Come to our Annual Dinner on Friday evening, March 17th

✱ 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 Letters of Commendation ✱ Have fun browsing through our chapter displays ✱ Eat a delicious dinner ✱ Enjoy David Yarnold’s program on “The State of our Audubon Union.”

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

Annual Dinner Program
March 17th - Friday evening - 6:00 pm

“The State of Our Audubon Union”
presented by David Yarnold
President & CEO, of the National Audubon Society

Our March Annual Dinner speaker is our National Audubon President, David Yarnold—coming to us from his home in New York. He is an outspoken and eloquent advocate for birds and the environment.

Mr. Yarnold became Audubon’s 10th president in 2010, charged with leading a turnaround that would expand Audubon’s effectiveness while building on the organization’s strong conservation legacy. With 463 local Chapters, 22 state offices and 44 Audubon Centers across the country, Audubon connects nearly four million people using science, advocacy and education. "We are all Audubon,” Yarnold says. "No other organization has our wingspan when it comes to being able to drive conservation action, whether in individual backyards or in Congress.”

Under Yarnold’s leadership, Audubon is aligning its conservation work along migratory flyways, the "superhighways in the sky" that millions of birds travel each spring and fall. "Flyways transcend geographical and political boundaries," he said. "They give us a literal birdseye view of environmental issues and trends, and help direct our work.” With expertise in climate and energy issues, Yarnold has made renewable energy one of his highest priorities at Audubon.

Mr. Yarnold is an earnest birder and he reminds us all that “Together we will do everything we can — for birds and the places they, and we, need to thrive. Now, more than ever, you’re what hope looks like to a bird.” Join us in March for this inspirational speaker’s message as he expounds on National Audubon’s Strategic plan and our path forward.

—Doug Lithgow, Programs Chair
2017 Fern Zimmerman Conservation Award and Letters of Commendation

Each year since 1967 – that’s 50 years! - the Conservation Committee has presented Letters of Commendation and the Conservation Award to individuals, sometimes organizations, that 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**

Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy

in recognition of its dedication and success in the acquisition, restoration, and continued maintenance of wetlands in Huntington Beach, as well as for important ongoing education and outreach on behalf of wetlands.

The Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy (HBWC) was formed in 1985 to acquire and restore the wetlands in Huntington Beach. They seek to protect and restore the wetlands along Pacific Coast Highway from the Santa Ana River to Beach Boulevard. They have done well, having at this point, acquired and restored Talbert Marsh, Brookhurst Marsh, and Magnolia Marsh, and are currently working with CalTrans to acquire Newland Marsh.

The HBWC established and operates its own nursery to grow the native plants needed to restore these local marshes. In 2016, HBWC opened an Interpretive Center at the Pacific Coast Highway and Newland, with beautiful displays on the importance and function of wetlands and current concerns. HBWC conducts ongoing education and public outreach from the Interpretive Center and provides tours of the Center and the adjacent Magnolia Marsh, as well as the Wildlife Care Center.

Thank you, Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy, for preserving this valuable natural resource and helping us to understand its importance!

**LETTERS OF COMMENDATION:**

Steve Lopez, columnist for the LA Times, for investigating and reporting on coastal issues, including a series on the threats to natural habitats up and down the coast of California and the work of the California Coastal Commission.

Joel Weintraub and Bob Allen for their contributions to conservation through their thoughtful management and shaping of the OrangeCountyBirding listserv, a service which fosters interest in birds and keeps interested birders informed. We commend Joel and Bob for including processes in the system to protect the location of sensitive birds and sensitive nests. Joel and Bob created the listserv in 2000 and maintained it until 2016.

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 18-25! Training: March 11!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, see article on page 5.
Sea & Sage Annual Dinner
Friday, March 17th at Mile Square Park Banquet Center
Our Guest Speaker is David Yarnold
President & CEO of the National Audubon Society
He will speak on “The State of Our Audubon Union”.

The Sea & Sage Annual Dinner will again be held at the Mile Square Park Banquet Center on Friday evening, March 17. This year’s speaker will be David Yarnold, President and CEO of the National Audubon Society. Mr. Yarnold became Audubon’s 10th president in 2010, charged with leading a turnaround that would expand Audubon’s effectiveness while building on the organization’s strong conservation legacy. With 463 local chapters, 22 state offices, and 44 Audubon centers across the country, Audubon connects nearly four million people using science, advocacy, and education. “We are all Audubon,” Yarnold says. “No other organization has our wingspan when it comes to being able to drive conservation action, whether in individual backyards or in Congress.” Mr. Yarnold is an excellent speaker, so I know you will really enjoy his program.

