Come to our Annual Dinner on Saturday 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 Alvaro Jaramillo’s program on “Birders and Bird Brains.”

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

Annual Dinner Program
March 17th - Saturday evening - 6 pm
“Birders and Bird Brains”
presented by Alvaro Aramillo

Our speaker, Alvaro Jaramillo, is an entertaining speaker and knowledgeable birder who has been the keynote speaker for many birding festivals. Our dinner speaker says, “How do expert birders identify birds so quickly? Ever seen the stick bird, a stick that you are confirmed looks like a bird. Sometimes, you even identify it to subspecies? Or the leaf bird? The birder brain does some weird stuff. In trying to understand how people learn birds, I have been led down all sorts of interesting paths, from psychology to neurobiology. What happens when we try to identify a bird is actually very complicated, and it differs if you are learning or new at birding, in contrast to someone who has been doing it for years. I will give you the background of how it appears that our brains identify a bird, and then what to do to make it come easier to you. . . Come on out and learn a bit about why birding is the best, and how birders are actually mental athletes, doing some pretty amazing things.”

We hope to see you at the Annual Dinner and know you will enjoy this program!

—Gail Richards, Programs Chair
Conservation News
Susan Sheakley, Conservation Chair

Our next Conservation Com. mtg. will be held on March 6th at 6:45 PM in the Learning Center. Our next ‘4th Tuesday’ Conservation Lecture will be held on Mar. 27 at 7:30 PM in the Learning Center. We hope you will join us.

2018 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 or organizations that have made noteworthy contributions to the protection of habitats, natural resources, birds and wildlife in Orange County. At this year’s Annual Dinner on Saturday, March 17, it will be our pleasure to present:

Fern Zimmerman Conservation Award:

✽ Banning Ranch Conservancy for their work and persistence over the last 20 years and recent milestone successes toward the preservation of the important natural resources of Banning Ranch, located near the mouth of the Santa Ana River.

Letter of Commendation:

✽ Hills for Everyone for their efforts to preserve the natural resources of the Puente – Chino Hills region and recent successful opposition to two proposed housing developments that would be adjacent to Chino Hills State Park and would build houses in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones with limited access.

Who is Fern Zimmerman?

Fern Zimmerman was a true conservationist, grass roots organizer, birdwatcher and chapter leader who contributed much to the development of Sea and Sage Audubon Society. Fern helped us find our voice in the world of environmental advocacy and 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.

‘4th Tuesday’ Conservation Lecture

Tues., March 27th - 7:30 PM
Learning Center, SJWS

“Western Snowy Plover Study, Humboldt Bay,”
Presented by Nora Papian,
Graduate Student, Shorebird Ecology Lab,
Department of Wildlife, HSU

The Western Snowy Plover is listed as a threatened population along the Pacific Coast from Washington through Baja California. Dr. Mark Colwell and his students and colleagues at Humboldt State University have been studying the Western Snowy Plover population in northern California for 18 years. Undergraduate and graduate students have the opportunity to study aspects of natural history, ecology, and conservation as they earn their degrees.

Current M.S. candidate and Sea and Sage Summer Camp alumnus, Nora Papian, will discuss the knowledge accumulated from this long-term project and how that knowledge is incorporated into management and conservation.

We are pleased and proud that Nora will be our speaker at the ‘4th Tuesday’ on March 27 at the Learning Center. We hope you will join us.

Doors open at 7:00 for snacks and social. Program begins at 7:30 p.m.
**Sea & Sage Annual Dinner**

**SATURDAY, March 17th at Mile Square Park Banquet Center**

**Our Guest Speaker is Alvaro Jaramillo**

He will speak on “Birders and Bird Brains”

