President’s Message
by Vic Leipzig

The Board of Directors of Sea & Sage has a number of standing committees: Conservation, Education, Field Trips, and over a dozen others. Each is chaired by a hard-working volunteer. One of these positions is currently empty. In fact, it has been empty for a number of years. The position is Publicity. For the most part, the chapter advertises its activities in our own newsletter, with columns and articles like this one. Since each issue of the Wandering Tattler reaches well over 3,000 Audubon members, the chapter hasn’t had much need for publicity in the local newspapers, radio, or TV.

Early in 2015, a very enthusiastic volunteer, Marlene Brajdic, stepped forward and agreed to take on the Publicity position. Unfortunately, critical family obligations soon arose, forcing her to step down within just a few months. But during her short tenure, she outlined a number of steps that could be taken to do much more than simple advertising for chapter activities. Her vision was one of coordinated outreach to the many different communities that make up the population of Orange County—people of all ages, sexes, languages, races, and geographic areas. After all, the Audubon message of conservation of birds and other natural resources is a message that we need to get across to all segments of society.

Would you be interested in helping Sea & Sage get that message out to more people? If you have a few hours each week, or even each month, that you could dedicate to the cause and if you have the willingness to write and speak to people about what you believe in, you could be of tremendous help to this chapter. You could make a huge difference in the future of Orange County.

Give me a call or an email if you would like to join us in this important work!

Vic Leipzig
(714) 848-5394
vicleipzig@aol.com

General Meeting
Friday evening, October 16 - 7:30 pm
“Birds of Tanzania”
presented by Bob Polkinghorn

For the October program, long time Sea and Sage member, Bob Polkinghorn, will present the Birds of Tanzania. His program is based on photographs taken during a two-week trip to Tanzania in 2012. His wildlife safari visited some of the iconic destinations in East Africa, such as Serengeti National Park, the Ngorongoro Crater and highlands, Olduvai Gorge, Kilimanjaro foothills and Tarangire National Park. As an East Africa novice and the sole birder in the group, Bob faced some birding challenges, but nonetheless captured over 120 species. He will share SOME of his photos, information about each species, how the photos were taken, and the limitations of photographing in the African bush.

Bob Polkinghorn is a retired microelectronics design engineer and manager. He has a Bachelor’s degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Michigan; has lectured in the Electrical Engineering department at CSU Long Beach for years; holds 10 US patents; and served as an officer in Army Intelligence and Security. His interest in birding only started in retirement when he was recruited into Trude Hurd’s naturalist training class and began his 13 years as a Sea and Sage naturalist. His birding began taking him further afield and he has completed many birding trips throughout the Americas. Bob, and his wife Marilyn, who is also avid birder, are long time travelers with a particular interest in ancient places. He loves to teach and has presented numerous travel related programs to senior centers, Sierra Club groups and other organizations.

Our program will be held in the Duck Club at the SJWS in Irvine. The doors open at 7:00 for refreshments and fellowship, and the meeting and program begin at 7:30 pm. We hope you will join us. (See page 11 for directions to the meeting.)

—Doug Lithgow
Conservation News
Susan Sheakley, Conservation Chair

Our next Conservation meeting will be held on October 6, at 6:30 PM in the Learning Center. Our next two 4th Tuesday Conservation Lectures will be held on Sept. 22 and Oct. 27 at 7:30 PM in the Learning Center. We hope you will join us.

4th Tues. Conservation Lecture
Tuesday, October 27th - 7:30 pm in the Learning Center, SJWS

“Too much of a good thing: Nitrogen deposition, invasion and coastal sage scrub habitat”
presented by Justin Valliere
University of California, Riverside

Our local natural ecosystems are at risk from many factors, including drought, climate change, and various human impacts. Vehicle emissions of nitrous oxides have negatively affected native habitats in southern California by favoring the establishment of exotic species.

In 2014, Justin Valliere received a Bloom-Hays Ecological Research Grant from Sea and Sage Audubon for a study to assess how nitrogen deposition affects post-fire recovery and succession of a coastal sage scrub ecosystem in a recently burned portion of the Santa Monica Mountains. Please join us at our October ‘4th Tuesday’ Conservation Lecture where Justin will present information about his research and his findings.

Justin is currently finishing up his PhD work in the department of Botany and Plant Sciences at the University of California, Riverside. He received his bachelors degree from Green Mountain College in Vermont, and has several years of experience conducting plant ecology research, including two years as field crew leader for Audubon’s Starr Ranch. His research focus is on understanding how nitrogen pollution from anthropogenic emissions can alter native plant communities in southern California, with a focus on coastal sage scrub.

Doors open at 7:00 for snacks and social. The program starts at 7:30. We hope to see you there.