The evening will also include a silent auction and the presentation of our chapter’s Fern Zimmerman Conservation Award and Letters of Commendation. The Mile Square Park Banquet Center is located at the south end of Mile Square Park, at the intersections of Warner and Ward in Fountain Valley. 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: $49 for all reservations received before March 1st
$54 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 9 people. (To make the tables a little less crowded, we’re seating 9 people instead of the usual 10 at each table. If that number does not fit into your plans for seating your friends at the table, then go ahead and make your list for 10 people instead.)

Make your check payable to: Sea & Sage Audubon. Mail your check and 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, a map, and information about the dinner and silent auction. Be sure to include your email address and phone number on the reservation form if you have not attended one of our annual dinners in the past. Please Note: ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 12 NOON ON FRIDAY, MARCH 10TH. If you are late in sending in your reservation, please phone or email me to let me know that you wish to come. (949-786-3160; nancykenyon@cox.net)

Name ________________________________________________Entree_________________________
Name________________________________________________ Entree_________________________

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.

Send your reservations to: Annual Dinner, c/o Nancy Kenyon, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612
Audubon House Volunteers
We would like to thank the following people for helping to staff Audubon House in February and March: Carol Ames, Sherry Bass, Chris Byrd, Pat & Dick Cabe, Fresia Escalona, Ann Harmer, Lynne Hayes, Pat Heilig, Sarah Jayne, Calley Jonas, Nancy Kenyon, David Kramer, Lauretta Kyle, Joann Lemberger, Joan McCauley, Bobbie Miller, Barbara Mitchell, Eunice Morita, Dagmar Muthamia, JoAnn Nothhelfer, Roberta Ray, Barbara Reber, Susan Sheakley, Bev Spring, Monte Taylor, 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 Susan Sheakley at 949-552-5974 or email her at susansheakley@cox.net

Donors continued from the Feb. issue; thank you so much!

Jack Andrews
Deborah Calvy
Glenn & Kathy Conlan
Gary Conner
Nancy Cummings
John & Beverly Hargrove
Victoria Hernandez
Robert Hodgin
Jane Hopper
Trudy Josephson
John & Elizabeth Keating
Jean Keefe
Amin Khalifa
Merri Levy
Carol Lind
Marcia Marlowe
Jay & Marquita Miller
Jack Minney
Thelma Miyashiro
Rosalina Munro
Hannah Park
Jackie Pirkle
James & Dinah Sapunarch
Bernadeen Scholl
Mike & Barbara Sentovich
Robin & Jean Suan
Dave & Sharon Telford
Joseph & Roberta Valdez

Sunset – Full Moon Rise Stroll for Adults
Are you feeling adventurous? Want to relax with friends and take in a sunset and perhaps see the full moon rise at your favorite marsh?

Please join Sea & Sage on Sunday, March 12th. Meet at the education building at 5:30 for a quiet evening in nature at the beautiful San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine. After light refreshments, we will stroll around the ponds as the day slowly wanes. Attendees will listen to the sounds of the evening, smell the unique fragrance of coastal sage plants, and witness the spectacular changing colors of the sky. Finally, we will sit and watch the sunset as we enjoy libations and dessert.

This event is by pre-pay only and space is limited

Contact Cheryl Thomas at cthomas1313@cox.net to verify space and make your reservation, then send check for $15 per person (payable to Sea and Sage Audubon) with all names, email address and phone number to Cheryl Thomas, 24911 Hayuco, Mission Viejo CA 92692. Proceeds will benefit our conservation programs.

