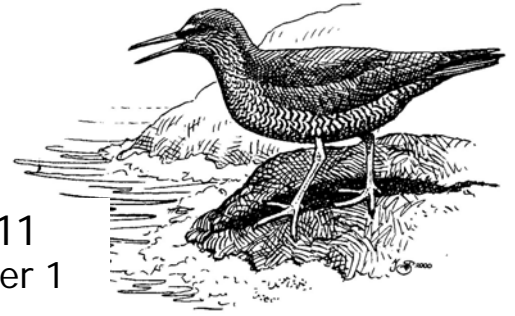


Wandering Tattler

September 2011
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The Voice of SEA AND SAGE AUDUBON, an Orange County Chapter of the National Audubon Society

President's Message

by Bruce Aird

If you spend much time at Audubon House, you'll hear about the amazing youth programs at Sea and Sage Audubon. The education program annually brings in a couple thousand students for hands-on experience with pond critters, birds, microscopes and binoculars, and is always a highlight of the year for students and teachers. Our Junior Naturalist program offers a great way for kids 13 and up to meet with their peers, engage in fun activities and share a love of nature while learning more. For 18 years, Sea and Sage has offered week-long summer day camps at the marsh. This year, with more sessions and more variety than ever, was one of the most successful of all with every section filled to capacity or more.

Both my kids are now in college, but both went through the summer camps, and my oldest went on to be in the inaugural class of Junior Naturalists as well. In those days, the choices were just Marsh Camp and the pilot of Advanced Camp. I remember the projects and artwork they brought home (we still have a lot of it!), and how during those weeks, the discussion at dinner time was a daily recap of adventure and discovery.

This summer, there were six sections: two Marsh Camps, a Fledgling Camp for little ones, a new one called Coastal Bird Camp and two Advanced Camps. The activities are more imaginative and elaborate each year as new adventures are added to old favorites. Some camp sessions end with an overnight in the Duck Club; others feature offsite field trips to interesting locations or museums. Each section holds 20-24 children and is managed by a corps of teenage and adult helpers. Running an enterprise of this size requires a large cadre of dedicated and trained volunteers. Volunteering in a program like this brings joy in two forms that remain remarkably consistent through the years: you are brought into contact with a group of bright, nature-loving kids, and you work shoulder-to-shoulder with a host of extraordinary people. So if you are looking for something for your kids to do next summer, or you want an activity that will engage and delight you in ways you could never predict, consider being a part of summer camp at Sea and Sage Audubon.

General Meeting

September 16th - Friday evening - 7:30 pm

"Hummingbirds: Magic in the Air"



Hummingbirds are extraordinary; these smallest warm-blooded creatures on earth are also one of the fastest. Their wings beat as fast as 200 times per second and they can hover, fly backwards, forwards, and upside down. Using high-speed cameras able to capture over 500 frames per second, some hummingbird questions are now being answered: How aggressive are hummers? What makes the Anna's Hummingbird's loud whistle? How does a hummer capture insects - with bill-tip, tongue, other? Is a hummingbird agile enough to follow a rapidly rotating nectar source while hovering? Did their bills evolve as their host flowers did, as Charles Darwin had predicted?

These amazing birds will be shown in a 50 minute award-winning video directed and produced by Ann Crum and narrated by F. Murray Abraham. Nature lovers of all ages will enjoy this outstanding film. Our three local hummers, as well as several South American beauties, are among the featured hummingbirds. Feeding, feuding, displaying, diving, these hummingbirds are captured in all of their dazzling feats.

This special Hummingbird program will be shown at the Duck Club, at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary 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.

Remember that you must access Riparian View from Campus Drive, not from Michelson, and bring a flashlight to light your way to and from the parking lot. (See page 11 for directions.)

Pat and Dick Cabe, Program Co-Chairs

Conservation News

by Scott Thomas



Our Conservation Committee Meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday evening of each month at 6:30 pm in the Learning Center. Check our webpage for the meeting's agenda the week before the meeting: www.seaandsageaudubon.org/Conservation/conservation.htm

In August, Sea and Sage joined forces with the Center for Biological Diversity and Friends of Coyote Hills to help save West Coyote Hills. We have been working for many years to seek a solution to the unacceptable development plans that threaten the small remnant of Coastal Sage Scrub open space in Fullerton.

Below is a press release which was developed by the groups involved in the legal action.

August 12, 2011 PRESS RELEASE

Lawsuit Launched to Protect Prime Open Space Project Would Harm Gnatcatchers, Coastal Sage Scrub

The Center for Biological Diversity, Friends of Coyote Hills, and the Sea and Sage Audubon Society today filed a lawsuit aimed at protecting one of the finest remaining open space areas in north Orange County. The 510-acre site in the City of Fullerton is threatened by the West Coyote Hills development, which was approved by the City in July.

The site of the proposed project is the largest unprotected open space remaining in Fullerton, and contains one of the largest populations of coastal California gnatcatchers, a threatened bird species that depends on coastal sage scrub habitat that is vanishing from the region. The 760-home project would destroy gnatcatcher habitat on the site and fragment the remainder.

“The project would eliminate nearly a quarter of the gnatcatchers on the site,” said John Buse, a senior attorney with the Center for Biological Diversity. “But that’s just the direct effect of habitat destruction – the remaining gnatcatchers would have to subsist in the scattered pockets of coastal sage scrub left by the development, and that seems unlikely.”

