

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

Tucker Wildlife Sanctuary by Gail Richards, President

I am pleased to announce that the San Fernando Valley



Audubon Society Board of Directors met on Friday, Feb. 26, and voted to select the Environmental Nature Center (ENC) of Newport Beach, CA, as the new land stewards of Tucker Wildlife Sanctuary.

ENC Vision for ENC-Tucker Wildlife Sanctuary:

To create habitat for native birds and animals, while staying true to the flora and fauna of Modjeska Canyon, and to use the habitat to provide quality education through hands-on experiences with nature.

Next Steps:

- 1. Site Analysis What is there? What needs repair, improvement?
- 2. Staffing Plan-What is needed-short term and long term?
- 3. Volunteer Plan- will be coordinated with Friends of Tucker.
- 4. Public Access Plan- How will the facility be shared between visitors and educational program participants?
- 5. Educational Programing Plan
 - a. Tucker Wildlife Sanctuary provides a natural ecosystem with access to nature and hiking trails that is a magical place for new learning programs.
- 6. Restoration Plan-buildings and native plant restoration.
 - a. The plan is to upgrade the Museum Trailer to a fire-resistant structure to provide a vital educational space and serve as an educational tool.
 - b. The native plant restoration will begin immediately, staying true to the flora and fauna of Modjeska Canyon.
- 7. Budget Development

Sea and Sage Audubon has given enthusiastic support for this decision. We are pleased that ENC offers a plan which is a match with our vision of what we hoped Tucker Wildlife Sanctuary would be.

General Meeting - Online Presentation Friday, April 16, 2021 - 7:00 PM Via Zoom

"Orange County Bird of Prey Center" presented by Kevin Hofer

Kevin Hofer is a southern California native with a lifelong passion for birds, wildlife and the environment. As a volunteer educator with the Orange County Bird of Prey Center and as an aspiring bird trainer, he has had the opportunity to meet, interact, train, treat, rehabilitate and appreciate raptors in a highly sensitive and rewarding capacity. Kevin is an active member of the International Association of Avian Trainers and Educators and commits to both of their code of ethics "To encourage community support and involvement through public education" as well as the OCBPC's mission to "educate people, rehabilitate injured and orphaned raptors, and release them back to the wild."



Kevin will present an upclose look at the OCBPC's ambassador raptors and give us a review of these incredible animals and how conservation efforts impact native raptors and wildlife.

The Meeting room opens at **6:30 PM**. Join us for some virtual games (e.g. bird trivia, bird ID) prior to the 7:00 PM meeting.

Here is the link you will need to join the meeting: <u>https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89712881395</u>

See you there (virtually). If this link isn't working for you, try Meeting ID: 897 1288 1395

Jonathan Aguayo, Programs Chair

Conservation News

Susan Sheakley, Conservation Chair

Our next '4th Tuesday' Conservation Lecture is planned for Tuesday, April 27th. Please join us!

Virtual Seabird Fly-In April 12 – 16, 2021 Briefings: starting April 8

Sea and Sage will participate in Audubon's Virtual Seabird Fly-in. **We invite you to join us.**

What's a Virtual Fly-in? A fly-in is a day of advocacy, where people from all different places and backgrounds join together and meet with their members of Congress for a common cause. Because we can't literally fly into DC this year, we'll be meeting virtually via Zoom.

Who can come to a Virtual Fly-In? Anyone who wants to make a difference for seabirds!

How does it work? National Audubon will arrange the meetings with representatives and host informative sessions on what seabirds need, the policy asks, and how to meet with members of Congress.

Why is Audubon doing this now? Seabirds are indicators of ocean health- when they're in trouble, so are we.

Seabirds have declined globally by 70% in the last 70 years. Ocean warming is changing their food, migrations, and habitat, while pollution, coastline development, and other factors are making it harder for these charismatic birds to survive. Unfortunately, no U.S. laws fully account for their needs. The Magnuson-Stevens Act, as the primary law that governs marine fisheries in U.S. federal waters, is the best policy to incorporate the needs of marine predators like seabirds.

