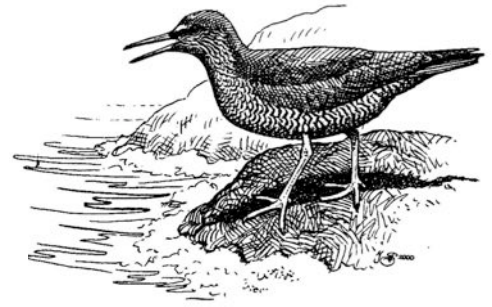


Wandering Tattler

March 2021
Volume 70, Number 6



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

President's Message

by Gail Richards, President

Sea and Sage Audubon Society has become very involved in two important issues that are particularly important to Orange County birders:

Tucker Wildlife Sanctuary

Sea and Sage Audubon Society was notified that Cal State Fullerton had suddenly closed the Tucker Wildlife Sanctuary on January 8. We learned that the deed to the property specifies, if CSUF divests itself of maintaining Tucker as a Wildlife Sanctuary, the property reverts back to its former owner, the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society. SFVAS was surprised by this sudden turn of events and invited representatives from Sea and Sage, Friends of Tucker Wildlife Sanctuary and Inside the Outdoors (from Orange County Department of Education) to discuss the matter on January 19. It became clear that this is a complex real estate issue and will not be resolved immediately, but SFVAS is thoroughly researching its legal rights and obligations. At this time, there are more questions than answers. Sea and Sage is working collaboratively with SFVAS and interested parties to find the best match for the new stewardship of this special place.

Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve

In recent years there have been numerous car break-ins and thefts at the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve. Yet there has been no significant progress in preventing these costly and upsetting incidents. Sea and Sage became determined to find solutions to this problem. We have spent the last month collecting data through our online survey. So far, we have 25 reports of theft and vandalism to document the details of these incidences. With data in hand, leaders from Sea and Sage began working collaboratively, through weekly meetings, with California Department of Fish & Wildlife and Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve Manager, Melissa Loeb. On January 25, we met with Huntington Beach Councilman, Dan Kalmick, who was grateful for our survey data and intent on finding solutions. In February, we will participate in a meeting with the Huntington Beach Interim Chief of Police, Julian Harvey, Councilman Kalmick, Melissa Loeb, along with representatives from Amigos de Bolsa Chica, Bolsa Chica Land Conservancy and the Bolsa Chica Land Trust. Together, we will identify concrete steps to address this problem.

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

Spring Fling - Online Presentation

Friday, March 19, 2021

Via Zoom

Sea and Sage is unable to open the doors for our traditional Annual Dinner this year, but we have a great program planned for you. The evening will include door prizes, presentation of our slate of officers, and very well-deserved Conservation Awards. The highlight of the evening will be our speaker.

"The Language of Birds"

presented by Nathan Pieplow

All around us, the birds are constantly telling us who they are and what they are doing. In this talk for any audience, Nathan Pieplow unlocks the secrets of their language. You'll listen in on the pillow talk of a pair of Red-winged Blackbirds, and learn the secret signals that Cliff Swallows use when they have found food. You'll learn how one bird sound can have many meanings, and how one meaning can have many sounds—and how, sometimes, the meaning isn't in the sounds at all. This talk from the author of the Peterson Field Guide to Bird Sounds is an accessible, entertaining introduction to a fascinating topic.

Nathan Pieplow is the author of the Peterson Field Guide to Bird Sounds, published in two volumes, Eastern (2017) and Western (2019). An avid bird sound recordist and videographer, he is the author of the bird sound blog



Earbirding.com, a board member of the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, an author of the Colorado Birding Trail, and former editor of the journal Colorado Birds. He teaches writing and rhetoric at the University of Colorado in Boulder.

Meeting room opens at 6:00 PM. Join us for some virtual games prior to the 6:30 PM Spring Fling start. Participate during the virtual games for your chance to win a prize.

Here is the link you will need to join the meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87028335115>

See you there (virtually).

