Sharing Our Passion
by Doug Lithgow, President

National Audubon recently asked some of its members to share their joy of being an ambassador for birds. Sharing our passion for birds and nature comes naturally to most of us, whether it is showing family members around a local park, assisting a new birder at our marsh, leading a field trip or discussing Snowy Plovers with someone on one of our local beaches. Well, one of our own chapter members was selected to have their story posted on the National Audubon website. I believe it captures the spirit of joy we feel when we share our passion.

"I was birding with my son in a local cemetery near our house. A month or so earlier, as an 11-year-old, he had come to me and said 'Dad, I think I want to be a birder.' One of the best days of my life. For the next seven years, he was pretty much my constant companion while birding. But on that one day in the cemetery, we encountered a Merlin, perched at the top of an ornamental pine. It was his first one, so he was pretty excited. We were watching it from the car, and he asked an important question: 'Can we get out and get closer for a better view?' I told him we could try, but that in all likelihood, the Merlin would fly when we did so. Of course, as soon as he opened his door, the bird was gone, with the kind of speed only a Merlin can muster. Greg’s comment was: 'Wow!! That was the coolest thing ever!!' That is, of course, the highest praise an 11-year-old can give anything! He's now 26, and although he's just begun his residency as a radiologist and is pretty busy, he's still a birder (so is my daughter, but that's another story!) and we still bird together whenever we can. We bought binoculars for his new wife too!"

— Bruce Aird, Lake Forest, California

GENERAL MEETING
Friday evening, Sept. 20th - 7:30 pm
“Photography Night at the Marsh”
Bettina Eastman, Bill Halladay, and Ron Grabyan

Our September program features Sea and Sage photographers who are students of Sylvia Gallagher (Sylvians) and who have contributed photos for use in her classes and in the Sea and Sage Library of Nature Photos and Sounds. These contributions are essential for strengthening our educational outreach to the public as well as providing resources for our conservation efforts.

Bettina Eastman will be our first presenter. She has been birding for 25 years and is a longtime student of Sylvia. She is one of the coordinators for our BirdSeasons Phenology project and her photos are often shared to highlight different phenology phases displayed by our target species. Bettina has a biology degree from CSULB and maintains an interest in entomology as well as herpetology although her first love is birding. Her segment of the program is titled: "Photographing Wildlife on the Fly; literally and figuratively."

Bill Halladay is a long time photographer who honed his skills while working as an Art Director for some of the country’s major advertising agencies for over 35 years. He is an avid shutterbug and shares numerous photos from the different Sea and Sage field trips he attends as well as his own travels. He also provides the chapter with wonderful photos of our volunteers. Bill's segment is titled: "Wildlife Photography. How I stay out of my wife's way after retirement."

Ron Grabyan has been a photographer for 40 years but only recently developed a love for photographing birds. He began taking Sylvia Gallagher's birding classes in 2017, and thus he was positively interjected into the birding world, joining Sea & Sage Audubon. Ron's theme will be: "Capturing the Soul of Birds with Photography."

Our program will be held at the Duck Club at the SJWS in Irvine. The doors open at 7:00 for refreshments and fellowship, and the meeting and program will begin at 7:30 pm. We hope you will join us for a wonderful photographic adventure at the marsh.
Our next Conservation Com. mtg. will be held on Sept. 3rd, at 6:45 PM in the Learning Center. Our next ‘4th Tuesday’ Conservation Lecture will be held on Sept. 24th in the Learning Center; the doors open at 7:00 and the lecture begins at 7:30 PM. We hope you will join us!

‘4th Tues.’ Cons. Lecture

Tuesday, Sept. 24th – 7:30 pm
in the Learning Center, SJWS

“The Biodiversity and Restoration of Fairview Park”,
Barry Nerhus, Restoration Ecologist,
Endemic Environmental Services

Over the last 10 years Endemic Environmental Services (EES) has been involved with restoring, maintaining, and monitoring biological resources at Fairview Park for the City of Costa Mesa. Through this time, they have learned a great deal about how rare so many species are that occur in this heavily recreated park. The park’s habitats include coastal bluff scrub, vernal pools, native grassland, coastal sage scrub, riparian and freshwater marsh, and aquatic habitat. All this is squeezed into 208 acres within the City of Costa Mesa!