The Sea & Sage Annual Dinner will again be held at the Mile Square Park Banquet Center. This year we are having our dinner on a **Saturday** evening instead of the usual Friday. Our speaker, Alvaro Jaramillo, is an entertaining speaker and knowledgeable birder who has been the keynote speaker for many birding festivals. This is the way he describes his program: “How do expert birders identify birds so quickly? Ever seen the stick bird, a stick that you are confident looks like a bird. Sometimes, you even identify it to subspecies? Or the leaf bird? The birder brain does some weird stuff. In trying to understand how people learn birds, I have been led down all sorts of interesting paths, from psychology to neurobiology. What happens when we try to identify a bird is actually very complicated, and it differs if you are learning or new at birding, in contrast to someone who has been doing it for years. I will give you the background of how it appears that our brains identify a bird, and then what to do to make it come easier to you. Another facet that came through in my journey to understand birder brains, is that we are also getting a healthy dose of medicine when we are birding. It is healthy to be outside birding, and now science is starting to show that this is true and why. The end result of my foray into understanding birders is that I am convinced that everyone should become a birder, or at least a nature enthusiast. Come on out and learn a bit about why birding is the best, and how birders are actually mental athletes, doing some pretty amazing things. “

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 intersection 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:** $50 for all reservations received before March 1st.
  $55 for reservations received on or after March 1st.
- **Entrees:** Lemon Chicken, Seared Salmon Filet, or Vegetarian Lasagna

**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 day 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. 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 9. If you are late in sending in your reservation, please phone or email me to let us know that you wish to come. (949-786-3160; nancykenyon@cox.net)

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With whom do you wish to sit? ________________________________

Email address for confirmation & map __________________________

**Entrees:** [C] Chicken [S] Salmon [V] Vegetarian. All dinners will include a salad, fresh vegetables, freshly baked rolls, coffee, tea, or decaf, and dessert.

**Mail 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: Sherry Bass, Chris Byrd, Lynn Domash, Fresia Escalona, Greg Figge, Carol Geitz, Beverly Hargrove, John Hargrove, Ann Harmer, Lynne Hayes, Pat Heilig, Patti Henshaw, Sarah Jayne, Nancy Kenyon, David Kramer, Lauretta Kyle, Maya Matkin, Joan McCauley, Bobbie Miller, Barbara Mitchell, Eunice Morita, Dagmar Muthamia, JoAnn Nothhelfer, Joan Plevin, 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 Barbara Mitchell at 949-646-4115 or Susan Sheakley at 949-552-5974.

News from our Bookstore

Want to give someone a gift from our Sea and Sage Audubon Bookstore and Gift Shop but not sure what they would like. Give a Sea and Sage Bookstore and Gift Shop certificate. Our Gift Certificates have a classy new look, you choose the amount of the certificate and there is no expiration date.

Check out the new arrival shelf for new book titles. If you love Jane Yolen’s You Nest Here With Me, you won’t want to miss another of her award winning children's books, On Duck Pond, about a boy, a dog and a pond bursting with activity. And try a pack of ‘certified bird friendly’ Birds & Bean coffee for only $.75. These small packs make 10 cups of coffee.

Remembering Sam Berry, 1929 – 2018

The Sea and Sage Audubon chapter has been diminished by the sudden loss on February 1st of a beloved Past President, Sam Berry. Sam was chapter president for two years, 1977 – 79, was multi-year chairman of the Conservation Committee, and was an active conservation advocate for fifty years. Sam was president at a time when the chapter was sorely in need of leaders, and was personally responsible for persuading others to step up and fill offices. He and Jane were married for 62 years, and had two sons, Douglas and David. Sam was interviewed as part of the chapter Oral History Project last November 30. He will be sorely missed. As Sylvia Gallagher said, “Everyone loved Sam.”

Donors, continued from the Feb. issue

Thank You So Much!

Carolyn & Matt Biller Rosalind Munro
Kathleen Davis Albert Russell
Lynne Doti Susan Schwartz
Darlene Dudley Mark Singer
Robert House C. Stevenson
Vic Leipzig Debby Thyssen
Dennis MacArthur Patricia Vranicar
Peggy McGlone Jean Watt
Eunice Morita Gary Youngman

Chapter History – Did You Know?

Late in 1947, the chapter was asked by the President of the American Ornithologists Union to send food and clothing to ornithologists in Europe. A $10 package of food was sent to CARE, and in April 1948, a letter of thanks was received from Marie Schneider, the German recipient of the package.

