

## **2020 Bloom-Hays Ecological Research Grant**

### **Presented by Sea and Sage Audubon Society**

**Pete Bloom** is a current, and still active, member of Sea and Sage Audubon. In the 1970s and 1980s, Pete helped spearhead the Weir Canyon Conservation Fund to protect canyon lands from development. Weir Canyon was protected, and funds remaining from that campaign have been contributed to this grant opportunity.

Pete Bloom has lived in southern California most of his life and has spent much of the last 45 years studying raptors throughout the State. Known to most as one of the foremost experts in raptors, Pete has studied birds of prey in California, across the United States, and abroad in such places as Argentina, Sweden, and India.

As part of a bold step to rescue the California Condor from extinction, from 1982 through 1987, Pete worked with the National Audubon Society directing the efforts to capture all of the remaining California Condors in the wild. Locally, Pete and a small crew of dedicated researchers have been studying natal dispersal and philopatry of raptors, and its relevance to reserves and conservation, through a 40 year “mark and recapture” project in Orange County, north San Diego County, and western Riverside County.

Pete is also accomplished in herpetology, mammalogy, ornithology, and a fervent conservationist. He has taught Natural History of Southern California at Saddleback College and dedicates much of his time as a mentor to up-and-coming biologists. His experience with Sea and Sage Audubon, with the helpful guidance of Fern Zimmerman and Ferne Cohen in the 1970s, helped launch his academic career, deep respect for nature, and a lifelong effort to help others explore their potentials as scientists and researchers.

**Loren Hays** was a long-time friend and supporter of Sea and Sage Audubon Society. When he passed away in 2008, a memorial fund was gathered from Sea and Sage members to develop a grant fund program in his memory. Loren left a legacy as a protector of birds, especially endangered species, and an advocate of protecting the environment through cooperative process and skilled management.

Much of Loren’s professional life was spent as a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biologist where Loren embraced the concept of partnering between agencies and governmental bodies to promote conservation. In the 1980s, Loren began one of those partnerships with the Orange County Water District at the Prado Basin. At that time there were about 18 pairs of the endangered Least Bell’s Vireo nesting in the vast wetland system. By the time of Loren’s retirement in 2006, nearly 1,000 pairs nested in the basin due to the efforts of Loren, along with his good friend Richard Zembal. Loren also worked tirelessly towards the conservation of other species such as the endangered Southwestern Willow Flycatcher in the Prado Basin and around the State, and the California Least Tern and Western Snowy Plover in Orange County’s coastal reserves. Loren’s knack for developing partnerships brought Sea and Sage Audubon Society and California State Parks together to set up the Huntington Beach Least Tern Colony - Volunteer Program.

Loren was a fervent protector of birds. He was a regular at Huntington Beach Central Park and enjoyed everything from the most common to the rarest of birds. He was a mentor to all.

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## Application Instructions

**Objective:** The objective of the Bloom-Hays Ecological Research Grant is to advance ecological research, particularly research related to avian species and the natural communities upon which they depend, by providing funds or supplies to support research activities benefitting native species and habitats in Southern California.

**Funding:** The size of the grant will vary between \$250 and \$2,500. The amount dispersed to each recipient will vary based on the number of proposals, the quality of proposals received, and the contribution of the proposed work to ecological research. The total funding available in 2020 is \$10,000.

**Eligibility:** Preference will be given to research projects related to avian species and habitats in Southern California. However, other ecological research projects whose results would be applicable to habitat issues in Southern California or general ecology will also be considered. Recipients of a Bloom-Hays Ecological Research Grant will be eligible to apply for funds to continue the work in subsequent years, but will be required to submit a renewal application each year. Most grants are to be awarded to graduate students, but awards may be made to outstanding undergraduate or high school students (judged separately from graduate student applications).

**General Instructions:** A complete application form must include: (1) Cover Letter; (2) Application; (3) Proposal/Budget; (4) Project Schedule; (5) Resume; and (6) Letter(s) of Reference. Submit the completed application package to BloomHaysGrant@aol.com. Committee prefers to receive one PDF file containing the complete application (reference letters may be submitted separately by the advisor or included in the application PDF).

**Deadline:** Application packages must be received by email no later than April 3, 2020. The Science Committee will accept only electronic submittals. An email reply confirming receipt of the application will be sent by April 6, 2020, or within one week of receipt if the application package is submitted early.

