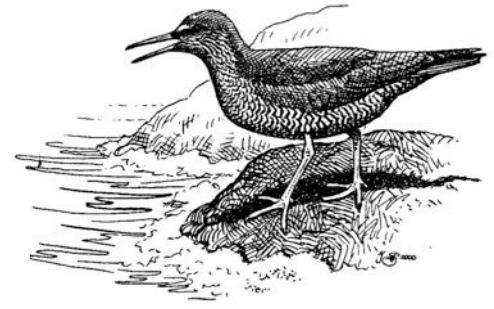


Wandering Tattler

February 2021
Volume 70, Number 5



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

Remember Audubon House?



That converted, charming early 20th century hunter's camp? - The face of Sea and Sage? - The place to borrow binoculars for your walk around the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary? - Where local, out of state, and international visitors - through literature, photo displays and discussion with staff on duty - get more information about what they saw on their walk? - A source for really interesting field guides and books on plants, birds and other wildlife? - Staffed by volunteers, and open 7 days a week, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, except major holidays ...and, oh yes, sadly, during the current restrictions for the pandemic!

Although Audubon House is closed and many events and services are not available, a few volunteers continue to provide some services: the monitoring and response to phone messages from the AH answering machine; the collection of data and maintenance of the bird sightings board; the seasonal displays and literature at the parking lot kiosk. In addition, as shown on our website, the Gift Shop Manager will fill mail orders of Sea and Sage produced materials, such as, *Learning Bird Sounds*, *Birds of Orange County*, *Status and Distribution*, and *Atlas of Breeding Birds, Orange County, CA*.

When will Audubon House reopen? We are eager to reopen, but several mitigating factors will affect this decision. Whether California has lifted its restrictions on non-essential indoor business operations and we have the safety protocols in place. Whether the Irvine Ranch Water District has reopened to the public the Duck Club and other SJWS buildings. And, because the safety of our volunteers and visitors is of paramount importance, how far along the vaccination process is. In the meantime, we have formed a steering committee to help us be prepared when the time comes to reopen.

- Gail Richards, President

General Meeting - Online Presentation Friday, February 19 - 7:00 PM Via Zoom

"Audubon Starr Ranch Sanctuary: Protecting and Promoting Southern California Wildlands"

presented by Sandy DeSimone, Ph.D.

Director - Research, Education & Land Management

Plants are a passion for Sandy DeSimone. Soon after moving to Audubon's Starr Ranch Sanctuary, Sandy got her MA at Cal State Fullerton and then a Ph.D., at UC Davis, working on the globally endangered shrubland, coastal sage scrub.

Sandy developed the "Starr Ranch Field Ecology Programs," an innovative approach that integrates ecological research into education. People of all ages participate in the program, taught by biologists, and have a hands-on experience in simulated or actual field research. She also began five years of research on biology and non-chemical control of a priority non-native plant species, artichoke thistle.

Since 1997 and over a series of three experiments, they found a method that has reduced artichoke thistle cover by 95% on a work site after one season of treatment. Land managers from Ventura to San Diego Counties have visited Starr Ranch to hear about their land management practices and visit the restoration sites.



Sandy's work has won a Certificate of Appreciation from USFWS for "Outstanding Contributions to the Nation's Fish and Wildlife," the CA Invasive Plant Council's Land Manager of the

Year award, and the Sea and Sage Conservation Award.

Join us for Sandy's interesting and informative presentation. Our "meeting room" opens at **6:30 PM** for some **optional social activities** prior to the 7:00 PM meeting. Check our webpage for the link to join meeting: seaandsageaudubon.org

Jonathan Aguayo, Programs Chair

Conservation News

Susan Sheakley, Conservation Chair



Our next '4th Tuesday' Conservation Lecture is planned for Tuesday February 23rd. Please join us!

'4th Tues.' Conservation Lecture

Tuesday, Feb. 23rd – 7:00 pm

by Zoom

Doors will open at 6:30

"Nest Box Trials and Tribulations, 20+ Years in the Making"

presented by Christine Tischer



In 20+ seasons of monitoring nest boxes, Christine Tischer has found that the Tree Swallow and Western Bluebird are fascinating and highly adaptable species, and that artificial nest boxes provide an excellent opportunity to study them up close. These

species were on the decline in Orange County in the 1980's due to a shortage of natural cavities and out-competition for nest sites by European starlings and house sparrows. Expanding human development, urban landscaping, fuel modification measures, and climate change continue to pose threats to native habitat for these species.