“Audubon Screen Tours” were sponsored for the public at Willard Auditorium in Santa Ana, beginning in 1946 and continuing until 1955. Screen tours were silent films accompanied by a live speaker – and on January 13, 1948 Roger Tory Peterson was the Audubon Film Tours speaker here in Santa Ana! His topic is lost in the dust of history.

Monthly membership programs have covered a broad range of topics through the years. In November 1973, the special guest at the general meeting was a lion cub brought by Lion Country Safari – and in January 1974, a “Canadian Timberwolf” was a guest at the meeting!

Camp Scholarships Needed

You can help a child experience the diversity and biology of birds at the beautiful San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. We are looking for chapter members willing to make a donation to sponsor a child who wants to attend our summer camp but needs financial assistance. Donors can make a full scholarship of $215 or provide a partial scholarship of any amount. This is a worthwhile donation that makes a positive impact! For questions or information about our camps and scholarship program, contact Bev Spring at 714-505-9980. Send your donation today to Camp Scholarship, Sea and Sage Audubon, 5 Riparian View, Irvine CA 92612.
Chapter News & Announcements

For more information about Sea & Sage activities, check out our 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

Meet our Annual Dinner Speaker, Alvaro Jaramillo

Alvaro Jaramillo, owner of Alvaro’s Adventures, was born in Chile but began birding in Toronto where he lived as a youth. He was trained in ecology and evolution with a particular interest in bird behavior. Research forays and backpacking trips introduced Alvaro to the riches of the Neotropics, where he has traveled extensively. He is the author of the Birds of Chile, an authoritative yet portable field guide to Chile’s birds. Alvaro writes the “Identify Yourself” column in Bird Watcher’s Digest and recently he wrote part of the sparrow chapter for the Handbook of Birds of the World, and the new ABA Field Guide Birds of California. He was awarded the Eisenmann Medal by the Linnaean Society of New York, to recognize ornithological excellence and encouragement of the amateur. (The medal commemorates ornithologist and prominent LSNY member Eugene Eisenmann (1906-1981). It has been awarded since 1983, often annually, though there are some years with no award made.) Alvaro organizes and leads international birding tours, as well as a full schedule of pelagic trips out of Monterey, Bodega Bay and Half Moon Bay. He lives with his family in Half Moon Bay, California.

Springtime is the Time for Nesting Birds. Here’s How You Can Help:

✶ Don’t trim trees & shrubs until mid September.
✶ Remember — Birds only need to be rescued if they are injured, cat caught, icy cold, naked, orphaned, or abandoned.
✶ Don’t assume a bird is abandoned unless you have observed it continuously for 60-90 minutes from a distance of 50 feet.
✶ Watch carefully; the parents fly in and out quickly! If the babies aren’t crying, you can assume they are being fed.
✶ Injured or sick birds need to be taken to a licensed rehabilitator. Here are two:
  — Wetlands & Wildlife Care Center (corner of Newland & PCH in HB) 714-374-5587
  — Songbird Care and Education Center in Fountain Valley 714-964-0666

This Year’s Volunteer Party

We had a great turnout at our Chapter Volunteers Party on Feb. 10. The estimated number of attendees was 135+, though there may well have been more.

Cheryl Thomas and her helpers did a great job setting up the room, spacing the food tables to allow plenty of room for people to mingle, and organizing those delectable food items so that each was displayed in an inviting and decorative manner. We all enjoyed the colorful plates that helped make the event so festive.

Around 5:30, Doug Lithgow got up on the platform stage to talk to us about all the volunteer activities our chapter has to offer. He illustrated his talk with an excellent PowerPoint which listed each of the activities with the participants’ names listed below, and he explained what each group did. It certainly gave us a good perspective of the many volunteer opportunities Sea and Sage has to offer!

Below is a list of the different activities Sea and Sage members are engaged in. We really appreciate the many ways our volunteers the chapter!

Archives & Records Com. Vol.
Annual Dinner 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
Junior Naturalists Vol (they help too!)
Least Tern Monitor Vol
Membership Com. Vol
Monthly Bird Counts 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 Members Vol
Snowy Plover Surveyors Vol
Social Media Com. Vol
Strategic Planning Com. Vol
Summer BBQ Vol
Summer Camp Com. Vol
Sylvia’s Birding Skills helpers Vol
Taxidermy Care Com. Vol
Tree Swallow Nest Boxes Vol
Orange County Rarities
by Doug Willick

We have a lot to catch up on, given that the last Rarities column cut off in mid-December, just when the Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) were beginning, so we’ll jump right in.