In 2010, the Fullerton City Council voted to reject the West Coyote Hills project after a long and contentious review process. The project’s developer, a Chevron subsidiary, subsequently sued the City, and the City settled this lawsuit by agreeing to reconsider the project. The City did so in July, when it reversed its previous decision without explanation.

“It takes time to preserve a treasure – and that’s just what Coyote Hills is poised to become – an educational and recreational asset to the million residents in this densely developed, park poor region,” said Diane Bonanno of Friends of Coyote Hills, the group that has worked to preserve the site for a decade. “We have also launched a referendum campaign to overturn the city council’s decision to turn the site into another large development complex. Volunteer signature gatherers are active throughout the city.”

The lawsuit, filed in Orange County Superior Court, challenges the City’s failure to disclose and eliminate the project’s effects on gnatcatchers, other rare species, global warming, water pollution, and other environmental impacts.

“The City has failed to recognize how devastating the impacts of this project would be,” said Scott Thomas with the Sea and Sage Audubon Society. “The severely fragmented open space, carved out by the plan, could not adequately meet the needs of gnatcatchers or other sensitive species, nor would it meet the open space needs of the citizens of the area.”

The groups are represented by Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger of San Francisco.





Sea & Sage Audubon Society
Birds of Southern California
 An Introductory Birding Skills Workshop
presented by Sylvia Gallagher



Sea & Sage Audubon Society is again offering weekly workshops in bird identification for beginning birders. If you have been birding casually for a while, you should also consider enrolling. Professional biologists whose expertise is not in ornithology find these workshops helpful, too. Each session will feature about 15 common birds of a particular local habitat on the coastal side of the mountains. With the use of printed worksheets and slides from the Sea & Sage Library, Sylvia Gallagher will help you learn to identify those birds. In the process, you'll also be introduced to a variety of other topics, such as bird families, plumages and molts, bird topography, distribution and habitat preferences, behavior, vocalizations, the birding literature, birding ethics and etiquette, etc.

The topics to be covered in the series are:

- Birds of neighborhoods
- Birds of playing fields and parking lots
- Birds of mudflats and shallow water
- Birds of the ocean shore
- Birds of the open country
- Birds of prey
- Birds of the streamside woodland
- Birds of lakes, ponds and marshes



Each section will have ten weekly meetings at the Gallagher home in Huntington Beach. Four half-day field trips will be scheduled on Saturdays (Oct. 22, Nov. 5 and 19, Dec. 10— times to be announced). The dates and times for the workshop sessions are listed below.

Wed. evenings: 7:00 to 10:00 p.m., (Oct. 5 - Dec. 14, except Nov. 23)

Thurs. mornings: 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon, (Oct. 6 - Dec. 15, except Nov. 24)

Thurs. evenings: 7:00 to 10:00 p.m., (Oct. 6 - Dec. 15, except Nov. 24)

The maximum enrollment for each section is 22. If any section does not have at least 12 people enrolled by Sept. 27, it will be cancelled. Reserve early though, because some sections may fill completely. A donation of \$80.00 (or more) per person is requested, if you can afford it. Bring your money to the first session.

The required book for the workshop is *Birds of North America* by Kenn Kaufman (Houghton Mifflin Co., any edition). Recommended, but not required, is *Birds of the Los Angeles Region* by Garrett, Dunn, & Moore. Both books are available at Audubon House, or you can buy them at the first meeting. You will also need to bring binoculars to meetings no later than the third session—preferably sooner.

Send your reservation for this workshop, **postmarked no earlier than Sept. 6th**, (2-day penalty for early reservations), to: Introductory Workshop, c/o Sylvia Gallagher, 21562 Kaneohe Ln, Huntington Beach CA 92646. Placement in sections will be based on postmark date. Enclose a long (4"x 9.5") self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE). Confirmations will be mailed Sept. 28, including preliminary information and a map to the meeting place. For further information, call Sylvia at (714) 962-8990 after Sept 25.

Enrollment Form for Introductory Birding Skills Workshops (Fall 2011)

Names of all participants _____

Address(es) _____

City & Zip Code _____

Phone(s) _____ E-mail _____

Check or rank your choice of section:

WED. pm ___ THURS. am ___ THURS. pm ___ SASE enclosed? ___

Do you plan to buy a book at the first meeting? ___ If more than one, how many? ___



Chapter News & Announcements

For more information about Sea & Sage activities, check our Calendar of Chapter Activities on our chapter website (www.seaandsageaudubon.org). It lists the dates of Meetings, Field Trips, Special Events such as the Annual Dinner, Summer BBQ, Pancake Breakfast, Summer Nature Day Camp, Summer Bat Walks, Christmas Bird Counts, Great Backyard Bird Count, Birdathon, etc.



Audubon House Volunteers

We would like to thank the following people for helping to staff Audubon House in June, July, August, & September: Sonia Appell, Pat & Dick Cabe, Deanna Collins, Carolyn Cooper, Joanne Cull, Jeanette DiAnda, Tom Drouet, Fresia Escalona, Frank Feller, Judy Fritts, Beverly Hargrove, Lynne Hayes, Pat Heilig, Cindi Herrera, Sarah Jayne, Steve Jelnick, Lois Jones, Nancy Kenyon, Loretta Kyle, Mary Martineau, Joan McCauley, Bobbie Miller, Eunice Morita, Shirley Price, Betty Purdy, Roberta Ray, Barbara Reber, John Shaddy, Susan Sheakley, Bev Spring, Betty Swift and Beryl Vogel.