Working with the City, EES has used different approaches to help with education and conserving and restoring the habitat. They have had several mitigation projects, community-based habitat restoration, public tours, and non-profit partnerships. During this time, they have seen increase in activity for Burrowing Owls, California Gnatcatchers, raptors like White-tailed Kites, and Northern Harriers. Restoration efforts have brought the least Bell’s Vireo, Least Bittern, Osprey, Yellow Warbler, and White-faced Ibis, increasing the biodiversity of Fairview Park.

Studies show that getting outdoors and enjoying nature has many benefits. Continued restoration and maintenance will help make this park one of the most biodiverse places in the area, for the pleasure and enjoyment of many!

Please join us for this program!
The doors open at 7:00 and the program begins at 7:30 pm.

Coastal and Watershed Cleanup
Saturday, Sept. 21st – 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
To participate, see Coastal Commission Website at: www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/ccd/ccd.html

Brown Pelican Roost Survey
Sat., Sept. 14th – 4:00 to 6:00 pm

Sea and Sage is seeking volunteers on Sep 14 to participate in a joint effort with Audubon California, US Fish and Wildlife Service and others to monitor the distribution and abundance of California Brown Pelicans. Each year we conduct relatively simple biannual Spring and Fall surveys of Brown Pelicans at their roost sites in Orange County.

The California Brown Pelican was removed from the Endangered Species list in 2009, yet concerns about the stability of the population remain and their breeding success on the outer Channel Islands has been poor for the last few years. One of the major issues are collapsing Pacific sardine and northern anchovy populations, which are very important food sources for Brown Pelicans, CA Least Terns and many other sea birds. Protection of forage fish and monitoring of the birds that rely on them has become a major focus for Sea and Sage, Audubon California, San Diego Audubon Society, Pew Charitable Trust and others.

For the Sep14 survey, we are seeking volunteers for 6 designated locations in Orange County and any number of volunteers at any convenient beach or waterfront location of your choice along our coast.

If you are interested in participating in the Brown Pelican Roost Survey, please contact Scott Thomas at pelicansurvey@cox.net
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@groups.io

From the all the reports that came in through the summer months, while the Tattler was on a couple months break, it sure didn’t appear that Orange County birders took any break from birding around the county. As the last Rarities article covered sightings through about early May, this time we’ll review observations from about mid-May through mid-July, and then get caught up in the next issue of the Tattler. So, with no further ado, we’ll jump right in.

A Greater White-fronted Goose at San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary (SJWS), May 18, was apparently a very late spring migrant. A Cackling Goose at Mile Square Regional Park, on June 2, however, was presumably a resident bird that has been present for some time. Unusual for summer was an American Wigeon at SJWS, July 9 (where it was presumably summering locally), and a pair of Northern Pintails at Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve (BCER; through July 12, where they had been clearly summering). Much more unexpected during summer was a White-winged Scoter that was seen between the Huntington Beach and Newport Beach piers, July 17-22.

A White-winged Dove at Mason Regional Park, May 17, was a rare spring migrant along the coast. Five Band-tailed Pigeons at an Irvine residence, in early June, were noteworthy for that part of the county, while one at BCER, July 11, was surprising for along the immediate coast. An apparent hybrid American X Black Oystercatcher was seen at Crescent Bay Point, July 1-22, where one has occasionally been present during recent years. Shorebird species that are fairly rare as summering, non-breeders in So Cal included a few Red Knots and Sanderling, both reported from the Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station (SBNWS). A Common Murre off Dana Point, May 31, and two off the Huntington Beach Pier, July 10, were unexpected. A Sabine’s Gull photographed off Huntington Beach, May 26, was a spring migrant. An apparent Franklin’s Gull at the Santa Ana River mouth, July 6, was one of perhaps only a couple mid-summer records Orange County (OC).

Records of Nazca Booby (a species unknown from California waters not all that long ago) continue to pop up in So Cal. This summer one was photographed about 12 miles off Crystal Cove State Beach, June 11. In addition to the Nazca, four Brown Boobies were photographed off Newport Beach, May 21, and a Red-footed Booby was photographed May 29, also off Newport Beach, during a whale watch trip. Very rare during summer was an American Bittern at SJWS, June 21-July 5. A young Reddish Egret in Irvine (along

San Diego Creek), July 15, was at an unexpected location. Cattle Egrets were at BCER and SBNWS during mid-May, as well as along the upper Santa Ana River and at SJWS in June. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons continue their presence in the county, with an adult and second-year (SY) bird at Dana Point Harbor during May (with the SY bird remaining into July), and a juvenile at BCER on July 17.