Western Snowy Plover
Field Trip on Balboa Peninsula
Date and Time: Saturday, Oct. 17, 8:00 AM
Meeting Place: Plover Fence, Between D and E Streets

You are invited to join us on a special field trip - a search for the well-camouflaged and oft-thought invisible Western Snowy Plover. Our expert guides are Josh Weinik and Ross Griswold, the biologists who conduct the monthly Roost Surveys for Sea and Sage Audubon’s Orange County Snowy Plover Survey Project.

During the field trip, the biologists will share information about how Snowy Plovers use the beaches of Orange County – where they feed, roost and nest. This is an opportunity to meet field biologists, learn a little about the natural history of the Snowy Plover, and to see the cutest bird on the beach!

The closest places to park will be in the paid parking lots south of the Balboa Pier parking lot. Give yourself time to walk from your parking place to our meeting place. A map of paid and free parking areas will be posted on our website.

Our outing will begin at 8:00 AM at the plover fence located at the top of the beach between D and E Streets. Josh, who is also Natural Resource Interpreter for the City of Newport Beach, will tell us about the plover fence and the city’s Western Snowy Plover volunteer program that monitors the breeding and wintering populations of Western Snowy Plover on the Balboa Peninsula.

Following that, we'll look around for those “invisible” Snowy Plovers. Josh and Ross are confident we will find them.

And, of course, if you want us to, we’ll investigate other birds we see or hear at the beach.

Sea and Sage Audubon Orange County Snowy Plover Team: Cheryl Egger, Susan Sheakley, Ross Griswold, Josh Weinik

Holly Fuhrer
Sea & Sage Audubon

Pancake Breakfast
Saturday, October 31st, from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.
at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine

Delicious Hot Pancake Breakfast

Enjoy hot pancakes right off the griddle, tasty sausages, fruits of the season, orange juice, hot coffee, and milk for the kids. Dine with family, friends, and fellow birders in the Duck Club. Reservations are a must so we know how much food to prepare.

Bargain Used Nature Books for Sale

Our book sale features a wide assortment of nature books appropriate for birders, teachers, students, and all nature lovers. Books are priced reasonably, from 50¢ and up. Come early for the best selection.

Bird Walks & Scope Stations Around the Ponds

We have scheduled 3 morning bird walks around the marsh and will also have several spotting scope stations at the ponds closest to Audubon House. This will give you a great opportunity to get a good look at the shorebirds and ducks, egrets, herons, and other birds which frequent the sanctuary.

Be Sure to Stop by Audubon House for a Visit!

Stop by Audubon House for a visit to check out our outstanding gift and bookstore, the beautiful wildlife photos taken at the sanctuary, and other displays. The volunteers at Audubon House will answer your questions about Sea & Sage, wild birds, and our chapter programs.

For reservations, call Audubon House at 949-261-7963

$10 – Adults
$6 – Children 10 & under
Free – Children 3 & under

Make your reservations today or anytime before 1:00 pm, Friday, October 30. Call Audubon House, 949-261-7963. Questions? Call Mary Joseph 714-848-8362.

Join the fun & volunteer to help us out! It’s fun to work together & we hope you will join us! Copies of our Volunteer signup sheets are on our webpage, at Audubon House, at our September & October General Meetings, or just contact Mary Joseph. We need help with parking, food prep, leading bird walks, doing a scope station, book sales, refreshing condiments, and collecting tickets. I help out every year and wouldn’t miss it for anything! -Nancy Kenyon

Wandering Tattler

3 October 2015
Orange County Rarities
by Doug Willick

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

We left off last month summarizing some of the highlights that occurred in the county through approximately mid-summer. This month’s column then will cover the latter half of the summer and look at some of the shorebird, and early landbird, migrants that have occurred so far this fall.

The most significant occurrences in OC during the period being covered here included birds that unfortunately were found in poor health and brought in to the local wildlife rehab centers. Oddly enough, these both involved Red-footed Boobies being found at the Newport Pier. The first bird, a subadult, was brought in July 23, followed by a second bird turning up on Sept. 2. Although both were brought in for care, unfortunately both later expired. Red-footed Booby is a very rare visitor to California from tropical regions of the Pacific; these were only the 2nd and 3rd records for Orange County. A juvenile Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve (BCER), July 19-28 (Dawn Macheca), was only the 4th record for OC, although remarkably this was the 3rd since November 2012.

Numbers of Reddish Egrets at BCER continue to gradually increase over the years; a high count of seven was again made during the monthly count held here on 14 Aug. (per Terry Hill). An American Bittern observed at the Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve, July 23 (John Garrett), was especially noteworthy being present during the summer; this species is much more regularly seen (even if still fairly scarce) during the non-breeding season.