Audubon House is open daily from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Our Volunteers greet visitors, answer the phone, sell merchandise, answer questions about birds, check out binoculars, etc. If you are interested in helping at Audubon House, please call Judy Fritts at 949-551-4513.

News from our Bookstore

Our bookstore inside Audubon House is open daily from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. It is also open 45 minutes before our General Meetings. New arrivals include: Kaufman's *Advanced Birding*; *Hawks at a Distance*; *Avian Architecture*; *Passion for Nature: John Muir*. Books about bats; roadside CA (geology, history); Bristle Cone forests; children's books (birds, bats, butterflies). Other items: Sibley t-shirts (hawks, warblers), Backyard Barn Owls DVD; Peterson Bird note cards (new designs); bird sanctuary crosswalk signs; songbird sticky notes; variety of window decals; gift tags. Arriving soon: *The Big Year* (tie-in-edition to the upcoming movie with Steve Martin); 2011 calendars (birds; nature; etc., including a hummingbird calendar) We now accept credit cards (Visa & Mastercard) with a \$10 minimum purchase.

We Need Your Used Books

Attention members! Here is an easy way to support your chapter! Start your fall cleaning now! Clear out your bookshelves and take down any unused cookbooks and books on birds and other animals, plants, natural history, travel and gardening to donate to Sea and Sage Audubon for our Annual Pancake Breakfast Used Books Sale. Proceeds from this sale will benefit our education & conservation projects. All donations will be greatly appreciated! Deliver them to Audubon House by 10:30 AM, Monday, October 24.



New Membership Chair Needed

We are seeking a new Membership Chair to replace Phil Brobst, who will be moving out of state sometime in the near future. The position entails updating our membership database in accordance with the monthly National Audubon (NAS) change report, advising NAS of memberships requiring correction, forwarding to NAS those membership applications/renewals that are mailed directly to Sea & Sage, and maintaining liaison with NAS regarding general membership questions and suggestions. The time commitment is approximately 10 hours/month, with emphasis just after the first of each month prior to the Tattler going to press. Phil will be available, for the near future, to train the new Chair(s). We sincerely hope to fill this board position as soon as possible.



Susan Sheakley

A Great Place to Spend 4 Hours!

If you are looking for an interesting way to spend 4 hours, we have just the thing for you — become an Audubon House Volunteer! Our chapter office is often a busy place and we could use a few more people to help us out by signing up for a 4-hour shift in the morning from 8-12 or the afternoon from 12-4. Volunteers greet visitors, answer the phone, talk with people about birds, check out binoculars for loan, sell merchandise, etc. Our Volunteer Committee will provide you with a short training session so that you will learn how to handle different situations. At this time of year, some of our regular AH volunteers will be away on vacation, so we need additional help, especially on weekends. Please call Judy Fritts (949-551-4513) if you can help us out, or leave your name at Audubon House with the volunteer on duty. It's a great place to spend 4 hours AND it's one of the ways you can really help your chapter.

Chapter News & Announcements

For more information about Sea & Sage activities, check our Calendar of Chapter Activities on our chapter website (www.seaandsageaudubon.org). It lists the dates of meetings, field trips, special events such as the Annual Dinner, Summer BBQ, Pancake Breakfast, Summer Nature Day Camp, Summer Bat Walks, Christmas Bird Counts, Great Backyard Bird Count, Birdathon, field trips, etc.



Were You at our Summer Barbecue?

We had a sellout crowd of 214 people at our Summer BBQ this year and our efficient parking volunteers (Vic, Evalie, Marilyn) were just barely able to fit every single car in. The weather was perfect for being outdoors and the fog did not come in until long after the event was over. Susan and Jan and their team did a thriving business selling used nature books. Jay Miller took care of a number of tasks throughout the afternoon and evening. Steve & his wife Annie kept everyone supplied with freshly grilled hot dogs. Gretchen McCausland's new bean recipe was an outstanding success and she's willing to share it with anyone interested; contact Nancy if you want a copy. Mary, after partitioning off the parking lots with cones & caution tape & marking the reserved parking spaces, somehow managed to keep up her non-stop pace by taking care of a number of tasks between the serving tables & the kitchen all evening long. Hal and his helpers kept everyone supplied with ice tea, lemonade and soft drinks. Maryette and Cindi with her family helpers made record-breaking time cutting up and serving the cake. Neil and Teresa found some interesting birds to show people on the walks they led after dinner. All of us really enjoyed Paul Bannick's program on "The Owl and the Woodpecker." After the program, Tom & friends shared their knowledge of astronomy with a guided tour of the night sky, and Lynne and Gretchen & helpers led Bat Walks into the marsh where everyone got to see bats as they swooped over the ponds catching insects. It was a memorable evening!