Join us for 'tales from the trails' and to learn how nest boxes have helped bring back western bluebirds and tree swallows as breeding species to Orange County. The talk will focus on the extensive San Joaquin Marsh Tree Swallow Nest Box Citizen Science Program that relies on dedicated volunteers, as well as on Christine's own bluebird nest box trail in Northwood in Irvine.

Christine is a Senior Wildlife Biologist/Project Manager for a local environmental consulting firm. She began her consulting career shortly after earning her B.S. in Animal Science from Cal Poly, Pomona. She participates in many Sea and Sage bird ID workshops and actually learned of the nest box volunteer opportunity from an announcement at one of Sylvia's Gallagher's classes!

With Christine's guidance the San Joaquin Marsh Tree Swallow Nest Box Program has been transformed from a weekly monitoring program that began in 2000, to an accomplished banding and Citizen Science program.



For information on how you can be a part of the Tree Swallow Nest Box program, see page 7.

Please register to attend this meeting. Registration begins on February 1st through our homepage on our website - look under Conservation for '4th Tues' Conservation Lecture, Feb. 23.

CLIMATE CORNER: Climate and Megafires by Heather Brashear

Natural cycles of wildfire have long been part of ecosystems here in California, with plant and animal species adapted to phases of burning and regeneration. The Black-backed Woodpecker, for example, forages for beetle larvae in burned forest areas where beetles lay eggs in the dead or dying trees.

Recently, however, larger, more devastating wildfires (or "megafires") have been seen in California and across the western United States, as well as in other parts of the globe, such as Australia (see "Trial by Fire" in the Fall 2020 issue of *Audubon* magazine). Megafires appear to be related in part to human-caused climate change, with hotter and drier conditions driving their intensity and frequency; increased fuel loads are also a contributing factor (Union of Concerned Scientists, "The Connection between Climate Change and Wildfires," March 2020). Here in California, the fire season has now become year-round, posing a threat to both people and wildlife, including birds. In 2020, 4.1 million acres were burned by wildfires, compared with 2 million acres in 2018. *Scientific American* reports that wildfires on the scale seen in California in 2020 had been forecast by climate models—but were not expected to occur until 2050 ("California's Mega Fires Have Arrived 30 Years Early," October 2020).



For birds and other wildlife, even those adapted to natural cycles of wildfire, megafires are an additional climate-related stressor. Megafires are thought to have contributed to the mass die-off of migratory songbirds reported last fall in the Southwest. Starvation due primarily to climate-related drought and an early snowstorm may have been compounded by megafires that pushed birds off course and increased their energy expenditure. Habitat loss is another potential result of megafires, including loss of nesting habitat and migratory stopovers for birds to rest and refuel.

As climate-related impacts such as megafires arrive sooner than expected, it is imperative that we address the underlying cause: carbon emissions. As part of our 2021 legislative advocacy efforts, Sea and Sage's Conservation Committee is working to identify and support state and federal legislation that addresses climate change and ways to reduce our carbon emissions—as we strive to meet our Climate Challenge.

Climate Challenge: protect birds, people, and the planet by holding global warming to 1.5°C.

Social Get-Togethers with Zoom

You are invited to join our online social get-togethers to chat with fellow birders about topics of mutual interest. Register for any event that interests you and join in the conversation! Sessions are hosted on Zoom. More sessions will be added in the coming weeks so check back with the website for new additions. Questions? Contact coordinator Chris Byrd at seaandsagezoom@gmail.com.

CURRENTLY AVAILABLE SESSIONS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING –
See the website for more information and registration links.

- **Trivia Night Round 2**

Hosted by Kimberly Roberts & Ashley Hopkins
Wednesday, February 3, 7:00 PM

Trivia Night will once again include competing teams that meet in break-out rooms to take on a challenging and fun series of questions. Join us to test your knowledge of all things related to birds and birding. All ages and skill levels welcome!

- **Birding with a Physical Handicap**

Hosted by Sharon Rockwell
Sunday, February 7, 4:00 PM

Do your birding plans need to consider wheelchair, scooter or stroller accessibility, or other physical challenges? Join us in a Zoom discussion of accessible locations to bird, plus other questions and issues faced by birders with handicaps.