What you can do. If you want to join Sea and Sage Audubon on a meeting with your representative, contact Susan Sheakley at: <u>susansheakley@cox.net</u> *prior to April 6*. Get more information and the Event List & Calendar at: https://act.audubon.org/a/virtual-seabird-flyin-2021



4th Tues.' Conservation Lecture Tuesday, Apr. 27th – 7:00 pm by Zoom Doors will open at 6:30

"Restoring the Tern Islands of Bolsa Chica"

Presented by Kim Kolpin Executive Director of Bolsa Chica Land Trust

In 2021 the Bolsa Chica Land Trust and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife are taking the first steps towards restoring the 40-year-old Tern Islands. Located in Inner Bolsa Bay, the two islands were created in the late 1970s when the Ecological Reserve was formed. Although degraded due to use and time, the islands harbor 13 avian species during the spring nesting season, including 3 listed species. BCLT Executive Director, Kim Kolpin, will explain the importance of these nesting islands, the challenges they face, and the steps being taken to restore them and provide resiliency to sea-level rise



for the next 25 years.

Kim Kolpin is the Executive Director of the Bolsa Chica Land Trust. She has been in this

position for 8 1/2 years. Prior to becoming ED, she led the BCLT's Stewards habitat restoration project for 17 years. Kim is also a Director of the California Council of Land Trusts, and Chair of their Policy Committee, advocating for more than 80 California Land Trusts and the 1 million acres of open space they protect.

Please join us!

Registration opens on the 1st through the homepage on our website - look for '4th Tues' Conservation Lecture on April 27' under 'What's New' or 'Conservation'.

Orange County Rarities by Roger Schoedl



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: <u>OrangeCountyBirding+subscribe@groups.io</u>

Late winter is usually a time of little turnover in the county's wintering birds, with many birds in February continuing from earlier.

A Horned Grebe away from the coast at Irvine Lake, (IRVL), Feb. 14, was unusual. The immature Masked **Booby** continued at Dana Point Harbor through Feb. 28. A bird of tropical waters, it persisted through the region's very untropical winter. A Little Blue Heron through Feb. 21 and a Tricolored Heron (Feb. 28+) continued at Upper Newport Bay (UNB) after beginning the season a short distance away at Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve (BCER). A male Mexican Duck at Carr Park through Feb. 21, would be the county's first record if accepted by the CA Bird Records Committee. A male **Black Scoter** briefly seen at the Newport Pier Feb. 19, was the first one reported so far this winter. Though a small number regularly winter along the county's interior foothills, a Zone-tailed Hawk seen at UCI Marsh and San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary through Feb. 21, was unusual. The biggest surprise of the month was an adult Broad-winged Hawk, seen Feb. 16-18, at Pinecrest Park in Mission Viejo. Usually seen fleetingly as they soar past during fall migration, this was the county's first winter record. It was also cooperative enough to be seen by quite a few birders.



Photo: Broad-winged Hawk, R. Schoedl At least one **Swainson's Hawk** was still observed around Arbor Park in Seal Beach, Feb. 27+. An immature **Bald Eagle** was seen sporadically through Feb. 27 at UNB, well away from more expected locations like IRVL and the Santa Ana River in Anaheim (SARA). A **Mountain Plover**, back for its 2nd winter at BCER, was easily viewed in the Least Tern nesting area, Feb. 24+. A **White-winged Dove** at a private residence in Huntington Beach (HB), Feb. 1, was unseasonal. The **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** at Laguna Niguel Regional Park (LNRP) was last reported Feb. 16.

This winter was a good year for flycatchers in the county with a Hammond's Flycatcher at Mile Square Regional Park, Feb. 15+, four Gray Flyatchers, IRVL, Feb. 21+; LNRP, Feb. 25+; Glenview Park in HB, Feb. 11+; and Riverdale Park in Anaheim, Feb. 7+, and at least six **Pacific-slope** Flycatchers, LNRP, Mason Regional Park, Pinecrest Park, the Chrisanta Drive Riparian Slough, Corona del Mar (CDM), Huntington Central Park and a private residence in Rancho Santa Margarita). An Eastern Phoebe remained at IRVL (Feb. 27+). The Ash-throated Flycatcher at SARA was seen through Feb. 13 and the Brown-crested Flycatcher continued at CDR through Feb. 27. Kingbirds were also represented in the county's rare flycatcher lineup this season with a Tropical Kingbird at Harriet Wieder Regional Park (HWRP), Feb. 23+, and a Thick-billed Kingbird at LNRP (thru Feb. 24). Rare vireos, however, were spare with a single Plumbeous Vireo reported from CDR on Feb. 18 and Cassin's Vireos seen at Modieska Park in Anaheim Feb. 15 and at LNRP Feb 7. Up to 2 Varied Thrushes at Irvine Regional Park (IRP) were ongoing (Feb. 28+) as was a female **Mountain Bluebird** at Mile Square Regional Park through Feb. 6. A Sage Thrasher at a Dunkin Donuts in Tustin stayed through Feb. 13 with 2 other migrants favoring more traditional fare at IRVL on Feb. 21 and at UNB on Feb. 18. Rare wintering warblers were exceptionally scarce in the county with a Black-and-white Warbler at Aurora Park in Mission Viejo, Feb. 23+, and a Northern Waterthrush at HCP, Feb. 24+, continuing through the month.