To start off, it’s not often we get a rarity that is a first record for Orange County. And of course it’s even more exciting when that bird also happens to be a first record for the state of California! That’s just what happened when on Jan. 5 a Tropical Parula was found wintering on private property in a Huntington Beach apartment complex (Jim Pike). Although the range of this species extends all the way from Mexico, south through Central America, to northern Argentina(!), in the U.S. only a few occur as very local summer residents (and some as winter visitors) in extreme south Texas. Away from south Texas, only a few have strayed as far as coastal Louisiana and southeastern Arizona, so this was an exceptional record.

There have been good numbers and variety of geese this winter in OC. For example, Snow Geese were at the Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve (UNBER), Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve (BCER), Doheny State Beach (DSB) and Mile Square Regional Park (MSRP); Ross’s Geese were at BCER, MSRP, and at Carl Thornton Park (CTP); up to six Cackling Geese were at Huntington Central Park (HCP); and seven Greater White-fronted Geese were at Irvine Lake, along with one observed at CTP. 287 Brant at BCER, Dec. 31, was an impressive tally. Other waterfowl highlights included a male Eurasian Wigeon at Pearson Park (Anaheim), in Huntington Beach, and at Burris Basin.

A Common Ground-Dove in San Juan Capistrano, Jan. 17, was well away from any of the very few locations in the county where this species is occasionally still seen. At least three Pacific Golden-Plovers have been wintering again at the Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station (SBNWS). Fifty-six Wilson’s Snipe in the Peters Canyon Channel, Jan. 30, was a record count for the county. A Glaucous Gull found dead at DSB, Jan. 4, was presumably the same individual seen flying around Dana Harbor at least through Dec. 29. A Brown Booby was observed flying past Dana Point, during the Dec. 23 San Juan Capistrano CBC. The Tricolored Heron at BCER continued at least through Dec. 19, and another was seen at the SBNWS, Dec. 15.

Short-eared Owls were seen at San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary, Dec. 20 and Jan. 4, and at UNBER, Dec. 31. An apparently returning Zone-tailed Hawk has been frequenting the Rancho Santa Margarita area since early Nov. At least one Ferruginous Hawk, as well as a Prairie Falcon, are again wintering at the SBNWS; another Ferruginous Hawk continued to be seen in the Villa Park Flood Basin. A Lewis’s Woodpecker continued at Casper’s Wilderness Park through at least Jan. 30. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was discovered at Carbon Canyon Regional Park, Jan. 21. Wintering Gray Flycatchers continued at MSRP and Irvine Regional Park, and wintering Hammond’s Flycatchers continued at MSRP and Santiago Park (SP). A new Hammond’s Flycatcher was found at Lago Santa Margarita, Feb. 5. A “Western” Flycatcher at MSRP during the recent period made for three Empidonax species wintering there. Up to two Ash-throated Flycatchers appear to be wintering in the east Anaheim/Orange area (along the upper Santa Ana River, and at Anaheim Coves Park). A wintering Tropical Kingbird at the “Great” Park continued into Jan., while a new Tropical Kingbird was found at the Rancho San Joaquin Golf Course, Dec. 31. Wintering Cassin’s Vireos continued at MSRP and in Mission Viejo, while a Plumbeous Vireo continued at MSRP; a Plumbeous type vireo was observed in Eisenhower Park, Feb. 6. Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported during Jan, from Modjeska and Yorba Regional Park (both Anaheim). A Brown Creeper continued into Jan. at Clegg-Stacy Park (Huntington Beach).

