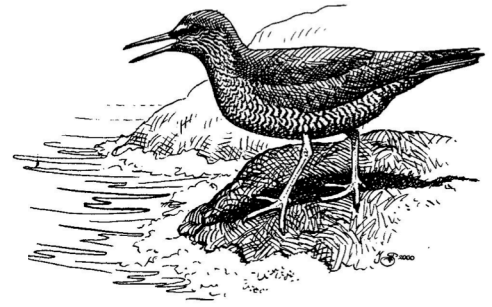


Wandering Tattler

September 2020
Volume 70, Number 1



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

President's Message

These are certainly unprecedented times. The effects felt by COVID-19 have been widespread and have created impacts unlike anything that we've ever seen. In California, all large social gatherings and events have been discontinued, travel and summertime plans were interrupted, and now our schools are closed. Being in our communities means wearing a mask and/or being six feet apart from others, and avoiding group gatherings. All of this has required Sea and Sage Audubon to cancel all in-person activities, including field trips, summer camps, school tours, the Annual Dinner, the Summer BBQ, Pancake Breakfast, nature walks, and all regular meetings.

In spite of it all, our work continues. We should all be inspired by the passion and dedication of our many leaders and volunteers. During the past two months, they have invented new approaches, using creativity, flexibility and technology to double their efforts to connect with our membership. The Conservation Committee, chaired by Susan Sheakley, presented 4th Tuesday Programs through Zoom in May and June. Most recently, they presented "New Beginnings for the Orange County Bird of Prey Center" to over 150 registrants! It was fun and informative. Subcommittees continue to meet and tackle ongoing projects, such as: O.C. Parks, Santa Ana River Project, advocacy with Audubon CA, and Least Tern surveys.

The Education Committee presented a 3-day, "virtual" Coastal Camp to a group of young "campers" through Google Classroom. A special training was given to 60+ Orange County Science Olympiad students to prepare them for the upcoming sessions on Ornithology.

In the fall, we will resume our regular General Meeting presentations, and the 4th Tuesday Conservation Programs will continue. Sylvia Gallagher will be presenting her Beginning Birding classes in October through Zoom. Trude Hurd is working with her team to create a virtual presentation of the Outdoor Adventures program for the 5th grade students.

We will keep you informed of all upcoming events through the Wandering Tattler, Facebook, Instagram, and email. We appreciate your support of Sea and Sage Audubon during these trying times. In the meantime, stay safe.

Gail Richards, President

General Meeting - Online Presentation Friday, September 18, 2020 - 7:00 PM

By Zoom

"Mountain Lions in Southern California" *presented by Dr. Winston Vickers*

Dr. Vickers is a wildlife research veterinarian with the University of California-Davis Wildlife Health Center. He has been studying mountain lions and other wildlife for the past 19 years and directs the WHC's mountain lion (cougar, puma) study in southern California, as well as collaborating with the California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife and other researchers around the state. He has also been involved with research on bobcats, Channel Island foxes, Santa Cruz Island scrub jays, and other terrestrial and avian species. He co-developed and directed a 9-part series of short documentaries, as well as a one hour film, about California mountain lions that can be viewed here <https://www.camountainlions.com>.

Dr. Vickers will discuss findings from his research into mountain lions in southern California. Habitat loss and high mortality in our region are of major concern, but even more concerning is isolation by highways and development leading to genetic decline and inbreeding. Recent findings suggest that the potential for reduced reproductive success due to inbreeding depression, combined with high mortality rates, threaten the Santa Ana Mountains population with extirpation. He will also discuss what we can do to support the conservation of this iconic species in our area..



Here is the link you will need to join the meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89401978070?pwd=Y2NEK1JaVm9Pd0VZUWF1aVMvVDR4QT09>

The link will also be listed on the home page of our website: <http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org>
See you there (virtually).

Jonathan Aguayo, Programs Chair

Conservation News

Susan Sheakley, Conservation Chair

Sea and Sage is presenting its '4th Tuesday' Conservation programs virtually! Our next virtual '4th Tuesday' will be on Sept. 22nd



'4th Tues.' Conservation Lecture Tuesday, Sept. 22nd – 7:00 pm by Zoom

“Living Shorelines: Strategies to Persist in the Face of SLR”

Presented by Dr. Christine Whitcraft,
**Professor, Biological Sciences & Director,
Environmental Science and Policy,
Cal State University Long Beach (CSULB)**

Join us to meet Dr. Christine Whitcraft of CSULB and hear information about a local study relating to coastal wetlands and sea-level rise (SLR).

Coastal wetlands around the world are threatened by SLR and, in many areas, may be able to resist projected SLR only until 2030 to 2050. “Management actions for preserving salt marsh habitats are limited, but we are currently researching several promising techniques: this talk is specifically about a living shoreline construction using paired oyster and eelgrass beds in Upper Newport Bay.”

“Our data show that the restoration was successful in increasing both oyster and eelgrass habitat in Newport Bay. In addition, the beds provide habitat for some invertebrates and fish that use the new complex habitats. Detailing changes in the ecology after restoration will provide information on the ecological impacts of these strategies. This will further inform management choices for combating sea level rise at these sites and other regional coastal wetlands predicted to experience sea level rise.”

Authors; Christine Whitcraft (speaker) (CSULB), Erika Holland (CSULB), Danielle Zacherl (CSU Fullerton), and Katie Nichols (OC Coastkeeper).



Field Crew for the UNB Oysters

36th Annual California Coastal Cleanup – Every Saturday in September in 2020!

This September, let's help clean the beach by also cleaning our own neighborhoods and local natural areas. For information on how to participate in the '36th Annual', look online for “Coastal Cleanup.”



Climate Corner by Heather Brashear

“Where Plastic and Climate Meet” You've likely heard that plastic pollution has become an environmental concern worldwide, but did you know that plastic production could account for 15% of global carbon emissions by 2050? *Audubon* magazine's Summer 2020 issue includes an important article on the state of plastic production (“A New Plastic Wave Is Coming to Our Shores” by Zoë Schlanger). Due to a surplus of fossil fuels—the raw material for making plastic—production is expected to triple by 2050, intensifying not only pollution but also climate change. The U.S. boom in fracking has resulted in the glut of one such fossil fuel: natural gas. Reducing the production and consumption of plastic are part of fighting global warming. **Climate Corner Tip:** Start by supporting legislation that bans single-use plastics, and begin reducing your consumption by finding replacements for the single-use plastics you use every day.

Instructions to join the Zoom meeting will be on our website at www.seandsageaudubon.org

Orange County Rarities

by Doug Willick



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

Following the end of spring migration, and prior to when most of the “fall” shorebirds begin to appear (in the latter half of summer), birders in SoCal typically experience one of the quieter periods of the year (at least as far as the occurrence of the more unexpected species is concerned). Although reports of “rarities” certainly slowed down in Orange County from about mid-June to mid-July, overall there still was a variety of interesting birds being seen. The following briefly summarizes the more noteworthy of these.

A number of southbound shorebirds were already appearing in the county by July, and among them have been a few rare to uncommon species; these included a **Solitary Sandpiper** at San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary (SJWS), July 23-24; at least one juvenile **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at SJWS, July 23-28, with two here July 24-26; and a female-type **Ruff** along the upper Santa Ana River, in east Anaheim, July 23-Aug 3+.



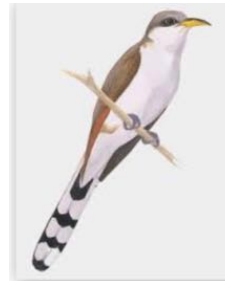
The Ruff has shown up at this location each year (in late summer/early fall) since 2013, except for 2015, when it apparently managed to allude birders; in past years this bird has typically remained along the river anywhere from a couple weeks to a couple months. A **Long-billed Curlew** also along the upper Santa Ana River, June 20, was unexpected this far inland, especially at a time when the few non-breeding, over-summering birds in the county are restricted to coastal sites [such as at the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve (BCER)]. A **Dunlin** at BCER, June 26, was rare for summer; also of note here were a few over-summering **Black Turnstones** and small numbers of **Red Knots**. An adult **Black Tern** at SJWS, July 4-5, was a rare migrant in the county.

At least one immature **Magnificent Frigatebird** was reported (and photo-documented) three different times, after June 12, by whale-watching and fishing boats off the Orange County coast; it's uncertain how many frigatebirds may have been involved in these sightings. Although this species occasionally wanders north into SoCal waters (usually immatures during the summer months), extremely few have been



encountered in recent years. Other offshore highlights in the county this summer include a probable **Masked Booby** photographed off Newport Beach, June 25, and a **Nazca Booby** photographed while sitting on a boat, offshore, on July 3. A noticeably small cormorant at SJWS, July 10, appeared to show characteristics of both

Neotropic and Double-crested and was thought to possibly be a hybrid Neotropic Double-crested. Reports of **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** in the county continue to increase; recent reports include single adults at the UC Irvine freshwater marsh (reported on June 12, though thought to have been present for at least three weeks), the Dana Point Harbor area (July 7-10), and at the Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve (July 26). A juvenile **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was at BCER, July 18.



A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** at Morrison Park (Santa Ana), July 17, was quite a surprise; it was picked up weak and unable to fly, and brought to the Songbird Care and Education Center. This species is now an extremely scarce migrant and breeder in California, and is listed as endangered by the California

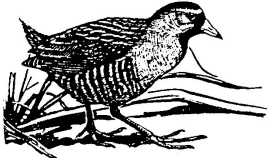
Department of Fish and Wildlife. A male **Vermilion Flycatcher** was at Carl Thornton Park, July 18, where one or more have been known to winter in past years. A **Bell's Vireo** was a surprise find in Mile Square Regional Park's (MSRP) nature area, Aug. 3; this species was suspected of nesting here last summer. An adult male **Lawrence's Goldfinch** at Harriet Wieder Regional Park, June 17, was unexpected at this coastal location during the breeding season; the bird apparently was a “one-day-wonder”.

A male **Northern Parula** at MSRP, June 29 to July 3, was presumably a very late spring vagrant. Interestingly, there were also two out-of-season **Summer Tanagers** at MSRP at about the same time (29 June to at least July 1).



Bruce Aird

Lucy's Warblers, though unexpected in coastal SoCal, do occasionally stray to the coast in late summer and fall; three have already been discovered in Orange County, with one at Huntington Central Park, July 23, and two together at MSRP's nature area, Aug. 3. A male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** in Laguna Beach, 12 June 12, fit the pattern of a late spring migrant in California; and according to Ryan Winkleman (who keeps track of these things), this was the 8th Rose-breasted Grosbeak to have occurred in the county this spring (setting a record high count for spring!).



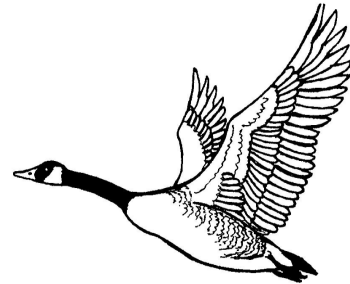
Sea and Sage Audubon Society
Birds of Southern California
An Introductory Birding Skills Workshop
presented by Sylvia Gallagher



Sea and Sage Audubon Society is again offering a ten-week workshop on bird identification for beginning birders or those with a small amount of knowledge, which is most likely disorganized. (Because of COVID-19, this year the classroom sessions will be presented remotely via Zoom.) Professional biologists whose expertise is not in ornithology or whose studies have been confined to just a few species or places will find this workshop helpful, too. Each session will feature about 15 common birds of a particular local habitat on the coastal side of the mountains. With the use of printed worksheets and photos from the Sea and Sage Library, Sylvia Gallagher will help you to learn to identify those birds. In the process, you'll also be introduced to a variety of other topics, such as bird families, plumages and molts, bird topography, distribution and habitat preferences, behavior, vocalizations, the birding literature, birding ethics and etiquette, etc.

The topics to be covered in the series are:

1. Birds of neighborhoods.
2. Birds of playing fields and parking lots.
3. Birds of mudflats and shallow water.
4. Birds of the ocean shore.
5. Birds of the open country.
6. Birds of prey.
- 7,8. Birds of the streamside woodland (in 2 parts).
9. Birds of bays, lakes, and marshes.



Each person will attend ten weekly meetings via Zoom. For these, you'll need a computer and good internet access. Each person must have his/her own computer. You will choose one of these three sections to attend:

- Wed. evenings: 7:00 - 10:00 p.m., Oct. 7 - Dec. 16, except Nov. 25.
- Thurs. mornings: 9:00 a.m. - noon, Oct. 8 - Dec. 17, except Nov. 26.
- Thurs. evenings: 7:00 - 10:00 p.m., Oct. 8 - Dec. 17, except Nov. 26.

Four half-day field trips to Orange County locations will be scheduled, and you may choose Saturdays or Mondays. See dates and places below. Participants will be divided into small groups of 7-10 people with an experienced leader. See enrollment form (next page) and indicate your preferences.

The maximum enrollment for each section is 17. If any section does not have at least 12 people enrolled by Sept. 28, it will be canceled. Reserve early though, because some sections may fill quickly and the maximum enrollment will be smaller this year than usual. A donation of \$100.00 (or more) per person is requested, if you can afford it. Enclose at least half of it with your reservation. Installment plan possible for those who can't afford it right now.

The required book for the workshop is the **7th edition** (no other!) of the *National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America* by Dunn and Alderfer. Recommended, but not required, is *Birds of Southern California* by Garrett, Dunn, and Small. Since Sea and Sage's Audubon House bookstore is closed due to COVID, you will need to purchase these books from an on-line book seller (not Sea and Sage) or in some other fashion.

Send your reservation for this workshop, **postmarked no earlier than Sept. 8** (2-day penalty for early reservations), to Introductory Workshop, Sylvia Gallagher, 21562 Kaneohe Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92646. **(Make check payable to: Sea and Sage Audubon.)** Placement in sections will be based on postmark date. **Enclose a LONG (4" x 9.5") self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) . Confirmations will be mailed Sept. 29**, including preliminary information.

Shortly after the confirmations are mailed, you will also receive, this time via email, an access code to a portion of Sea and Sage's Dropbox where you will find the workshop's introductory pictures plus the printed material in .pdf form. **YOU WILL HAVE TO PRINT OUT THE TEXTUAL MATERIAL.** Read the document entitled "Read first," the last one in the list, for further information.

If you have questions, contact Sylvia at sjrgallagher@yahoo.com (preferred) or 714-962-8990. If you phone and get no answer, don't leave a message; write an email instead.

Enrollment for Class & Membership Form

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.



Enrollment Form – Introductory Birding Skills Workshop (Fall 2020)



Names of all participants _____

Address(es) _____

City _____ ZIP _____ Phone(s) _____

E-mail _____

Check (or rank) your choice of section for the Zoom **workshop meetings**:

WED. p.m. _____ THURS. a.m. _____ THURS. p.m. _____ SASE enclosed? _____

For placement in **field trip** group, please assess your birding experience. Total beginner _____ Have been birding casually or only in a specialized habitat for some time _____

Remarks _____

Choose your date for each **field trip**. Check or rank both if you can. (You will not be scheduled for both days.)

1. Huntington Central Park. Sat., Oct. 24 _____ Mon., Oct. 26 _____ Not going. _____

2. Upper Newport Bay & possibly Crescent Bay Point. Sat., Nov. 7 _____ Mon., Nov. 9 _____ Not going _____

3. Irvine Regional Park. Sat., Nov. 21 _____ Mon., Nov. 23 _____ Not going. _____

4. Yorba Regional Park. Sat., Dec. 12 _____ Mon., Dec. 14 _____ Not going. _____



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

Chapter News & Announcements

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



OC Western Snowy Plover/California Least Tern Survey Sept. 20-26

The next quarterly Snowy Plover/Least Tern Survey is scheduled during the window dates of **September 20 and 26, 2020**. If you have been trained at one of our survey training classes and you would like to participate, please contact Cheryl Egger at OCSNPLSurvey@gmail.com to sign up for your favorite beach segment. She will attempt to give you your first choice, but please submit two choices with your request. (Check our Snowy Plover webpage for the available beaches.)

Your Safety is our First Concern. You will be expected to follow the rules relating to congregating, social distancing, and wearing a mask. If the beaches become closed, or for any reason you are concerned for your safety at the time of the survey, we ask you not to proceed with the survey. While the data is important to us, it is not as important as your health and safety!

Survey Training. For those who have not had the training, we have planned two “virtual” training sessions prior to the survey. The training is scheduled for:

- Saturday, August 29th,
• 10:00 – Noon
- Sunday, September 13th,
• 10:00 – Noon

To select your training date and for information on joining the Zoom meeting, please register with Cheryl Egger at OCSNPLSurvey@gmail.com

More information can be found on our website at <https://www.seaandsageaudubon.org>



Thank you to all our surveyors for your continued support of our two local listed species!

SAFETY IS ALWAYS OUR FIRST CONCERN!

*Cheryl Egger, Volunteer Coordinator
OC Western Snowy Plover/California Least Tern Survey*

Virtual Camp was all about Coastal Birds

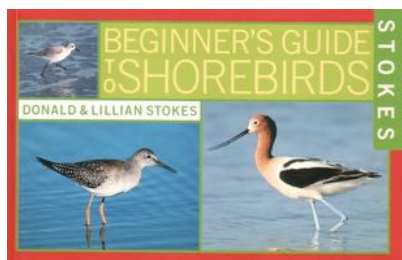
Trude Hurd, Project Director of Education

What did you do with your summer? Thanks for our first virtual Coastal Birds Camp, 46 children and adults enjoyed a fun summer as they learned how to identify local shorebirds, gained hope about local endangered birds, and discovered ways that they can reduce plastics in the ocean. Susan R. wrote "Thanks for hooking me up with the camp video. It is excellent, very professional. I've watched the first one on shorebirds twice and have finished part one of the endangered species, part two tomorrow."

Kerry H., mother of a 5 ½ year old, wrote "We are all amazed that little Eleanor spent one full hour watching (the first PowerPoint lecture), since her typical attention span for learning activities is max. 30 minutes. Eleanor's reading skills are not good enough to read the slides, but she was listening to the lecturer who was engaging. During the lecture, she drew four birds she saw on the screen. Each bird drawing is distinctly different, so I am sure she was capturing what she saw. One of the birds has yellow legs."

Coastal Camp coordinator Deborah Brin used friendly narration, great photos and worksheets to help campers distinguish between the diverse shorebird species. Birding by sound can be difficult but naturalist Debbie Spurr made it accessible with her two lessons. Education Committee Chair Carolyn Noble shared the joys of nature journaling. Have you watched the live web cams at the Monterey Bay Aquarium? See how many shorebirds you can identify on their Aviary Cam! The short Pixar movie Piper accurately depicts a little bird learning to feed and overcome fears. If you like being creative,

there are several art projects and even poetry (haiku, acrostic, and outline). And there was much more!



We thank the following for their kind donations:

- Anonymous
- Myda & Wes Boyd
- Cynthia Case
- Amanda Gaskin
- Maggie Gibson
- Shanti Gopalan
- Rick & Rita Jansen
- Babs Levitan
- Toni Monzon
- Mary and David Sonksen



Finally, we thank our Virtual Camp team for their speed and professionalism in creating an entertaining camp in just two months. Deborah Brin provided expert leadership as our Coastal Birds Camp coordinator. Our youngest member, Lara Tseng, created and managed our Google Classroom platform and patiently answered all our questions. Thanks also to Trude Hurd, Carolyn Noble, Brenda Sabin, Bev Spring and Debbie Spurr for helping with enrollment, editing documents, assembling educational packets for youth, creating activities and videos, and more.

It's not too late to check out the virtual camp!

For a preview, see our two videos about Endangered Coastal Birds prepared by Trude Hurd. Part 1 covers endangered species laws and 2 local success stories (35 minutes each):

<https://youtu.be/elhoEa-srTs>.

Part 2 covers 4 species still in trouble:

<https://youtu.be/upQYVYyU0u8>.

For information or to enroll, email Project Director Trude Hurd at seaandsage@sbcglobal.com.



What two species are these?

Sea and Sage Audubon
PO Box 5447, Irvine CA 92616

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**Join us for this interesting program
at our Sept.18 General Meeting.
The link for the Zoom meeting is on
page 1.**

BOARD MEMBERS

Executive Committee:

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
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		
Raptor Research	Scott Thomas	949-293-2915
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/>

Call Songbird Care & Education Center for injured or sick native songbirds. 714-222-6814. www.songbirdcareandeducation.org

SCHEDULE of CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

August 2020:

29 Sat Snowy Plover Survey Training (Zoom) 10:00 am

September 2020:

01	Tues	Conservation Committee Mtg. (Zoom)	7:00 pm
08	Tues	Sign-up for Sylvia's Birding Skills Workshop	
08	Tues	Board Meeting (Zoom)	7:00 pm
13	Sun	Snowy Plover Survey Training (Zoom)	10:00 am
18	Fri	GENERAL MEETING (Zoom)	7:00 pm
20-26	Sun-Sat	- Snowy Plover Survey	
22	Tues	4 th Tues Conservation Lecture (Zoom)	7:00 pm

October 2020:

06	Tues	Conservation Committee Mtg. (Zoom)	7:00 pm
07	Wed	Birds of So CA Birding Skills Workshop begins (Zoom)	
13	Tues	Board Meeting (Zoom)	7:00 pm
16	Fri	GENERAL MEETING (Zoom)	7:00 pm
27	Tues	4 th Tues Conservation Lecture (Zoom)	7:00 pm