A handful of rare sparrows also continued, with 4 **Green-tailed Towhees,** HWRP, Feb. 27+, HCP Feb. 26, a private residence in Buena Park Feb. 24+, and Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park Feb.1, a **Claycolored Sparrow** at Ralph B. Clark Regional Park (Feb. 21+), a **Swamp** Sparrow at LNRP, Feb. 25+, and 2 **White-throated Sparrows,** IRP, Feb. 16+ and Caspers Wilderness Park through Feb. 3. Finally, a small influx of **Lawrence's Goldfinches** was reported in various foothill areas with most being early spring migrants.

Chapter News & Announcements

Social Get-Togethers for April —

The chapter program of Social Get-Togethers using Zoom will continue in April, with discussion sessions on a range of topics. More events are in the planning stages and will be posted on the website once details have been finalized. We welcome your suggestions and participation! Go to the Sea and Sage website to register for one or more sessions: http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org

Session coordinators are Kim King & Chris Byrd. Questions? Contact: <u>seaandsagezoom@gmail.com</u>

CURRENTLY AVAILABLE SESSIONS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING – See website for links.

• Photography Chat!

Hosted by Sandrine Biziaux-Scherson and a Covey of Expert Bird Photographers! Saturday, April 10, 7:00 PM

Low Waste Gardening

Hosted by Kristina Beck Thursday, April 15, 6:30 PM

• Stopping Climate Change: Thinking Globally, Acting Locally

Hosted by Heather Brashear Sunday, April 18, 4:00 PM

• Sea and Sage Reading Group, The Home Place by J. Drew Lanham

Hosted by Kim King Tuesday, April 20, 1:00 PM

• Special Places to Bird Around the World

Hosted by Tom and Carol Getz Saturday, April 24, 7:00 PM

• Trivia Night III

Hosted by Kimberly Vargas Roberts and Ashley Hopkins Sunday, April 25, 7:00 PM

Arts & Crafts Social Hour

Hosted by Kim King Wednesday, April 28, 1:00 PM

Donors continued from the March Issue. Thank you so much!

Robert Callahan Stephen Franklin Benjamin & Maria Heath Eugenia Kirchner Julie Kline Linda Marcus Suzanne Mulcahy Jon Porter Md Willie Reichenstein The Scheafer Family Craig & Laura Stephens

Have You Heard of Birdability?

Birdability is a new non-profit organization dedicated to removing barriers to access for birders with mobility challenges, blindness or low vision, and many other health concerns. The Birdability goal is to ensure that birding and the outdoors are for everybody! Take a look at the www.Birdability.org site, where there are extensive resources on improving access and also a map of U.S. birding sites. The map has diamonds all across it representing birding locations that have been surveyed for accessibility. Zoom in, click on a diamond, and read details about trail surface and slope, restrooms, parking, and more.

Sea and Sage has a team of members beginning to survey Orange County eBird hotspots for the Birdability website. Twenty sites have been surveyed so far! If you'd like to join the survey team, contact Sharon Rockwell at <u>srockwell@writeme.com</u>. Birdability is hosted by Travis Audubon (Texas), with the map hosted by National Audubon.

New Members After Dinner Coffee April 7th at 7:00 pm

All new members to Sea and Sage Audubon, or anyone who has an interest, is invited to an <u>After Dinner Coffee</u> Zoom meeting with our Sea and Sage President, Gail Richards. Gail will share some of the history, programs and activities of our vibrant chapter and how you can get involved at whatever level you choose. Gail will also field any questions you might have.