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: The Sibley Birder’s Life List and Field Diary (spiral bound, room for on-site notes and life list, includes 923 species found in the US and Canada). Good Birders Still Wear White (all about passion, joy, wit and wisdom) with stories from Pete Dunne, Kenn Kaufman, and more. Try Birds and Beans coffee in 12 ounce or 2.2 ounce sizes (Smithsonian Bird Friendly Certification, organic, free trade). New dark blue Loon’n’Moon shirts; egret, jay and warbler stockings are also in stock. Sale book this month is Intro to CA Spring Wildflowers ($19.75 on sale for $13.75)

Amazon Smile
Did you know you can support Sea and Sage Audubon simply by directing your online shopping through Amazon Smile? Amazon donates 0.5% of the value of everything that you buy through their Amazon Smile site to Sea and Sage when you register. All prices and merchandise are exactly the same as your existing Amazon account – you simply have to register once and Sea and Sage will receive 0.5% of all subsequent purchases made through smile.amazon.com

To register:
• Visit smile.amazon.com
• Search for Sea & Sage Audubon Society in the search box
• Press the yellow “Select” button when the name comes up
• You will see a “Thank You” box reminding you to order through smile.amazon.com
• Remember to use smile.amazon.com for your online shopping.
Chapter News & Announcements

For more information about Sea & Sage activities, check the SCHEDULE of Chapter Activities on our webpage under the heading of “Main Areas.” The Schedule lists our activities in a little more detail than the Calendar:
http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org/Chapter/ChapterSchedule.pdf

Orange County Snowy Plover and California Least Tern (new!) Survey

Survey: March 18-25
Training: March 11
Check-in: 9:30 – 9:50 AM
10:00 AM – 12:00 noon

Join us in looking for Snowy Plovers, Least Terns and their habitats on our local beaches, while helping San Diego Zoo Global with Endangered Species Research!

Training will be held on March 11th in the Learning Center at San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary (reservations required).

Training for the California Least Tern portion of our survey will be covered in the March 11 training session, but if you have already attended a Snowy Plover Survey training session you do not need to attend the one for the Least Terns. We will provide training materials for those already trained for Snowy Plovers.

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 located. It is also close to the arrival time of the California Least Terns. Each beach segment takes approximately 1-2 hrs. to survey, with one or two surveyors per segment. Walk the beach of your choice and enjoy all the birds while helping Threatened Western Snowy Plovers and California Least Terns. 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

See our chapter webpage on the Snowy Plover Surveys. This includes maps of the beach segments and other info. http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org/Conservation/SNPLs survey/OCSNPLsurvey.html

California Least Tern Watch

Help the Endangered California Least Terns by keeping your eyes on this their active nesting colony. Volunteers watch for breeding behavior, eggs, chicks, fledglings, and predators, and record observations as well as watch for Western Snowy Plovers. Location? The Natural Tern Preserve at beautiful Huntington State Beach at the Santa Ana River. Become a “Volunteer in State Parks” for this program and receive a free beach parking pass!

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.

Season Kick-off and Volunteer Training
Wed, April 26 from 6:30 – 8:30 PM
Huntington State Beach Lifeguard Headquarters
PCH and Magnolia Ave.

Field Orientation (mandatory for new volunteers) will be on a Sat., morning, April 29 at the Least Tern Natural Preserve, Huntington State Beach, 8:30-10:30 AM. 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 for 2017. Additional information about the program can be found on our chapter webpage:
http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org/Conservation/LeastTerns/LETE.htm

If interested, please contact Cheryl Egger at leastternshb@gmail.com

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
The San Juan Capistrano CBC covers the southern part of Orange County and is divided into the following sections: Laguna Niguel Regional Park (Area Leader: Sharon Harrow); San Clemente (Area Leader: Sachi Fukuman); Caper's Wilderness Park (Area Leader: Diane Etchison); Sea Watch (Area Leader: Jeff Bray); Saddleback College Campus & Arroyo Trabuco Golf Course (Area Leader: Mark Kincheloe); Prima Deshecha Landfill & vicinity (Area Leader: Doug Willick); Upper San Juan Creek & vicinity (Area Leader: Amin Khalifa); Aliso-Wood Canons & Ziggurat/Costco area (Area Leader: Gary Meredith); San Clemente Hillside (Area Leader: Kim Lopina); Dana Point & vicinity (Area Leader: Joel Weintraub); Riley Wilderness Park & vicinity (Area Leader: Darrell Wilson). The count was coordinated and compiled by Darrell Wilson. Full information on this count can be found on our chapter webpage.