Apparently four Green-tailed Towhees have been present in the county this winter, including birds in Irvine, SBNWS, BCER and Harriett Weider Regional Park (HWRP). A Clay-colored Sparrow was a new discovery at HCP, Dec. 29, where a Swamp Sparrow was also known to be wintering. Other rare sparrows included a Nelson’s Sparrow wintering again at SBNWS, and White-throated Sparrows continuing at Pinecrest Park and at MSRP. A young male Orchard Oriole was found at HWRP, Jan. 13. Quite unusual for winter were Hooded Orioles at MSRP and Teewinkle Park. Two Ovenbirds wintering in the county, with one at MSRP and the other at HCP, were quite exceptional. HCP hosted several other wintering warblers of note, including single Chestnut-sided, Palm, and Black-and-white warblers, and a Northern Waterthrush. Another Palm Warbler was found along the upper Santa Ana River (in the “Rio Bend” area). An American Redstart continued at Mason Regional Park (MRP), as did a Pine Warbler at MSRP. A Summer Tanager has been wintering at SP, while a new one was found at MRP, Dec. 31.
Learning More CA Bird Sounds
An Advanced Aural Workshop
presented by Sylvia Gallagher

Starting March 21-22, Sylvia Gallagher will offer the second half of the workshop, LEARNING MORE CALIFORNIA BIRD SOUNDS. Two years ago we studied the water birds in Groups 1-4. This year we’ll do the land birds in Groups 5-7. Even if you didn’t do the Group 1-4 birds, you should have no trouble with this workshop, for there is little correlation between the sounds of these groups of birds. We’ll cover 37 lowland, non-desert birds that were not covered in the introductory series, LEARNING CALIFORNIA BIRD SOUNDS. Although there will be considerable review, it will presume that you have fairly well learned the sounds in that aural workshop. The appearances of the birds will not be considered, for they were covered either in the regular fall workshop, BIRDS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, or last year’s MORE BIRDS OF COASTAL SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.

The species to be covered are all land birds that are found on the coastal side of the southern California mountains. Some are rare, even Endangered. Others are either uncommon or secretive—or perhaps only heard briefly during migration. (Desert and mountain birds are covered in other workshops in this series.)

Three sections will be offered, each meeting once a week, including holidays. The workshop will probably end in mid May, definitely before the Memorial Day weekend.

- WED. evenings, 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. Starts March 21.
- THURS. mornings, 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon. Starts March 22.
- THURS. evenings, 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. Starts March 22.

The “textbook” for the workshop will be Sylvia’s sound package, LEARNING MORE CALIFORNIA BIRD SOUNDS, available at Audubon House ($39.00). If you didn’t do groups 1-4 two years ago, be sure to purchase it in advance, for you will need to fill in the Group 5 worksheets prior to the first meeting. In addition, you will also need the following CD’s or downloads (same list as for Groups 1-4):

- *Bird Songs of California* by Keller (Cornell Lab of Ornithology, formerly on CD’s, now must be purchased online)
- *Western Bird Songs* (Peterson Field Guides Series)
- *Stokes Field Guide to Bird Songs, Western* (same sounds on Sibley app, but CD needed to make sonograms)
- *iBirdPro* app (recommended)

The maximum enrollment for each section is 22. If any section does not have at least 12 people enrolled by March 10, it will be cancelled. Reserve early though, because sections may fill rapidly. A donation of $175.00 or more is requested, if you can afford it. (Bring money to first meeting–installment plan OK.)

We plan to have a large number of informal field trips, led by workshop participants, and coordinated by Bettina Eastman (bettinae24@gmail.com), just as we did last year. Where can YOU take us to hear these special birds?

I’m sorry, but I’m going to cancel the Great Sounds Search started two years ago. I expect to be hard at work preparing a rerun of THE WESTERN MOUNTAINS AND THEIR BIRDS, which will start in Jan., 2019. All the slides have to be digitized and edited.

To reserve a space in the workshop, please send the form below to: Sylvia Gallagher, 21562 Kaneohe Ln, Huntington Beach CA 92646. Enclose a long (4” x 9 ½ ”) self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE). Confirmation, further information, and a map to the house will be mailed March 12. If you have questions, contact Sylvia at sjrgallagher@yahoo.com or by phone at 714-962-8990.