Shorebird rarities so far this fall have been limited to the “rare-but-regulars.” Solitary Sandpipers included one at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary (SJWS), Aug. 6-7 (Jeff Bray); up to two or three at Huntington Central Park (HCP), on Aug. 28, and Sept. 3 and 8 (Roger Schoedl), and two in Lincoln Basin (adjacent to Anaheim Coves Park), Aug. 8 (Doug Willick), with one there through the 10th. Only one Baird’s Sandpiper so far this fall, at SJWS on Aug. 5 (Don Hoechlin), is below the county’s average. A Wilson’s Snipe in the nature center pond within Mile Square Regional Park (MSRP), Aug. 24-25 (Jim Roe), was early. Two adult Black Terns at SJWS, July 20 (J. Bray), were somewhat early for this infrequent fall migrant in the county.

Recent landbirds of interest primarily included fall migrants, with a few of these being a bit earlier than what might normally be “expected.” A White-winged Dove was found in Yorba Linda (in habitat along the Santa Ana River), Sept. 1 (Brian Leatherman). A White-breasted Nuthatch at HCP, Aug. 14-28+ (R. Schoedl), was both early and along the coast, where a rarity. A Loggerhead Shrike recorded during the monthly count at BCER, Aug. 14 (per T. Hill), was probably a post-breeding dispersant/migrant here; unfortunately, this species is now an extremely rare and irregular breeder in the county. A Phainopepla in the nature area of MSRP, Sept. 4 (Cris Whetstone), was a migrant at an unexpected location; very few Phainopeplas are encountered away from more inland areas where they are known to breed.

For many So Cal birders, part of the fun associated with fall migration is the excitement of running across one of several species of warblers that are unexpected in our area. OC got off to a good, and somewhat early, start with several recent warbler rarities. An early Northern Waterthrush was at MSRP, Aug. 26 (D. Hoechlin, Jim Sculatti). At least one (and possibly two) Virginia’s Warblers were at MSRP, Aug. 30 and Sept. 4-6 (Tom Wurster, C. Whetstone, et al.). A Blackpoll Warbler was found at Laguna Niguel Regional Park, Sept. 6-7 (Robert McNab). A male Hooded Warbler at HCP, Aug. 26 and Sept. 7, was undoubtedly the same bird that was known to be present for at least a month in mid-summer; this is one of the “vagrant” warbler species to California that is more “expected” in spring migration versus fall. An American Redstart was also at HCP, on Sept. 4 (R. Schoedl). A female/immature type Lark Bunting was an exceptional discovery at Riley Wilderness Park, Sept. 5 (Diane Etchison); unfortunately, the bird ended up being a “one-day-wonder.” A juvenile Black-throated Sparrow was at the SJWS, Aug. 31-Sept. 1 (Bill Halladay). An adult male Scott’s Oriole was a surprise at the Tree of Life Nursery in San Juan Capistrano, Aug. 22 (Catherine Waters). A female type Yellow-headed Blackbird was at SJWS, Aug. 25 (J. Bray). A presumed pair of Lawrence’s Goldfinches at Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park, Aug. 14 (Elisa Yang), likely represented a pair that was breeding locally.
Chapter News & Announcements

For more information about Sea & Sage activities, check out our SCHEDULE of Chapter Activities on our webpage 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

Audubon House Volunteers
We would like to thank the following people for helping to staff Audubon House in September & October: Sherry Bass, Dick & Pat Cabe, Bettina Eastman, Friesa Escalona, Carol Freund, John Hargrove, Lynne Hayes, Pat Heilig, Cindi Herrera, Sarah Jayne, Cailey Jonas, Nancy Kenyon, Lauretta Kyle, Joann Lemberger, Doug Lithgow, Maya Matkin, Wanda McCargar, Joan McCauley, Bobbie Miller, Eunice Morita, Susan Munson, Roberta Ray, Barbara Reber, Annette Ritchie, Ana Rubyn, Susan Sheakley, Beryl Vogel, Ron Waller, 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 Ana Rubyn at 949-351-5393.

We Need Your Used Books!
Start your fall cleaning now! Take a look at your bookshelves and take down any unused books on birds and other animals, plants, natural history, cooking, birding, travel and gardening, to donate to Sea and Sage Audubon for our Annual Pancake Breakfast Used Book Sale. Proceeds from this sale will benefit our chapter programs, including Education and Conservation. All donations will be greatly appreciated, first by the chapter, and then by our fellow book lovers who will get the opportunity to buy and enjoy them. All books are sorted and priced by the Used Book Sale volunteers. Before being offered for sale, books that are suitable may be used in our Nature Library inside Audubon House or in our Conservation, Marsh Education, or Camp programs. Please deliver your donations to Audubon House by 3:30 PM on Thursday, October 29, to allow time for our volunteers to sort and price them.

Volunteer To Help With Exhibits!
Every year Sea & Sage Audubon is invited to put up outreach tables at fun and exciting community events. We do this in order to inform the public about the importance of birds, habitat, and our support of the natural environment. To do this we need volunteers who are willing to sign up to work two hour shifts, interact with the public, answer their questions and tell them about what we do.