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</tbody>
</table>

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! Amin Khalifa, Ann Stanton, Astrid Taen, Barbara Boethling, Ben Valdez, Bettina Eastman, Brenda McIntyre, Bruce Aird, Diane Etchison, Don Hoechlin, Doug Lithgow, Doug Willick, Eva Lydick, Gary Meredith, George Nothhelfer, Jim Stacy, Jeanmarie Wong, Jeff Bray, Jim Kissinger, Jim Wantz, Jinyoung Ko, JoAnn Nothhelfer, Joel Weintraub, John Hannan, John McKeever, Kim Lopina, Kurt Miestke, Larry Shaw, Laura Wantz, Lena Hayashi, Louise Lopina, Lynne Domash, Mark Kincheloe, Marlene Baroli-Turati, Merri Levy, Nora Papian, Patty Knight, Paul Klahr, Paul Strauss, Peter Gordon, Rich Shearer, Robert Scrimger, Ryan Myers, Sachiko Fukuman, Sharon Harrow, Sheila Harlow, Shirley Reynolds, Steve Counts, Steve Sosensky, Terry Hill, Tije Poo, Virginia Bonifacio, Zehava Purim-Adimor.

Wandering Tattler  March 2017
In this month’s column, I will pick up where we left off last month, just prior to the beginning of the Christmas Bird Counts. Area birders seem to have been spending more time birding since about mid-December, and turning out in what seems like record numbers. Due to the sheer volume of reports that have come in, this month will just be a recap of the most noteworthy observations.

We’ll start off with some of the more exceptional new discoveries that have occurred since last month’s column. An immature Tundra Swan was discovered at the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve (BCER), Jan. 11 (Caleb Frome); undoubtedly the same bird then turned up at the Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station (SBNWS), Jan. 14, where it remained through at least Feb. 11. This species has become exceptionally rare in the county, with the only records going back to 2000 being one in late 2013, and two in early 2001. What is presumed to be the same immature Glaucous Gull, in similar fashion to the swan, first appeared at BCER, Jan. 15-21 (Mike Huang), then relocated to SBNWS Jan. 26. Always a good find in the OC, a Pine Warbler was at Mile Square Regional Park (MSRP), Dec. 28 (Jim Pike); this bird was apparently last reported on Jan. 3. Jim struck again with another very good bird for the county, this time with a Rusty Blackbird at Centennial Park, Jan. 6 (only the sixth well-documented OC record); this bird was still being seen through Feb. 1. Although most years one or two Zone-tailed Hawks are known to winter in the county, one photographed over the Santa Ana River, in east Anaheim, Jan. 15 (Sandy Remley, Trish Gussler), was far from the Mission Viejo-Lake Forest-Rancho Santa Margarita foothills, where the vast majority of most of the county’s Zone-tails typically occur.

Other more expected rarities found during recent weeks included: two Eurasian Wigeons, with a female at Craig Regional Park (CRP), Dec. 14-Jan. 28+ (M. Huang), and a male in Centennial Park, Jan. 7-31+; a male Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at CRP, Jan. 28 (Tom Wurster); a Hammond’s Flycatcher at “Tree Hill” [San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary (SJWS)], Jan. 7 (Roger Schoedl); two Ash-throated Flycatchers, with one at MSRP, Dec. 25-Jan. 7+ (Cris Whetstone), and another at Anaheim Coves Park, Jan. 29 (Doug Willick), where one had wintered the previous three years; a Golden-crowned Kinglet in Huntington Central Park (HCP), Jan. 3-7 (Vic Leipzig); a Pacific Wren in HCP, Dec. 26-Jan. 21 (Larry Moore); as many as three previously unreported Eurasian Wigeons, with a male at Anaheim Coves Park, Jan. 29 (Doug Willick), where one had wintered the previous three years; a Golden-crowned Kinglet in Huntington Central Park (HCP), Jan. 3-7 (Vic Leipzig); a Pacific Wren in HCP, Dec. 26-Jan. 21 (Larry Moore); as many as three previously unreported

New birds included as many as three previously unreported Eurasian Wigeons, with a male at Anaheim Coves Park, Jan. 29 (Doug Willick), where one had wintered the previous three years; a Golden-crowned Kinglet in Huntington Central Park (HCP), Jan. 3-7 (Vic Leipzig); a Pacific Wren in HCP, Dec. 26-Jan. 21 (Larry Moore); as many as three previously unreported

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Black-and-white Warblers (Arroyo Trabuco Golf Club, Bonita Canyon Sports Park and Aurora Park); an adult male American Redstart at SJWS, Jan. 29-Feb. 1+ (Christine Jacobs); a Palm Warbler at Mason Regional Park (MRP), Dec. 30-Jan. 28+ (Tom Van Huss); and a Green-tailed Towhee at HCP, Dec. 15-22 (Brian Daniels).