- **Who You Gonna Call? Trash Busters!**

Hosted by Kristina Beck & Chris Byrd
Thursday, February 11, 6:30 PM

Are you concerned about the growing mountains of trash, with throw-away plastics everywhere, and all the impacts on wildlife? Join this session to hear what others are doing to minimize their trash output and share what you're doing.

- **Ask a Raptor Expert!**

Hosted by Bill Clark & Pete Bloom
Sunday, February 14, 4:00 PM

Sea and Sage is delighted to host raptor experts Bill Clark and Pete Bloom together in a social get-together where you can ask some of the questions about raptors you've always wondered about! Many of us have benefitted from Bill Clark's biannual raptor ID workshops, including

virtual workshops this year on January 15-16 and February 5-6. Dr. Peter Bloom "grew up" in Sea and Sage and has reached international prominence through his knowledge and skill with raptors.

- **Sea and Sage Reading Group**

Hosted by Kim King
Tuesday, February 16, 1:00 PM

Join us for our monthly Sea & Sage Reading Group. We'll be discussing Scott Weidensaul's Of a Feather: A Brief History of American Birding.

- **Mystery Bird Photo Sharing Round 2**

Hosted by Bruce Aird & Vic Leipzig
Saturday, February 20, 7:00 PM

Have you taken photos of birds you can't identify? Send in your Mystery Bird photos, then join a Zoom session led by Bruce and Vic where the group will try to solve the mysteries. (No, you don't need to submit photos to join this session.) After registration, you'll be sent instructions for sending in photos.

- **Favorite Places to Bird, CA Coast – Ventura to San Simeon**

Hosted by Dev Sellin
Sunday, February 21, 3:30 PM

Looking ahead to a time when we can again travel for birding, we invite you to join us in sharing our favorite places to bird along the Central Coast of California.

- **Attracting Birds, Bees & Butterflies to Your Yard**

Hosted by Mary Ellen Wynn
Monday, February 22, 7:00 PM

Whether you're an expert or a novice, come share your experiences with the various do's and don'ts of attracting birds, butterflies, and pollinators to your yard.

- **Arts & Crafts "Social Hour"**

Hosted by Kim King
Wednesday, February 24, 1:00 PM

Gather up your current sewing, knitting, drawing, painting, nature journaling, etc. projects and join us for a bit of socializing. Feel free to do a little "show and tell" and share one or more of your favorite, completed projects with the group.

Orange County Rarities

by Tom Wurster

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



Despite the cancellation of our local Audubon Christmas Counts due to Covid-19 concerns, and wildfires that wreaked havoc in terms of property loss and habitat destruction, many Orange County birders still managed to get into the field safely. Their exploits and discoveries, some announced on the Orange County birding list serve or detailed in at least a thousand eBird reports from mid-November to Jan. 3, 2021, and timely weekly summaries on the Orange County RBA, form the basis of this account.

Tundra Swans at San Juan Creek Mouth Nov. 15, and Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve (BCER) on Dec. 13, were the first in Orange County since 2017; regrettably, both departed within hours of their initial sighting. A male **hybrid Cinnamon Teal X Northern Shoveler** at BCER Dec. 19 – Jan. 1, provided an attractive identification puzzle. Of the seven **Eurasian Wigeons** reported Nov. 11 – Dec. 28, all but one were males. Two **Eurasian Green-winged Teal** were reported, the male was admired by many at San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary (SJWS) Dec. 27 – Jan. 3, whereas the female reported in Newport Back Bay on Jan. 3, was an identification challenge. A young **Harlequin Duck**, only the 4th ever in Orange County, was in Irvine on Nov. 25 – Dec. 14, along lower Peters Canyon Creek. **White-winged Scoters** have declined throughout SOCAL in recent years, so five reports Nov. 11 - Jan. 2 was a good showing. An adult **Red-necked Grebe** was at BCER Nov. 5 – Dec. 11.