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**Enrollment Form for Learning MORE CA Bird Sounds – 2018**

Names of all participants _________________________________________________________________

Address(es) _____________________________________________________________________________

City & Zip Code _________________________________________________________________________

Phone(s) __________________________ Email __________________________

Check or rank at least two choices of section:

- WED pm___  THURS am___  THURS pm___  SASE enclosed? ___

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*Wandering Tattler*  7  *March 2018*
Upcoming 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

Wildlife Walk at the SJWS
Sat, March 3rd - 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 to the SJWS.) Leader: Jean Drum

Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS
Sun, March 11th - 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 page 11)

Bolsa Chica bird walk
Thurs, March 15 – 8:00 am 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 to check out all the birds that winter here. Bring binoculars, a field guide and a scope if you have one. Directions: We will meet at the playground in Harriet Wieder Park. From PCH, turn inland on Seapoint Street. Follow Seapoint 1 mile to Garfield Ave. and make a U-turn. The entrance to the playground will be on the right in 0.25 miles. Leader: Vic Leipzig 714-848-5394

Upper Newport Bay by pontoon boat ®
Wed, March 21 – 8:15 to 11:00 am
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. Trip duration is 2½ hrs. 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 seat on the boat. Directions will be provided to those with reservations. Leader: Nancy Kenyon 949-786-3160; nancykenyon@cox.net

Owl Prowls®
at Starr Ranch
Sat, March 3rd
Fri. March 23rd
Fri, March 30th
Sat, March 31 – (full)
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. He will talk with us about the local Barn Owls which nest at Starr Ranch and answer our questions regarding owl behavior. We will then board the big open bed truck for a short ride down the 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. 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, or a stamped self-address envelope & phone for confirmation & directions. Check webpage for space availability; trips fill quickly! Leader: Pete DeSimone Reservations: Nancy Kenyon 949-786-3160; nancykenyon@cox.net

Upper Newport Bay bird walk
Sun, March 25th – 8:00 am 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. 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

Lands Pass Suspended
The CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) has suspended the requirement of the Lands Pass indefinitely at Bolsa Chica and Upper Newport Bay. See our webpage for more information.
Western Snowy Plovers & CA Least Terns

**Orange County Snowy Plover and California Least Tern Survey**

**Survey:** March 11-17  
**Training:** March 10  
**Check-in:** 9:30 – 9:50 AM  
10:00 AM – 12:00 noon  
**Reservations are required!**

Join us in looking for Snowy Plovers, Least Terns and their habitats on our local beaches, while helping contribute to Endangered Species Research.

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.

Training will be held on March 10th in the Learning Center at San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary, *if there is sufficient enrollment. Pre-registration is required.*

If you have already attended a Snowy Plover Survey training session, you do not need to attend this one to get instructions on Least Terns. We will provide training materials for that for those already trained for Snowy Plovers.

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 ocspnsurvey@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/SNPLsurvey/OCSNPLsurvey.html](http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org/Conservation/SNPLsurvey/OCSNPLsurvey.html)

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**California Least Tern Watch**

Help the Endangered California Least Terns by keeping your eyes on 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 mouth. 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**

**DATES TBD**

Huntington State Beach Lifeguard Headquarters  
PCH and Magnolia Ave.

Field Orientation (mandatory for new volunteers) will be on at the Least Tern Natural Preserve, Huntington State Beach, 8:30-10:30 AM on a Saturday date TBD in May. 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 2018. Additional information about the program can be found on our chapter webpage: [http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org/Conservation/LeastTerns/LETE.htm](http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org/Conservation/LeastTerns/LETE.htm)

If interested, please send an email to: leastternshb@gmail.com

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Holly Fuhrer  
Don Hoechlin  
Cheryl Egger
Registration Now Open For Youth Camps

Imagine a future Orange County where residents truly care about nature. Houses are built to reduce impacts on the land and they conserve natural resources. Wildlife is treated with respect and reverence. Endangered species are brought back from extinction. Children enjoy playing outdoors. Is this a futile fantasy or is it an attainable vision?

Our Camp Committee believes this is not only possible but imperative for the health of people and wildlife, and has been working for the past 24 years to educate today’s youth to be environmental stewards! We began in summer 1993 with several naturalists who brainstormed camp titles, bird lessons and crafts. Bluebird guru Dick Purvis precut wood and nail holes so we could hammers together bird feeders to take home. Children loved camp so much, they repeated each year until they turned 12 even though camp was the same. We then added Advanced Bird Camp in 2001 so children could continue after age 12. When younger siblings didn’t want to wait until they turned 9, we added Fledgling Camp in 2009 for ages 7-8. We added an Intermediate Camp in 2010 that alternated between Coastal Camp in odd-numbered years and Birds, Bugs, and Blossoms (Backyard Wildlife) in even-numbered years. So many camps!