A good variety of rarities found earlier in the winter continued to be seen into January. One of the more noteworthy of these was certainly the female Tufted Duck along the Santa Ana River, in Anaheim, which was still present through at least Feb. 1. Some of the many other continuing rarities included as many as five Black Scoters off Sunset Beach, through Feb. 1; at least one Zone-tailed Hawk in the Rancho Santa Margarita area, through at least Jan. 25; a Lewis’s Woodpecker along Santiago Canyon Road, at the mouth of Modjeska Canyon, through at least Feb. 1 (which was joined by a second on Jan. 28); a Hammond’s Flycatcher at Hummingbird Park, through Jan. 11; an Eastern Phoebe on the

bluffs behind BCER, through at least Feb. 1; a Black-and-white Warbler at MRP through Jan. 29; a Palm Warbler along the upper Santa Ana River (Anaheim), through at least Feb. 1; a Clay-colored Sparrow at CRP, through Jan. 26; two Summer Tanagers at MRP (a male through Jan. 9, and female through Jan. 8); an adult male Baltimore Oriole at MRP, through Jan. 28, and an adult male Orchard Oriole at MSRP, through Jan. 15.

A good-sized flock (as many as eight) Mountain Bluebirds continued to be seen in and around the U.C. Irvine Arboretum through at least Feb. 1, while two continued near the Muth Interpretive Center at Upper Newport Bay through at least Feb. 1. On Jan 1, a single Mountain Bluebird was at Moulton Meadows Park, in Laguna Beach (Robert McNab). A group of as many as six or seven Large-billed Savannah Sparrows, at BCER, Jan. 3 (D. Willick), was a noteworthy concentration.
March Field Trips
Nancy Kenyon, Field Trip Chair

Laguna Niguel Reg. Park bird walk
Wed, March 1st – 8:00 to 11:00 am

Join us for a morning of birding at Laguna Niguel Reg. Park at 8:00 am. This park attracts a wide variety of birds due to the landscaped park vegetation and lake. We will look for spring migrants and resident species.

Directions: Take the Santa Ana Fwy (5) to the La Paz Road off-ramp. Head west 4 miles to the park entrance. Be prepared to pay the $5 entrance fee if you don't have a county parks pass. Meet at the Shelter #3 parking lot at the far end of the park where there is ample parking and a nearby restroom. (Ask for directions to Shelter 3 at the park entrance kiosk.)

Leader: Diane Etchison

Wildlife Walk at the SJWS
Sat, March 4th- 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

Raptor ID Workshop with Bill Clark for Intermed/Advanced Birders®
Fri-Sun, March 3-5 – 7:15 PM Friday

See February Tattler or Chapter webpage for information

Bird Walk at the SJWS
Sun, March 12th – 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 15 is full; April 19 has room –
Meet at 8:15 -11 ®; the boat loads at 8:30

The March 15 boat trip is now full. Sign up for the April or May trip. 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 16th – 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 at the playground in Harriet Wieder Regional Park. Directions: From PCH, turn inland on Seapoint Street. Follow Seapoint 1 mile to Garfield Avenue and make a U-turn. Drive entry to the playground will be on the right side in 0.25 mile.

Leader: Vic Leipzig

Upper Newport Bay bird walk
Sun, March 26th – 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®
Fri, March 24 — Sat, March 25
Fri, March 31 — Sat, April 1

The Owl Prowl is a short nighttime excursion into Starr Ranch Sanctuary in search of owls. Our evening will begin at 6:30 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 Bell Canyon. We will then board the big open bed truck for a short ride down the canyon to search for 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. Advance reservations needed; trip size is limited. Trip fee: $25. 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. Check our webpage for space availability.

Leader: Pete DeSimone

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

For more information about Sea & Sage activities, check our CALENDAR of CHAPTER ACTIVITIES on our webpage. Maybe you will find something new that you would like to take part in.