(If this link isn't working for you, try Mtg ID: 870 2833 5115)

Jonathan Aguayo, Programs Chair

Conservation News

Susan Sheakley, Conservation Chair



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



Bill Halladay



Bill Halladay

4th Tues.' Conservation Lecture Tuesday, Mar. 23rd – 7:00 pm

by Zoom

Doors will open at 6:30

"California Least Terns and Western Snowy Plovers at Huntington State Beach: Stories of Conservation Success and Partnerships"

presented by Lana Nguyen,
Environmental Scientist

In the mid-sixties, the Sea and Sage Board voted to help pay for a fence to protect 5 nesting pairs of California Least Tern (CLTE) at Huntington State Beach at the mouth of the Santa Ana River. That location became the first protected colony in California when the species was later listed "endangered" at the state and federal levels. Since initial protections, we now see a few hundred nesting pairs at this 12-acre natural preserve, making it one of the top five breeding colonies for the species.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has designated the area as "Critical Habitat" for the Western Snowy Plover (WSPL). After a long hiatus, the WSPL has begun to once again nest on Huntington State Beach. 2020 proved an unusual year in many ways, including a 300% increase in plover nesting at Huntington SB as well as nesting at Bolsa Chica SB after a hiatus of more than 50 years.

Our guest this month, Lana Nguyen, Environmental Scientist for California State Parks, Orange Coast District, will share fascinating information about the life history of both the CLTE and the WSPL, important data gathered at Huntington State Beach, and how the volunteer docent program contributes to nesting success and public outreach. She'll also show photographs by volunteer monitors of mating displays, fish exchanges, baby chicks, and fledgling CLTEs gaining strength to fly south for the winter. [Info on how you can volunteer is on Page 4.](#)

Registration opens on March 1st through the homepage on our website - look under [What's New](#) or [Conservation](#) for the ['4th Tues' Conservation Lecture on March 23.](#)

2021 FERN ZIMMERMAN CONSERVATION AWARD AND LETTERS OF COMMENDATION

Each year since 1967 the Conservation Committee has presented the Conservation Award and Letters of Commendation to individuals or organizations that have made noteworthy contributions to the protection of habitats, natural resources, birds and wildlife in Orange County. At the Zoom "Spring Fling" General Meeting on Friday, March 19, it will be our honor to present:

FERN ZIMMERMAN CONSERVATION AWARD:

* **Vic Leipzig** for his long and wide-ranging role as a leader and influence in the local conservation community, including: president of Amigos de Bolsa Chica; as a Huntington Beach City Councilman working to advance the preservation of Bolsa Chica and Huntington Beach Wetlands; with Friends of Harbors Beaches and Parks; on the Audubon California State Board representing southern California Chapters; and with Sea and Sage as Director and President. Vic is a respected member and valuable leader of the Sea and Sage Conservation Committee, where his vast experience, knowledge and expertise are of great importance.

LETTER OF COMMENDATION:

* **Peggy Chase**: protecting raptors as educator and volunteer coordinator and through work to achieve new location for the Orange County Bird of Prey Center.
* **Christine Tischer**: sustained time, effort, and energy over 20 years to provide a program that has ensured a successful breeding Tree Swallow population in OC.

WHO IS FERN ZIMMERMAN?

Fern Zimmerman, a keen birdwatcher, was an early chapter leader, a true conservationist and grass roots organizer, and a constant source of optimism about our ability to effect change in our environment. She received the SAS Conservation Award in 1973. The award was renamed in her honor after her death in 1996.

Orange County Rarities

by Jim Pike



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

Mid-winter can be the doldrums for local birding, when visiting our favorite park for the tenth time begins to lose its pizzazz. Most of the winter rarities have already been found, and early-breeding species like Song Sparrows are only now beginning to sing. Unfortunately, this can also be the time of year when beloved long-time residents decide that they too must respond to the migratory urge. Doug Willick, co-author of The Birds of Orange County (1996), former bird-records compiler for North American Birds magazine, and the originator of this article in The Tattler back in 1988, will likely have relocated to Texas by the time this has been published. Doug has been the beating heart of Orange County birding for well over forty years, eagerly sharing his immense knowledge with a generosity of spirit and boyish charm that will never be equaled. To bird with Doug is to witness someone absorb not just the subtle details of a bird's plumage, but the entirety of what it is that makes this other living thing unique and special. For me and a host of others, Doug's departure marks the end of an era, and Orange County birding will never be the same without him.