A Bald Eagle was reported from Upper Newport Bay, May 11. Quite significant was the discovery of a pair of Swainson’s Hawks at SBNWS, July 11+. At least one of the birds appears to be the same from the pair that summered in near-by Los Alamitos last year.

An Acorn Woodpecker at BCER, May 12, was very much out of place, and possibly a first record for this well-birded location. An adult male Vermillion Flycatcher, with a fledgling, at Arbor Park (Los Alamitos), July 8, was evidence of a new OC breeding location for this species. A Pine Siskin in Silverado Canyon, May 25, was quite a surprise, given how late it was (undoubtedly OC’s latest during spring), and for its occurrence following a winter when the species was extremely scarce in So Cal. Late spring migrant Yellow-headed Blackbirds were recorded at Irvine Regional Park, and in San Clemente; four additional Yellow-headed Blackbirds were recorded earlier in the spring at other locations.

An adult male American Redstart at Canyon Park, June 4, was a very rare late spring migrant. Two territorial male Wilson’s Warblers at SJWS from mid-June to mid-July were exceptional. This species has summered here in recent years, with evidence of successful breeding recorded in 2013. Three Summer Tanagers, presumably all late spring migrants, included reports from Laguna Niguel on May 26, from IRP on June 8, and from a Huntington Beach residence, also on June 8. A Western Tanager singing at Big Cone Spring in the Santa Ana Mountains, July 2, was of note; this species has been suspected of nesting in these mountains for many years, although as of yet there has still been no confirmation of breeding. An extremely cooperative male Indigo Bunting was in the Quail Hill area, during its May 20-27 stay. A male Rose-breasted Grosbeak at an Irvine residence, May 20-28, and a female at Huntington Central Park, May 23-28, were rare, late spring migrants.
Audubon House Volunteers

We would like to thank the following people for helping to staff Audubon House in June, July, Aug., and Sept: Sherry Bass, Bettina Eastman, Fresia Escalona, Carol Garrett, John Garrett, Beverly Hargrove, John Hargrove, Ann Harmer, Pat Heilig, Patti Henshaw, Sarah Jayne, Seema Khargonekar, Nancy Kenyon, David Kramer, Lauretta Kyle, Doug Lithgow, Eva Lydick, Maya Matkin, Joan McCauley, Bobbie Miller, Barbara Mitchell, Paula Monroe, Dagmar Muthamia, JoAnn Nothhelfer, Joan Plevin, Roberta Ray, Barbara Reber, Dev Sellin, Susan Sheakley, Bev Spring, Monte Taylor, Marilyn Walter, Pat Wells, Madonna Young.

Our Volunteers greet visitors, answer the phone, sell merchandise, answer questions about birds, check out binoculars, etc. If you are interested in helping at Audubon House, please call Barbara Mitchell at 949-646-4115.

* Movie Night: March of the Penguins *

Sat - Sept. 7 – at the SJWS

Come to the Marsh on Sept. 7th and enjoy a (free) outdoor movie experience! Bring your own chair or blanket. Movie refreshments will be available: fresh popcorn, cold drinks and candy.

4:30 – Bring your own picnic dinner
6:00 – Enjoy a short bird walk
7:30 – Showtime! Cartoons first, then the movie

This is an Oscar award-winning documentary that lets the audience journey along during a year in the life of a colony of Emperor Penguins. The story is played out in one of the most inhospitable environments in the world: the continent of Antarctica. Shot on location by Luc Jacquet and narrated by Morgan Freeman, the movie offers a glimpse into the seemingly insurmountable adversity that challenges these birds each year.

Beautifully shot with some amazing underwater scenes, this film will give you a wonderful appreciation for the Emperor Penguin.

RSVP to: nancykenyon@cox.net

Mosquitos may be present: wear clothing that covers your skin and/or apply mosquito repellent.

O.C. Snowy Plover and Least Tern Fall Survey and Training: Sept. 15-21

Are the Western Snowy Plovers back on our beaches? Have the California Least Terns left on migration? Help us find the answers.