None of these activities would have been possible without the help of our wonderful volunteers who pitched in and helped out in all sorts of ways: BBQ Coordinator: Jay Miller; Book Sales: Susan Sheakley, Jan Gaffney, Diana Coad, Merri Levy, Linda Davis, Tim Stephens, Sarah Jayne, Shirley Price, Lori & Jerry Donohue; Hostesses: Deana Collins & Helen Nicholas; Parking: Vic Leipzig, Evalie Dumars & Marilyn; Program: Pat & Dick Cabe who chose the program & contacted the speaker & Dick who set up all the AV equipment; Food Prep: Gretchen McCausland (Food Coordinator), Pat Cabe, Beverly Hargrove, Carol & Tom Getz; BBQ duty: Steve & Annie Jelnick; Cake Servers: Maryette Beers, Cindi Herrera & some of her family; Food Servers: Carolyn & Charlie Noble, Nancy Ryder, Peggy & Mike McGlone, Barbara Dixon, Renata Collins, Shiz Morita, Marquita Miller (took care of the veggie wraps), Mary Joseph (Food Serving Coord); Kitchen-Dining Area Cleanup: Barbara Dixon, Ann Harmer, Mary Ann & Joe Hazelett, Ralph & Beryl Vogel; Outdoor Area Cleanup: Jay Miller, Matthew Bartush, Star Howard;

Drinks Table: Hal Sheakley, Amber Oneal, Danny Deredia; Bird Walk Leaders: Neil Gilbert & Teresa Cullen and Helpers Monica Stupaczuk & Emma Lyall; Bat Walk Leaders: Lynne Hayes & Gretchen Mavrovouniotis and Helpers: Beverly & Elijah Lyall, Evalie Dumars, Bettina Eastman, Taylor Gee, Helen Nicholas; Meal Ticket Collectors: Lynne Hayes & Eunice Morita; Welcome Table: Nancy Kenyon (Volunteer Coord.), Sally Menzel & Joan McCauley; Audubon House Volunteers: Bobbie Miller & Judy Fritts; Tables, Chairs, & Projection Screen: Cat Waters made all the advance arrangements for their rental, delivery & pickup; Astronomers: Tom Drouet & friends. A lot of people helped out with cleanup & probably pitched in to help in other ways also, but I don't know who they are. *Please forgive me if I left out anyone; it was not intentional!*

-Nancy Kenyon

Update on Chapter Library

Librarian, Sarah Jayne, and the Library Committee are working to update our nature library and make its books more accessible to you. The books are being reviewed and new selections are being made. Using the library software and bar code scanner purchased from funds donated for the purpose, Sarah is in the process of creating the catalog.

To meet the challenges of our limited and multi-use space, we have arranged – *and rearranged* - the library to make it usable. We hope the new shelf labels are welcoming and also make it easy for you to locate specific books.

We currently are in need of books that will help visitors identify what they have seen in the marsh. **We are seeking donations of – or for - the books below.** These books will coordinate with the upcoming "*Checklist of Animals of San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary*" being prepared by Education Project Director, Trude Hurd.

Insects of the Los Angeles Basin by Charles L. Hogue

Field Guide to Amphibians and Reptiles of the San Diego Region by Jeffrey M. Lemm

Mammals of North America by Roland W. Kays and Don E. Wilson

Butterflies through Binoculars, The West by Jeffrey Glassberg

Kaufman Field Guide to Butterflies of North America by Jim P. Brock and Kenn Kaufman

-Susan Sheakley

Fall Field Trips



For trip updates & additional trip information, check our chapter website at: www.seaandsageaudubon.org . Trips marked with an (R) require advance reservations. Questions about field trips? Contact Field Trip chair, Nancy Kenyon, at 949-786-3160 or by email at: nancykenyon@cox.net . Many trips fill up quickly, so don't wait until the last minute to sign up for them!

Monthly Bird Walk at Santiago Oaks

1st Sunday - Sept. 4th and Oct. 2nd - 7:30 am

Join Linette Lina for a monthly bird walk at Santiago Oaks Regional Park at 7:30 am. The mix of oak riparian and coastal sage scrub habitats make Santiago Oaks one of the best places in Orange County to find a variety of songbirds. **Directions:** Take the 55 freeway to Katella Ave in Orange. Exit and drive east on Katella 3.2 miles to Windes Dr. Turn left on Windes Dr. and follow the signs to the park. Be prepared to pay the \$5 entrance fee if you don't have a county parks pass. Bring binoculars, meet in the upper end of the parking lot.

Leader: Linette Lina

Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS

2nd Sunday - Sept. 11th and Oct. 9th - 8:00 am

Join Chris Obaditch for a monthly bird walk around the ponds of the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine at 8:00 am. The shorebirds and ducks are returning, so there will be many more birds to see this month. (See directions on page 11.) The walk, which is open to interested birders of all ages, will meet by the front door of Audubon House. Children under the age of 11 must be accompanied by an adult.

Leader: Chris Obaditch

O'Neill Reg. Park Semi-Monthly Bird Walks

1st Tues - Sept. 6th and Oct. 4th - 8:00 am

3rd Tues - Sept. 20th and Oct. 18th - 8:00 am

Join Mike Clayton, Naturalist, on a bird walk and learn about Trabuco Canyon birds and their habitat. The walk may cover two distinct habitats within the park: oak woodland and coastal sage scrub. The oak woodland area includes the campground, a grassy area, and streamside habitats. Possible birds: hawks, Band-tailed Pigeons, 4 sp. of woodpecker, Western Bluebird, Mt. Chickadee, & when in season, Phainopepla & Purple Finch. The Coastal Sage Scrub walk is on a gradual uphill road to the abandoned water tanks. Possible birds: CA Quail, White-throated Swift, Northern Harrier, Cactus Wren, Wrentit, & CA Thrasher. All levels of birders are welcome.

Directions: From the 405 or 5 Fwy, exit on El Toro Rd & head inland toward the mountains. Turn right on Live Oak Canyon Rd. & follow it to O'Neill Park. After entering the park, take 1st right to parking lot. We will meet in the Nature Center which is on the left side of the parking lot. Be prepared to pay the entrance fee (\$3 on weekdays; \$5 on weekends) if you don't have a county parks pass.