On 25 Jan, an adult male **Mexican Duck** (recently split from Mallard) was found at Carr Park in Huntington Beach. Unlike in Mallard, Mexican Duck is a sexually monochromatic species, with separation of the sexes based primarily on bill color. Pending acceptance by the California Bird Records Committee, this would be the first of this newly-recognized species to be seen in the county. Another interesting duck that was found this month was a female **Eurasian Green-winged Teal** (aka "Common Teal") that was located in the Newport Backbay on 2 Jan. Most of the county records of this subspecies (full species in most of the world), including hybrids with 'American' Green-winged Teal, have come from the Backbay, with this being the first female to be identified.

Flycatchers have garnered much attention in January, especially after an immature **Thick-billed Kingbird**, first reported on 6 Jan at Laguna Niguel Regional Park (LNRP), was refound on 28 Jan. This is only the third of this Mexican species to have been discovered in the county, and the first since 1993. The first record came from Tustin in 1982, involving a bird that returned for ten consecutive winters. Other birds of interest detected at LNRP 28-29 Jan include an adult female **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, a **Palm Warbler**, a **Summer Tanager**, a **Western Flycatcher**, and a **Gray Flycatcher**. Additional new Western Flycatchers were along Aliso Creek in Laguna Woods on 12 Jan, and in Mission Viejo through 26 Jan. New Gray Flycatchers were at Glenview Park in Huntington Beach, 8-12 Jan, and at the UC-Irvine arboretum on 6 Jan. A **Hammond's Flycatcher** recorded at Mile Square Regional Park on 9-26 Jan proved from unique details of plumage to be the same bird that had

been detected a half-mile away on 19-20 Nov. An immature **Tropical Kingbird**, present 8 Jan through the end of the month, has been frequenting Harriet Wieder Regional Park (HWRP) in Huntington Beach.

It hasn't been a bountiful winter for rare warblers in Orange County, but another new **Palm Warbler** was at Edison Community Park in Huntington Beach on 12 Jan, and an immature male **American Redstart** was at John Baca Park in Huntington Beach on 10-18 Jan.

The only notable county hawks present this winter continue to be **Swainson's** and **Zone-tailed Hawks**, with the former being regularly seen through 24 Jan from Arbor Park in Los Alamitos, and an additional adult seen soaring over Mile Square Regional Park on 25 Jan. A bonus bird at Arbor Park was a **Short-eared Owl** on 15 Jan. Zone-tailed sightings have been concentrated over foothill areas, such as the one seen at Irvine Regional Park in Orange, 6-16 Jan.

A **Sage Thrasher** was a pleasant surprise for a lucky birder seeking coffee and donuts when it popped out of the bushes near the Dunkin Donuts drive-through in Tustin on 1-2 Feb. As donut shops are atypical wintering habitat for this species, this bird was likely an early-spring migrant. (Now if it had been a Starbucks, who knows?). A **White-winged Dove** was at Fairview Regional Park in Costa Mesa on 24 Jan.

While it was an exceptional fall for **Clay-colored** and **Brewer's Sparrows** in the county, it has been a poor winter locally for rare sparrows. The primary exception is the two **Bell's Sparrows** detected at HWRP in Huntington Beach on 11 Jan, which were far from appropriate chaparral/sage scrub habitat. The lone photo associated with the record shows a relatively prominent malar stripe on one bird and relatively sparse, thin streaking on the back of the other, largely eliminating the very similar Sagebrush Sparrow. Although considered sedentary, a Bell's Sparrow appeared at San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary, 28-30 Oct 1993 (Hamilton and Willick 1996), in the aftermath of a fire that burned much of the San Joaquin Hills, and another bird was found in Baja California Sur on 23 Sept 2002 (Iliff 2003).

Lastly, a sub-adult **Masked Booby** continued to be seen throughout Jan on the jetty at Dana Point harbor. Another sub-adult picked up for rehabilitation at Bolsa Chica State Beach on 28 Jan could have been the bird that was present on the Newport Harbor jetties, 28 Sept-3 Nov. As ocean warming has led to the increasing appearance of formerly rare boobies to Orange County waters, it has also contributed to illness and starvation among many of these visitors. What can appear to be a boon to birders is often a consequence of ecological conditions that are disastrous for birds. Such is birding in our complex world.