All camps help children increase their wildlife-watching skills as they take daily walks, keep a nature journal of writing and sketching, create art, and do research projects. All camps except Fledgling Camp are from 9 AM to 3:30 PM with a fee of $200 for Audubon members ($215 for nonmembers).

Enroll your child today in the lifelong path of nature appreciation and stewardship. Improve their life in a fun way! See our website for information & forms.

- **Fledgling Camp for 7-8 year olds** is the week of June 25-29 from 9 AM to 3 PM. Fee is $190 for members ($205 for nonmembers).
- **Marsh Bird Camp for 9-12 year olds** is offered two different weeks but has the same topic: June 18-22 and June 25-29.
- **Birds, Bugs and Blossoms for 11 years and older** is the week of July 9-13.
- **Advanced Bird Camp for 11 years and older** is offered two weeks with different topics. Week I is July 16-20 and covers grassland habitat. Week II is July 23-27 and covers the sparrow family. Both camps have one day off-site.

Taxidermy Sponsorships

We are happy to have a new taxidermist preparing bird specimens for Sea and Sage Audubon. In late 2017, Allis Markham with Prey Taxidermy created a gorgeous male Great Horned Owl that is on display in the Audubon House lobby. We are now accepting donations for sponsorships for the next 5 birds to be prepared. You can sponsor a bird entirely with your name & message on a sponsor plate with the bird. Or you can contribute any amount to help with costs for all birds. Your choice! Here’s what is available:

- **Snowy Plover for $650.** The bird will be standing on sand in a plexiglass case and used for off-site events to share how Sea and Sage is monitoring and protecting these beach-nesting birds.
- **Ruddy Duck for $800.** This winter male will be posed swimming in a plexiglass case and used by elementary school children before they come on our Outdoor Adventures science program.
- **Bullock’s Oriole for $650.** This bright male will not be in a flying pose without plexiglass and added to our family of swallow species. It will also be used by Outdoor Adventures students.
- **Common Yellowthroat for $600.** This pretty female will be added to our existing male in a new display protected by plexiglass. It will also be used by Outdoor Adventures students.
- **Cliff Swallow for $500.** This common nesting bird will be in a flying pose without plexiglass and added to our family of swallow species. 

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Make checks payable to Sea and Sage Audubon and mail to Sea and Sage Audubon, 5 Riparian View, Irvine, CA 92612. Contact Project Director Trude Hurd at seaandsage@sbcglobal.net with questions.

Artistic Photos of Our Taxidermy

Our Marsh Education Project is grateful to wildlife photographer Daniel Pham who artistically photographed our taxidermy bird specimens earlier this year. Although we had documentation photos of our extensive collection, these new photos highlight the beauty and field marks of the birds. We will use the images in publicity and correspondence. Thank you, Daniel!

Our organization depends on volunteers. What skill do you have that you could donate to Sea and Sage?
Tattler Subscriptions
Non-Audubon members or members from other Audubon chapters who wish to subscribe to our chapter newsletter, may do so for $14.00 per year. Make check payable to “Sea and Sage Audubon” and mail to: Tattler Subscriptions, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612

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

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

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

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

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

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

Audubon Membership Application
We invite you to become a member of the National Audubon Society and the Sea and Sage Audubon chapter. Members receive the AUDUBON magazine as well as the WANDERING TATTLER newsletter.
NEW MEMBERSHIP is $20 for an individual or for a family. (The membership is good for one year.)