Bloom-Hays Ecological Research Grant

Pete Bloom and Loren Hays are both well known within the chapter for their passion to protect birds and open spaces. The Weir Canyon Fund (championed by Pete Bloom in the 1980s) and the Loren Hays Memorial Fund have been combined to create a funding for ecological research projects. The objective of the Bloom-Hays Ecological Research Grant is to advance ecological research, particularly research related to avian species and the natural communities upon which they depend, by providing funds or supplies to support research activities benefitting native species and habitats in Southern California. Graduate students, undergraduates, and high schoolers are invited to apply for research grants varying from $250 to $2,500. The grant application and instruction is posted on the Sea and Sage website under the heading of Conservation. Application packages must be received by email no later than April 15, 2017.

—Amber Heredia

This Year’s Volunteer Party

We had a great turnout for our Chapter Volunteers Party on Feb. 11. Estimated number of attendees was 140 volunteers, though there may well have been more.

It was nice weather and some people were outside on the porch talking with friends while others were inside. Cheryl Thomas and her helpers (Debbie Geary, Arnold & Michelle Getty, Claire Readey and Carolyn Noble) did a fabulous job organizing the event, providing all sorts of delectable foods and beverages for us, setting up the room for standing and sitting, even had a guitarist providing live music in one corner of the room.

Those of you who attended, saw an impressive array of posters representing our chapter’s many volunteer activities. Volunteers were asked to sign the poster(s) for the activity(ies) they participated in. However, many of the posters are lacking some of the names of volunteers who helped out and we would really like to have a better representation of all the volunteers who helped us this past year. We plan to have the posters at the SJWS for the next month so that you can sign them. The next time you go to the marsh, find and sign the poster(s) for your activity(ies).

Below is a list of all the different things Sea and Sage members are doing. We really appreciate the many things you do for Sea & Sage.

Annual Dinner Vol
Art Meets Science Vol
Bat Walks Vol
Audubon House Vol
BirdSeasons CA Vol
Christmas Bird Counts Vol
Conservation Com. Vol
Development Com. Vol
Education Com. Vol
Events Com. Vol
Exhibits Com. Vol
Field Trip Leaders Vol
Finance Com. Vol
Grant Writing Com. Vol
Hospitality Com. Vol
Junior Naturalists Vol (they help too!)
Least Tern Monitor Vol
Membership Com. Vol
3 Monthly Bird Count Vol
Newsletter Com. Vol
Outdoor Adventures Vol
Pancake Breakfast Vol
Pollinators Garden Vol
Programs Com Vol
Raptor Research Com Vol
Science Com. Vol
Sea & Sage Audubon Board Vol
Snowy Plover Surveyors Vol
Social Media Com. Vol
Strategic Planning Com. Vol
Summer BBQ Vol
Summer Camp Com. Vol
Sylvia’s Birding Skills Workshops Vol
Taxidermy Care Com. Vol
Tree Swallow Nest Boxes Vol

If you have any trouble finding your poster, let me know.
Nancy Kenyon 949-786-3160; nancykenyon@cox.net

Wandering Tattler 9 March 2017
Marsh Education Project

Trude Hurd, Project Director of Marsh Education

For more information about our Education Program, visit our chapter website at:
http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org/Education/Education.html

Very Important People

The eight environmental interpretation programs that we provide at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary depend on our Audubon Naturalist team of adult and youth volunteers. These amazing people are the heart of our program and help accomplish Sea and Sage Audubon’s important mission of protecting birds and natural habitat. They take their concern about the environment and put it into action!

We especially appreciate the education coordinators who put in many hours to make our programs the very best in Orange County: Teresa Cullen, Christine Dickey, Jean Drum, Grace McElhinney, Ellen Mansour, Jay Miller, Carolyn Noble, Laura Osteen, Bob Polkinghorn, Gail Richards, Bev Spring, Judy Vlastakis, Pat Vranicar and Marilyn Walter.