Leader: Mike Clayton

Upper Newport Bay by pontoon boat ®

3rd Wed - Sept. 21st and Oct. 19th - 8:15 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 hours. Trip limited to 15 persons and there is a \$10 trip fee payable in cash on the morning of the outing. Directions will be provided to those with reservations.

Nancy Kenyon, 949-786-3160; nancykenyon@cox.net

Upper Newport Bay Monthly Bird Walk

Last Sunday - Sept. 25th and Oct. 30th - 8:00 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. Birding will start from a good vantage point at the edge of the parking lot where we will watch for Black Skimmers and terns flying over the water as well as herons & egrets stalking their prey in the shallows. The group will move on to check out other areas along Back Bay Drive. Bring binoculars, a field guide, and a scope if you have one. The length of the bird walk will depend on the tide and the number of birds to be seen.

Directions: The meeting place for this walk is 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 and follow it to the Big Canyon parking lot on your left.

Leader: Mark Kincheloe

Fall Pelagic Trip out of Dana Point ®

Sat., Sept. 24th – this trip is now full.

This trip was listed in the June Tattler and posted on our chapter webpage; it filled in mid-August. Our next pelagic trip will be Saturday, January 14th. See our chapter webpage for trip information.

Annual Field Trip Schedule

The Annual Field Trip Schedule will be posted in the October Tattler. Check our chapter webpage for a list of all field trips which have been scheduled so far for the coming year. Any trip which requires advance reservations and is marked with a ® may be signed up for right away.

Fall Field Trips



For trip updates & additional trip information, check our chapter website at: www.seaandsageaudubon.org . Trips marked with an (R) require advance reservations. Questions about field trips? Contact Field Trip chair, Nancy Kenyon, at 949-786-3160 or by email at: nancykenyon@cox.net . Many trips fill up quickly, so don't wait until the last minute to sign up for them!

Bolsa Chica

Friday - Sept. 30th - 8:00 am

Join Pat and Dick Cable for a great morning of birding at the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve. This is one of the best wetland areas here in Southern California to watch grebes, loons, pelicans, shorebirds of all sizes, gulls and terns, waterfowl, egrets and herons, foraging raptors, etc. We will meet in the parking lot of the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve at 8:00 am.

Bring: binoculars and a scope if you have one. Dress in layers. It can sometimes be quite cool and breezy here in the morning.

Directions: The parking lot for Bolsa Chica is on the inland side of Pacific Coast Highway at the only signal between Seapoint Ave. and Warner in Huntington Beach.

Leaders: Pat & Dick Cable

Morro Bay Trip & Digiscoping Workshop

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Morro Bay Trip ®

Fri - Sun, November 11-13 (2:45 PM Friday)

Come join us in Morro Bay, winter home to thousands and thousands of shorebirds, many species of raptors and passerines. We have planned a wonderful weekend of birding and exploration. Beginning on Friday afternoon Nov. 11, we will have a chance to take a leisurely harbor cruise to see some of the water birds up close and learn a little bit about the area. That evening you may wish to dine at one of the many dockside restaurants in the town. The next two mornings we will meet early in order to have plenty of time to bird the local hot spots. We will be looking for shorebirds, do a little sea watching and bird some of the very bird rich riparian and woodland locations nearby. After lunch on Saturday and Sunday you will be free to do a little exploring on your own. Perhaps you may wish to revisit some of the places we went as a group, maybe consult the San Luis Obispo County Birding Guide, compiled by Morro Coast Audubon (available online only: <http://www.morrocoastaudubon.org/birdguide.htm>), or just spend a leisurely afternoon walking along the beach to enjoy the beauty of the area. **Advance reservations are needed;** trip is limited to 15 persons. Trip fee: \$25 + \$15 for the Fri. harbor cruise. Make check payable to Sea & Sage Audubon & mail to: Morro Bay FT, c/o Nancy Kenyon, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612. Remember to include your email address OR a self-addressed long envelope for reservation confirmation and additional trip information. (Priority will be given to people who did not go on last year's trip — until Sept. 30. After that date if there are still openings, anyone can sign up to go.)

Leader: Kaaren Perry

*Reservations: Nancy Kenyon (949) 786-3160;
nancykenyon@cox.net*



Workshop on Digiscoping and Superzoom Cameras

Are the birds too far away for you to get decent photos? Prominent bird photographer, Stephen Ingraham, will present a workshop on two of the hottest new techniques for getting great shots at long distances.



Stephen is an optics expert with Zeiss Sports Optics and will explain simple ways to connect digital cameras with birding telescopes. Participants will receive the official Zeiss digiscoping handbook and an instructional video about the equipment.

This workshop will take place at San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in the Learning Center (gray building) on Saturday, October 22, from 8:00 to 11:00 am. The first hour of the program will be indoors. Then the group will move out to the marsh for hands-on work with Stephen's equipment and any that you bring.