Applications will be evaluated by the Science Committee on the scientific merit of the proposed research; the applicant's ability to conduct the research; and the relevance of the proposed ecological research to the interests of native species and habitats in Southern California. The Science Committee will select the grant award recipient(s) and will report the results to the Board of Directors at the following monthly Board Meeting. Applicants will be informed of results approximately eight weeks after the deadline. The name(s) of award recipient(s) will be published in the *Wandering Tattler* and the recipients will be recognized at the Summer BBQ in July (each recipient will receive two complimentary tickets to the BBQ).

**Cover Letter:** A cover letter should be included to introduce the applicant. It should provide a very brief introduction to the objective of the project and how it relates to avian research and/or

habitat issues in Southern California, list the name of the institution under which the research is being conducted, and include the applicant's contact information. (1 page)

**Applicant Information:** The attached form on the applicant's information should be completed in its entirety; applicants should be able to type directly into the PDF form. (See pages 4–5 of these instructions; 2 pages).

**Proposal:** The applicant should prepare a brief proposal to describe how the project objective will be accomplished. It should include the background to explain the purpose and need for the project. Assume that the reader does not know about the issue and explain why the research is important. It should describe briefly the methodology for the project and the anticipated results. It should explain how the project results would achieve the objectives of this grant program. A map or graphic may be included but is not required. (2-3 pages maximum, not including the map/graphic or references)

**Budget:** A budget of projected expenditures and materials for the project should be listed. The budget should include assumptions (e.g., number of field days, mileage to sites, mileage rate used [2020 federal mileage rate], field supply cost per unit/number of units, etc.) used to estimate the budget. The budget should be shown in a spreadsheet or table. Funds will not be given for conference attendance. (0.5–1 page)

**Project Schedule:** A rough project schedule should be included (months/years). The project schedule should include anticipated months of fieldwork, data analysis, and project completion. The project schedule should be shown in a spreadsheet or table. (0.5–1 page)

**Resume:** The applicant should include a resume showing his/her experience related to ecology and the environment. This resume may include work experience, participation in fieldwork related to coursework, volunteer activities, and/or other field experience. (1–2 pages)

**Letter of Reference:** One Letter of Reference should be prepared on behalf of the applicant. The letter should be from an advisor, professor, teacher, or teaching assistant who knows the student, or someone who has worked in a leadership role with the applicant. The letter can be submitted: (1) by the advisor via email to [BloomHaysGrant@aol.com](mailto:BloomHaysGrant@aol.com) with the student's name clearly referenced in the letter and the email; or (2) by the applicant within their package as a PDF with the letter on the school's letterhead and signed by the advisor. The Committee prefers to receive one Letter of Reference per applicant and will accept no more than two Letters of Reference for each applicant. (1–2 pages)

**Reporting:** A grant recipient should notify the Sea and Sage Audubon's Science Committee Chair upon completion of their project. The Program Committee will likely request that the grant recipient present the results of his/her research at a meeting of the Sea and Sage Audubon Society (e.g., 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Conservation Lecture, General Meeting). Any publications resulting from the research should be sent to the current Chair of the Science Committee (the chair's contact information is on the back of the *Wandering Tattler*) to keep in the files of Sea and Sage Audubon. Currently, publications should be submitted to Amber Heredia at [BloomHaysGrant@aol.com](mailto:BloomHaysGrant@aol.com).

# 2020 Bloom-Hayes Ecological Research Grant Application

## Applicant Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (where award letter/check will be mailed): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization/Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Present Education Level:      PhD \_\_\_\_\_      Masters \_\_\_\_\_      Undergraduate \_\_\_\_\_      High School \_\_\_\_\_

## Project Information

Title of Project: \_\_\_\_\_

List 5 keywords/phrases to describe your project: (e.g., habitat fragmentation, Least Bell's Vireo, riparian, nest success, etc.)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

City, County where project will be conducted: \_\_\_\_\_

Specific location(s) where project will be conducted (e.g., Audubon's Starr Ranch Sanctuary, UCI Ecological Preserve, etc.):

**Applicant Background (for information purposes only)**

When do you anticipate finishing your degree? \_\_\_\_\_

What are your goals after you finish your degree?

How did you develop an interest in birds/nature?

Where is your favorite place to hike, birdwatch, or interact with nature in Southern California? Why?