Snowy Plover & Least Tern Volunteer Opportunities

OC Western Snowy Plover & California Least Tern Quarterly Survey - MARCH 14-20

If you have already attended a Snowy Plover Survey training session, join us in looking for Snowy Plovers, Least Terns, and their habitats on our local beaches, while helping to contribute to endangered species research.



This is the beginning of the Snowy Plover breeding season and it is important to see how many Snowy Plovers are using our beaches and where they are located. It is also close to the arrival time of the California Least Terns. Each beach segment takes approximately 1-2 hrs. to survey, with one or two surveyors per segment. Walk the beach of your choice and enjoy all the birds while helping threatened Western Snowy Plovers and California Least Terns.



Volunteer surveyors may choose their Orange County beach segment to survey by contacting our Volunteer Coordinator, Cheryl Egger at ocsnplsurvey@gmail.com

See our chapter webpage on the Snowy Plover Surveys. This includes maps of the beach segments & other info. <http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org/Conservation/SNPLsurvey/OCSNPLsurvey.html>



California Least Tern Watch

Help the endangered California Least Terns by keeping your eyes on their active nesting colony. Volunteers watch for breeding behavior, eggs, chicks, fledglings, and predators, and record observations, as well as watch for Western Snowy Plovers.



Location? The Least Tern Natural Preserve at beautiful Huntington State Beach at the Santa Ana River mouth.

Season Kick-off & Volunteer Training April 7th, 2021 from 6 pm-8 pm

From your home via Zoom!

New and returning volunteers are encouraged to attend the *Season Kick-off & Volunteer Training*, featuring a slide show of the Breeding Biology of the Least Tern and Snowy Plover.

Field Orientation (mandatory for new volunteers) will be at the Least Tern Natural Preserve, Huntington State Beach, 8:00-10:00 AM on Saturday, May 8th. There will likely be additional sessions to ensure COVID precautions can be taken. Parking is free for field training. Enter at Magnolia entrance. All new volunteers will become members of the Volunteers in Parks Program for California State Parks, sign up details to follow Season Kick Off meeting. All returning and new volunteers who have completed their paperwork and are actively volunteering will receive a beach parking pass for the State Beaches in the Orange Coast District for 2021! Additional information about the program can be found on our chapter webpage:

<http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org/Conservation/LeastTerns/LETE.htm> or email leastternshb@gmail.com.



Please RSVP by email to leastternshb@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering.

Spring Fling - Virtual Annual Dinner Social Get-Togethers with Zoom

Spring Fling Program & Auction

This year, in place of our usual Annual Dinner, we are going to get together (online) for a SPRING FLING! The evening will include:

OPENING – optional social activities begin at 6 PM
WELCOME - by Gail Richards at 6:30 PM
DOOR PRIZES
PRESENTATION of our slate of new officers
ANNOUNCEMENT of our Conservation Award and Letters of Commendation

The HIGHLIGHT of the evening will be our guest



speaker, Nathan Pieplow, who will present his program (via Zoom) on “The Language of Birds”. He will tell us about the different ways birds communicate in behavior as well as by the sounds they make. He’s an exceptional speaker and anyone interested in birds will really enjoy his program.

Our Annual Dinners usually have a Raffle or a Silent Auction to add excitement to the event. This year, we will have a virtual Silent Auction but it will be online only because we cannot gather in person to check out auction items. Cheryl Thomas has been planning for this event all year and has gathered together a large collection of interesting items. The auction will open at 8 AM March 20 on the morning after the Spring Fling and will run for 5+ days. It will be posted on our Sea and Sage website; the link will be at the top of the home page. A sampling of items can be seen on pages 6 & 7 in this issue of the Tattler. If you are interested in buying an item, you will need to email Cheryl with the number of the item. You can pay by credit card, check or cash. Selling will be on a first come, first sold basis. Those items that have been sold will be listed on the webpage. If your computer or cell phone is out of order and you want to participate in the auction, contact Nancy Kenyon at 949-786-3160 to obtain a printed copy of the auction items.

Social Get-Togethers for March –

You are invited to join our online social get-togethers to chat with fellow birders about a wide range of topics. We've already hosted more than 20 get-togethers via Zoom – thank you to the many individuals who have hosted sessions and supported this project! Don't miss out on the opportunities listed below to explore interesting subjects and have some fun. More sessions will be added in the coming weeks so check back with the website for new additions. Go to the Sea and Sage website to register for one or more sessions

Session coordinators are Kim King & Chris Byrd. Questions?

Contact: seaandsagezoom@gmail.com

**CURRENTLY AVAILABLE SESSIONS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING –
See website for more Information & links.**

• **Photography Chat!**

Hosted by Sandrine Biziaux-Scherson and Bruce Aird

Saturday, March 6, 7:00 PM

• **Birding with a Physical Handicap**

Hosted by Sharon Rockwell

Sunday, March 7, 4:00 PM

• **Most Memorable Birding**

Experiences Hosted by Sylvia Gallagher

Sunday, March 7, 7:00 PM

• **Does Reducing Trash Save You Money, or Cost You More?**

Hosted by Kristina Beck

Thursday, March 11, 6:30 PM

• **Sea and Sage Reading Group**

Hosted by Kim King

Tuesday, March 16, 1:00 PM

• **Birds and Breakfast**

Hosted by Devon Bradley

Saturday, March 27, 8:00 AM

Spring Fling – Silent Auction

Our Annual Dinners always have the excitement of a raffle or silent auction as part of our special event. This year, our (virtual) dinner which is called the “Spring Fling” will have an ONLINE Silent Auction which will be posted on our webpage. Buying an item will be done by email to safely accommodate our members since we cannot do any actual person to person gathering on account of the pandemic. There will be 52 different items from which to choose. To give you an idea of the type of items we will have, we have posted 18 items on these two pages. The Silent Auction will be open for sale the day after the Spring Fling (open on March 20) and will run for 5 days. Directions and an email contact will be posted on our webpage. Payment will be by credit card, check, or cash.



Seaside Viewing with Leupold



Large Vase



Hand Carved Vintage Boat



Lavender Bath Basket



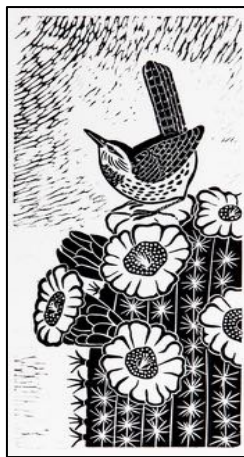
Whimsical Bird House



Crystal Cove Roof Tops



Hummingbird Basket



Cactus Wren



Handcrafted Baby Basket

Spring Fling – Silent Auction



Picnic Shoulder Bag



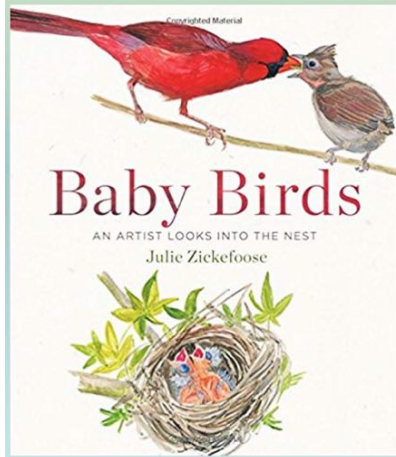
Mala Wharf, Maui



Bee Basket



Blackbird Bird House



Baby Birds



Glacier Wine & Carrier



Family Basket



Whiskey Tasters



Sustainable Living

Thank you so much!

Sea and Sage depends on your financial contributions to support our conservation and education programs. Your donations help make us a strong chapter. The following is a list of Annual Direct Mail Appeal Donors whose donations were received prior to January 30, 2021.

Anonymous (43)	Helen Clark	Charles George	Robert House
Bruce Aird	Porter & Dee Clary	Robert Gershman	Melvyn Howard
Cynthia Allen	Marie Connors	Ernst Ghermann	Jeffrey Isaacs
Nancy Angell	John & Denise Corcoran	Valerie Glass	Dehra Iverson
Sonia Appell	Robin Corelli	Laura Goldberg	Kay Jaacks
Tom & Lynda Armbruster	Daniel & Anahid Crecelius	Todd Gordinier	Frank Jahn
Leopold Avallone	Teresa Cullen	Mitsuko & Peter Gordon	Susan Jarratt
Betty & Chuck Avey	Nancy Cummings	Kate Grabenstein	Steve Jelnick
Thomas & LuAnne Baker	Mary Cupp	Barbara Grear	Linda Joplin
Ann & Alan Barbour	Jim Curran	Shirley Gregg	Mary Joseph
The Bartush Family	Judi Curtin	Claire Grozinger	Holly Joslin
Hollis Batterman	Joan Curtis	Suzanne Hall	Colin & Jacklyn Joyo
Alan & Janet Baumann	Noel Davis	Roberta Hall	Mark Judy
Dawn Bean	Kay Davis	William Halladay	Fran Jutzi
George Beaty	Linda Davis	Paul & Kathryn Hanson	Daniel & Betty Kanne Charitable Fund in memory of Daniel Kanne, by Betty Kanne
Robert Bein	Maria De La Maza	Barbara Harley	
Leland Bellot	Debra Delazzer	Ann Harmer	
Cedric Berggren	Helen Dinkins	Margaret Hawk	Mike & Paula Kazeef
Hans Ulrich Bernard	Barbara Dixon	Lena Hayashi	Ann Kenowsky
Carolyn & Matt Biller	Lynne Domash	Debra Hays	Nancy Kenyon
Earl Biven	Chris Donahoe	Van Hazewinkel	Amin Khalifa
Steve & Kathy Blackmarr	George Dugard	Jim Heil	The Kinninger Family
Creed & Sheryl Blevins	Katherine Duncan	Nancy Hensel	Jim & Judy Kissinger
Dejoie Blumberg	Deb Edson	Mary Herink	Paul Klahr
Sean Bradley	Leslie El-Sayad	Maureen Herrod	Linda Kleinman
Penny Bryson	Mary Lou Engman	Dru Ann & Randy Hickman	Patti Knight
Andrea Burrell	Karen Epperley	Phillip Hill	Carol Koelle
Stanford Burrows	Jim & Diane Ewing	Terry Hill	Lane & Linda Koluvek
Chris Byrd	Martin & Janis Fee	David Hill	Karl Koski
Dick & Pat Cabe	The Beverly Findlay - Kaneko Family, in honor of Laurie and John Harris	Francine Hintzman	Ron & Elaine Krasnitz
The Camp Family		John Hobbs	Kyoko Kremp
Cheri Cancelliere	Christine Fluor	David Hochner	Diane La Rocco
Cynthia Case	Ed & Carol Freund	Robert Hodgkin	Anna Marie Lea
Carol Chapin	Judith Fritts	Robert Hogan	Chuck & Ce Leavell
Matthew Charles	Sylvia Gallagher	Marcia & Robert Holcomb	Vic Leipzig
Linda Chase	Sharen Gasior	Carolyn Honer	Carol Leone
Stafford Chenery	Denny Geiler	Timothy Hopkins	Ann Lester

Thank you so much!