SURVEY, SEPT. 15-21: We welcome surveyors to participate in the September survey, who have (X) attended one of our classroom sessions (X) and are able to conduct the survey on an assigned section of beach once during the survey period. Beach assignments are currently being made, so please CONTACT: Cheryl Egger at ocsnplsurvey@gmail.com with your requests.

TRAINING CLASS, SUNDAY, SEPT. 8th, 10:00-12:00.

We also welcome new volunteers who attend the training class. Please arrive at 9:30! You must RSVP and be registered to attend the training (X). CONTACT Cheryl Egger at ocsnplsurvey@gmail.com if you would like to attend the training class.

For MORE INFO (X) and a list of beach segments, see our website at www.seaandsageaudubon.org and then go to the OC Snowy Plover Survey page.

Orange County Spring Count Results

The OCSC was conducted again this year from April 1 to May 31, 2019. These results have been compiled from the eBird checklists that people shared with Sea and Sage Audubon.

• Total species reported: 284
• Total checklists submitted: 613
• Total locations surveyed: 226

The species with the highest reported number was Elegant Tern with over 2200 reported on one checklist. There were several species that were reported only once: Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser, Ruddy Turnstone, Wilson’s Snipe, Lesser Yellowlegs, Parasitic Jaeger, Common Loon, Pink-footed Shearwater, Brown Booby, American Bittern, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Coot, Mitred Parakeet, Townsend’s Solitaire, Palm Warbler, Northern Red Bishop, and Orange-cheeked Waxbill.

Thanks to all who participated.
—Darrell Wilson
Sea & Sage Audubon Society is again offering a ten-week workshop 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 this workshop 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 and Sage Library, Sylvia Gallagher will help you to 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 person will attend ten weekly meetings at the Gallagher home in Huntington Beach. You will choose one of these three sections to attend:
- Wed. evenings: 7:00 to 10:00 p.m., (Oct. 2 – Dec. 11, except Nov. 27)
- Thurs. mornings: 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon, (Oct. 3 - Dec. 12, except Nov. 28)
- Thurs. evenings: 7:00 to 10:00 p.m., (Oct. 3 - Dec. 12, except Nov. 28)

Four half-day field trips to Orange County locations will be scheduled and you may choose Saturdays or Mondays: Oct. 19 or 21, Nov. 2 or 4, Nov. 16 or 18, Dec. 7 or 9 — times to be announced. You need not indicate your preferences at this time.

The maximum enrollment for each section is 22. If any section does not have at least 12 people enrolled by Sept. 23, it will be cancelled. Reserve early though, because some sections may fill completely. A donation of $90.00 (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 the 7th edition of the National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America by Dunn and Alderfer. Recommended, but not required, is Birds of Southern California by Garrett, Dunn, & Small. Both books are available at Audubon House, or you can buy them at the first class meeting (discount price for workshop participants, starting Sept. 1). 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. 4th (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. 25, including preliminary information and a map to the meeting place. For further information, contact Sylvia at sjrgallagher@yahoo.com (preferred) or (714) 962-8990.

Enrollment Form for Introductory Birding Skills Workshop (Fall 2019)

Names of all participants _____________________________________________________________

Address(es) ________________________________________________________________

City & Zip ___________________ 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? ___
**It’s More Than Just Pancakes!**

On Saturday morning, Oct. 26th, we will be hosting our Annual Pancake Breakfast at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine. The Breakfast menu will include: pancakes, sausages, fresh fruit, orange juice, hot coffee and milk for the kids and 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 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 with Optics4Birding staff, visit our chapter exhibits inside the Duck Club and Audubon House, and get your raffle card stamped and turned in so that you can qualify for the chance to win a gift certificate at our bookstore.

Tickets for Pancake Breakfast: $10 for adults (walk-ins pay $15), $6 for children 10 and under, and free for children under 3. Advance reservations are required. Make check payable to: Sea & Sage Audubon and mail it to: Pancake Breakfast, c/o Nancy Kenyon, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612. Be sure to include your email address so Nancy can send you a confirmation note.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Sea and Sage is doing everything we can to reduce our carbon footprint at these events. We encourage you to bring your **REUSABLE** tableware to the Pancake Breakfast; those who do so will be entered in a special drawing. (We will have volunteers to scrape and rinse your tableware after you eat.)

