Hot on the Trail of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker!

Tim Gallagher, author of The Grail Bird, a book about the rediscovery of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, will be our guest speaker at the Annual Dinner on March 10th, 2006. His program is entitled “Hot on the Trail of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker.”

For more than 60 years, every potential sighting of an Ivory-billed woodpecker has been met with skepticism. There have been unsubstantiated sporadic sightings through the years, but there was never any definitive proof offered that the bird still existed. Tim Gallagher, of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, refused to accept the conclusion of most scientists that the Ivory-billed Woodpecker was extinct. He traveled through the South, interviewing people who claimed to have seen this ghost bird of the shadowy swamp. If a sighting seemed credible, he hit the swamp with his colleague Bobby Harrison, wading through hip-deep, boot-sucking mud and canoeing through turbid, mud brown bayous. On one of these trips, checking a recent sighting by an Arkansas naturalist, both men saw an Ivory-billed Woodpecker fly past their canoe at close range. This sighting was the first time since 1944 that two respected observers had identified an Ivory-billed Woodpecker in the United States and the sighting quickly led to the largest search ever launched to find a rare bird and ultimately to the announcement on April 28, 2005, of the rediscovery of the species. On March 10th, Tim will tell us his story of the Ivory-billed’s miraculous resurrection.

Tim Gallagher is an award-winning author, wildlife photographer, and magazine editor. He is currently editor-in-chief of Living Bird, the flagship publication of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Tim’s lifelong interest in wilderness exploration has taken him twice to Greenland, where he made an open-boat voyage up the coast to study nesting seabirds and falcons, and to the hinterlands of Iceland, where he climbed cliffs to learn more about the spectacular Gyrfalcon, the world’s largest falcon. Tim’s interest in the Ivory-billed Woodpecker dates from the early 70’s. You might have heard him speak of the rediscovery on 60 Minutes. Come to the Annual Dinner and hear the full story!

Cat Waters, Annual Dinner Committee

We have a wonderful evening planned for you on March 10th!

Bring your curiosity about the Ivory-billed woodpecker, and your checkbook, to this year’s Annual Dinner at the Holiday Inn, Costa Mesa. Sea & Sage has a wonderful evening planned starting with a social hour and a great silent auction. Our famous speaker, Tim Gallagher, will tell us about his adventures during his search for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker.

The auction table will be filled with wonderful items to bid on including original photographic art work by Nevada Wildlife photographer Dick Barrett, an overnight for two in the bunkhouse at Starr Ranch Audubon Sanctuary, amazing gift baskets, Disneyland passes, photographic art from professional wildlife photographer, Larry Wan of Western Alliance for Nature, a week long stay in an Avalon, Catalina cottage, piano lessons, just to name a few things awaiting your high bid. Remember every dollar you spend on the Annual Dinner silent auction and raffle is a dollar that benefits one of Sea and Sage’s many worthy programs: adult education, children’s programs and tours, conservation programs, Audubon At Home, Field trips, the Tattler... Hoping to see you all there!

“Elusive Ivory” - Ivory-billed Woodpecker by Larry Chandler
### 2006 Fern Zimmerman Conservation Award

Each year the Conservation Committee nominates an individual who has made personal and substantial contributions to conservation. In happy years, we are faced with the fortunate, but difficult, task of choosing among several extraordinary people. 2006 is one of those years. There were the many dedicated individuals who worked tirelessly on the Rancho Mission Viejo agreement, the folks who worked on protecting Aliso Canyon in Laguna Beach, and a long list of organizations and individuals who worked successfully to protect Trabuco Canyon. But one individual who generously contributes his time and expertise to many Sea and Sage Audubon issues, kicked his efforts into high gear last year. That person is Rick Derevan, who has volunteered year after year as our chapter legal advisor.

Last year Rick dedicated himself to the long running battle over the proposed Saddle Creek/ Saddle Crest development in Trabuco Canyon, near the intersection of Live Oak Canyon and El Toro Roads. After a coalition of environmental and community groups - which included Sea and Sage Audubon, the Sierra Club, Endangered Habitats League, Vedanta Society, Native Plant Society and the Rural Canyons Conservation League - lost a battle in Orange County Courts, Rick took on the challenge of appealing the adverse decision. In a decisive win in the California Court of Appeal, Rick won a significant local battle and set a state wide precedent relating to how local governments comply with the General and Specific Planning Processes.

Briefly, for those of you who are not familiar with the battles in Trabuco Canyon, we were fighting a development plan, approved by the county Supervisors, that was inconsistent with the previously approved General Plan. The Foothill Trabuco Specific Plan was a solution agreed upon by the County and the conservation community over a decade earlier. Years later, the Board of Supervisors approved new plans that we contended ignored and circumvented the Foothill Trabuco Specific Plan. In general terms, the new plans allowed for excessive grading and oak tree removal, and increased traffic. After an unexpected loss in the first court battle, Rick Derevan agreed to represent the Endangered Habitats League, Sea and Sage and others in an appeal. In the California Court of Appeal, thanks to Rick and many others, a decision in favor of upholding the Foothill Trabuco Specific Plan was granted.

We chose 2006 to recognize Rick Derevan, because the win in Trabuco Canyon really spotlights the sort of contribution he makes every year. Every time we consult with Rick, which can be often, he contributes to conservation. When the chapter enters into a battle over conservation, we confer with Rick every time we need to consider a contract, whether conservation or chapter operation related. Rick also helps organize the permits for the Christmas Bird counts. He has been there to help us whenever we have asked him to be. And let’s face it, nearly everything we do as an Audubon chapter is related in some manner to conservation. Educating adults and children is a proactive conservation measure. Keeping birders involved with nature and introducing new members to birds is conservation as well. From our newsletter to our field trips, everything has an impact on conserving birds and habitat.

We are grateful and very pleased to award Rick Derevan with the 2006 Fern Zimmerman Conservation Award. The award is named after Fern Zimmerman who was a founding member of Sea and Sage Audubon. Her love of birds and nature and unwavering commitment to conservation was an inspiration to everyone who had the opportunity and pleasure of knowing her.

There are many people who worked for years, even decades, on the efforts to protect Trabuco Canyon, specifically the property along Live Oak Canyon Rd. While we cannot list everyone, we are grateful for their work. We are recognizing a handful of them this year with Letters of Commendation.

Sea and Sage Audubon 2006 Letters of Commendation were presented to the following individuals and the organizations they represent for outstanding contributions:

- Ray Chandos
- Michael Fitts
- Bill Fray
- Ray Johnson
- Gloria Sefton
- Daniel Songster
Sea & Sage Annual Dinner

Date: Friday night, March 10th, 2006
Speaker: Tim Gallagher
Location: Holiday Inn, Costa Mesa
Program: “Hot on the Trail of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker”

Our guest speaker for the March 10th Annual Dinner will be Tim Gallagher, who along with his colleague Bobby Harrison, rediscovered the Ivory-billed Woodpecker after 60 years of the last confirmed sighting in the United States. This is a program you won’t want to miss! The Annual Dinner will also include the presentation of our chapter’s Fern Zimmerman Conservation Award and Letters of Commendation.

Our dinner will be held at the Holiday Inn which is located 1.5 miles from the John Wayne Airport. The street address is 3131 South Bristol, Costa Mesa. Ample free parking surrounds the hotel which is well illuminated at night. A map and driving directions will be sent to you with your confirmation.

No Host Bar: 6:00 p.m.
Dinner: 7:15 p.m.
Program: 8:00 p.m., sharp!
Location: Holiday Inn, Costa Mesa
Entrees: Baked Halibut, Roasted Prime Rib of Beef, Angel Hair Pasta with Fresh Vegetables
Tickets: $46

Please check the Sea & Sage website, or contact Nancy Kenyon, before sending in your dinner reservation because the room is almost filled; do NOT wait until the last minute! (949-786-3160; kenyon@exo.com) http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org

For reservations, make your check payable to “Sea & Sage Audubon”; include your choice of entree as well as the name of each person for whom a reservation is made. Mail your reservations to: Annual Dinner, c/o Nancy Kenyon, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612.

You can mail your reservations to Nancy, deliver them to Audubon House, or hand them to her at the General Meeting on February 17th. The tickets will not be mailed back to you; proof of your reservation will be your name badge on which will be marked your table number and choice of entree — which you will pick up at the check-in table the night of the dinner. Those who wish to receive written confirmation of their dinner reservations, a map & driving directions, should include their email address or a SASE; a confirmation message will be sent to you as soon as your reservation is received. All reservations must be received by 6:00 p.m., Monday, March 6th. However, we expect this event to sell out quickly, so we advise you not wait until the last minute to send in your dinner reservation.

Annual Dinner Reservation Form

Name ___________________________ Entrée ___________________________

Name ___________________________ Entrée ___________________________

Who do you wish to sit with? ________________________________________

E-mail address or phone (in case we need to contact you) ____________________

Entrées: [F] BAKED HALIBUT: Northern Halibut Steak baked in wine sauce and served with parsley potatoes and lemon caper sauce. [B] ROASTED PRIME RIB OF BEEF: Served with creamed horseradish and oven roasted potatoes [V] VEGETARIAN PASTA: Angel Hair Pasta with fresh seasonal vegetables in a Béchamel Sauce. All dinners will include a garden salad, fresh vegetables, rolls & butter, coffee, tea or decaffeinated coffee, and classic cheesecake with a berry swirl for desert. Mail to: Annual Dinner, c/o Nancy Kenyon, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612
Audubon House Volunteers

We would like to thank the following people for volunteering to staff Audubon House in February and March: Sonia Appell, Donna & Mike Augustine, Barbara Chidester, Deana Collins, Carolyn Cooper, Tom Drouet, Jean Drum, Fresia Escalona, Frank Feller, Judy Fritts, Virginia Gochenour, Pat Heilig, Sarah Jayne, Steve Jelnick, Lois Jones, Nancy Kenyon, Donna Krebs, Tim Maas, Joan McCauley, Bobbie Miller, Joan Olafson, Shirley Price, Betty Purdy, Barbara Reber, Mary Shandy, Bev Spring, Betty Swift, Celia Vorsanger, Vic Westling, Ann Zemer.

Junior Naturalists Need Annual Dinner Sponsors

The Junior Naturalist Program is seeking sponsors for their participation in this year’s Annual Dinner. Our teenage naturalists appreciate your generous sponsorships of $20 for each Junior Naturalist attending. We currently have sponsors for two students and eight Junior Naturalists are expected to attend. Please support the Junior Naturalist program and their attendance at the Annual Dinner by sending your check payable to Sea and Sage Audubon to Dinner Scholarship, Sea & Sage Audubon, 3589 Campus Drive, Irvine, CA 92612. Thank you!

Irene Perry
Junior Naturalist Co-Coordinator

Bookstore News

New arrivals include Hawks From Every Angle by Jerry Liguori (Princeton Univ Press), The Grail Bird (Our Annual Dinner guest speaker, Tim Gallagher will sign your copy, copies also available for purchase at the dinner), National Geographic Complete Birds of North America: Companion to the NG Field Guide to the Birds of NA (Nov 2005), Kingbird Highway (paperback edition), Butterfly Gardening by the Xerces Society, and Bird-witched (Texas Univ Press). Also stockings in new desings, new Audubon birds with calls and new T-shirt designs, including night shirts now in stock.

You Are Invited

The participants of Advanced Camp 2005 cordially invite you to celebrate the unveiling of the wetland mosaic that was created during this past summer’s camp. This artistic 3-panel tile mosaic depicts a wetland scene in which each part was designed by the Advanced Camp students under the direction of local artist Mary Lou Shattuck. Also on display will be samples of student artwork from previous camps such as wooden duck decoys, tile stepping stones, their nature journals of observations and sketches, and more. The mosaic is being presented to the Irvine Ranch Water District and Sea & Sage Audubon as a thank-you gift from the 2005 Advanced Camp committee and students.

The event is Sunday, March 19, 2006 at 5 pm in the Duck Club. A buffet dinner will be served. Please RSVP your name and number in your party to Audubon House at 949-261-7963 by March 10th. Come celebrate with us the wonderful things our preteens and teenagers are accomplishing in the Sea & Sage Audubon camps!

Grace McElhiney, Bev Spring, and Trude Hurd

Whale Watching Trip

with the OC Chapter of the American Cetacean Society

Join us as we journey across the Channel to beautiful Santa Catalina Island for a day of WHALE WATCHING!! Always the most talked about trip of the year…you don’t want to miss it! In the past we’ve seen Common Dolphin, Bottlenose Dolphin, Pacific White-sided Dolphin, Risso’s Dolphin, Northern Right Whale Dolphin, Pilot Whales, Fin Whales and many Gray Whales. We will have experienced naturalists on board to give you a running narration about the animals we see and the natural history of the Island, including the Baid Eagles.

When: March 5, 2006. 9 am to 6 pm
(please arrive by 8:00 am)
Where: Davie’s Locker 400 Main St, Newport Beach.

Price: Adults: $60; Students and Seniors: $45; ACS members: $50 with coupon; Children under 12: $35
Reservations required
(949)-673-1434

Come out of the closet whoever you are!

Come out of the closet, I know you’re there! Yes, you spark plugs who can put the party in the punch and the checks in the bank on March 10th. Remember? The annual banquet? Nancy Kenyon has been asking you to make your reservations and has been pleading politely for raffle and auction items. Have you considered that extra copy of a field guide you have? That theater ticket you will not use? Asking your favorite restaurant for a gift certificate or providing a field trip and picnic lunch for a small group? How about just a few hours about a week or so before March 10 to help with a last minute project? Or the day of, to help us set things up at the hotel? Can you smile and shake a hand? We could use you to greet guests and play host to a few tables. Pick up the phone NOW please, call Nancy Kenyon and say “I will!” Don’t put it off! Your cat will get sick or you'll get swallowed by that new book and forget all about it! Come join us in the work and the fun and bring a friend! We’re going to slobber all over you and love you to pieces…and when is the last time you’ve had that experience?!

Gillian Martin, Annual Dinner Committee
Nancy Kenyon 949-786-3160; kenyon@exo.com
Rarities in Orange County
by Doug Willick

To report a RARE or UNUSUAL bird, or to receive the current RBA report for Orange County, call the OC RBA at (949) 487-6869.

Last months “Rarities” column highlighted, in part, the results of the two O.C. Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) conducted in Dec., the South County Count, and the Northeastern (or “Inland”) Count. A recap of the county’s “Coastal Count” had to be postponed until this month due to space and time constraints. Therefore, we’ll jump right in with some of the rarities that were discovered during the January 1, 2006, Coastal Count.

A Red Phalarope was a nice surprise at Huntington Central Park (HCP; Loren Hays), which was one of many that suddenly appeared along the southern California coast during and immediately following a heavy storm that moved through the area during the first few days of January. Additional Red Phalaropes were recorded offshore, out of Newport Harbor, on Count Day, and yet another were recorded offshore, out of Newport California coast during and immediately following a heavy storm that moved through the area during the first few days of January. Additional Red Phalaropes were recorded offshore, out of Newport Harbor, on Count Day, and yet another was at Bolsa Chica (BC) on Jan. 3 (Steve Smith). A White-winged Scoter was seen from the CBC boat trip. Two “Western” Flycatchers added to the already high numbers tallied this winter, with one at Mason Regional Park (Travis Cooper), and the other in Newport Beach (Doug Willick). A male Vermilion Flycatcher at Buckingham Park (Bruce Aird, et. al.) was presumably the same individual present here last year.

A Golden-crowned Kinglet and a Baltimore Oriole were at Irby Park (L. Hays, Jim Pike). A Varied Thrush was a surprising find at tiny little Clegg Stacy Park. A young male American Redstart was at the Environmental Nature Center (ENC; Peyton Cook). A Green-tailed Towhee at Upper Newport Bay (UNB; Brian Daniels) was the second found wintering in the county this year. A new White-throated Sparrow, this one at Centennial Park, added to a few others already known to be around. A Swamp Sparrow in Newport Beach (D. Willick), an Orchard Oriole in Costa Mesa (J. Pike), and a Yellow-headed Blackbird at HCP (Steve Morris), were some of the other new discoveries on this Count.

Other notable observations during the Coastal Count included several rarities that had been known to be around prior to the count, such as two Reddish Egrets at BC, another Reddish Egret at the Santa Ana River (SAR) mouth, Eurasian Wigeons at UNB and HCP, Pacific Golden-Plover at BC (again reported Jan. 31), Dusky-capped Flycatcher at Mesa Verde Golf Course (still present on Jan. 24), Gray Flycatcher and Harris’s Sparrow at Mile Square Park (still present Jan. 25), Plumbeus and Cassin’s Vireos at HCP, Winter Wren at ENC, Black-throated Green Warbler at Orange Coast College (reported again on Jan. 28), Chestnut-sided Warbler at HCP (still present Jan. 28), Black-and-white Warbler at Mason Regional Park, White-throated Sparrows at HCP, and Summer Tanager at HCP.

A number of other previously found rarities continued their visits in various parts of the county. These included one Reddish Egret at Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station, with two here on Jan. 29 (it is suspected that at least two Reddish Egrets are commuting back and forth between BC and Seal Beach); a Franklin’s Gull at Tri-city Park, Jan. 3; two Broad-billed Hummingbirds in Mission Viejo (the young male through Jan. 22, and the female through Jan. 21); interestingly, these birds were wintering only about one mile from each other (“so close and yet so far”); Gray Flycatcher individuals at Santa Ana Cemetery (though Jan. 11) and at Yorba Reg. Park (through Jan. 28); Brown Creeper at HCP (Jan. 26); American Redstart along the SAR, in Anaheim (Jan. 10); Chestnut-sided Warbler in Mission Viejo (Jan. 21); Green-tailed Towhee in an Irvine residential area (through at least Feb. 8); and a male Summer Tanager at Hart Park (last seen Jan. 14).

Despite all the birder activity in December, with much of this associated with the CBCs, a number of local birders continued the hunt for winter rarities into January (with considerable success). One of the more significant recent reports was of a Red-necked Grebe at the upper end of UNB, Jan. 16 (Art and Janet Cupples, Jean Brandt). This probable first UNB record proved to be quite elusive. Another exceptional find included a drab Pine Warbler at Mile Square Park, Jan. 3-11 (P. Pike); unfortunately this bird appeared to be spending its time on the golf course and was therefore in areas restricted from birder coverage.

Waterfowl highlights included a Greater White-fronted Goose along the east Anaheim portion of the SAR, Jan. 16 (Brian Leatherman), and a male Eurasian Wigeon in a pond in front of the Garden Grove Public Library, Jan. 15 (D. Willick). A pale belled Oystercatcher in Seal Beach, Jan. 1 (Tom Benson), was felt to probably be an American x Black hybrid. Eight Black Oystercatchers were at Crescent Bay Point, Jan. 11 (Kaaren Perry); Crescent Bay is one of the county’s “most reliable” places to see this unique, rocky coastline shorebird.

An immature Bald Eagle at Irvine Reg. Park, Jan. 13 (Lynn Strand), was an exciting discovery. Other interesting raptors included a Zone-tailed Hawk near O’Neill Reg. Park, Jan. 28 (Vic Leipzigg and class), & an apparently very early migrant Swainson’s Hawk, Jan. 29 (D. Willick), over the Cal State Fullerton Arboretum. A Common Poorwill flushed during the day at Peters Canyon Reg. Park, Jan. 9 (B. Leatherman), was noteworthy. Interesting woodpeckers included two Red-naped Sapsuckers [Laguna Woods, Jan. 21 (D. Willick), and Craig Reg. Park, Feb. 1 (Wes Sircarse)], and a hybrid Red-breasted x Red-naped Sapsucker at HCP, Jan. 31 (Dick Cabot).

As previously mentioned there has been an unprecedented occurrence of “Western” Flycatchers in the county this winter (eleven records so far, smashing the previous winter high of five). New discoveries of Westerns (i.e., Pacific-slope/Cordilleran) this last month included singles at ENC, Jan. 7 (D. Willick); at Oso Viejo Park, Jan. 21 (J. Pike), in Mission Viejo, Jan. 26 (P. Cook); and two in Anaheim Hills (Pellanconi Park, Jan. 14-28, and Olive Hills Park, Jan. 28) (D. Willick). Although two short of the county’s high count for winter, ten Gray Flycatchers so far this season has also been exceptional. Two new Gray Flycatchers were found in January, with one at the Pacific View Cemetery, Jan. 11 (P. Cook), and one at Oso Viejo Park, Jan. 21 (J. Pike).

A good showing of Sage Thrashers took place this past month, with reports coming in from BC mesa, Jan. 6 (Dick Erickson), Irvine Reg. Park (2 birds), Jan. 29 (Bruce Aird), and near the former El Toro Marine Corps Air Station, Jan. 27 (Justin Wood, et. al.). The late January records were most likely birds already moving north, as this species is known to be an exceptional early spring migrant. A female type American Redstart was at Irby Park, Jan. 3 (J. Pike), joining at least three others known to be wintering in the county. Two new Summer Tanagers were uncovered this past month, bringing the county’s winter total so far to about five; these included one at Dave Robbins Park, Jan. 7-8 (P. Cook), and one at Oso Viejo Park, Jan. 21 (J. Pike). Lastly, the only Swamp Sparrows recorded so far this winter all occurred in January, when suddenly 4 were found. In addition to the one tallied during the Coastal CBC, others included one at San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary, Jan. 7 (T. Cooper), and two at Talbert Nature Preserve, Jan. 29 (J. Pike).
This Christmas Bird Count was organized, coordinated, and compiled by Curtis Johnson, CBC Chairman. A copy of the data for each section of the count can be found on our chapter webpage at [http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org](http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org).

For a printout of the entire report send a stamped, legal sized envelope to: CBC, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine 92612.

**Total number of species:** 162. **Species seen during count week, but not on count day:** None. **EXOTIC SPECIES** seen on count day or during count week: Mute Swan, Lilac-crowned Parrot, Egyptian Goose, Common Peafowl, Nutmeg Mannikin.

BAT WALKS

Friday evenings (starting time varies due to time of sunset). May 26, June 9, July 7, July 28, August 18. Fee: $12 for adults; $6 for children ages 7-12.

We will begin with an indoor presentation by Orange County’s bat expert, Stephanie Remington, who may bring a live rehabilitated bat for close-up viewing. We will then take a short twilight walk using sonar detectors to locate two species of bats that come to the marsh in small numbers to feed from their roosts in nearby bridges and buildings.

FLEDGLING CAMP

June 26-30, 2006
Monday - Friday; 9 am - 2 pm for Children 7 - 8 years old
Fee: $150 per camper

Do you like to be outside? Have you ever wondered about the birds in your backyard? The natural world is a fascinating place; come to Audubon’s Fledgling Camp to learn all about it! Activities will include songs, games, hands-on crafts, daily nature walks, keeping a journal, observing birds, and much more!

What parents say about Fledgling Camp —
“Great spot. My daughter and I loved the staff—adult and Jr. Naturalists, both!”

“This was my son’s favorite all time camp. He can’t wait till next year for Marsh Camp!”

“Thank you for starting Fledgling Camp.”

MARSH BIRD CAMP

Session 1: July 10-14, 2006
Session 2: July 17 - 21, 2006
Mon. - Fri: 9 am - 3:30 pm
Fee: $180 per camper for 9 - 12 year olds

Campers will explore all aspects of marsh bird life such as feathers, nests, and feeding. Campers will enjoy daily nature walks, see live hawks & owls from a rehabilitator, dissect owl castings, keep a nature journal, make crafts, and much much more. (Session 1 is the same as session 2.)

What parents say about Marsh Bird Camp —
“This is by far the most well organized camp I have ever experienced. Each day is filled with wonderful, enriching and purposeful activities. The adult supervision and young naturalists are fabulous.”

“It’s educational & fun—nothing like it! The knowledge remains throughout the year.”

“Staff is to die for! Location is fabulous—a Garden of Eden in an urban background.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE ACTIVITIES, CALL (949) 261-7963, OR VISIT THE CHAPTER WEBPAGE AT: http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org
March & April Field Trips

Questions about the trips? contact Nancy Kenyon, Field Trip Chair, at 949-786-3160, or kenyon@exo.com. For current status on any trip, check the Sea & Sage website at http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org; look under the heading of FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE or MARCH & APRIL FIELD TRIPS. Trips that require advanced reservations are marked with this symbol ®.

Be sure to plan ahead for these reservations trips; some of them fill up quickly!

SEAL BEACH NWR ®
Sat - March 4th - 7:45 am
This 923-acre refuge contains an extensive, unspoiled salt marsh, heavily vegetated, with tidal channels throughout. Mudflats do exist and are exposed at low tide, and are used by thousands of shorebirds. The refuge supports a great variety of raptors, waterfowl, shorebirds and songbirds. Advance reservations are required because each field trip is limited to 20. Photo ID may be required in order to enter the premises. Contact Nancy Kenyon at 949-786-3160 or kenyon@exo.com for reservations. Leave your name & phone number so that your reservation may be confirmed.

DIRECTIONS: Meet in the parking lot outside the main gate of the Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station at 7:45 am. The station is located on the east side of Seal Beach Blvd, about 2 miles south of the #405 freeway and 1 mile north of PCH. After boarding vans, we will enter the facility promptly at 8:00 am. Late comers will not be admitted. Bring binoculars, field guide and a scope if you have one. Restrooms will be available at one of the stops. The trip will end at 12 noon.

FIELD NATURAL HIST.
WALK to Laurel Canyon
with Dick Newell ®
Wed. - March 8th - 9:00 am
Spend a delightful morning exploring and contemplating the beauty and mystery of nature with a local naturalist. We will examine the geology, plant life, birds, herps and other animals of this pristine area. More than just learning plant names or identifying birds, we will explore behavior, habitat and look at relationships of the natural community during a relaxed, casual hike through native grasslands, along a streambed and through its riparian habitat where native oaks, sycamores and willows abound. The trip will take a little over three hours to complete. It will cover about three miles and perhaps a 400' elevation gain. Anyone who is reasonably fit should find this trip relatively easy to complete. Bring a sandwich to enjoy after the walk, perhaps a cookie to munch on along the way and lots of water. Also suggested are hiking boots, suntan lotion, binoculars and most importantly, an open, inquiring mind. Rain or natural disaster will cancel. However, we will try to reschedule the following week if possible. To ensure a quiet contemplative walk the outing is limited to only ten participants. For reservations and directions, contact Nancy Kenyon at 949-786-3160 or by email at kenyon@exo.com. Be sure to leave your name & phone number so that she can call you back. Leader: Dick Newell

IRVINE REGIONAL PARK
Fri. - March 10th - 8:00 am
Join us for a weekday walk into this regional park which supports an interesting array of birds, both resident and migratory. Birds you may expect to see include Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks, White-tailed Kites, nuthatches, woodpeckers, wrens, titmice, etc. DIRECTIONS: Take Jamboree NE (toward the mnrs.) & follow it across Santiago Cyn. Rd. into the park. Or, from the #55 Fwy, exit on Katella & drive east. Katella turns into Villa Park Rd. & then Santiago Cyn. Rd. which you will stay on until it intersects with Jamboree. Turn left on Jamboree & follow it into the park. Be prepared to pay the $2 entrance fee at the gate if you don’t have a county parks’ pass. We will meet in the first parking lot on the right, after you enter the park. Leaders: John and Beverly Hargrove

MONTHLY BIRD WALK
Sun. - March 12th - 8:00 am
Join Chris Obaditch for a monthly bird walk around the ponds of the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary on the 2nd Sunday morning of each month at 8:00 am. The walk, which is open to interested birders of all ages, will meet by the front door of Audubon House. (See directions on page 5.) Children under the age of 11 must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, call Audubon House at 949-261-7963. Leaders: Chris Obaditch

WHITING RANCH Reg. Park
Thurs. - March 16 - 8:00 am
Come join us for a morning bird walk in one of our local regional parks, Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park. Borrego Canyon has some beautiful old oaks and sycamores, some goodly sized cactus patches and a trail that generally follows along a stream while meandering back and forth across the streambed. A portion of the park is surrounded by houses yet manages to support a wide variety of species. Parts of the trail are uneven and rocky, and can be quite muddy after a rainfall, so be sure to wear sturdy shoes with good traction. Bring your binoculars and water. Directions: From I-5, exit on Bake Pkwy. and follow it inland, toward the mountains, past the toll road (#241), and turn left onto Portola Pkwy. Drive only a short distance to the traffic light at Marketplace and turn right; then, take an immediate left into the Whiting Ranch parking lot. For those without a wilderness park decal, a day-use permit can be purchased at the kiosk for $3.00. Rain within 3 days cancels the trip; if unsure, call the co-leaders: Janet & Al Baumann

PETERS CANYON REG. PARK
Sun. - April 2nd - 7:30 am
Peters Canyon is another regional park which boasts a variety of habitats: willow riparian, reservoir, coastal sage scrub, grassy fields, and rolling hills. You can expect to see a number of duck species here, as well as raptors, wrens, gnatchatchers, warblers and grosbeaks. This walk will be cancelled if there has been recent rain; the park will be closed since all trails are dirt. Directions: From #5 Fwy, take Jamboree east. Turn left on Canyon View Ave., not far from Santiago Cyn Rd. From #55 Fwy, take Chapman east. Turn right on Jamboree and right again on Canyon View; the park will be on your left. Be prepared to pay the $2 parking fee into the machine if you don’t have a wilderness parks decal. The regional parks card/pass cannot be used. Leaders: Steve & Marian Alter (949-669-9482)

EASTERN SIERRA TRIP ®
Sat & Sun, April 8-9 - 7:30 am
We will meet in Lone Pine at 7:30 on Saturday morning. From there we will drive up #395 to Bishop, birding along the way. Target birds: Blue Grouse, Gray-crowned Rosy Finch, American Dipper. Sun. morning, we will reassemble at 5:00 am to watch the Sage Grouse display on the lek. We will then proceed north to Mammoth and beyond, to look for Clark’s Nutcracker, Black-billed Magpie, Sage Thrasher, Pinyon Jay and Common Loon in breeding plumage. Trip fee is $15. Make check payable to SEA & SAGE AUDUBON and mail to: Eastern Sierra Birds, c/o Nancy Kenyon, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612. Include your email address or a SASE for trip confirmation & additional trip information. Leader: Roy Poucher

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Sea & Sage Audubon, March 2006
Irvine Ranch Water District Announces Photo Contest for San Joaquin Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary

Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) invites all amateur photographers to begin taking photos for its first San Joaquin Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary photography contest. The contest will be held to highlight IRWD’s 45th anniversary and winners will be displayed at an open house on June 10.

The photos must be taken within IRWD’s San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary, located within the boundaries of Michelson Drive, Harvard Avenue, Campus Drive and Carlson Avenue in the city of Irvine. The sanctuary is open from dawn to dusk, seven days a week. There are 12 miles of walking trails throughout the Marsh. Over 200 species of birds live in or migrate through the Wildlife Sanctuary and winter is a particularly good time for wildlife photography. Photos may be scenics, wildlife or any other subject as long as they are taken within the geographic boundaries listed above.

The photo contest is open to amateur photographers of all ages. A maximum of three photos per person may be entered. All photos (high resolution digital or film) must be submitted as 8” x 10” prints on photo paper.

IRWD Photo Contest

Awards will be presented in two age categories: Youth (age 17 and under) and Adult (age 18 or older). Entries must be received by Monday, May 15, 2006 at 5 p.m. Submit photos by mail or in person to the IRWD Public Affairs Department, 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine, CA 92618.

To obtain an entry form and list of official rules, please visit the IRWD Web site at www.irwd.com, e-mail webmaster@irwd.com or call (949) 453-5500.

Jan. 24, 2006 Contact: Marilyn Smith
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (949) 453-5321

Birdathon 2006 - April 29th

Can you believe, it's March already. And you know what that means...BIRDATHON is just around the corner!

Everyone who reads the Wandering Tattler knows how Sea and Sage Audubon contributes to daily life in Orange County through its education and conservation programs. The Chapter is critically dependent on fund raising to survive, and Birdathon is the Chapter's biggest annual fund raising event. So the continued success of our programs requires everyone to contribute to keep the organization going. Birdathon is not just for the competitive teams, it is a chance for everyone to get out, find some birds and help support the Chapter. So talk to friends, family and coworkers, tell them about Sea and Sage, and what the Chapter does for them and the community. Ask them to sponsor you, maybe a dime or a buck per species, or perhaps they'd rather pledge a fixed amount. There is no upper or lower limit...Sea and Sage is grateful for any and all support. Then the fun part comes, you get to go out and find birds! Visit your favorite park, hoot up some owls at Bluejay Campground, spend the day prowling Back Bay, or take a cooler and your spotting scope out to the end of Newport Pier. Then go back and tell your friends how hard you worked to earn their support. On a beautiful weekend in April you're going to go birding anyway, so why not raise some money for a good cause while you're at it?

The “official” Sea & Sage Birdathon competition will be from dusk Friday April 28 to dusk Saturday April 29. Plus, we will be using the team lists along with any other sightings recorded that day for an Orange County entry in the ABA’s “America's Birdiest County” contest. So if you are able, do your birding on April 29th, and flush two birds with one stone.

But even if that day isn't convenient for you, I urge you to find some backers and go birding whenever you can. Sea and Sage can do nothing without your support. But with your assistance, with everyone pulling together, it can be a positive influence for the entire community.

To sign up, form a team, find a team, or for more information, please contact Steve Alter at (714) 669-9482, or by email at scaler1@pacbell.net

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Audubon California's Starr Ranch Sanctuary invites you to our overnight camps for adults. Join staff biologists for a peaceful weekend at beautiful 4000 acre Starr Ranch in southeast Orange County and experience nature hands-on as a wildlife researcher. Stay in our historic bunkhouse or camp. Two research camps will be offered:

**BIRD RESEARCH CAMP**

The weekend will begin with a Friday night introduction to the birds of Starr Ranch. Then first thing Saturday morning, we'll conduct our own breeding bird survey. The afternoon will be spent learning how raptor biologists use radio telemetry to study hawks' movement patterns and will be followed by an evening "Owl Prowl." Sunday morning, you'll have a chance to see some of your favorite songbirds up-close and in the hand, as we participate in Starr Ranch's bird banding program.

**Dates and Times:** Friday, May 19th - Sunday, May 21st from 7:00 pm on Friday evening to 12 noon on Sunday
**Cost:** $100/bunkhouse; $90/camping (Breakfasts & Saturday dinner provided)

**WILDLIFE RESEARCH CAMP**

On Saturday morning adult campers will use scent-baited stations (scent stations) placed in the wild and learn how to identify tracks and scat of large mammals that visit the scent stations. In the afternoon, campers will participate in a stream biosurvey where they will sample aquatic invertebrates to assess stream water quality. That evening, campers will conduct a nocturnal wildlife survey during which we'll explore Bell Canyon at night from benches in the back of a flat-bed truck, making stops to call for owls and coyotes. Sunday morning the group will learn how biologists monitor the reptiles and amphibians (herps) of southern California.

**Dates and Times:** Saturday, June 3 to Sunday, June 4 from 9:00 am on Saturday to 12 noon on Sunday
**Cost:** $80/bunkhouse; $75/camping (Saturday dinner & Sunday breakfast provided)

Space is limited.
**Reservations:** 949-858-0131.
**Questions:** 949-858-0309
**Website:** http://www.starr-ranch.org

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The docent monitoring program at the Natural Preserve area of the Santa Ana River Mouth will continue this breeding season. Last year was the first season with monitors in this area. With Sea & Sage Audubon partnering in this program, it was extremely successful. Huntington State Beach was one of the top Least Tern breeding areas in the state with 339 nests, 554 eggs, a hatching success of 55%, and 71-90 fledglings. It was an enjoyable and rewarding experience for the docents, with chances to observe the breeding colony and watch hatchlings grow to fledglings.

Approximately 8-13 Western Snowy Plovers have been observed at Huntington State Beach this winter. In the past, the Snowy Plovers have been driven out of this area by human activity and have not nested here. Through the docent program, we can educate the public about the birds and their nesting behavior.

The 2006 monitoring season should begin by mid February to watch for activity. It will be important for more coverage as the breeding season progresses. Last year it continued through Labor Day with most docents monitoring about two hrs. per week. It was proven last year that every hour of monitoring helps. We need returning and new docents for the potential of Western Snowy Plovers nesting and the breeding of Least Terns at the colony.

If you would like to help this year, or would like more information, please contact David Pryor, State Parks Ecologist, at 949-497-1421. Training and mentoring programs will be conducted for new volunteers.

If you are a returning docent, and have not been contacted, please contact Cheryl Egger at 714-842-9232 or email her at dc.egger@verizon.net

Ongoing information about this program and “colony happenings” will be posted on our Sea & Sage website at http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org

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On Jan. 12th, 2006, the Wetlands and Wildlife Care Center released a Snowy Egret at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. The egret has a silver federal band applied because he has steatitis. Steatitis is a dietary deficiency disease and is not contagious. Sea World Conservation Fund has given WWCC a $5,000.00 grant to help find the source of this disease. Less than 5% of these birds are releasable because we usually get them at the later stages. Because of this unique situation, Pete Bloom helped us by banding the egret. He said that this is the only federally banded Snowy Egret in California this year. For all of you expert birders, this is a great opportunity to put your skills to a good cause. If you see the banded egret, please note the place and date seen. Then e-mail the location and date to thegreatblueheron@hotmail.com. Jamie Pavlat is project manager for this study. For more information on steatitis, you can either e-mail me at the above address, or contact me by phone at 714-960-4909. Thank you in advance for your help.

— Jamie Pavlat, Wetlands & Wildlife Care Center
Your Membership Payment

If you are signing up as a new Audubon member be sure and use the application in the Tattler or on our website that has the C15 in the lower right hand corner. This tells National Audubon who to credit for your recruitment. Sea & Sage gets 100% of the first year's dues of new members (even if you give more than the minimum membership fee). When renewing your membership and you pay more than the standard renewal fee ($35 for regular and $15 for senior/student membership), the extra you contribute goes to National Audubon; the chapter does not get any of the contribution back. So, if you are feeling generous at renewal time and you want Sea & Sage to benefit, you should send your renewal fee to National and a separate check with your donation to the chapter. If you have any questions please contact Phil Brobst at (949) 261-7963.

Directions to AUDUBON HOUSE and the SJWS

8:00 am - 4:00 pm daily
(949) 261-7963

From the San Diego Frwy. (405), exit on Jamboree south toward Newport Beach. At the 1st signal, Michelson, turn left. Continue on Michelson to the 3rd signal which is Riparian View; turn right toward the Irvine Ranch Water District plant. Follow the signs directing you to Audubon and the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. Follow the sign directing you to turn right down a short hill into our parking lot. The first house you see will be Audubon House; parking is ample. Beyond Audubon House are the ponds and marsh mitigation areas of the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary which are open every day from dawn until dusk.

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, for regular mailing. Those who wish to receive their newsletter faster, by 1st class postage, may do so for an additional $6.00. Make check payable to: SEA and SAGE AUDUBON and mail to: Tattler Subscriptions, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612.

Tattler Delivery

Those of you who read the Tattler cover to cover, know that Sea and Sage is trying to cut their expenses. We now post the Tattler on our chapter website. Members who wish to receive monthly e-mail notification that the latest issue of the tattler is online, should e-mail kenyon@exo.com. This method of Tattler delivery not only helps cut costs and conserve resources, it also is much faster since the Tattler is posted immediately after it has been delivered to the printer.

Membership Application

Membership: We invite you to become a member of the National Audubon Society and the Sea & Sage Audubon chapter. To join: Please 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 92616-5447.

National Audubon Society Membership: Check one [ ]
[ ] NEW MEMBERSHIP: $20 - Individual or Family members [ ] RENEWAL: $35 - Regular Membership
[ ] NEW MEMBERSHIP: $15 - Senior Citizen or Student [ ] RENEWAL: $15 - Senior Citizen or Student

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

Name ________________________________
Address ________________________________________________________________
City __________________________________ State _____ Zip _______________________
Phone ________________________________

March 2006
Sea & Sage Audubon Society

Chapter Mission Statement: Sea & 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 Society
PO Box 5447, Irvine CA 92616

Ivory-billed Woodpecker

DATED MATERIAL PLEASE EXPEDITE!

BOARD MEMBERS

Executive Committee:
President............................................. Tom Croom.......................... 714-692-9683
Vice President.................................... Al Baumann.......................... 949-859-5081
Secretary............................................. Marcia Marlowe..................... 949-644-0559
Treasurer............................................. Neal Anderson....................... 714-441-0491
Director 2008..................................... Sandy DeSimone.................... 949-640-7234
Director 2007..................................... Laura Wantz......................... 949-786-3160
Director 2006..................................... Tim Maas.................. 714-960-2624
Director 2005..................................... Diane Bonanno...................... 714-572-9911
Director 2004..................................... Curtis Johnson....................... 714-739-5373
Director 2003..................................... Scott Thomas...................... 949-293-2915
Director 2002..................................... Susan Sheakley.................... 949-552-5974
Director 2001..................................... Rick Derveen......................... 949-253-2700
Director 2000..................................... Tim Maas.................. 714-960-2624
Past President................................. Chris Obaditch....................... 949-640-7234

Committee Chairpersons:
Audubon House Volunteers.. Judy Fritts.......................... 949-551-4513
Birdathon........................................... Steve Alter.......................... 714-669-9482
Bird Information................. Sylvia Gallagher...................... 714-962-8990
Christmas Bird Counts........ Curtis Johnson....................... 714-739-5373
Conservation Co-Chair...... Scott Thomas...................... 949-293-2915
Conservation Co-Chair........ Susan Sheakley..................... 949-552-5974
Counsel.......................................... Rick Derveen......................... 949-253-2700
Education................................. Tim Maas.................. 714-960-2624
Exhibits.............................................
Facilities.......................................... Neal Anderson....................... 714-441-0491
Field Trips........................................ Nancy Kenyon....................... 949-786-3160
Finance.............................................
Fund Raising............................. Cheryl Thomas...................... 949-859-5588
Hospitality.................................. Carol Getz.................. 949-559-5219
Membership................................. Phil Brobst.................. 949-261-7963
Newsletter Editor............... Nancy Kenyon....................... 949-786-3160
Oak Cyn Nature Center...... Cathy Glasgow...................... 714-998-8380
Partners in Flight............... Janet Baumann...................... 949-859-5081
Program Co-Chairs........... Jay & Marquita Miller...... 714-549-2912
Publicity....................................... Catherine Waters..................... 562-869-6718
Publishing................................. Sam Berry.................. 949-646-1488
SJWS Liaison.......................... Chris Obaditch....................... 949-640-7234
Starr Ranch/Envir. Liaison... Pete DeSimone...................... 949-859-5081

Chapter Office (AUDUBON HOUSE)............................................. 949-261-7963
Education Project Director... Trude Hurd.......................... 949-261-7963
Project Director Assistant... Deborah Brin.......................... 949-261-7963
Administrative Aide.......... Rebecca Kraft.......................... 949-261-7963
Sales Manager.................. Debby Thyssen....................... 949-261-7963
Webmaster................................. Nancy Kenyon....................... kenyon@exo.com
Chapter Website................ http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org

Other Personnel
Bluebird Information........... Dick Purvis.......................... 714-776-8878
Rare OC Bird Alert Hotline... Joel Weintraub....................... 949-487-8899
Slides for Sale................... Sylvia Gallagher...................... 714-962-8990
Slide Lending Library.......... Claudine Casey....................... 714-968-3463

CALENDAR

March
04 Sat Seal Beach NWR field trip.......................... 7:45 am
07 Tues Conservation Committee meeting.......................... 6:30 pm
08 Wed Laurel Canyon Natural History Walk.......................... 9:00 am
10 Fri Irvine Regional Park.......................... 8:00 am
10 Fri ANNUAL DINNER............................................. 6:00 pm
12 Sun Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS.......................... 8:00 am
14 Tues Board Meeting............................................. 7:30 pm
16 Thurs Whiting Ranch.......................... 8:00 am
19-21 S-T Audubon Assembly at Asilomar

April
02 Sun Peters Canyon.......................... 7:30 am
04 Tues Conservation Committee meeting.......................... 6:30 pm
08-9 S-S Eastern Sierra weekend trip.......................... 7:30 am
09 Sun Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS.......................... 8:00 am
10 Mon Back Country Bird Walk at Starr Ranch.......................... 8:00 am
11 Tues Board Meeting.......................... 7:30 pm
14 Fri El Dorado Regional Park.......................... 8:00 am
15 Sat Santiago Oaks Regional Park.......................... 8:00 am
19 Wed Laguna Niguel Regional Park.......................... 7:30 am
21 Fri GENERAL MEETING............................................. 7:30 pm
29 Sat Birdathon
30 Sun El Moro Canyon.......................... 7:30 am