Most of our new members will have the invitation emailed to you, but in case we don't have your email address the zoom link is:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMtceuorD4jGt HfqqmQFZ9XCYTstqkrBzNB

Also if you have an email address to share with us please send it with your first name, last name, and city to: membership@seaandsageaudubon.org

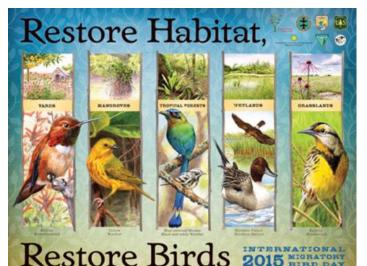
Chapter News & Announcements



Used Book Donations

We're sorry, but as long as Audubon House remains closed, we are unable to accept donations of used books or magazines.

Orange County Spring Count April & May 2021



What is the OCSC?

The OCSC (Orange County Spring Count) is part of a nationwide migration count, similar to a Christmas Bird Count, but timed to the opposite half of the migration cycle. This year, again, the OCSC is being expanded to try to capture more of the birds that migrate through the county. Sea and Sage is encouraging birders to participate any time during the months of April and May. This will allow us to see and count more of the species that migrate through the county. We will try to focus on the best areas for birds, since comprehensive coverage of the entire county is not a realistic goal.

How you can participate:

One of the objectives of Environment for the Americas (the sponsor of the hemisphere wide count) is to enter all of the data into eBird. This means that it is simple to participate. All of the regularly scheduled bird counts in April and May will be included in the OCSC. The dates do not need to change.

Many of you already use eBird. You can enter your Spring Count data directly into eBird for any birding that you do during April and May. You don't have to send tally sheets to anyone. All that is needed is to share the eBird checklist with the Sea and Sage Audubon eBird account. (The eBird user name is sea_sage_aud).

If you don't currently use eBird, you can sign up. It's free! <u>www.ebird.org</u> If you don't enter the data directly into eBird, then you must send <u>each checklist</u> to me at <u>darrellwilson@cox.net</u> in Excel format.

A goal for the OCSC is to count all the <u>Top 100 Hot Spots</u> shown in eBird. It does not matter how many times a particular spot is covered. Users of the eBird data can sort that out.

Excel Instructions:

Many of you already use eBird. You can enter your Spring Count data directly into eBird so you don't have to prepare and send tally sheets to me. All that is needed is to share the eBird checklist with the Sea and Sage Audubon eBird account (USER NAME: Sea_Sage_Aud).

If you don't enter the data directly into eBird, then you must send your checklist to me at <u>darrellwilson@cox.net</u> in Excel format.

The Excel file can be used for all of your checklists (one per column). Enter the identification information in the first 14 rows. **Row 1** is the location name. **Rows 2 & 3** can be left blank. **Row 4** is the Date of your count. **Row 5** is the time your started your count. **Rows 6 & 7** are filled in for you. **Row 8** can be changed to Stationary if you do a Point Count, staying in one place. **Row 9** is the number of people in your party. **Row 10** is the number of minutes you took for your survey. **Row 11** is filled in for you (we want a report of all of your observations). **Row 12** is the distance you traveled while doing your count. **Row 13** is not used. **Row 14** can be any text you would like. (I typically put in the names of the people in the party.)

After Row 14, there is a list of all the common birds seen in Orange County. They are listed in AOU order. If you see a species that is not listed, please add it to the end of your list. Enter the number of individual birds in the column that pertains to the location where you saw them. Please do not enter any comments of alphabetic characters in these cells. eBird does not allow that. If you need to make comments about a particular bird, please let me know by email.

— Darrell Wilson

The Consumer Guide to Window Strike

Prevention is now available for people who are concerned about how to prevent birds from being killed when flying into glass windows and doors. The resource guide is now posted on our Sea and Sage webpage. Look under the heading BIRD INFO & WHAT'S NEW.

Virtual Science Lessons for All Ages

Bird Beak Adaptations

Link: https://youtu.be/Giyoo9GQ37s

This 18-minute lesson shows how different birds have different shapes of beaks depending on their prey. The first half covers 7 groups of birds and the second half asks students to make predictions about 5 mystery birds. Follow-up Activity: Look at birds in your neighborhood.

How many different beak shapes can you find? Is one beak shape more abundant than the others? If so, how does this relate to food items available?