No training is required, just sign-up, show-up and visit with people as they come by our table. We have an event coming up in October and could use your help:
CHILDRENS’ BOOK FESTIVAL - Sunday, Oct. 4th, Orange Coast College, Costa Mesa. It takes 16 volunteers to make this work; I hope you’ll be one of them. The shifts are 2 hours, and parking is free. Contact Mary Joseph for more information or to sign up.
mary.stg.joseph@gmail.com or 714-848-8362.

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 this month: Offshore Sea Life ID Guide-West Coast; John Muir’s Book of Animals (just published); The Wild Duck Chase; and from The Smithsonian Migratory Center: Feathered Travelers. Other new items include songbird coffee mugs, magnets, flags and crosswalk signs; Anna’s Hummingbird coffee mugs; canvas tote bags and a new dark chocolate colored t-shirt with songbirds on front and back.

It’s More Than Just Pancakes!
On Saturday morning, Oct. 31st, we will be hosting our Annual Pancake Breakfast in the Duck Club at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine. Breakfast of hot-off-the-griddle pancakes, sausages, seasonal fruit, orange juice, hot coffee and milk for the kids will be served from 7:30 to 10:30 am. This event is more than just a pancake breakfast! Participants will also have the opportunity to browse through the intriguing selection of nature books at our famous Used Book Sale, spend some time in Audubon House checking out new items, wander out to the ponds for some bird watching where we’ll have scopes set up at strategic locations for your convenience or go on a guided bird walk, chat with the people from Wild Birds Unlimited about bird feeding techniques, check out the latest birding optics on the Duck Club back porch with Optics4Birding staff, and visit our chapter exhibits inside the Duck Club and in Audubon House and get your raffle card stamped and turned in so that you can qualify for the chance to win a prize (a gift certificate at our bookstore).

The price of the Pancake Breakfast is the same as last year: $10 for adults, $6 for children 10 and under, and free for children under 3. Reservations for the breakfast are a must so that we know how much food to prepare. To make your reservations, call Audubon House at 949-261-7963. We will need your name and number of people in your party. Hope to see you there! If you want to receive a reminder notice about this event, please also provide your email address.
October 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, Oct. 3rd - 9:00 am to 10:30
Explore the diverse life of the Marsh - its birds, plants, insects and 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 SJWS.)
Leaders: Jean Drum & Audubon Naturalists

Caspers Wilderness Park Bird Walk
Wed, Oct. 7th - 8:00 am to 11:00 am
Join Diane Etchison for a bird walk at Caspers Wilderness Park. The park is home to an abundant number of native species of birds and mammals. The walk may meander through old grove Sycamores, Coast Live Oak, Riparian, or Coastal Sage Scrub habitats. Come prepared for a morning of exploring. Caspers is located at 33401 Ortega Hwy (#74), San Juan Capistrano. Directions: Take the I-5 Fwy south to Ortega Hwy and turn left (toward the mts.). Drive 7.6 miles to Caspers Park, which will be on your left. Be prepared to pay the $3 entrance fee if you don’t have a county parks pass. Meet in the Old Corral day use area.
Leader: Diane Etchison

Bird Walk at the SJWS
Sun, Oct. 11th - 8:00 am to 12 noon
Join us for a monthly bird walk around the ponds of the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine at 8:00 am. Many of the shorebirds and ducks are back and the birds of summer have left. 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 SJWS on p. 11)
Leader: Chris Obaditch

Canyon Community Park parking lot where we will meet: Take the 55 freeway heading toward the beach. Once you exit at the end of the 55 freeway, head west (right) on 19th Street. Go approximately 1 mile and make a right onto Monrovia followed by a quick left onto Arbor. After this turn, the park entrance is just ahead on your right. Drive to the lower parking area where there are a number of parking spaces. Parking is free and Canyon Community Park is open from dusk to dawn 7 days a week. Leader: Garette Lepper

Upper Newport Bay by pontoon boat
Oct. 21 & Nov. 18 (full) - 8:15 to 11:00 am® There is room on the Dec. 16 & Jan. 20 trips.
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 spot on the boat. Directions will be provided to those with reservations.
Leader: Nancy Kenyon
949-786-3160; nancykenyon@cox.net

Dragonflies & Butterflies at the SJWS
Fri, Oct. 23rd - 10:00 am to 12:30 pm
Join Mike Clayton for a morning of exploring the delightful world of Dragonflies and Butterflies at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. We will meet in front of Audubon House at 10:00. Be sure to bring your binoculars so that you can view them up close.
Leader: Mike Clayton

Canyon Park & Talbert Marsh
Sun, Oct. 18th - 7:30 am to 11:30 am
Join us in Costa Mesa to explore two adjoining but overlooked parks. Our morning begins in Canyon Park where we will look for warblers and other migrants in the trees around the park. We will then cross over into Talbert Regional Park, walking the perimeter looking for raptors and more migrating birds, over to the Santa Ana riverbed for shorebirds, and then back around through the parks. We shall spend a morning a little off the beaten track and see what there is to discover! Parking is free at Canyon Park. Directions (To get to

Upper Newport Bay Bird Walk
Sun, Oct. 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. 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

Wandering Tattler
Sea & Sage Needs Your Help on the Silent Auction for our Annual Dinner

The Development Committee is hoping that you can help us with the upcoming Annual Dinner Silent Auction. We would like to enlist your help by finding, scouring and/or asking for items. During this down economy we are receiving fewer donations than in the past. Listed below are just some items and/or suggestions.