We thank these 88 adult volunteers who help people understand the importance of our natural world: Darrel Airhart, Phyllis Anderson, Lynda Armstrong, Lee Avallone, Kat Avila, Ann Barbour, Rudi Berkelhammer, Sara Bethurum, Sandrine Biziaux, Dejoie Blumberg, Jon Boss, Deborah Brin, Toni Bryant, Claire Capin, Mike Clayton, Teresa Cullen, Linda Daily, Christine Dickey, Jean Drum, Sujata Dutt, Bettina Eastman, Jeff Evans, Carol Freund, Amanda Gaskin, Susan Gibb, Jenny Golden, Pam Gosselin, Beverly Hargrove, Gigi Harvey, Debra Hays, Penny Horstman, Courtney Hunt, Trude Hurd, Mary Joseph, Nancy Kapplemann, David Kramer, Susan Kramer, Babs Levitan, Doug Lithgow, Josh Lithgow, Eva Lydick, Ellen Mansour, Gillian Martin, Jay Matchett, Maya Matkin, Gretchen Mavrovouniotis, Michael Mavrovouniotis, Larry McClosey, Grace McElhinney, Bob McElhinney, Barbara Meade, Bobbie Miller, Jay Miller, Marquita Miller, Sharon Nantell, Maria Nguyen, Carolyn Noble, Ellen O’Leary, Mette Olson, Linda Ormes, Laura Osteen, Marsha Owen, Jenn Phillips, Bob Polkinghorn, Claire Readey, Karla Reinhart, Margaret Renton, Catherine Reynolds, Gail Richards, Brenda Sabin, Jean Savage, Cristi Saylor, Rich Schilk, Paul Schmidt, Barbara Sentovich, Caleb Speckman, Sofia Speakman, Pat Sparks, Bev Spring, Linda Thomas, Dan Trinidad, Judy Vlastakis, Pat Vranicar, Marilyn Walter, David Weber, Diane Weinhold, Sophie Wickramasinghe.

We thank these 23 volunteers under age 18 who are already important stewards of the environment: Baxter Bartlett, Kirah Andryechuck, Andrew DeKoeyer, John DeKoeyer, Matthew DeKoeyer, Cameron Diorio, Lee Evans, Bobby Figurtta, Brendan Galvin, Sierra Green, Cate Harrington, Ariel Hurwitz, Emma Lyall, Katie Marks, Maia Nguyen, Moss Noble, Clark Noble, Sierra Plys, Amy-Grace Ratanapratum, Kyra Schmidt, Jeffrey Sweeney, Ryan Vosbigan and Elisa Yang.

Campers’ Reunion, 2017

by Teresa Cullen, Camp Committee

What a great idea to get our summer campers together again to celebrate the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in winter! The 29th day of January brought us summer weather in which to view the winter bird life during our 90-minute bird walk. Collectively, we saw 56 different species!

After the walk, our older campers went their separate ways from our younger campers for age-appropriate activities. First, each group did a craft activity. The older campers created works of art on tin plaques that doubled as tuneful rhythm instruments! The younger group could choose to paint wooden songbirds, owls, or birdhouses. Our adult volunteers never cease to be amazed by the artistic ability of our campers.

Next, our older campers were treated to an informative presentation about Snowy Plovers by Susan Sheakley and a game of Bird Trivial Pursuit while the younger ones had a rousing bit of fun with our camp parachute outside.

Our happy Sunday concluded with pizza, salad and desserts. Many campers stayed to help the adults with clean-up. We all left for home filled with pleasant memories of another wildly successful Camp Reunion.

Two Education Grants Awarded This Winter

We are pleased to announce that our request to fund over 55 Santa Ana class scholarships for Outdoor Adventures science discovery program was granted from not one but two sources this winter. First, the Orange County Community Foundation’s Environmental Fund approved our grant for $5,000. They have been long-time supporters of our education efforts at the wetland. Thank you, OCCF Environmental Fund, for helping to bring over 1,600 children to the wetland to personally discover science.

Second, Disney VoluntEARS Community Fund approved our grant for $5,000. They are a new partner for us. Disney Cast Members (employees) help decide the distribution of their charitable funds. We were thrilled that Sea and Sage Board member Ralph Sugg, one of their employees, recommended us. Thank you, Disney VoluntEARS and Ralph Sugg, for helping educate children about wetlands and how our actions can help the environment!
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

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

March 2017
BOARD MEMBERS

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President............................ Vic Leipzig.................. 714-848-5394
Vice President .................... Doug Lithgow .............. 714-962-4145
Secretary ............................. Chris Byrd ................. 714-639-0967
Treasurer .............................. Kate Grabenstein ...... 714-540-6768
Director 2017 ....................... Claire Readey ............. 949-679-7167
Director 2017 ....................... Chris Johnson .............. 714-528-9928
Director 2018 ....................... Gail Richards .......... 714-267-2420
Director 2018 ....................... Ralph Sugg ................. 949-855-6575
Director 2019 ....................... Star Howard ............... 949-770-3177
Director 2019 ....................... Joan McCauley .......... 949-642-1938
Past President ...................... Bruce Aird .................. 949-458-1520