Food Chains and Food Webs

Link: https://youtu.be/U8_ceJbm1JM

This 13-minute lesson helps students learn about food chains and food webs of a freshwater marsh ecosystem as they make observations and answer questions. Follow-up Activity: Draw a simple diagram of your place in a food chain starting with you, the items you eat and their connection in the food chain, and finish with the sun as

the source of all energy. How many links does it take to go from student to the sun?

Water Quality of a Marsh

Link: https://youtu.be/44Mx9qH5898

This 8-minute lesson explains the importance of water quality testing, shows a scientist collecting water samples from a freshwater pond, and includes a pH test demonstration that involves student participation. <u>Follow-up activity</u>: Students can look at gutters, streets, and school yards to see what trash and other items are

present that could run-off into the drainage system. Where does run-off eventually go? How do these items affect our beaches and ocean?

The Language of Birds

Link: <u>https://nearpod.com/</u> and then enter Student Code 8SMQV and then your first name (good until end 2021). This 15-minute NearPod lesson encourages student interaction with simple quizzes about bird communication. <u>Follow-up activity:</u> Cornell Lab of Ornithology offers a downloadable lesson on bird communication for grades

3-5 complete with worksheets and outdoor activities: <u>https://www.birds.cornell.edu/k12/bird-</u> communication/

Prepared by Sea and Sage Audubon Society, 3/10/2021. Questions? Contact Trude Hurd, Project Director of Education at <u>seaandsage@sbcglobal.net</u>.









Food Chains and Food Webs



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.



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 <u>nancykenyon@cox.net</u> to start your paper-free Tattler delivery today! (offer good only for chapter members in good standing)

Remember Us in Your Will or Trust

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

Directions

to the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary (5 Riparian View, Irvine) Our entrance is 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

AH is closed at the present time because of Covid-19. However the restrooms, trails, and parking lots are open.

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

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: <u>http://tinyurl.com/hyeaw67</u> (Our chapter code is C15)

To renew membership: renew directly with National Audubon by direct mail or online: (Renewals are \$20 per year.) <u>http://tinyurl.com/zjbs5tt</u>

Name	
Address	
City, State, Zip	
Phone	
E-mail	_ C15

Sea and Sage Audubon PO Box 5447, Irvine CA 92616

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Director 2021	.Vic Leipzig	714-848-5394
Director 2022	. Samuel Bressler	657-378-5367
Director 2022	. Star Howard	949-770-3177
Director 2023	. Martin Fee	714-508-0630
Director 2023	. Devon Bradley	949-287-1715
Past President	. Doug Lithgow	714-962-4145

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Archives & Records	-	
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Audubon House Voluntee	-	
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Exhibits	Mary Joseph	714-848-8362
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Starr Ranch/Envir. Liaison	n. Pete DeSimone	949-858-0309
Webmaster		
Webpage: http://www.se		
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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.wwccoc.org/

SCHEDULE of CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

April 2021: * - See page 4 for information on Social Get-Togethers

ALL	MONTH	Orange County Spring Count Time is up to you
06	Tues	Conservation Committee Mtg. via Zoom6:45 pm
07	Wed	New Members After Dinner Coffee via Zoom 7:00 pm
07	Wed	Least Term Season Kickoff & Vol. Training6:00 pm
10	Sat	* Photography Chat7:00 pm
		Virtual Seabird Fly-Intba
13	Tues	Board Meeting via Zoom7:00 pm
15	Thurs	* Low Waste Gardening6:30 pm
16	Fri	GENERAL MEETING via Zoom7:00 pm
18	Sun	* Stopping Climate Change4:00 pm
20	Tues	* Sea & Sage Reading Group1:00 pm
24	Sat	* Special Places to Bird Around the World7:00 pm
25	Sun	* Trivia Night III7:00 pm
27	Tues	4 th Tues Conservation Lecture via Zoom7:00 pm
28	Wed	* Arts & Crafts Social Hour1:00 pm

May 2021:

ALL MONTH Orange County Spring Count Time is up to you		
04	Tues	Conservation Committee Mtg. via Zoom6:45 pm
08	Sat	Least Tern Volunteer Field Orientation8:00 am
11	Tues	Board Meeting via Zoom7:00 pm
		GENERAL MEETING via Zoom7:00 pm
25	Tues	4 th Tues Conservation Lecture via Zoom7:00 pm