- Timeshare or Vacation home stays
- Lessons in anything (golf, music, birding, etc)
- Airline miles
- Tickets to an event
- Check out the list below of previously auctioned items

If you could spare the time I could use help with the following:
- Walking and talking with shop and restaurant owners and business owners.

Please contact Cheryl Thomas at 949-294-2275 or Cthomas1313@cox.net if you think you have something to donate, or know of someone who can get items donated, or just have ideas or questions.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Native Plants in pots</th>
<th>Handmade bird nest box</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tickets to Disneyland Land, museums, Knott’s</td>
<td>Handmade Quilt - Hanging</td>
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<td>ART - Original paintings, photography</td>
<td>Hand woven Scarf</td>
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<td>Autographed series of Lee Child books</td>
<td>Harbor cruise on a private yacht or boat</td>
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<td>Bamboo vase</td>
<td>Herradura Resposado Tequila</td>
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<td>Beer and Pretzels</td>
<td>Homemade spice basket</td>
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<td>Bird prints</td>
<td>Items for gift baskets</td>
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<td>Whale watching trip for 2</td>
<td>Jam making session w/cat waters</td>
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<td>Wine and Chees picnic set</td>
<td>Kayak Tour of Upper Newport Bay w/a Naturalist</td>
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<td>Bluebird nest box</td>
<td>Kenneth Cole shoulder bag</td>
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<td>Box of Chocolates</td>
<td>Lap Quilt - hand quilted</td>
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<td>Bryan Holliday Photography singing blackbird</td>
<td>Long Beach Aquarium tickets</td>
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<td>Bushnell opera glasses</td>
<td>Lost Coast brew basket</td>
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<td>Camp Bow Wow - Doggie day care</td>
<td>Manual Rodriguez Classical guitar</td>
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<td>Candles - homemade and Donated by Michelle Russi</td>
<td>Massages by a licensed masseuse</td>
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<td>Catalina Vacation home</td>
<td>Mojave Desert picture</td>
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<td>Hand knit Afghan</td>
<td>Musical Theatre West</td>
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<td>Ceramic Vase</td>
<td>Nikon Binoculars</td>
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<td>Champagne and flutes</td>
<td>Original Note Cards</td>
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<td>Chess Set - Carved Seabirds</td>
<td>Olympus SP550 UZ Digital Camera</td>
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<td>Theater Tickets (Cygnet Theater/Laguna Playhouse/LB Shakespeare)</td>
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<td>Dance Lesson from Arthur Murray Dance Studio</td>
<td>Painting - original</td>
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<td>Hand knit scarf and cap</td>
<td>Paula Deen Autographed Cookbook</td>
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<td>Dinner and Music for 4 in your home</td>
<td>Pelagic Birding Trip</td>
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<td>Dinner gift certificates from a restaurant</td>
<td>Philharmonic Society concert</td>
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<td>Gift Cards for anything</td>
<td>Piano Lessons</td>
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<td>Tickets to an Angels or Dodgers game</td>
<td>Picnic Wine case</td>
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<td>Recycled Aluminum Bark Candlesticks - donated Viva Terra</td>
<td>R/T train trip in Napa Valley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gift basket of anything you can come up with</td>
<td>Recycled Aluminum Bark Candlesticks</td>
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<td>Folding director chairs</td>
<td>Seashell Wreath</td>
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<td>Volcano Island Honey Company</td>
<td>Signed baseball hat by LA Angels or Dodgers</td>
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<td>Free bowling games from a bowling alley</td>
<td>Sony Pictures Studio tour tickets for 4</td>
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Results of the 2015 Orange County Spring Count (OCSC)

International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) celebrates one of the most important and spectacular events in the Americas: bird migration. Sea and Sage Audubon participated in the celebration by sponsoring the Orange County Spring Count. The “Day” is fixed as the second Saturday in May each year, but everyone recognizes that bird migration occurs at different times in different places and extends over several weeks. The Sea and Sage count efforts were focused on May 8, 9, and 10. We also included checklists from many regularly scheduled field trips and counts in the April and May time period.