Class space is limited and by reservations only. Send \$15 fee (make checks payable to "Sea & Sage Audubon") to Victor Leipzig, 17461 Skyline Lane, Huntington Beach CA 92647. Participants should bring a thumb drive or memory stick with which to receive instructional video and to take home their photos from the field session. Questions? Contact Vic at (714) 848-5394 or at viceipzig@aol.com. The event is co-sponsored by Zeiss Sports Optics and Optics4Birding, a local optics retailer in Irvine. See their website: <http://www.optics4birding.com>

Information about Stephen Ingraham

Stephen Ingraham is the Birding and Observation Product Specialist for Carl Zeiss Sports Optics. He is involved in product design, marketing, and administration at ZEISS, and travels to 20 birding and nature festivals each year, where he leads field trips and presents workshops on a variety of birding related topics. Before ZEISS he published *Better View Desired*, both in print and on the Web for many years, as well as serving as the *Tools of the Trade* editor for *Birding Magazine* and the American Birding Association. He has been a birder for about 25 years, and a digiscoper for 10. For more of what Steve is up to, you can visit the Carl Zeiss Birding_US blog either on facebook or at (www.zeissbirdingus.wordpress.com).

More Chapter News & Announcements

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Coastal Cleanup - Sat, Sept. 17th

where: sites all over Orange County

when: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

bring: your own reusable water bottle, (Water will be provided at each station but there will be no cups available.)

SIGN UP TO CLEAN UP; **online registration**

<http://www.ocparks.com/adoptapark/default.asp?Show=CaliforniaCoastalCleanUpDay>

It's More Than Just Pancakes!



On Saturday morning, Oct. 29th, Sea & Sage will be hosting our Annual Pancake Breakfast at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine. Breakfast of hot-off-the-griddle pancakes, sausages, fresh 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, chat with the people from Wild Birds Unlimited about bird feeding techniques, and check out the latest birding optics on the Duck Club back porch with Optics4Birding staff.

The price of the Pancake Breakfast is \$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 buy and prepare. To make your reservations, call Audubon House at 949-261-7963. We will need your name, phone number, & number of people in your party. Hope to see you there!

Our Children's Book Festival Exhibit

The Children's Book Festival will be held Sunday, Oct. 2, at Orange Coast College and is open to the public from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. This event has a big lively fair atmosphere with lots of booths, stage events, music, food, activities, and most of all, children's books and authors. Last year, an estimated 22,000 people attended it. It is a great outreach opportunity, but to make the most of it, we need more volunteers! Shifts: 9am-11am, 11am-1pm, 1pm-3pm, and 3pm-5pm. The more the merrier! Come early for your shift or stay after and enjoy the fun. Please contact Helen Nicholas at 949-726-0858 if you'd like to help out.

Upcoming Birding Festivals

Monterey Bay Birding Festival Thurs - Sun, September 22-25, 2011 in Watsonville, CA

Designed for birders of all levels, as well as outdoor lovers, the festival offers a unique opportunity to explore, learn and appreciate world-class habitats such as the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, and Pinnacles National Monument. You'll be able to go on field trips to the mountains, shoreline, chaparral, sloughs and grasslands. Registration is now open for this birding festival.

<http://www.montereybaybirding.org>

Central Valley Birding Symposium Thurs - Sun, November 17-20, 2011 in Stockton, CA.

Keynote speakers: Ed Harper & John Sterling on "Appreciating the Birds of the Central Valley," Ron LeValley on "The Writings of William Leon Dawson - a California Bird Pioneer," and Jeff Gordon on "Ten Birds that Changed Birding." The festival also includes lots of great field trips, a Bird ID Panel, Birders' Market, and the camaraderie of hundreds of like-minded folks. Come and join us to bird, learn, and just have fun! Registration opened August 1st.

<http://cvbs.org>

Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival Fri - Mon, January 13-16, 2012 in Morro Bay, CA

The Festival will feature over 100 individual events, including pelagic trips, boat rides and kayaking in the Bay, van trips throughout the county, as well as many informative workshops. All-day and half-day tours take participants to a wide variety of habitats, including deep water pelagic, oak woodland and riparian, wetland and estuary, and the unique grassland habitat of the Carrizo Plain. Workshops will cover a vast array of topics ranging from beginner birding classes to gull identification. A variety of vendors will be present with nature-related artwork, books, field equipment and attire, and local merchant wares. A number of the events are geared toward birders who are also photographers. Registration opens Oct. 1. <http://www.morrobaybirdfestival.org/>

Orange County Rarities

by Doug Willick

If you are not a member of OrangeCountyBirding, we suggest you subscribe to get info online about birds & birding in the county. To subscribe: OrangeCountyBirding-subscribe@yahoo.com



Semipalmated Sandpiper
photo by Robert McNab

Due to the number of reports that have been made since the last Rarities column (the June edition of the Tattler, three months ago), this recap will be limited to the more significant of these reports. Also, due to space limitations, we will primarily just cover the late spring to mid-summer period this time, and then hopefully catch up in next month's column. So without further adieu, we'll start right off with the highlight of summer, at least so far. An "alternate-plumaged" **Lesser Sand-Plover** made for an exciting discovery on the flats at the far south end of Bolsa Chica (BC), June 25 (Brian Daniels). A first for the county, and one of few in the state, the bird entertained many birders (from near and far) during the eight days it was known to be present. Several other birds of note were at BC in recent months. These included a female scaup seen sporadically between May 30 and July 16 (Sandy Koonce, B. Daniels, et al.), which appeared to show characteristics of **Greater Scaup** (not unprecedented, but certainly exceptional at this time of year). **Reddish Egret** records continue to increase in the county, especially at BC. A single bird was reported regularly during late spring, but reports of multiple birds began coming in after mid June (Vic Leipzig, Steve Morris, et al.). An adult **Laughing Gull**, a species usually seen only once every few years in the county, made a brief appearance at BC, June 13 (Bjorn Kjellemyr). An adult **Sooty Tern** found at BC in late April (a bird presumably back for its third consecutive summer here), became uncooperative and was observed only a few times during May and June. **Bank Swallows** at the south end of BC (seen from Harriett Weider Regional Park) included one on May 8 (Tom Benson) and two here, May 21 (B. Daniels).