White-winged Doves were reported near the coastline in San Clemente on Nov. 27, and in Huntington Beach on Dec. 3. Undoubtedly the most remarkable sightings of this period was a **Black Swift** photographed at BCER on Nov. 28, a date when the North American population is expected to be on or near their wintering grounds in South America. The probable **American Oystercatcher** first reported on rocky headlands along the Laguna coast in October, was last reported on Nov. 28. Up to four **Pacific Golden-Plovers** continued through Dec. 13 at a traditional wintering site on Seal Beach Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge, and a single at BCER was reported sporadically Nov. 3 –13. A **Mountain Plover** at BCER returned for its second winter Nov. 1 – Jan. 3. A **Solitary Sandpiper** on San Diego Creek in Irvine on Dec. 2 was a rare find for winter, and a **Royal Tern** at Mile Square Regional Park (MSRP) in Fountain Valley on Nov. 25 - 26 was totally unexpected away from the immediate coast. The young **Masked Booby** that has moved between various costal headland locations since late September settled on the Dana Harbor jetty from Nov. 29 - Jan. 3; it was joined by a **Brown Booby** on Dec. 8.

An adult **Neotropic Cormorant** was at SJWS on Dec. 4. Two immature **Little Blue Herons** continued. The first, in Irvine along San Diego Creek, was last reported on Nov. 14, while the second, at BCER was last reported on

Dec. 26. A young **Tricolored Heron**, also at BCER, was last reported on Dec. 26, while a second reported in Newport Back Bay on Jan. 1, may in time prove to be the same individual. Late season **Swainson's Hawks** were reported in higher than usual numbers with singles over Irvine Regional Park (IRP) on Nov.19, and over Irvine on Nov. 27. Five were at the Naval Weapons Station in Seal Beach (NWSSB) on Dec. 10, with ongoing reports of ones and twos there and at the adjacent Joint Forces Training Station in Los Alamitos through Jan. 1. The recent years trend of increased **Zone-tailed Hawk** sightings along the mountain/coastal plain interface continued, with at least eight reports scattered across at six or more locations from Rancho Santa Margarita to the Anaheim Hills between Nov. 6 – Dec. 20. **Short-eared Owl** sightings may have been higher than normal, but all reports are likely to represent just three individuals, an off-reported single over the marshes at BCER Nov. 11-19, and another at the nearby NWSSB on Nov. 16. The third, also on Nov. 16, was observed flying parallel to the Santa Ana River in Orange.

All three expected sapsucker species were reported Nov. 3 – Dec. 31. The lone **Yellow-bellied** visited a private residence in Laguna Niguel Dec. 6 – Jan. 3. Additionally, one **hybrid Red-naped Sapsucker X Red-breasted Sapsucker** was reported at Huntington Central Park (HCP) on Nov. 23, although several more are suspected among the 25-30 sapsuckers reported to species. Most flickers reported initially as "Yellow-shafted" Northern Flickers turn out to be intergrades with "Red-shafted", but one at a Yorba Linda residence Dec. 20 – 25, was not an intergrade. **Prairie Falcon** sightings in Orange County have dwindled in the recent years, so two sightings, one at Irvine Lake Nov. 15 - 21, and a second near the county line in Telegraph Canyon in the Chino Hills State Park on Dec. 26, were noteworthy.

Flycatchers in winter are always interesting. A **Hammond's Flycatcher** along the Oso Creek Trail in Mission Viejo Nov. 1 – Dec. 28 will likely overwinter, while another at MSRP Nov.19 -20 was apparently a late migrant. At least **six Gray Flycatchers** reported Nov. 14 – Jan. 3, was a good count; most are likely to overwinter. The same is likely for most of the **ten Pacific-slope Flycatchers** reported Nov. 10 – Jan. 3. It is interesting that the number of Gray Flycatchers in early winter, now nearly equals the number of potential wintering Pacific-slope Flycatchers. Two **Eastern Phoebes** were reported, the first on Nov. 22, was returning for its second winter at Irvine Lake; tragically, it hasn't been reported since the area burned in the Bond Fire. The second was at Bartlett Park in Huntington Beach Dec. 29 – 30. **Vermilion Flycatchers** sightings are on an upswing throughout SOCAL. Orange County is no exception with breeding season and winter sighting now ranging throughout the coastal basin. Several sites had mid-December counts of

Orange County Rarities

by Tom Wurster



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five, and two observers covering MSRP had independent cumulative counts of 10 and 11 individuals in visits covering different areas of the park. An **Ash-throated Flycatcher** reported along the Upper Santa Ana River on Dec. 16, has returned for its 5th winter! Its rare relative, a **Brown-crested Flycatcher** returned for its second winter to a site along the AMTRACK right-of-way in Mission Viejo, Nov. 26 – Dec. 28. Some **Tropical Kingbirds** from Mexico and Central America migrate north to winter along the Pacific Coast. Only one has been reported in Orange County so far this winter, at Tustin Ranch Golf Course Dec. 2 – 4.