The IMBD organization requested that all bird count information collected as part of the celebration be entered into eBird. Many of the OCSC count leaders entered their checklists in the field; others entered the data at home. Altogether, there were 200 checklists entered into eBird and shared with the Sea and Sage account. Including the field trip participants, about 150 people contributed to this year’s count.

Total birds counted: 48,023 in 101 locations.

AOU recognized species: 243

Exotics species: 6

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<tr>
<th>Highest 5 Species</th>
<th>Number of Birds</th>
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<td>House Finch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sooty Shearwater</td>
<td>2751</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lesser Goldfinch</td>
<td>1494</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western Gull</td>
<td>1402</td>
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Snow Goose *  
Cackling Goose (Aleutian)  
Mandarin Duck *  
Blue-winged Teal  
Green-winged Teal *  
Common Loon #P  
Black Storm-Petrel #P  
Brown Booby #P  
Pelagic Cormorant *#P  
Golden Eagle *  
Bald Eagle *  
Wilson’s Phalarope *  
Red-necked Phalarope #P  
Red Phalarope #P  
Pomarine Jaeger #P  
Parasitic Jaeger *  
Scripp’s Murrelet #P  
Cassin’s Auklet #P  
Rhinoceros Auklet #P  
Sabine’s Gull #P  
Herring Gull #P  
Snow Goose *  
Cackling Goose (Aleutian)  
Mandarin Duck *  
Blue-winged Teal  
Green-winged Teal *  
Common Loon #P  
Black Storm-Petrel #P  
Brown Booby #P  
Pelagic Cormorant *#P  
Golden Eagle *  
Bald Eagle *  
Wilson’s Phalarope *  
Red-necked Phalarope #P  
Red Phalarope #P  
Pomarine Jaeger #P  
Parasitic Jaeger *  
Scripp’s Murrelet #P  
Cassin’s Auklet #P  
Rhinoceros Auklet #P  
Sabine’s Gull #P  
Herring Gull #P

BIRDS FOUND IN ONE LOCATION (* indicates only one found; #P indicates birds found only on the Pelagic field trip)

Snow Goose *  
Cackling Goose (Aleutian)  
Mandarin Duck *  
Blue-winged Teal  
Green-winged Teal *  
Common Loon #P  
Black Storm-Petrel #P  
Brown Booby #P  
Pelagic Cormorant *#P  
Golden Eagle *  
Bald Eagle *  
Wilson’s Phalarope *  
Red-necked Phalarope #P  
Red Phalarope #P  
Pomarine Jaeger #P  
Parasitic Jaeger *  
Scripp’s Murrelet #P  
Cassin’s Auklet #P  
Rhinoceros Auklet #P  
Sabine’s Gull #P  
Herring Gull #P  
Snow Goose *  
Cackling Goose (Aleutian)  
Mandarin Duck *  
Blue-winged Teal  
Green-winged Teal *  
Common Loon #P  
Black Storm-Petrel #P  
Brown Booby #P  
Pelagic Cormorant *#P  
Golden Eagle *  
Bald Eagle *  
Wilson’s Phalarope *  
Red-necked Phalarope #P  
Red Phalarope #P  
Pomarine Jaeger #P  
Parasitic Jaeger *  
Scripp’s Murrelet #P  
Cassin’s Auklet #P  
Rhinoceros Auklet #P  
Sabine’s Gull #P  
Herring Gull #P

Distribution of Top 10 Species

| House Finch | 80  |
| American Crow | 76  |
| Mourning Dove | 68  |
| Anna’s Hummingbird | 66  |
| Allen’s Hummingbird | 65  |
| Lesser Goldfinch | 65  |
| Bushtit | 63  |
| California Towhee | 63  |
| Black Phoebe | 61  |
| Song Sparrow | 61  |
Sea & Sage Junior Naturalists Program & Central Valley Birding Symposium

Sea & Sage Audubon’s Junior Naturalists Program

The Junior Naturalist Program was established in 2001 in response to teenagers who have attended Advanced Camp and want continuing activities during the rest of the year. The program provides enriched nature experiences, fosters leadership skills, and provides social contacts with other teens with similar interests in the outdoors. The program is coordinated by Gail Richards, under the direction of Trude Hurd, Project Director of Education, Sea and Sage Audubon.

Members are 13-18 years of age, and participate in monthly activities, as much as their busy schedules will allow. This past year, there were 24 members. The program relies on support from their parents, as they provide the transportation and some have joined in the activities and helped with supervision.

Junior Naturalists have a great time participating in field trips and getting to know other teens who are also interested in learning more about nature and birds. Our field trip activities last year included a Beach Clean-up at Crystal Cove State Beach, a birding trip to Santiago Oaks Regional Park, Christmas Bird Counts at Bolsa Chica Wildlife Refuge and Irvine Park, a Pelagic Trip out of the Ocean Institute at Dana Point Harbor, kayaking Newport Back Bay, watching Bird Banding at Starr Ranch Sanctuary, birding and hiking in Limestone Whiting Ranch, a full day of Birding Hotspots with Jon Dunn, and a train trip to the L.A. County Natural History Museum.

There was a planning meeting on September 12, at which we finalized the activity list for 2015-16. We have 25 members this year, 10 of which are new members. All are looking forward to another year of exciting adventures with their friends.

Gail Richards
Junior Naturalists Coordinator

Central Valley Birding Symposium

The Central Valley Bird Club will be hosting the 19th Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium Nov. 19-22, 2015 at the Stockton Hilton Hotel in Stockton, CA.

Thursday Night’s Keynote speakers are Ed Harper & Ed Pandolfino presenting a program on “A Central Valley Year of Sights & Sounds”. The CVBS gets off to a supercharged start with this lively and informative presentation. Both Eds are widely known, popular and highly sought after speakers.

Friday Night’s keynote program is presented by Steve N.G. Howell on “Shift Happens: Rare (Vagrant) Birds in North America.” Steve is an acclaimed field ornithologist & prolific Writer. He is an international bird tour leader with WINGS and a Research Associate at Point Blue Conservation Science (formerly PRBO).

Saturday Night’s keynote program is presented by Kate Marianchild on “Our Magnificent Valley Oaks; Hubs of their Habitats.” Kate Marianchild is a naturalist, birder, and author of the best-selling Secrets of the Oak Woodlands: Plants, and Animals among California’s Oaks.

Workshops include: "Birding: the 12-step Program--Bird ID explained" by Steve N.G. Howell, "Shorebird ID Workshop" by Jon Dunn, “A Mini Tricolored Blackbird Symposium”, moderated by Dan Airola, and a photo workshop by Bob Steele. Plus, attend informative workshops by Philip Garone, Keith Hansen, Sal Salerno and Jim Burcio.

The field trips always turn up exciting birds. Add in the always entertaining and educational Bird ID Panel, the wonderful display of art and gifts for yourself or others at the Birder’s Market and the camaraderie of hundreds of like-minded folks, and you know you’ll have a good time! There’s something for everyone interested in birds. Come and join us to bird, learn, and just have fun!

To look over the line-up of speakers, workshops, and fieldtrips, check out the Symposium’s website at: http://www.cvbsreg.org

Registration: http://www.regonline.com/centralvalleybirdingsymposium2015
It’s Not Too Late To Join Our Naturalist Team

It’s not too late to become a new volunteer naturalist for Outdoor Adventures or Art Meets Science. Although the formal training classes are almost over, training continues throughout the traditional school year (September through June) as new recruits mentor with experienced naturalists. If you are a retired teacher and/or enjoy working with elementary school children, please contact Project Director Trude Hurd at seaandsage@sbcglobal.net or 949-261-7964. You can make the difference in the life of a child; just ask us how!

Sponsor a School Bus

With rising transportation costs, many schools drop their funding for science field trips. But outdoor experiences are necessary if school children are to understand the importance of wildlife and native habitats and how to protect them. Last year, Diamond school teacher Sherman Fairbairn wrote: “My students in Santa Ana have little or no exposure to areas other than their neighborhoods. Many haven’t been to the beach! [Outdoor Adventures] is an eye opener for them … and the birds really excited them.”

Last year, Sea and Sage Audubon paid over $1,500 for 8 bus trips so that 500 Santa Ana students from Diamond, Thorpe and Washington Schools would be able to attend Outdoor Adventures science discovery programs at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary.

This school year, we anticipate paying for 10 bus trips. Will you help pay for a school bus to make outdoor science possible for inner city school children? Costs vary depending on time and distance to the marsh but most bus trips average $200. However, any amount that you can donate will help our School Bus Scholarship Fund!

Please send your donation (check payable to Sea and Sage Audubon) with your name and email address to School Bus Scholarship Fund, Sea and Sage Audubon Society, 5 Riparian View, Irvine, CA, 92612. If you have any questions, please contact Trude Hurd. Thank you for your support!

Take a Wild Walk!

When is the last time you watched wildlife with child-like wonder? Each month on the first Saturday, our Wildlife Walk naturalists help adults and children discover the wonder and excitement of Orange County wildlife. Naturalists Jean Drum, Margaret Renton, Mel Sanchez, Rich Schilk and David Weber escort the public through the Butterfly Garden and along the easy trails around the freshwater ponds of the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. We never know what we will encounter, but guaranteed it is always something interesting!

Along the way, we discover bullfrogs in bulrush, dragonflies darting along the trails, and fence lizards doing energetic push-ups (a territorial display). In the shallow ponds, mallards stretch their necks to strain algae and invertebrates from the water while long-legged shorebirds probe the water and mud for a tasty meal. At the deep ponds, everyone cheers when terns splash dive into the water and successfully capture a fish. We watch White Pelicans fly over in formation and Black Skimmers slice their bills through the water in hopes of catching a fish.