There were a number of avian highlights from other parts of the county as well. A pair of **Golden Eagles** were seen in Trabuco Canyon, near the edge of the Cleveland National Forest, May 20 (Brad Dawson, et al.). On May 22-28, a pair of **Gull-billed Terns** appeared to be attending an active nest at San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary (B. Daniels); the nest site was abandoned after the 28th. This species breeds as close as southern San Diego County, but has never previously been recorded breeding in Orange County (OC). A good variety of pelagic species was observed during May and June from coastal vantage spots (e.g., Newport Pier and Dana Point) and from a few local whale watching trips. Some of the highlights included exceptional counts of **Sooty Shearwaters**, a **Least Storm-Petrel**, May 27 (Jim Pike), two adult **Pigeon Guillemots**, June 22 (Istvan Katona; from the Newport Pier), two **Xantus's Murrelets**, June 4 (Neil Gilbert; also from Newport Pier), and several reports of **Common Murres**. A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** seen briefly at O'Neill Regional Park, July 3

(Gary Meredith), was most exceptional. There were a number of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** sightings from around southern California this summer, which was remarkable considering how few now breed in the state. A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was reported from upper Silverado Canyon, June 21 (Jan Wilson); small numbers of this species are known to breed in the Santa Ana Mountains.

During May, there were several spring migrants of note at the Starr Ranch Audubon Sanctuary. These included a **Gray Flycatcher**, May 3; a **Northern Waterthrush** (netted and banded during a MAPS banding program), May 6 (both per Ed Conrad); and an early male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, May 8 (Eric and Ann Brooks). Other rare migrants in the county during this past spring included a few at Huntington Central Park (HCP): a male **Purple Martin**, May 21 (B. Daniels), a singing male **Hooded Warbler**, May 8 (Leo Ohtsuki), and a male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, June 2 (Steve Morris). Normally a **Yellow-rumped Warbler** would not generate much interest in SoCal, but one at Mason Regional Park (MRP) on June 20 (Jim Roe), was unprecedented, being the latest for OC by at least two weeks. A female type **Summer Tanager** was in Fullerton, June 8 (J. Pike). A female **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at MRP, May 5 (Robert McNab), was quite early for California, at least for a spring migrant. An **Indigo Bunting** was in Gum Grove Park (Seal Beach), also on May 5 (Michael Klotz). A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** at California State University's Fullerton Arboretum, May 15 (Steve Kaye), was a nice find for this location.

Exceptional was the discovery of a male **Vermilion Flycatcher** on the grounds of the former MCAS Tustin Air Base, during May (Bob Scrimger), followed by two juveniles here on May 31 (N. Gilbert). Other exceptional records of unexpected breeding/summering species for OC included a **Wilson's Warbler** at San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary, June 19-July 1 (B. Daniels); several (as many as four or five) breeding territories of **Chipping Sparrows** at Craig Regional Park (Valerie Wheeler); and a **Dark-eyed Junco** at U.C. Irvine through at least mid-June (I. Katona). On a trek into the upper elevations of Trabuco Canyon, June 18, N. Gilbert found several species with very limited, or poorly known, breeding populations in the county, such as **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, **Black-throated Gray Warbler** and **Chipping Sparrow**. Neil also found **Mountain Quail**, **Hairy Woodpecker** and **Purple Finch**, among some of the other species known to breed in the Santa Ana Mountains.

Stay tuned till next month when we'll finish off the summer period, and start recapping some of OC's early fall rarities.

Marsh Education News

Trude Hurd, Project Director of Marsh Education

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



An Invitation to Increase the Joy in Your Life

What: We'd love to have you join us in one or more of our Marsh Education programs for kids and adults.

1. We'll train you to be a Naturalist and we'll work together to show the wonder of nature to small groups of 4th and 5th graders this year.
2. Or as a newly trained Naturalist, you might choose to participate in our Art Meets Science program for 4th graders. These one and a half hour programs take place over 10 mornings throughout the school year. Our children love learning how art and science go hand in hand.
3. Our Summer Day Camp programs are guaranteed to make you feel like a "camper" yourself! Join us as we each select a week or two of the six weeks of day camps offered right here at our Marsh for kids aged 7 to 16. Didn't you always dream of being a camp counselor?
4. Our Teenage Junior Naturalists' program is for our very active group of teens. Learn how you can participate in their stewardship projects, field trips, bird counts, bird banding and social events with a nature theme. You'll want to be a teen again!
5. Our Community Tours and Spring Brunches need volunteers too. These events enable scouts, youth groups, home school groups and adults to explore and experience our Marsh. Or if helping with a Spring Brunch is your thing, we'd love to have you join our team!
6. If you're a nocturnal being, come and assist at our more than 13 Bat Walks at the Marsh. We plan to reach more than 400 adults and children again this year to emphasize the importance of the bats in our communities.
7. We'd love to train you to be one of our guides for our 4 seasonal nature walks at the marsh. You'll learn a bit about how our native plants and animals adapt to each season. You'll experience the beauty and differences of each season. These are events for members and the general public.
8. Or, we'd love to encourage you to call us and learn how you can monetarily sponsor a child or a bus full of children, to get to one of our Marsh activities. There's always a need for dollar donations to buy new educational equipment for kids' use too.