**Summer BBQ ~ Were you there?**

Delicious food! Wonderful volunteers!!! We do appreciate all their help and support for our event, and could not have pulled off this event without them! Lots of congenial friends!

Great selection of used books for sale! Guided evening bird walks around the ponds. Interesting program about Birding in Baja with Blake Shaw’s stunning photos. I hope you were there to enjoy the fun! **Next year’s BBQ will be on July 25th. Be sure to save the date!**

**Dan Guthrie**

We were saddened to learn that Dan Guthrie passed away this summer at the age of 80. Dan was a cornerstone of the Pomona Valley Audubon for 40 years. He served in almost every capacity for the chapter including Chapter President, Field Trip Chair, Education, Membership, Programs, and editor of the Chaparral Naturalist newsletter, often holding the post of several committees at the same time. Dan specialized in comparative anatomy, animal behavior, introductory biology, and environmental science during his 48 years with Keck Science at the Claremont Colleges. He was also an avid birder and traveler. For more information on Dan Guthrie, please visit: [http://tinyurl.com/yy42zt7](http://tinyurl.com/yy42zt7) OR [http://tinyurl.com/yxztgu7](http://tinyurl.com/yxztgu7)

**Birds of the Mojave Desert**

The Desert Institute will present a weekend course entitled **Birds of the Mojave Desert** taught by Kurt Leuschner on Oct. 4-6, 2019 at the Desert Studies Center in Soda Springs (Zzyzx). This course examines the important role of these stopover areas in the conservation of neotropical migrant birds and introduces the techniques used to identify the common birds found in the vicinity of the Desert Studies Center. The class begins on Friday evening at the Desert Studies Center. On Saturday, students travel by car to various migrant bird traps near Death Valley including Baker, Shoshone, Tecopa, and China Ranch. Sunday’s activities center around the Desert Studies Center. For more information and registration, please go to [http://www.joshuatree.org](http://www.joshuatree.org).

**Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner!**

Be sure to mark the date - **Friday evening, March 20th** - for our 2020 Annual Dinner at the Mile Square Park Banquet Center in Fountain Valley. This year our guest speaker will be Jeff Rich who will be speaking on “Bald Eagles in the Wild”.

**Wild & Scenic Film Festival ~ Where activism gets inspired**

The Irvine Ranch Conservancy is excited to bring the Wild & Scenic Film Festival on Tour to the Quail Hill Community Center in Irvine on Sat, August 31, 2019, at 7:00 pm. Tickets will only be available for purchase through Brown Paper Tickets; there will be no tickets sold at the door. [https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4287351](https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4287351)

All proceeds support hosting the Wild & Scenic Film Festival On Tour and Irvine Ranch Conservancy. Doors open from 6:00 – 7:00 pm; seats are not assigned so you need to arrive early.
Movie Night at the Marsh!

SEPTEMBER 7th, 2019

Come to the Marsh and enjoy a (free) outdoor movie experience! Bring your own chair or a blanket.

4:30 – Bring your own picnic dinner
6:00 – Enjoy a short bird walk
7:30 – Showtime! Cartoons first, then the movie!

MOVIE REFRESHMENTS:

Fresh Popcorn!
Cold drinks!
Candy!

RSVP is required.
nancykenyon@cox.net

Mosquitoes may be present: wear clothing that covers your skin or apply mosquito repellent.
September 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

Monthly Nature Walks at the SJWS
SAT: Sept. 7th, 9:00 - 10:30 am
We’ll be exploring the birds, plants and creatures of the marsh on this wildlife walk at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. Meet in front of Audubon House at 9:00 am for a 1 ½ hour nature walk. (See directions to the SJWS on page 11.)
Leaders: Audubon Naturalists

Monthly Bird Walks at the SJWS
SUN: Sept. 8th, 8:00 am - 12 noon
Join Jeff Bray for the monthly bird walk around the ponds of the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine at 8 am. While many of the shorebirds have come back from their breeding grounds up north, there are still some of the summer species around, such as the Bell’s Vireo. If you’re lucky, you may even see some of the more uncommon birds for the sanctuary which usually hide when people are around, such as the California Quail, the Greater Roadrunner, or Sora. The walk, which is open to interested 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 on page 11.
Leader: Jeff Bray

So. San Diego & the Tijuana River Valley Area incl. Dairy Mart Ponds
SAT: Sept. 14th – 8:00 am to 12 or later
The Dairy Mart Ponds are a remnant of an old sand mining operation and are now managed by the San Diego County Parks Dept. They are part of the large Tijuana River Valley Regional Park on the U.S.-Mexican border. Fall is a good time to visit the area because it often attracts interesting migrants.

