
City, State, Zip ____________________________ ____________________________
Phone ____________________________
E-mail ____________________________

C6ZC150Z
chapter code

Wandering Tattler
March 2016

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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
Webpage ............................................. Nancy Kenyon ...................... 949-786-3160
Webpage: http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org

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

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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

MARCH 2016
01 Tues Conservation Committee Meeting ......................... 6:30 pm
02 Wed Dana Point Headlands & Harbor bird walk .... 8:00 am
05 Sat Wildlife Walk at the SJWS .............................. 9:00 am
06 Wed Adult Education Meeting .............................. 7:30 pm
11,12 F,S Owl Prowls at Starr Ranch ® ..................... 6:30 pm
13 Sun San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary bird walk .... 8:00 am
16 Wed UNB by pontoon boat ® ............................... 8:15 am
17 Thurs Bolsa Chica bird walk ............................... 8:00 am
18 Fri ANNUAL DINNER ® ..................................... 6:00 pm
20 Sun Carbon Canyon Regional Park bird walk ....... 7:30 am
25,26 F,S Owl Prowls at Starr Ranch ® ..................... 6:30 pm
27 Sun Upper Newport Bay bird walk ....................... 8:00 am

APRIL 2016
02 Sat Wildlife Walk at the SJWS ........................................ 9:00 am
05 Tues Conservation Committee Meeting ................. 6:30 pm
06 Wed Laguna Niguel Regional Park bird walk ....... 8:00 am
9/10 S,S Eastern Sierra weekend trip ® - (full) .................
10 Sun San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary bird walk .... 8:00 am
12 Tues Board Meeting ......................................... 7:30 pm
15 Fri GENERAL MEETING ........................................ .... 7:30 pm
17 Sun Mile Square Park bird walk ............................ 7:30 am
20 Wed UNB by pontoon boat ® ............................... 8:15 am
24 Sun Upper Newport Bay bird walk ....................... 8:00 am
26 Tues 4th Tues’ Conservation Lecture .................... 7:30 pm
30 Sat Spring Pelagic Trip ® ..................................... 6:30 am
01 Sun Big Morongo Valley & vicinity ® .................... 7:00 am