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Wendy & Stan Levin	Joseph Niehus	Susan Schwartz	Dagny Tennyson
Babs Levitan	Carolyn Noble	Jon Sears	Linda Thomas
Merri Levy	Brian Nofziger	Magdelene Seiler	Steve & Bonnie Toth
Amy Lindsay	Chris Obaditch	Mike & Barbara Sentovich	Nancy Tracy
Doug Lithgow	Frederick O'Brien	Christiane Shannon	Nancy Tschiderer & Mark Adamson
Martha Loera	Dennis O'Hern	Karen Shaver	Elaine Tucker
Hugh Logan	Jane Olin	Susan & Hal Sheakley	Lydia Tyler
Judith Lomax	Ron Oliver	Richard Shearer	Thomas & Edith Van Huss
Megan Lulow	Keith Olwin	Barbara Sheldon	Ralph & Beryl Vogel
Eva Lydick	Celine Osborn	Stephen Shin	Pat Vranicar
Dennis Macarthur	Jody Pallo	Frank Simon	Marika Walter
Janet Mace	Carol Paquette	Mark Singer	Michael Walton
Tracy Maguire	David Peck	Steve & Terri Skwarlo	Laura & James Wantz
Stephanie Makarewicz	Yvette Pergola	Ken & Deanna Slagle	Beth Waterman
Ellen Mansour	Jeff Petitt	Phil Smith	Joel & Gloria Weintraub
Mary Martineau	Greg & Kristine Pierson	Sandra Smith	Ann Sakai & Stephen Weller
Samantha Masaki	Alexandra & John Pitkin	Thomas Snow	Neil West
Joan McCauley	Thomas Pizzo	Mary Sonksen	Suzanne White
Elizabeth McClellan	Robert Polkinghorn	Kurt Speidel	Michael Wiechman
Sally Menzel	Judith Posnikoff	Carole Spinak	Elizabeth Williams
Jennifer Meyer	M. Rajudin	Bev Spring	Susan Williams
Marlyn Meyer	Steve & Shan Ray	Polly Stanbridge	Darrell Wilson
Jay & Marquita Miller	Claire Readey	Ed & Joan Steiner	Jeanmarie Wong
Charles & Kathryn Mitchell	Marna Reames	Bill & Meredyth Stern	Carolyn Wright
Thelma Miyashiro	Les Redpath	Roswitha Stevens	Mary Ellen Wynn
Don & Toni Moccia	Barbara Reed	Charles Stevenson	Theresa Yates
Virginia Moore	Margaret Renton	Jeffrey Stier	Katharine Young
David Moreno	Sharon Ricciuti	Luanne Stoddard-Cook	Mary Frances Ypma-Wong
Eunice Morita	Gail Richards	Diane Stovall	Greg Ysais
Ken Muir	Carol Rogers	Gerry Strickland	Kristen Zapanta
Dennis Mull	Jeffrey Rokos	Daryl Struss	
Mark Muller	Ann Ryan	Margo Stuart	
Rosalind Munro	Nancy Ryder	Kathy Stuart	
Marie & Ronald Murphy	Waldemar Sadowinski	Michelle Suggs	
Evonne Muse	Kristy Santimyer Melita	Vikki Swanson	
Dagmar Muthamia	Frances Sassin	Maury Swoveland	
Jan Nemmert	Karl & Gloria Schlaepfer	Allene Symons	

Spring at the Marsh

Trude Hurd, Project Director of Education



Song Sparrow singing



Swallow nest box and sunflowers



Osprey pair on nest platform

Ah, spring, the season of increased GROWTH at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. But as you look out your window in March, you may see clouds and rain. So how can it be spring? Spring comes early with Southern California plants because rain as early as November prompts leaf growth in winter and then flowers in spring.

This pattern is reversed in the marsh's willows, cottonwoods and sycamores. These deciduous trees drop their leaves in fall, grow flowers in winter, and grow new leaves in spring. Because the trees are wind-pollinated, flowers grow first so pollen can transfer between trees without leaves interfering. What a creative adaptation!

In March, April and May, notice Bush Sunflower as it brightens the ponds and trails with its pretty yellow flowers. Popular with visitors, Matilija Poppy has big white crinkly petals and yellow centers. This is California's largest native flower, and you can see it at the intersection of Ponds B, D, and E. Unlike deciduous trees, the sunflower and poppy are insect-pollinated, so use caution and look for bees first before smelling flowers!

Be prepared to say good-bye to the wintering ducks, white pelicans, and songbirds like Yellow-rumped Warbler and White-crowned Sparrow. Beginning this month, they head north along the Pacific Flyway to their breeding grounds. We'll miss them! In compensation, keep your eyes open for the first arrivals of swallows, terns, and skimmers which come to the marsh to feed and nest for the summer.

Some Tree Swallows are present in winter, but the majority return in March with the other swallow species. They are cavity-nesters, and

Sea and Sage has worked with the Irvine Ranch Water District to install and monitor 100 artificial wooden nest boxes around the marsh. Demand for these nesting boxes is high, so you can see lots of squabbling between Tree Swallows who each think a box is theirs! Get your cameras ready but maintain your respectful distance so you do not disturb their normal activities.

Speaking of nesting, the marsh can be a "noisy" place starting in March as songbirds begin to enthusiastically sing to defend territories and attract mates. This is the best time to see the elusive Spotted Towhee and Common Yellowthroat, so be ready with your camera.

The resident Osprey pair begin reinforcing their stick nest atop a tall nest platform at Pond 4. Both birds build the nest with the female doing most of the egg incubation. If you see a little white head sticking up this month, though, it's too early for a chick. What you are seeing is just the female laying low in the deep nest with only her white head visible. She'll incubate for a little over a month, and the chicks won't be visible until early May when they're old enough to stand up above the deep nest. Then wing flapping begins!

Every few years, painted lady butterflies disperse in huge numbers through Southern California as they move from Mexico's northern deserts. The butterflies need fuel for their journey, so they'll stop at the marsh and other areas (maybe even your yard!) to sip nectar from native plants. Will this be one of those spectacular years?

The Audubon naturalists and I invite you to safely explore the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary to discover its interesting plants and animals.

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.

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.

Bloom-Hays Ecological Research Grants - now available for 2021

Pete Bloom and Loren Hays are both well known within the chapter for their passion to protect birds and open spaces. The Weir Canyon Fund (championed by Pete Bloom in the 1980s) and the Loren Hays Memorial Fund have been combined to create a funding for ecological research projects. The objective of the Bloom-Hays Ecological Research Grant is to advance ecological research, particularly research related to avian species and the natural communities upon which they depend, by providing funds or supplies to support research activities benefitting native species and habitats in Southern California. The total funding for grant awards was recently increased to \$10,000. Graduate students, undergraduates, and high school students are invited to apply for research grants varying from \$250 to \$2,500. The 2021 Bloom Hays Grant application and instructions are posted on the Sea and Sage website under the heading of Conservation. Application packages must be received by email no later than April 9, 2021.

— Amber Heredia

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 _____



C15

Sea and Sage Audubon
PO Box 5447, Irvine CA 92616

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Join us on March 19
(via Zoom)
for Nathan Pieplow's
program on
"The Language of Birds"

Meeting room opens at 6 PM
for Social Activities;
program starts at 6:30.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87028335115>

BOARD MEMBERS

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President	Gail Richards	714-267-2420
Vice President	Jonathan Aguayo	805-204-6986
Secretary	Ann Harmer	949-631-3322
Treasurer	Tom Van Huss	714-417-9940
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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
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Finance	Hal Sheakley	949-552-5974
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Social Media	Sandrine Biziaux-Scherson	949-413-0297
Starr Ranch/Envir. Liaison	Pete DeSimone	949-858-0309
Webmaster	Nancy Kenyon	949-786-3160
Webpage: http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org		

AUDUBON HOUSE 949-261-7963

Marsh Education Project Director	Trude Hurd	949-261-7964
Education Assistant	Deborah Brin	949-261-7964
Sales Manager (mail orders)	Jan Hoidge	
	store.manager@seaandsageaudubon.org	
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

March 2021:

* - See page 5 for information on Social Get-Togethers

02	Tues	Conservation Committee Mtg. via Zoom	6:45 pm
06	Sat	* Photography Chat!	7:00 pm
07	Sun	* Birding with a Physical Handicap	4:00 pm
07	Sun	* Most Memorable Birding Experiences	7:00 pm
09	Tues	Board Meeting via Zoom	7:00 pm
11	Thurs	* Does Reducing Trash Save You Money? ...	6:30 pm
16	Tues	* Sea and Sage Reading Group	1:00 pm
19	Fri	SPRING FLING Program via Zoom	6:00 pm
20	Sat	Spring Fling Silent Auction	8:00 am
23	Tues	4 th Tues Conservation Lecture via Zoom	7:00 pm
27	Sat	* Birds and Breakfast	8:00 am

April 2021:

06	Tues	Conservation Committee Mtg. via Zoom	6:45 pm
07	Wed	Least Tern Kick-off Meeting	6:00 pm
13	Tues	Board Meeting via Zoom	7:00 pm
16	Fri	GENERAL MEETING via Zoom	6:30 pm
27	Tues	4 th Tues Conservation Lecture via Zoom	7:00 pm

May 2021:

04	Tues	Conservation Committee Mtg. via Zoom	6:45 pm
08	Sat	Least Tern Volunteer Training	8:00 am
11	Tues	Board Meeting via Zoom	7:00 pm
21	Fri	GENERAL MEETING via Zoom	6:30 pm
25	Tues	4 th Tues Conservation Lecture via Zoom	7:00 pm