From the Dairy Mart Ponds, we will drive over to the Tijuana Slough, looking for Black-throated Magpie-Jays along the way. We plan to spend up to 2 hrs in that area including an early lunch by the Visitor Center. From there, we will head toward the Sea World Channel, and then drive to Famosa Slough. (Each of these locations are good birding areas.) If time permits, those interested will go on to Fort Rosecrans which will require a National Parks Pass or $10 per car to enter; we will then head home.

Directions to the Dairy Mart Ponds: From Orange County, take I-5 south toward San Diego past Mission Bay, past the airport, past Imperial Beach to the Dairy Mart Road exit, which is 3 exits past Palm Ave (75).

Turn right on Dairy Mart Rd and watch for a large dirt turnout on the right hand side about 1/8 of a mile from the exit. Park there. (The turnout does not have a sign but it’s a good place to park off the road.) Be sure to start the trip with a full tank of gas since you will loose the group if you have to stop for gas somewhere once the trip begins. Allow 2 hours for the drive down there.
Bring: snacks, your lunch, and your binoculars. Go easy on the coffee since there may not be a lot of restrooms! The trip may extend to 3 or 4 pm depending on conditions.
Leader: John McKeever & Gary Meredith

UNB by Pontoon Boat -
This trip is usually on the 3rd Wednesday morning of each month. However, it is not listed for September because the boat is scheduled for inspection this month by the Coast Guard. If it passes inspection, the trips will be resumed in October. Check the webpage for information at the end of this month.

Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve bird walk
THURS: Sept. 19th, 8:00 am - 12 noon
Join Vic Leipzig for a bird walk at the Bolsa chica Ecological Reserve. Come prepared for a special morning of birding. Bring binoculars, a field guide, and a scope if you have one. This will be a great time to see returning shorebirds, some of which may still be in partial breeding plumage. We will meet at the playground in Harriett Wieder Reg. Park. Directions: From PCH, turn inland on Seapoint St. Follow Seapoint 1 mile to Garfield Ave. and make a U-turn. Entrance to the playground will be on the right side in 0.25 miles.
Leader: Vic Leipzig

Upper Newport Bay bird walk
SUN: Sept. 29th, 8:00 – 11:00
Join Mark Kincheloe for a monthly bird walk in Upper Newport Bay to check out the seasonal shorebirds, ducks, grebes, herons & egrets, etc. that frequent the bay. Bring binoculars, a field guide, and a scope if you have one. We will meet in the Big Canyon parking lot in Newport Beach. This is easily reached from Jamboree. Take San Joaquin Hills Road west toward the bay where it intersects with Back Bay Drive. Turn right on Back Bay Dr. and follow it to the Big Canyon parking lot on your left.
Leader: Mark Kincheloe
Field Trips continued
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

Fall Pelagic Trip out of Dana Point ®
SUN: Sept. 29th, 6:30 am – 3:00 pm

Our pelagic trips meet at the Ocean Institute in Dana Point at 6:30 AM; they are 8 hour trips which go along the coast and then out to the 14 mile bank where many of the good birds are, then out to the oil rigs to search for boobies, then back to the coast and south to Dana Point, returning to the dock at 3:00 pm. Our trip will be led by Jon Dunn, an experienced pelagic birder and trip leader, along with his 5 co-leaders: Tom Benson, Bruce Aird, Jeff Bray, Steve Morris, and Robert McNab.

Target Birds: Black-vented, Sooty & Pink-footed Shearwaters; Black & Least Storm-Petrels; Cassins & Rhinoceros Auklets; Parasitic & Pomarine Jaegers, Boobies, a variety of shorebirds, terns, gulls, along with some whales & dolphins.

Pre-payment is mandatory; the trip costs $60 per person. For reservations, make check payable to SEA & SAGE AUDUBON and mail it to: Pelagic Trip, c/o Nancy Kenyon, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612. Be sure to provide your email address so that Nancy can send you back confirmation of your reservation, trip info, and the 2 trip waivers which you will need to fill out and return to her. These trips fill quickly so it’s advantageous to sign up for them in advance.

Leader: Jon Dunn

Plan Ahead for the Morro Bay Trip! ®
FRI-SUN: November 1-3.

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. 1st, 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 Sat. and Sun. you will be free to do a little exploring on your own. (Additional trip info on webpage.) : $45 + $15 for the Fri. harbor cruise. Advance reservations needed; trip limited to 15. Make check payable to Sea & Sage Audubon & mail to: Morro Bay FT, c/o Nancy Kenyon, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612.
What is Outdoor Adventures?

For 27 years, Sea and Sage Audubon has helped elementary school children to learn basic scientific principles and personal responsibility for the environment while surrounded by the beauty of a freshwater wetland. Here’s what Outdoor Adventures looks like for 4-5th grade students: the naturalists wait under the sycamore tree in the parking lot as the school bus arrives. The children step down, look around and wonder if they will see the bird that they studied in class such as Ruddy Duck or Great Blue Heron. We quickly divide into four groups and head off to either the Learning Center or Duck Club meadow.

In the meadow, the children learn how to focus binoculars and then go on a short walk past the shallow ponds, deep ponds, and native gardens in search of birds. Instead of naming the birds, the naturalist asks questions about what the children see to help them look closer: what color is the beak, what is it doing, what is it eating, and what does it sound like? They stop at the Tree Swallow nest boxes and see the Osprey nest to learn about different types of bird nests and what people can do to help nesting birds. They see urban runoff in the creek and learn how this wetland naturally clears water of pollutants. By the end of the walk, children have watched at least a dozen birds and learned ways to protect birds and keep our waterways clean.

After a short break for water, the children continue their adventure. Inside the Learning Center, they sit at tables with ten taxidermy birds specimens in front of them. Now they see details on bird species they saw alive in the ponds. Which birds have thin beaks for catching insects, thick beaks for crushing seeds, or spear-like beaks to catch fish? They discover that birds have specific adaptations for finding and catching prey.

Next, the children enter The Lab where the naturalist puts on a lab coat and explains the food web and how birds are dependent on plants and other animals. The children dip a pH strip into pond water and gasp when they see the color change. They quickly match colors on a key to see if the pond water is healthy for wildlife; it is!

After learning how to use a microscope (new to most), they look at a live invertebrate and answer questions on a worksheet. What shape is it? How many eyes does it have? Did it have breakfast today? Does it have eggs?

Then they switch microscopes to look at other species: pond snail, ostracod, amphipod, midge fly larvae, water boatman, and dragonfly nymph. All alive and wriggling and darting through the water! This amphipod is what the Killdeer runs to catch on the mud. A Ruddy Duck has to eat many water boatmen for a meal. Tree Swallows couldn’t exist without midges! Finally, students are given a jar of pond water and tools to let them try to catch live inverts.

At the end of 2.5 hours, the naturalist reviews the children’s discoveries and main points about the importance of wetlands providing food, water, shelter, and nesting places for birds. During each activity, children were allowed to “do something” and the information presented wasn’t too lengthy or difficult to comprehend. Teachers tell us this is the best field trip program in Orange County and that the children continue to talk about their experience throughout the school year. Some even talk their teachers into putting recycling containers in the classroom or doing further study on birds. Outdoor Adventures has far-reaching impact on these urban school children!

Volunteer Naturalist Training Begins in Sept.

This fall, we are recruiting and training new volunteers for Outdoor Adventures on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Training includes three classes and practicing throughout fall, winter and spring. After training, volunteers help with two tours a month from October through June. If you or someone you know is looking for something to do that is worthwhile for our local environment, then consider volunteering with our Outdoor Adventures naturalist team! Please contact Project Director Trude Hurd at seaandsage@sbcglobal.net or phone 949-261-7964.

Donations Needed for School Buses

Because the Santa Ana school district has limited funds for field trips, we ask our generous membership to sponsor a bus for a Santa Ana class to attend Outdoor Adventures. Bus costs vary depending on distance and length of time (average $300 per trip). We are looking for donations of any size from $25 to $500 to sponsor 20 trips. If you value outdoor experiences for local underprivileged children, please contact Project Director Trude Hurd at seaandsage@sbcglobal.net for a sponsorship form.
**Directions and Membership**

Sea and Sage Audubon Society’s mission is to protect birds, other wildlife, and their habitats through education, citizen science, research, and public policy advocacy.

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**Tattler Subscriptions**

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

**Go Paperless!**

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

**Remember Us in Your Will or Trust**

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

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**Directions**

to Audubon House, our Chapter Meetings & the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary
(5 Riparian View, Irvine)

*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

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**Your Membership Payment**

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

If you have questions, please contact Membership Chair, Jim Kissinger, at membership@seaandsageaudubon.org

**Temporarily Away or Moving?**

Please notify Jim Kissinger of your new address if you are temporarily, or permanently, moving from your current address; or, let him know if you do not want to continue to receive the Tattler. This will save us postage.

Jim Kissinger, Membership Chair
membership@seaandsageaudubon.org

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**Audubon Membership Application**

We invite you to become a member of the National Audubon Society and the Sea and Sage Audubon chapter. Members receive the AUDUBON magazine as well as the WANDERING TATTLER newsletter.

**NEW MEMBERSHIP** is $20 for an individual or for a family. (The membership is good for one year.)

**To join:** Complete the form below & mail it along with your payment to: Sea and Sage Audubon, PO Box 5447, Irvine CA 92616

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

Or, go online to: http://tinyurl.com/hyeaw67 (Our chapter code is C15)

**To renew membership:** renew directly with National Audubon by direct mail or online: (Renewals are $20 per year.)

http://tinyurl.com/zjbs5tt

Name __________________________________________________________
Address ______________________________________________________________________________________
City, State, Zip ____________________________________________________________
Phone __________________________________________________________________________
E-mail ________________________________________________________________
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Archives & Records ...... Chris Byrd ................. 714-639-0967
Audubon House .......... Susan Sheakley ............. 949-552-5974
Audubon House Volunteers Barbara Mitchell ....... 949-646-4115
Bird Information ........ Sylvia Gallagher ............ 714-962-8990
Conservation .......... Susan Sheakley ............... 949-552-5974
Counsel ................. Sean Sherlock ............... ..........................
Development .......... Cheryl Thomas ............... 949-294-2275
Education ............... Carolyn Noble ............... 714-731-9091
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Field Trips .............. Nancy Kenyon ............... 949-786-3160
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Newsletter Editor ...... Nancy Kenyon ............... 949-786-3160
Orange County Spring Count Darrell Wilson ........ 949-559-4542
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Science .................. Amber Heredia ............... 714-812-2430
SJWS Liaison .......... Chris Obaditch ............... 949-640-7234
Social Media .......... Sandrine Biziaux-Scherson.949-413-0297
Starr Ranch/Envir. Liaison. Pete DeSimone ........ 949-858-0309
Webmaster ............. Nancy Kenyon ............... 949-786-3160
Webpage: http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org

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

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.wccoc.org/
Call Songbird Care & Education Center for injured or sick native songbirds. 714-964-0666. www.songbirdcareandeducation.org

SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

September 2019:
03 Tues Conservation Com. Meeting .................... 6:45 pm
07 Sat Monthly Nature Walk at the SJWS ............. 9:00 am
07 Sat Movie Night ® ................................... 7:30 pm
08 Sun Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS ............... 8:00 am
08 Sat OC SNPL Beach Wide Survey Training ........ 10:00 am
10 Tues Board Meeting .................................. 7:00 pm
14 Sat South San Diego & Tijuana River Valley .... 8:00 am
19 Thurs Bolsa Chica Bird Walk ......................... 8:00 am
20 Fri GENERAL MEETING ............................. 7:30 pm
21 Sat Coastal & Watershed Clean-up Day .......... 9:00 am
24 Tues 4th Tues’ Conservation Lecture ............... 7:30 pm
29 Sun Fall Pelagic Trip ® ............................... 6:30 am
29 Sun Monthly Bird Walk at UNB ..................... 8:00 am

October 2019:
01 Tues Conservation Com. Meeting .................... 6:45 pm
05 Sat Monthly Nature Walk at the SJWS ............. 9:00 am
08 Tues Board Meeting .................................. 7:00 pm
13 Sun Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS ............... 8:00 am
18 Fri GENERAL MEETING ............................. 7:30 pm
22 Tues 4th Tues’ Conservation Lecture ............... 7:30 pm
26 Sat PANCAKE BREAKFAST ......................... 7:30 am
27 Sun Monthly Bird Walk at UNB ..................... 8:00 am