The local breeding population of “**Least**” **Bell’s Vireo** has increased greatly in recent years under endangered species management, and wintering birds though few and far between, also show a slight increase. As such, a single at Anaheim Coves Park (Burris Basin) Jan. 1-2 is noteworthy. Only three **Plumbeous Vireos** have been reported as of Jan. 3, but more are likely to follow as winter progresses. Only 6-7 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** have been reported through Dec. 26, indicating Winter 2020-2021 will not be an invasion year for this irruptive species. A **White-breasted Nuthatch** at Doheny State Beach on Nov. 30, was unexpected at a location on the immediate coast. A **Sage Thrasher** reported at IRP on Dec. 31, may be wintering locally. **Mountain Bluebirds** put on a better than average appearance with reports from three locations. Up to two females were at MSRP Nov. 8 – Jan. 1, were the most readily viewable ones. Another was at Harriet Weider Regional Park on Nov. 11, up to five were at Irvine Lake Nov. 22 – 29. Up to two **Varied Thrushes** were at IRP Nov. 13 – Jan. 3.

Purple Finch is rare away from the foothill canyons so two or more near the coast in Huntington Beach Nov. 28 – Dec. 12, were notable. **Grasshopper Sparrows** are seldom encountered outside the breeding season although some likely winter regularly as suggested by a sighting in breeding habitat in IRP on Dec. 21. Despite the record number of **Clay-colored Sparrows** reported during fall migration, only one remains, in Fullerton at Ralph B. Clark Regional Park, Nov. 11 – Jan. 1. Six **Vesper Sparrows** were reported Nov. 15 - Jan. 2, up to three at IRP, two at Peters Canyon Regional Park, and one at NWSSB. **White-throated Sparrows** were widely observed Nov. 9 – Jan. 3, with up to eight reported from five different foothill locations. **Green-tailed Towhees** were also very well represented by eight individuals reported Nov. 1 – Jan. 3 from six coastal plain locations and one foothill location.

Winter orioles of all species had been largely absent through the end of the year. The only noteworthy sighting was a female **Baltimore Oriole** at MSRP Nov. 24-25. The early winter warbler show is also weak. A **Northern Waterthrush** at HCP Nov. 25 – Dec. 27, is likely the same individual that has wintered here for multiple years. Similarly, **Black-and-white Warblers** at Serrano Creek

Park Oct. 31- Dec. 5, a second at Aurora Park Nov. 15 – Jan. 2, and a third at IRP Nov. 23 - Dec. 28, are birds returning for their second, third, and second winters respectively. Keeping with the theme, a male **American Redstart** reported on Jan. 3, was found in the same hedgerow in Huntington Beach where one wintered two years ago even though it was not seen last winter. Two **Palm Warblers** were reported, one at Doheny State Park Nov. 15, and another at HCP Nov. 23 – Dec 6. Also at HCP was a male **Hermit Warbler** Nov. 23 – Dec. 7. Last but not least, a **Black-headed Grosbeak**, rare in winter, was reported along Bonita Creek Trail in Newport Beach on Jan. 3.

Bolsa Chica Break-ins

In recent years, we have heard of car break-ins and thefts at the Bolsa Chica Ecological Preserve. Birders and photographers have been frequent targets of these crimes, and many thousands of dollars of equipment has been stolen.

The Board of Directors of Sea and Sage Audubon Society has formed a committee to investigate these incidents. Our goal is to gather as much information as we can from the people who have been affected by these break-ins. We will pool our data and work with California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Bolsa Chica Conservancy, Bolsa Chica Land Trust, Amigos de Bolsa Chica, and local law enforcement agencies to create a plan that will reduce or prevent recurrence of these crimes.

We need your help to achieve these goals. If you been affected by a break-in at Bolsa Chica, we urge you to join us our effort by completing a short survey. If you know someone who has experienced a theft, then please forward this link to that person. We want to hear from you!