The wetland is full of native plants with interesting adaptations. We notice leaf shapes, smell the aroma of different sages, and listen to the sound of cottonwood leaves as they quiver in the breeze. We always search bladderpod plants for hidden harlequin bugs. Sharp eyes spot galls on willows and cottonwoods as the naturalists explain this fascinating plant-insect relationship.

We remind visitors about the important themes of migration patterns, breeding requirements, and adaptations to dry and wetter habitats. Each adult and child learns that we share this planet with wonderful wildlife and we are all important! We invite you to come explore the wetlands with us on the first Saturday of the month at 9 AM. You’ll enjoy this “wild” experience!
Directions and Membership

Directions to Audubon House, our Chapter Meetings, and the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary, Audubon Membership Form, Tattler subscriptions & delivery, Remember Us in Your Will or Trust, and Who to Notify if you are going to be temporarily away from home or are moving.

Tattler Subscriptions
Non-Audubon members or members from other Audubon chapters who wish to subscribe to our chapter newsletter, may do so for $14.00 per year. Make check payable to “Sea & Sage Audubon” and mail to: Tattler Subscriptions, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612

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

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

Directions to Audubon House, our Chapter Meetings & the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary

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

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

Your Membership Payment
If you are signing up as a new Audubon member, be sure and use the membership form below that has the code C5ZC150Z in the lower right hand corner. This tells National Audubon who to credit for your recruitment. Sea & Sage gets 100% of a new member’s dues, even if you sign up for more than one year. If you are feeling generous at renewal time and you want Sea & Sage to benefit, you should send your renewal fee to National Audubon and a separate check to Sea & Sage for your donation to the chapter. If you have any questions, please contact Membership Chair, Jim Kissinger, at sea.sage.membership@gmail.com

Temporarily Away or Moving?
Please notify Membership, Chuck George, cgeorge@george-sd.com of your new address if you are temporarily, or permanently, moving from your current address. Let him know if you do not want to continue to receive the Tattler at your new address. This will save us postage.

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

To join: Complete the form below & mail it along with your payment to: National Audubon Society Inc, 225 Varick St 7th Floor, New York NY 10014, Attn: Chance Mueleck
Make your check payable to: NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY. Please pay by check only; do not send cash.
Or, go online to: http://www.audubon.org/membership (Be sure to include our chapter code on your membership form.)

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

Name ____________________________________________________________
Address __________________________________________________________
City, State, Zip ____________________________________________________
Phone ____________________________________________________________
E-mail ____________________________________________________________

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C5ZC150Z
chapter code

Wandering Tattler
Come to our Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, Oct. 31 at 7:30-10:30 am.

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

STAFF
Marsh Education Project Director Trude Hurd........................................ 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.wwccc.org/
Call Songbird Care & Education Center for injured or sick native songbirds. 714-964-0666.  www.songbirdcareandeducation.org

SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

OCTOBER 2015
03 Sat Wildlife Walk at the SJWS ................................. 9:00 am
06 Tues Conservation Committee Meeting............... 6:30 pm
07 Wed Caspers Wilderness Park bird walk ................................. 8:00 am
7-8 Wed/Th Birds of Southern CA Workshops begin.........................
11 Sun San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary bird walk ................................. 8:00 am
13 Tues Board Meeting .................................................................................. 7:30 pm
15 Fri GENERAL MEETING ........................................ 7:30 pm
17 Sat Snowy Plover field trip, Balboa Peninsula ...8:00 am
18 Sun Canyon Park & Talbert Marsh bird walk ........... 7:30 am
21 Wed UNB by pontoon boat ® (FULL)................................. 8:15 am
23 Fri Dragonflies & Butterflies walk at the SJWS 10:00 am
25 Sun Upper Newport Bay bird walk ................................. 8:00 am
27 Tues 4th Tuesday Conservation Lecture................. 7:30 pm
31 Sat PANCAKE BREAKFAST ........................................ 7:30 am

NOVEMBER 2015
03 Tues Conservation Committee Meeting.................. 6:30 pm
04 Wed Dana Point Headlands & Harbor bird walk ...8:00 am
07 Sat Wildlife Walk at the SJWS ................................. 9:00 am
08 Sun San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary bird walk ......... 8:00 am
10 Tues Board Meeting ........................................ 7:30 pm
13-15 Fr-Su Morro Bay weekend trip ® ................................. 3:30 pm Fri
15 Sun Carbon Canyon Regional Park bird walk ............ 7:30 am
18 Wed UNB by pontoon boat ® (FULL)................................. 8:15 am
19 Thurs Bolsa Chica bird walk ........................................ 8:00 am
20 Fri GENERAL MEETING ........................................ 7:30 pm
24 Tues 4th Tuesday Conservation Lecture................. 7:30 pm
29 Sun Upper Newport Bay bird walk ................................. 8:00 am