Why: It's fun and so rewarding to be one of the more than 68 adults and 15 students who donate over 7,400 volunteer hours to share their love for nature and our Marsh. We offer nature classes throughout the year to our volunteers. We join in bag lunch "get-togethers", breakfasts and..... We serve dessert!

RSVP: To learn more about our group of volunteers and the ways you can join us, just call Trude Hurd – Project Director of Education at Sea & Sage Audubon at 949-261-7964. Or call Carolyn Noble – Marsh Education Chairperson at 714-731-9091. We hope to hear from you today!



– Carolyn Noble

Directions and Membership

Directions to Audubon House, Chapter Meetings, and the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary, Audubon Membership Form, Tattler subscriptions & delivery, and Remember Us in Your Will or Trust



Tattler Subscriptions

Non-Audubon members or members from other Audubon chapters who wish to subscribe to our chapter newsletter, may do so for \$12.50 per year. 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. They're in pdf format and will look and print exactly like the original ones. 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 C9ZC150Z 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, Phil Brobst, at brobstpr@cox.net



Temporarily Away or Moving?

Please notify Sea and Sage Audubon of your new address if you are temporarily, or permanently, moving from your current address. If you do not want to continue receiving the Tattler at your new address, please advise accordingly. This will save us from paying return postage fees.

Audubon Membership Application

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

National Audubon Society Membership: Check one [✓]

[] NEW MEMBERSHIP: \$20 - Individual or Family members [] RENEWAL: \$35 - Regular Membership

[] NEW MEMBERSHIP: \$15 - Senior (62+ yrs) or Student [] RENEWAL: \$15 - Senior or Student

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

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

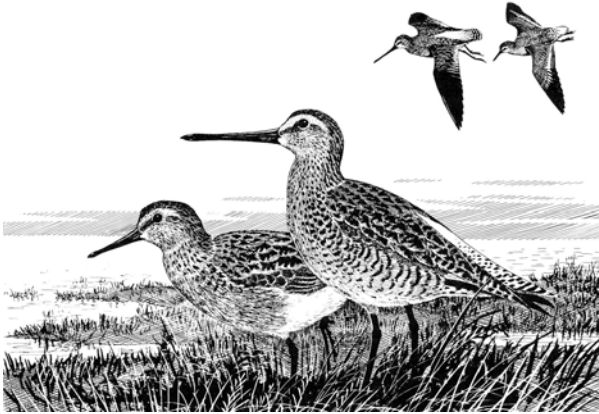


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Chapter Code

Sea and Sage Audubon Society

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



Sea & Sage Audubon
PO Box 5447, Irvine CA 92616

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Director 2013	Amber Oneal	714-812-2430
Director 2013	Star Howard.....	949-770-3177
Director 2014	Cheryl Egger.....	714-842-9232
Director 2014	Steve Beckett	949-903-8611
Past President	Jay Miller.....	949-707-1287

Committee Chairpersons:

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Audubon House Volunteers.....	Judy Fritts	949-551-4513
Birdathon Co-Chair	Al Baumann	949-859-5081
Birdathon Co-Chair	Steve Alter	714-669-9482
Bird Information	Sylvia Gallagher	714-962-8990
Christmas Bird Counts	Steve Alter	714-669-9482
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Development	Cheryl Thomas	949-294-2275
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SJWS Liaison	Chris Obaditch.....	949-640-7234
Starr Ranch/Envir. Liaison	Pete DeSimone	949-858-0309
Webmaster	Nancy Kenyon	949-786-3160
Chapter Website.....	www.seaandsageaudubon.org	

STAFF

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Marsh Educ. Project Director's Assist....	Deborah Brin.....	949-261-7964
Administrative Aide	Rebecca Craft.....	949-261-7963
Sales Manager	Debby Thyssen.....	949-261-7963
Audubon House		949-261-7963

OTHER CONTACTS

Bluebird Nestbox Info.....	Dick Purvis.....	714-776-8878
Slide Lending Library	Claudia Casey	714-968-3463
RBA: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OrangeCountyBirding/		

The RBA phone line is no longer in operation. If you are not a member of OrangeCountyBirding, we suggest you subscribe to get info online about birds & birding in the county. To subscribe: OrangeCountyBirding-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

BANDED BIRDS:

Report ALL BANDED BIRDS to: www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl/
Report WING TAGGED TURKEY VULTURES in Orange County, to Scott Thomas at <redtail1@cox.net>
For info on wing-tagged Turkey Vultures, see our webpage at: <http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org/Conservation/BirdResearch/TurkeyVultures.html>
For info on what info is needed when reporting banded birds, <http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl/homepage/call800.htm>

CALENDAR OF CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

September 2011

04	Sun	Santiago Oaks Monthly Bird Walk	7:30 am
06	Tues	O'Neill Reg. Park Monthly Bird Walk	8:00 am
06	Tues	Conservation Committee Meeting	6:30 pm
11	Sun	SJWS Monthly Bird Walk	8:00 am
13	Tues	Board Meeting	7:30 pm
16	Fri	GENERAL MEETING	7:30 pm
19-25	M-S	Cape May Trip ® (<i>trip is already full</i>)	
20	Tues	O'Neill Reg. Park Monthly Bird Walk	8:00 am
21	Wed	UNB by Pontoon Boat ®	8:15 am
24	Sat	Fall Pelagic Trip ® (<i>trip is already full</i>)	6:30 am
25	Sun	UNB Monthly Bird Walk	8:00 am