Take the survey at:

<https://forms.gle/5ckfagUBjnFzHBXa6> Or you can find the link at the top of our web page at seaandsageaudubon.org Thank you.

Sweetheart Sale at Audubon House

Audubon House is currently closed, however, for the month of February we are offering **FREE POSTAGE AND HANDLING** on any of Sylvia Gallagher’s **Learning Bird Sound Packets**. The normal fee for S&H is \$6.95, but that fee will be waived for the entire month! Interested parties can contact the Audubon House Store Manager, Jan Hoidge, at: store.manager@seaandsageaudubon.org She will be happy to mail you out a package ASAP.

Marsh Education Project's Annual Report

Trude Hurd, Project Director of Education

*Despite the global pandemic that caused the closure of our educational programs at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary, Sea and Sage Audubon's Education Team continued to create ways for people to learn about birds and nature. Our two staff members worked safely from home and quickly learned about Zoom, Google-Classroom and virtual programming. We developed new videos about birds, activities for virtual coastal bird camp, and weekly Facebook posts about nature at the marsh. Our teen program continued in a different way, and we engaged our naturalists with social meetings and backyard birding events. **The pandemic didn't stop 51 volunteer naturalists and one teen from donating 2,040 hours to share the wonders of birds with our community!***

2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS BEFORE THE PANDEMIC

- **Outdoor Adventures scholarship.** We educated 1,945 elementary students in 67 Santa Ana classes about the importance of wetlands and how they can personally protect the environment. We completed 73% of scheduled field trip programs by March. Thanks to individual donors who donated \$7,332 for 23 school bus trips in 2019-20.
- **Winter Camp Reunion.** 55 youth enjoyed a bird walk, painting on canvas or bird houses, nature games, and dinner at the marsh.
- **Nature Walks.** Our first Saturday of the month walks for the public in January, February, and March reached 71 people who marveled at the beauty of the marsh.
- **Junior Naturalists.** The teens traveled by train in January to L.A. Natural History Museum for a behind-the-scenes visit with Kimball Garrett and the ornithology collection.
- **Nature Discovery Kits.** Local educators used our kits with 72 children and 9 adults.
- **Community Tours.** Naturalists led one group tour around the marsh for 11 people.
- **Annual Naturalist Meeting.** Our winter event featured Krisztina Scheeff (San Diego wildlife photographer) who spoke about grebe behaviors including their courtship dance across water. Look for grebes in Pond 1.

2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING THE PANDEMIC

- We created two new **Bird Adaptation Videos** for teacher use in May:
 - Adaptations of Bird Beaks at <https://www.youtube.com/vfJX9VHIU7M>
- Raptor Adaptations at <https://youtu.be/iuSeKVIPi3M>
- We began making **Virtual Science Lessons** with input from Santa Ana teachers.
- We created a self-paced **Virtual Coastal Birds Camp** about Shorebirds, Endangered Coastal Birds, and Ocean Plastic. The 48 children and adults enjoyed fun activities such as Mystery Bird, Bird Sounds, Shorebird Aviary, Nature Journaling, Art, and Birdathon. Many thanks to 13-year old Lara Tseng for daily technical support on GoogleClassroom!
- We developed a new weekly Facebook post with beautiful photos called **Take A Nature Walk** to share current nature happenings.
- **Junior Naturalist** teens went birding on their own each month to a specified site and then met by zoom to share results and win prizes.
- Our Project Director created **Pondside Chats**, backyard birding events, and social zoom meetings to support our devoted naturalists and help overcome our pandemic isolation.
- Thanks to Hunter Craft (former camper and Yale graduate), we made 2 **Backyard Bird Videos** about ten birds and native plants.
- We made a bilingual **Birds in Santa Ana Neighborhoods** guide for Consul of Mexico to celebrate Mexican Independence Day.

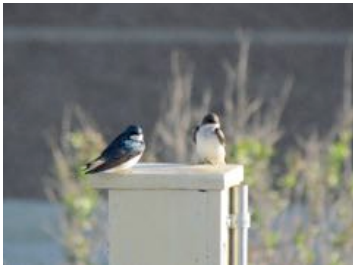
A hearty thank you to **Education Coordinators** for their dedication and innovation in 2020: Deborah Brin, Carolyn Noble, Gail Richards, Bev Spring, Linda Thomas, and Marilyn Walter. We are grateful to an **Anonymous Foundation** (\$50,000) and OCCF's Environment Fund (\$7,500) who continue to support education. *Finally, we appreciate that the **Irvine Ranch Water District** kept the wetland open to the public as a quiet oasis during this difficult year.*

Chapter News, Directions, 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.

Tree Swallow Volunteers are Needed

The Tree Swallow Nest Box Program relies on a team of dedicated volunteers that are available on a weekly or biweekly basis throughout the nesting season that runs from mid March through late July. There are approximately 105 boxes located throughout the San Joaquin Marsh trail system. Volunteers are also needed to help prep boxes for the birds' return after sitting exposed to the elements all fall and winter. Birds begin returning to Orange County in January and start claiming boxes by late February. If you are interested in helping with this program, feel free to reach out to Christine Tischer via email at clmukai13@gmail.com by February 15th. No bird experience is necessary and a volunteer orientation will be hosted in early March.



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.



SAVE THE DATE! for our "Spring Fling" on Friday, March 19th

In place of our regular Annual Dinner at Mile Square Park this year, we are going to have a Virtual Annual Dinner - via Zoom - with a Silent Auction, announcements about our Conservation Award and Letters of Commendation, the naming of our new slate of officers, and a great program presented by Nathan Pieplow on a new approach to learning western bird sounds visually. We hope you will join our special evening event! It will be different, fun, and it's FREE! Full details will be in the next Tattler.



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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Vice President	Jonathan Aguayo	805-204-6986
Secretary	Ann Harmer	949-631-3322
Treasurer	Tom Van Huss	714-417-9940
Director 2021	Bruce Aird	949-458-1520
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

Committee Chairpersons:

Archives & Records	Chris Byrd	714-639-0967
Audubon House	Susan Sheakley	949-552-5974
Audubon House Volunteers		
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
Events	Mary Joseph	714-848-8362
Exhibits	Mary Joseph	714-848-8362
Field Trips	Nancy Kenyon	949-786-3160
Finance	Hal Sheakley	949-552-5974
Membership	Jim Kissinger	949-713-1148
Newsletter Editor	Nancy Kenyon	949-786-3160
Orange County Spring Count	Darrell Wilson	949-559-4542
Partners in Flight	Janet & Al Baumann	
Programs	Jonathan Aguayo	805-204-6986
Publicity		
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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>

STAFF

AUDUBON HOUSE	949-261-7963	
Marsh Education Project Director	Trude Hurd	949-261-7964
Education Assistant	Deborah Brin	949-261-7964
Sales Manager	Jan Hoidge	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.wwccoc.org/>

SCHEDULE of CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

February 2021:

* - See page 3 for information on Social Get-Togethers

02	Tues	Conservation Committee Mtg. via Zoom.....	6:45 pm
03	Wed	*Trivia Night Round 2.....	7:00 pm
07	Sun	* Birding with a Physical Handicap	4:00 pm
09	Tues	Board Meeting via Zoom.....	7:00 pm
11	Thurs	* Who You Gonna Call? Trash Busters!	6:30 pm
12-15	F-M	Great Backyard Bird Count	time is up to you
		https://www.birdcount.org/participate/	
14	Sun	* Ask a Raptor Expert	4:00 pm
16	Tues	* Sea and Sage Reading Group	1:00 pm
19	Fri	GENERAL MEETING via Zoom.....	7:00 pm
20	Sat	* Mystery Bird Photo Sharing Round 2	7:00 pm
21	Sun	* Favorite Places to Bird. CA Coast	3:30 pm
22	Mon	* Attracting Birds, Bees & Butterflies.....	7:00 pm
23	Tues	* 4 th Tues Conservation Lecture via Zoom.....	7:00 pm
24	Wed	* Arts and Crafts "Social Hour".....	1:00 pm

March 2021:

02	Tues	Conservation Committee Mtg. via Zoom.....	6:45 pm
09	Tues	Board Meeting via Zoom.....	7:00 pm
19	Fri	SPRING FLING via Zoom.....	6:00 pm
23	Tues	* 4 th Tues Conservation Lecture via Zoom.....	7:00 pm