To join: Complete the form below & mail it along with your payment to: Sea and Sage Audubon, PO Box 5447, Irvine CA 92616
Make your check payable to: NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY. Please pay by check only; do not send cash.
Or, go online to: http://tinyurl.com/hyeaw67 (Our chapter code is C15)

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

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

Wandering Tattler 11
March 2018
**BOARD MEMBERS**

**Executive Committee:**
- President: Doug Lithgow, 714-962-4145
- Vice President: Gail Richards, 714-267-2420
- Secretary: Sandy Smith, 949-706-9396
- Treasurer: Tom Van Huss, 714-417-9940
- Director 2018: Bruce Aird, 949-458-1520
- Director 2018: Ralph Sugg, 949-855-6575
- Director 2019: Star Howard, 949-770-3177
- Director 2019: Joan McCauley, 949-642-1938
- Director 2020: Ann Harmer, 949-631-3322
- Director 2020: Debbie Hays, 714-356-6302
- Past President: Vic Leipzig, 714-848-5394

**Committee Chairpersons:**
- Archives & Records: Chris Byrd, 714-639-0967
- Audubon House: Susan Sheakley, 949-552-5974
- Audubon House Volunteers: Barbara Mitchell, 949-646-4115
- Bird Information: Sylvia Gallagher, 714-962-8990
- Conservation: Susan Sheakley, 949-552-5974
- Counsel: Sherlyo, 949-427-7036
- Development: Cheryl Thomas, 949-294-2275
- Education: Carolyn Noble, 714-731-9091
- Events: Mary Joseph, 714-848-8362
- Exhibits: Mary Joseph, 714-848-8362
- Field Trips: Nancy Kenyon, 949-786-3160
- Finance: Hal Sheakley, 949-552-5974
- Membership: Jim Kissinger, 949-713-1148
- Newsletter Editor: Nancy Kenyon, 949-786-3160
- Orange County Spring Count: Darrell Wilson, 949-559-4542
- Partners in Flight: Janet & Al Baumann, 949-859-5081
- Programs: Gail Richards, 714-267-2420
- 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-Scheron, 949-413-0297
- Starr Ranch/Envir. Liaison: Pete DeSimone, 949-858-0309
- Webmaster: Nancy Kenyon, 949-786-3160

Webpage: [http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org](http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org)

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

**STAFF**
- Marsh Education Project Director: Trude Hurst, 949-261-7964
- Education Assistant: Deborah Brin, 949-261-7964
- Sales Manager: Debby Thyssen, 949-261-7963
- Administrative Aide: Rebecca Craft, 949-261-7963

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

**SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER ACTIVITIES**

**March 2018**
- 03 Sat: Monthly Wildlife Walk at the SJWS............... 9:00 am
- 03 Sat: Owl Prowl at Starr Ranch ®.......................... 6:30 pm
- 06 Tues: Conservation Committee Meeting.................. 6:45 pm
- 10 Sat: Snowy Plover Training Session...................... 10:00 am
- 11 Sun: Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS...................... 8:00 am
- 13 Tues: Board Meeting........................................ 7:00 pm
- 15 Thurs: Bolsa Chica bird walk............................. 8:00 am
- 17 Sat: ANNUAL DINNER ®................................... 6:00 pm
- 21 Wed: UNB by pontoon boat ®................................ 8:15 am
- 21 Wed: Learning MORE CA Bird Sounds class begins......
- 23 Fri: Owl Prowl at Starr Ranch ®........................ 6:30 pm
- 25 Sun: Monthly bird walk at UNB............................ 8:00 am
- 27 Tues: 4th Tues’ Conservation Lecture..................... 7:30 pm
- 30 Fri: Owl Prowl at Starr Ranch ®........................ 6:30 pm
- 31 Sat: Owl Prowl at Starr Ranch ® - Full.................. 6:30 pm

**April 2018**
- 02 Mon: Summer Bat Walk registration opens................
- 03 Tues: Conservation Committee Meeting.................. 6:45 pm
- 07 Sat: Monthly Wildlife Walk at the SJWS................ 9:00 am
- 08 Sun: Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS...................... 8:00 am
- 10 Tues: Board Meeting........................................ 7:00 pm
- 18 Wed: UNB by pontoon boat ®.............................. 8:15 am
- 20 Fri: GENERAL MEETING.................................... 7:30 pm
- 24 Tues: 4th Tues’ Conservation Lecture..................... 7:30 pm
- 29 Sun: Monthly bird walk at UNB............................ 8:00 am