Committee Chairpersons:
Audubon House .................... Susan Sheakley ......... 949-552-5974
Audubon House Vol. (temporary) Susan Sheakley ......... 949-552-5974
Bird Information .................... Sylvia Gallacher .... 714-962-8990
Christmas Bird Counts .......... Steve Alter .................. 714-669-9482
Conservation ....................... Susan Sheakley ......... 949-552-5974
Counsel ............................... Sean Sherlock ......... 714-412-7036
Development ........................ Cheryl Thomas .......... 949-294-2275
Education ............................ Carolyn Noble ....... 714-731-9091
Events ............................... Mary Joseph ............... 714-848-8362
Exhibits ............................. Mary Joseph ............... 714-848-8362
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Finance ............................... Hal Sheakley .......... 949-552-5974
Membership ........................ Jim Kissinger ........... 949-713-1148
Newsletter Editor ................. Nancy Kenyon .......... 949-786-3160
Orange County Spring Count ... Darrell Wilson .......... 949-559-4542
Partners in Flight ................. Janet & Al Baumann ... 949-859-5081
Programs ......................... Doug Lithgow .............. 714-962-4145
Publicity ............................. Susan Kramer ......... 714-240-6678
Raptor Research .................. Scott Thomas .......... 949-293-2915
Science ............................... Amber Heredia .... 714-812-2430
SJWS Liaison ........................ Chris Obaditch ...... 949-640-7234
Social Media ....................... Sandrine Biziaux-Scherson 949-413-0297
Starr Ranch/Envir. Liaison Pete DeSimone ...... 949-858-0309
Webmaster .......................... Nancy Kenyon ........ 949-786-3160
Webpage: http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org

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

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Education Assistant ............. Deborah Brin .............. 949-261-7964
Sales Manager ..................... Debby Thyssen .......... 949-261-7963
Administrative Aide ............. Rebecca Craft .......... 949-261-7963

OTHER CONTACTS
Wetlands & Wildlife Care Center – for injured or sick birds and other native wild animals in need of help (corner of Newland & PCH in HB) 714-374-5587. http://www.wwccoc.org/
Call Songbird Care & Education Center for injured or sick native songbirds. 714-964-0666. www.songbirdcareandeducation.org

SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

March 2017
01 Wed Laguna Niguel Regional Park bird walk ....8:00 am
03-5 F-Su Raptor ID Workshop with Bill Clark ® - Interm/Adv.... 7:15 pm
04 Sat Monthly Wildlife Walk at the SJWS .......... 9:00 am
07 Tues Conservation Committee Meeting ......... 6:30 pm
12 Sun Monthly bird walk at the SJWS .......... 8:00 am
14 Tues Board Meeting ........................................ 7:00 pm
15 Wed UNB by pontoon boat ® (Full) ......... 8:15 am
16 Thurs Bolsa Chica bird walk ......................... 8:00 am
17 Fri ANNUAL DINNER ® .......................... 6:00 pm
24 Fri Owl Prowl at Starr Ranch ® ................. 6:30 pm
25 Sat Owl Prowl at Starr Ranch ® ................. 6:30 pm
26 Sun Monthly bird walk at Upper Newport Bay .... 8:00 am
31 Fri Owl Prowl at Starr Ranch ® ................. 6:30 pm

April 2017
01 Sat Monthly Wildlife Walk at the SJWS .......... 9:00 am
01 Sat Owl Prowl at Starr Ranch ® .................. 6:30 pm
04 Tues Conservation Committee Meeting ........ 6:30 pm
05 Wed Caspers Wilderness Park bird walk ...... 8:00 am
08-9 Sa-Su Eastern Sierra weekend trip ® (Full) ...... 7:30 am
08 Sat Villa Park Flood Basin field trip .......... 8:00 am
09 Sun Monthly bird walk at the SJWS .......... 8:00 am
11 Tues Board Meeting ...................................... 7:00 pm
19 Wed UNB by pontoon boat ® ......................... 8:15 am
21 Fri GENERAL MEETING .......................... 7:30 pm
25 Tues 4th Tues Conservation Lecture .............. 7:30 pm
30 Sun Monthly bird walk at Upper Newport Bay .... 8:00 am

SIGN UP FOR AN OWL PROWL THIS MONTH! SEE PAGE 8 FOR INFO.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED