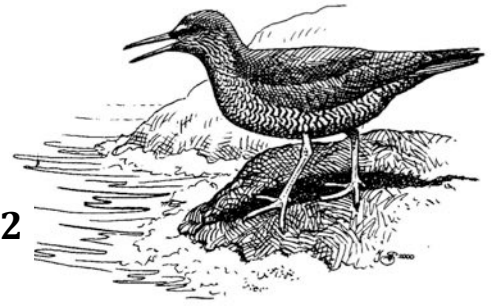


# Wandering Tattler

Dec. 2021/Jan. 2022  
Volume 71, Number 4



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

## Highlights Of 2021

*Gail Richards, President*

It is always a good thing to reflect back on what has been accomplished. Here are some of the big things we have done, with your support, through another pandemic year.

**Protecting Birds:** Most recently, we launched a response to the Huntington Beach Oil Spill through a successful donation campaign. We received over \$50,000 from many generous donors, *all of which is being distributed* to the frontline organizations that are trained and prepared to rescue birds and wildlife and are doing important work to protect birds in Orange County

**Public Policy Advocacy:** A new Legislation and Advocacy committee was formed to focus on the challenges of keeping up with proposed state and federal legislation that effects birds, wildlife, and habitat and meeting with legislators and taking action to support our goals and interests.

**Marsh Education Program:** Virtual science lessons were created for elementary school teachers, education programs have been added to the website.

**Conservation Committee:** continues to monitor and protect the Least Terns on our beaches and at the mouth of the Santa Ana River and work with State Parks to protect the Snowy Plovers.

**Rescuing Raptors:** We have supported the Orange County Bird of Prey Center so they can continue to rehabilitate hundreds of raptors and educate the public.

**Bolsa Chica Break-ins Committee:** has succeeded in prompting the HBPD and City Council to purchase and install security cameras and create new signage for the Bolsa Chica parking area.

**Website Design:** A hardworking team of volunteers has been working to create a totally new website for Sea and Sage, to be launched by the end of this year.

Perhaps this gives you some idea about how much we can accomplish when we work together. Many of you will soon receive our Annual Appeal letter. We depend on your support to continue our work. If you would prefer to donate online, scan this QR Code which will take you to PayPal.

Thank you.



## General Meeting - Online Presentation Friday, January 21<sup>st</sup> – 7:00 PM

Via Zoom

**“New York City Plover Project”**  
*presented by Chris Allieri*

Chris Allieri is the founder of the NYC Plover Project, a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting federally-threatened and New York State-endangered Piping Plovers that nest in New York City. Chris has had a passion for the environment, nature and animals since childhood. He began his high school environmental club, was a New Jersey Governor's Scholar on the Environment and was a national environmental justice organizer at the University of Colorado at Boulder. He founded and leads a sustainability and climate-focused communications firm called Mulberry & Astor and is also a board member of the Wild Bird Fund, the only wildlife rehab center in NYC.

Chris spent 2020 photographing and posting images of over 200 different species of birds he saw in NYC. He spent much of that summer chasing federal, state and local agencies to urge enhanced protections for endangered shorebirds like Piping Plovers. He founded the NYC Piping Plover Project in March 2021 and enlisted over 50 volunteers who helped to educate beachgoers on NYC's most popular beaches in Queens.

Each year, just under 100 adult Piping Plovers come to the city beaches to nest between March and August. Piping Plover chicks face numerous threats including predation, fierce coastal storms, flooding, and human disturbance. The NYC Plover Project partnered with the National Park Service and has helped monitor nests on several miles of beach which are part of the Gateway National Recreation Area, one of the busiest urban national parks. The NYC Plover Project has also forged a partnership with NYC Audubon to help expand awareness for the Share the Shore initiatives and was featured in the New York Times.

To learn more about the NYC Plover Project and to follow their work, you can follow them on Twitter (@nycplover), Instagram (@nycploverproject), Facebook (@NYCPloverProject) or [www.nycploverproject.org](http://www.nycploverproject.org).

Please join us for this fun filled program. Meeting room opens at **6:30 PM**, join us for some **virtual games (e.g. bird trivia, bird ID)** prior to the 7:00 PM meeting. Here is the link you will need to join the meeting:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88424389839>

See you there (virtually). If this link isn't working for you, try Meeting ID: 884 2438 9839. *—Jonathan Aguayo*

# Conservation News

Susan Sheakley, Conservation Chair

There will **not** be a '4<sup>th</sup> Tues.' Lecture in December.

Our next '4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday' Conservation Lecture will be on Tuesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. Please join us !



## '4<sup>th</sup> Tues.' Conservation Lecture

Tues. Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> - 7:30 pm  
by Zoom

'Doors open' at 6:30 pm

**"Surprise! - Topic TBA"**

*by Mystery Guest*

Arrangements are being made for January's '4<sup>th</sup> Tues.' Conservation Lecture. Watch for the announcement on Social Media and the Webpage. Details about the speaker and topic and how to register for the meeting will be posted on our website.

Registration will open on January 1. Please plan to join us. Zoom meeting room will open at 6:30 pm; program begins at 7:00.

## California's "Climate Smart Strategy"

Exec. Order N-82-20 directed state agencies to increase use of natural solutions to meet California's climate change goals. The California Natural Resources Agency's "Draft Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy" takes an important first step in guiding implementation of the goals to protect biodiversity and use farms lands and habitat lands to store carbon.

Sea and Sage is reviewing parts of the lengthy Draft to submit comments. At this point in our review, we have determined that the Draft needs to:

-- **make acquisition** of additional coastal tidelands and eelgrass beds and shrublands a priority; and

-- **eliminate prescribed burns** of coastal sage scrub. Prescribed burns harm CSS and are counter to the Draft's goal to protect biodiversity, as they open the way to replacement of CSS by flammable weeds and non-native grasses.

## Taking Action to Protect Seabirds through the Forage Fish Conservation Act

Anna Weinstein, Director, Marine Conservation for National Audubon Society, recently sent out an action alert urging us to ask our members of Congress to co-sponsor the Forage Fish Conservation Act.

Here are excerpts of Anna's message:

"The Forage Fish Conservation Act was just re-introduced to the U.S. House of Representatives, after being re-introduced to the U.S. Senate back in April. This bipartisan bill would maintain a healthy forage fish population in our ocean for the benefit of birds and local economies."

"Today, there are 300 million fewer seabirds in the world than there were in 1950, a population decline of 70 percent. These magnificent birds such as Atlantic Puffins, Ospreys, and Black-footed Albatrosses rely on forage fish as their primary food source, but they often can't find enough to eat."

"These tiny fish fuel the entire marine ecosystem. The Forage Fish Conservation Act aims to change the way fish are managed to include the dietary needs of seabirds, marine mammals, and more. This bill would allow these essential fish populations to rebound and become more stable so that the seabirds and other marine wildlife, people, and economies that depend on them can continue to thrive."

If you want to know more about the Forage Fish Conservation Act or Audubon's Action Alerts, go online to [Audubon.org](https://www.audubon.org)

## Pacific Fisheries Management Council Meeting, November 16 -21

Audubon California, Sea and Sage Audubon, and San Diego Audubon will be taking action locally to protect seabirds, marine mammals, and larger fish like salmon.

We will be asking the Pacific Fisheries Management Council at their meetings Nov 16 – 21 to protect forage fish, small, schooling fish like the anchovy and shortbelly rockfish, that are found in the Pacific Ocean. If you want to know more about this issue, go online to <https://www.pcouncil.org> and review the comments submitted for agenda items I.2, C.9, C.10 and E.5.

# Chapter News & Announcements

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.



## Audubon House Volunteers

We would like to thank the following people for helping to staff Audubon House in November and December: Susan Burgess, Carol Getz, Sarah Jayne, Nancy Kenyon, David Kramer, Lauretta Kyle, Doug Lithgow, Joan McCauley, Bobbie Miller, Paula Monroe, Dagmar Muthamia, Joann Nothhelfer, Roberta Ray, Barbara Reber, Dev Sellin, Susan Sheakley, Monte Taylor, and Pat Wells. *Our Volunteers greet*



*visitors, answer the phone, sell merchandise, answer questions about birds, etc. If you are interested in helping at Audubon House, please call one of our Audubon House Volunteer Coordinators: Paula Monroe (480-299-9885) or Dev Sellin (714-943-3682). We welcome new volunteers!*

## Season's Greetings from the Sea & Sage Bookstore and Gift Shop!

Audubon House is finally open! Join us for a **Grand Re-Opening** of the Gift Shop on Sunday, December 5th from 9:00 - 4:00. We will be offering mulled cider and gift wrapping of your purchases.

We have ordered several new and exciting lines: heart-warming sewing and embroidery kits, botanical teas beautifully packaged for gift giving, bird themed socks, jewelry and fingerless gloves, embroidered iron-on bird patches, as well as sustainable and handmade reusable snack bags, stickers and zippered pouches. As many of you know, the Bookstore also offers a wide variety of books and guides for both adults and children.

We are excited about introducing our Sea & Sage Annual Ornament Program. Our inaugural 2021 ornament will feature the adorable Snowy Plover. These charming ornaments are made of wood from responsibly managed forests that are FSC-certified.

Please support the Chapter and consider shopping at Audubon House for the Holidays. We look forward to seeing you! — *Catherine Steinberg, Sales Manager*



## Western Snowy Plover/CA Least Tern Survey

Currently, we do not have dates for the next survey or any training scheduled. Please check our website and social media for any announcements in the coming months for updates. Thank you for your interest and continued support!

*Cheryl Egger*

Survey Volunteer Coordinator  
OCSNPLSurvey@gmail.com

## Nature Table at the SJWS - Sat, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>

On the first Saturday in December, the Nature Walk Naturalists will host a nature display table underneath the tall shady sycamore tree next to the Audubon House. Anytime between 9:00 -10:30 AM, visitors to the marsh can talk with naturalists who will share nature tips of what to watch for during self-guided exploration. The display will include taxidermy specimens, identification tips, fun facts, and a take-home craft for young children. Nature Table topics vary depending on the season. Come visit with our Nature Walk naturalists, learn about birds and other wildlife, and then walk the wildlife sanctuary trails in search of what was on display at the Nature Table. It's free for everyone, no reservations are needed, and masks are required until further notice. —*Trude Hurd*

## Nature Walk at the SJWS - Sat, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>

We're back! Our Nature Walk naturalists are excited to resume leading walks with the public in 2022. At 9:00 AM, participants who have made prior reservations will take a short 1½ hour walk and explore the diverse life of the Marsh. There's plenty to discover in winter: White Pelicans hunting fish, dabbling and diving ducks, Toyon's red berries, mistletoe, raccoon tracks, and more. We'll also learn about adaptations of the marsh plants and animals for winter rain and cold.

**It's free for everyone older than 12 but advance reservations are required.**

Send an email to Project Director Trude Hurd at [seaandsage@sbcglobal.net](mailto:seaandsage@sbcglobal.net) with your name, contact number on morning of walk, # in your group, and copies of Covid vaccination for everyone in your group. For pandemic safety until further notice, trip is limited to 12 people and participants must wear a mask covering their nose and mouth for duration of trip. Cancelled if rain.

—*Trude Hurd*

## Audubon House Reopens with New Rules

We are excited we were able to reopen Audubon House (AH) on November 1<sup>st</sup> with precautionary protocols. Some of the new safety measures for AH are:

- Masks required to be worn inside AH
- Maximum of 3 visitors at one time
- AH volunteers are vaccinated

Please drop by! We plan to be open daily except major holidays, 8:00am to 4:00pm. Until we are at full speed, you may want to call ahead to confirm we are open that day.

Parking near AH is subject to closure due to ongoing IRWD construction, but overflow parking near Pond E is open.

—*Susan Sheakley, Paula Monroe, Dev Sellin*

# Orange County Rarities

by Samuel Bressler



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](mailto:OrangeCountyBirding+subscribe@groups.io).

*With its brisk, chilly mornings and shortened daylight hours, October ushers in a new wave of migrants throughout our county. While it is past the peak for many (though far from all) of our common migrants, October is an excellent time for finding and observing vagrant landbird migrants. While some rarities will only linger for a day or two, others, no longer under pressure to find and establish a territory, may tarry for weeks at a time. A select few will even decide to spend the winter in our mild Mediterranean climate in lieu of continuing south to Central and South America. October also brings the first of our "winter rarities", those that have overshot their more northern wintering grounds, and instead turned up in oak woodlands and planted pine groves. Due to the impressive quantity of notable species observed in Orange County this month, and limited space, only the most interesting highlights will be addressed in this issue.*

**Red-billed Tropicbirds** were observed offshore on October 5th and again on October 16th. A **Little Blue Heron** was found at Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve on October 5th and continued through October 24th, while a **Tricolored Heron** found last month at Upper Newport Bay was present through October 23rd. After a month-long hiatus, the **Pacific Golden-Plover** at Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve resurfaced in the large Black-bellied Plover flock on October 29th.

A **Zone-tailed Hawk** was present at the Colinas Park Open Space on October 19th. A **Short-eared Owl** was found flying over Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve on October 11th. Between one and three **Lewis's Woodpeckers** were at Irvine Regional Park from October 26th through the end of the month, while another one was found at the Dilley Preserve on October 28th. A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** returned to Laguna Niguel Regional Park for the winter, and was seen from October 14-15.

A **Tropical Kingbird** returned to Harriett Wieder Regional Park for another winter on October 12th, and continued through Oct. 28.



LITTLE BLUE HERON

October 5th and continued through October 24th, while a **Tricolored Heron** found last month at Upper Newport Bay was present through



TROPICAL KINGBIRD

**Plumbeous Vireos** arrived at several hotspots throughout the county, including Bill Barber Park from October 15th-17th, Yorba Regional Park from October 23rd-30th, and Mile Square Regional Park on October 19th. **Brown Creepers** were found at several coastal and foothill sites throughout the month, including one at Huntington Central Park that was first found in September and continued through at least October 29th, as well as one at Yorba Regional Park which was first found on October 27th. A **Varied Thrush** at Irvine Reg.Park between October 19th and 20th frequented the same campsite as one that wintered at the park last year.

In a classic case of "The early birder gets the vagrant", a **Bobolink** at Huntington Central Park

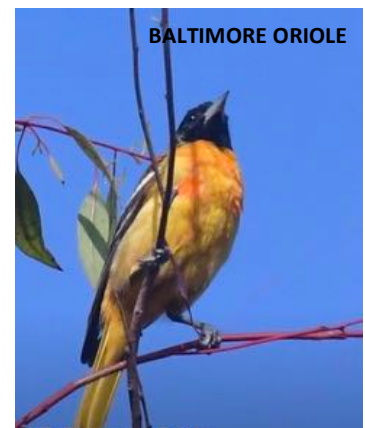


BOBOLINK

disappointed many local birders when it was predated by a ruthless Cooper's Hawk. On the other hand, a long-

staying **Baltimore Oriole** frequented the Nature Area of Mile Square Regional Park between October 13th and October 24th.

A **Green-tailed Towhee** that appeared at Harriett Wieder Regional Park on October 11th and continued through the end of the month was likely a returning bird; a second bird was found at Mile Square



BALTIMORE ORIOLE

Regional Park on October 27th. Other sparrows included **Vesper Sparrow** at Irvine Lake from October 10th-24th, a **Brewer's Sparrow** at Del Obispo Park in San Juan Capistrano from October 16-27, and White-throated Sparrows at Mile Square Regional Park from October

# Orange County Rarities

by Samuel Bressler



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](mailto:OrangeCountyBirding+subscribe@groups.io).

20th-24th and O'Neill Regional Park on October 30th.

October proved to be a spectacular month for vagrant warblers, with significant numbers turning up at both coastal and inland migrant traps. Due to space limitations only the most notable of these observations



will be discussed.

One to two **Northern Waterthrushes** continued at Huntington Central Park through October 9th. An **Ovenbird** was a one-day wonder at Huntington Central Park on October 2nd, as was a **Blackpoll Warbler** on October

3rd. A **Prothonotary Warbler** in residential Laguna Niguel was found on October 20th and continued through the end of the month. Laguna Niguel Regional Park hosted a **Magnolia Warbler** from October 14th-21st, while a **Blackburnian Warbler** graced Yorba Regional Park from October 23rd-27th. A **Northern Parula** was found at Colinas Park Open Space in Mission Viejo on October 4th; it continued through the 6th. Adding to an already impressive list of vagrants at Mile Square Regional Park this month was a **Canada Warbler**, which



was found on October 13th and which continued through at least the 29th. Finally, a **Black-throated Blue Warbler** at Huntington Central Park delighted a legion of chasers from October 2nd-5th. In addition to these more unusual vagrants, a suite of "common"

vagrants, including Black-and-white warbler, American Redstart, Palm Warblers, and **Tennessee Warblers** appeared at various locations throughout the county.

All photos are by Don Hoehlin except for the photo of the Brown Creeper.

## Plan Ahead for this Trip –

### Big Morongo Preserve & Vicinity @ \$ Sun, April 24 – 7:00 am to 2:00 pm or later

Big Morongo Preserve is a mecca for migratory birds as well as resident desert species. A variety of habitats will be visited on this trip including desert oasis, riparian area with stream, rocky desert slopes, palm, cottonwood, and Joshua Trees, and well as possible montane areas.



The Big Morongo Preserve is a willow cottonwood riparian oasis, with a year-around stream, surrounded by desert, attracts a wide variety of birds including the nesting Vermilion Flycatcher, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Summer Tanager, Yellow-breasted Chat, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Gambel's Quail, Verdin, and often, many warblers. Because the trails within the preserve are narrow and windy, we limit the number of participants to 12 people. We start the field trip early in the morning to avoid possible wind and desert heat later in the day. An excellent source of information



about the preserve can be found on the Big Morongo Canyon Preserve website at: [www.bigmorongo.org](http://www.bigmorongo.org)

When finished with the Big Morongo preserve, the group will drive to the Black Rock campground area of Joshua Tree NP to bird among the Joshua Trees.

Depending on the whims of the group, we may drive up to Lake Fulmor, in



the James Reserve area near Idyllwild, to check out the montane species in this area.

*Leader: Bruce Aird*

Advance reservations are necessary; trip fee is \$10 per person. Make check payable to Sea & Sage Audubon and mail it with your email address and phone number to: Morongo Trip, c/o Nancy Kenyon, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612. Include your Covid vaccine info if you haven't already signed up for a field trip.

# Field Trips

Nancy Kenyon, Field Trip Chair



**ALL TRIPS WILL REQUIRE ADVANCE RESERVATIONS ® DUE TO COVID RESTRICTIONS.**

Everyone signing up for a trip must provide information on their Covid vaccination (type and dates). You only need to provide that information once. **Everyone must wear a mask on the trips. Each trip will have a participant limit to allow for social distancing.. When making a reservation, please do so by email if at all possible.** For additional information or questions, contact Nancy Kenyon, Field Trip Chair, [nancykenyon@cox.net](mailto:nancykenyon@cox.net) ~ 949-786-3160.

## Bird Walk at the SJWS ®

**SUN: Dec. 12 (Full) and Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> (Full)**

Join Jeff Bray for a bird walk around the ponds of the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine at 8:00 am. The ducks are back along with the white pelicans and the other birds that spend the winter months at the marsh. There's always lots to see! The group will meet by the front porch of Audubon House. Children under the age of 11 must be accompanied by an adult. Register early because this trip always fills. Directions to the SJWS are on page 11.

*Leader: Jeff Bray*

## Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) ®

**SUN, Dec. 19; SUN, Dec. 26; FRI, Dec. 31; SUN, Jan. 2**

Although the Christmas Bird Counts are not, technically field trips, they do constitute one of the highlights of any birder's season. (See pages 8 & 9.) This year, our 1<sup>st</sup> count will be on Sun, Dec. 19, our 2<sup>nd</sup> count will be on Dec. 26, our 3<sup>rd</sup> count will be on Fri, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, and our 4<sup>th</sup> count will be on Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>. We hope you will join the fun and support our chapter by participating in one or more of our Christmas Bird Counts this year!

## Winter Pelagic Trip ® - (Full)

**SAT: Jan. 8 – 6:30 AM – 3:00 PM**

Our pelagic trips meet at the Ocean Institute; check-in is at 6:30 AM. These trips are 8 hour trips which go along the coast and then out to the 14 mile bank and the oil rigs where many of the good birds are found, and return to the dock at 3:00 pm. Trip fee is \$65 per person. Our trip leader is Jon Dunn who will be assisted by 4 co-leaders. You must sign up for these trips in advance; you will need to fill out BOTH trip waivers including info on your Covid vaccine, and mail the waivers and your check to Nancy. See Field Trips webpage for more information. Also on the webpage is a pelagic birds check-list which will give you a good idea of the birds you may see on this trip. Our pelagic trips fill quickly so it's advantageous to sign up for them long in advance.

**Reservations:** Nancy Kenyon

## CBC Specialties Trip ®

**SAT: Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 AM**

The purpose of this trip is to search for some of the more unusual birds seen on this year's Christmas Bird Counts.

The length of the trip depends on the weather and the number of birds to be seen. Trip meeting location will be decided 2-3 days before the trip and the location will be sent to those people who have reservations. At noon of that day, the list of birds and their locations will be posted on our webpage for those people who were not able to get reservations for the trip.

*Leader: Bruce Aird*

## Carbon Canyon Reg. Park Bird Walk ®

**SUN: January 16<sup>th</sup> – 8:00 AM**

Join us on a bi-monthly bird walk to this bird-rich beautiful park nestled in the Chino Hills of north Orange County. The park hosts a wide variety of habitats, including riparian woodland, oak-walnut woodland, coastal sage scrub, and suburban parkland/green space. In total, over 190 species have been seen here. Birders of all skill levels are welcome. **Directions:** Meet at the picnic tables near the entrance kiosk. Entrance fee is \$5 if you don't have an OC Parks Pass. (4442 Carbon Canyon Rd, Brea) Driving directions will be provided to those who make advance reservations.

*Leader: Samuel Bressler*

## Bolsa Chica Bird Walk ® - (Full)

**THURS: January 20<sup>th</sup> – 8:00 AM**

## Upper Newport Bay Bird Walk ® (Full)

**SUN: January 30<sup>th</sup> - 8:00 AM**

Join Mark for a monthly bird walk in Upper Newport Bay to check out the seasonal shorebirds, ducks, grebes, herons & egrets, etc. that frequent the bay. Bring binoculars, a field guide, and a scope if you have one. **We will meet** in the Big Canyon parking lot in Newport Beach. This is easily reached from Jamboree. Take San Joaquin Hills Road west toward the bay where it intersects with Back Bay Drive. Turn right on Back Bay Dr. and follow it to the Big Canyon parking lot on your left.

*Leader: Mark Kincheloe*

## Salton Sea weekend trip ® - (Full)

**SAT & SUN: Feb. 5 - 6**

This trip is full; waiting list only.

# Christmas Bird Counts - 2021

We hope you will join us this year on one or more of our Christmas Bird Counts. Maps of the count areas, data from past counts, and lists of birders who have participated in the counts are on our webpage.



**CBC Counts: We need everyone's help!**

**Covid Requirements for CBC**  
PLEASE READ!

My late brother used to say there were three types of people in the world. Those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who open up their eyes and say "What happened?" When it comes to participation (or lack of it) in the annual Christmas Bird Counts, those categories seem to fit well.

There are a cadre of birders, in the minority when compared to the memberships we see in birding Yahoo groups and local Audubon Societies in our area, who carry the "load" and participate in not just one, but multiple Christmas Bird Counts each year. These birders not only get a "high" by using their skills for citizen science, but also use the occasion as a learning and social experience. There is always something to learn from the experienced field observer to the beginning birder, and there is always a place for both on Count day.

A Google search on reasons for participating in the Count and my own thoughts on the matter include: by force of numbers we make our presence known among the citizens and politicians of our communities and thus represent a political force; publicity generated by such counts appears in newspapers and other media and elevates public awareness of conservation problems and land preservation; we show that non-consumptive use of wildlife is just as important to a large segment of the public as people who hunt the same species we might tally; population data accumulated from the Counts support bird conservation initiatives; the information can be used to test success rates of reintroduction efforts; information accumulated is used to determine the effects of disease (such as the West Nile Virus) and weather on bird populations; as urbanization increases, the information is crucial for seeing population trends in our native and introduced species; it continues a tradition started December 25, 1900 by Frank Chapman and 26 other concerned citizens in 13 states as a response to a traditional indiscriminate killing of birds around the same date; you join over 50,000 other birders doing over 1800 count circles who show their love of bird watching with their participation; one individual can make a difference in these types of counts; it is a holiday tradition, and for our own mental health, we need to participate, encourage others to participate, and maintain such events; it's a small payback we can make to a hobby that gives many of us a great amount of satisfaction; it gives us a chance to try out our new gadgets... digital cameras, new binoculars, ipods, etc. and justify the cost to our families (and ourselves); it gets us away from our televisions and computer monitors and into the field, and improves our mental and physical health; and everyone who participates probably has additional reasons and individual stories of past events (and good species and friendships found).

So...don't be in the group that watches things happen by others or procrastinates about missing happenings; contact the regional coordinators of Orange County's Christmas Bird Counts for placement on coverage teams. It's not too late and many teams I know could use an extra pair of eyes and data-takers

—Joel Weintraub

## CBC Now Requires Advance Reservations ® Due to the Covid Pandemic

Everyone signing up for a CBC must provide information on their Covid-19 vaccination (type and dates) or a photo of the vaccine card (preferred). You only have to provide that information once if you are signing up for multiple CBC circles. People who have submitted their Covid-19 information for one or more Sea and Sage Field Trips do not have to submit the information again.

People who have not received their Covid vaccinations will not be allowed on any CBC this year. We need to make sure that our counts are safe for everyone; otherwise, we will have to cancel them. EVERYONE must wear a mask during any carpooling. When outside, each party must wear masks if one member of the party requests that masks be worn. Each party will have a participant limit to allow for social distancing.

Covid-19 information must be submitted prior to your participation in any of the CBC's. Please email (preferred method) to CBC Chair, Darrell Wilson. Send it to [darrellwilson@cox.net](mailto:darrellwilson@cox.net). Be sure to indicate the CBC circle(s), your phone number and email address. Your proof of vaccine information will be provided to each circle compiler.

Count participants will be asked to sign a CBC liability waiver on the morning of the count. All subsequent information and/or count data, will be sent out/submitted by email unless directed otherwise. For additional info, contact Darrell Wilson, Bird Survey Chair, at [darrellwilson@cox.net](mailto:darrellwilson@cox.net) or 714-401-7852.

If you took part in our 2019 CBC and plan to do so again this year, please contact your Area Leader to let him or her know you will be there to help out. If you are new to the CBC, contact Darrell Wilson, CBC Coordinator at [darrellwilson@cox.net](mailto:darrellwilson@cox.net) or 714-401-7852; Darrell will assign you to an area which needs your help. For additional information about our Sea & Sage Christmas Bird Counts, visit our Sea & Sage Christmas Bird Counts webpage at: <http://tinyurl.com/yf7nxxn>

# Christmas Bird Counts – 2021

NE (Inland Areas) CBC ®  
Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>

San Juan Capistrano (South County) CBC ®  
Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup>

## Irvine Regional Park

Area Leader: *Jan Gaffney*  
(562-439-5631) [janrduck@icloud.com](mailto:janrduck@icloud.com)  
Co-Leader: *Nancy Kenyon*  
(949-786-3160) [nancykenyon@cox.net](mailto:nancykenyon@cox.net)

## Irvine Lake & vicinity

Area Leader: *Nancy Kenyon*  
(949-786-3160) [nancykenyon@cox.net](mailto:nancykenyon@cox.net)

## Silverado Canyon

Area Leader: *Doug Lithgow*  
(714-962-4145) [DMlithgow@aol.com](mailto:DMlithgow@aol.com)

## Upper & Lower Black Star Canyon

Area Leaders: *Al & Janet Baumann*  
[Aljanetbaumann@aol.com](mailto:Aljanetbaumann@aol.com)

## Mountain Areas

Area Leader: *Brian Leatherman*  
(714-779-7077) [bleathermanwlb@aol.com](mailto:bleathermanwlb@aol.com)

## Modjeska & Harding Canyons

Area Leader: *Bruce Aird*  
(949-458-1520) [bruceaird@gmail.com](mailto:bruceaird@gmail.com)

## O'Neill Regional Park & Plano Trabuco

Area Leader: *Jerry Tolman*  
(714-539-8040)

## Lion Country & Areas south of the 405

The area between Lake Forest & El Toro, from Trabuco Rd. to Glen Ranch Rd, excluding Oso Reservoir.  
Area Leader: *Bettina Eastman*  
(714-293-1079) [bettinae24@gmail.com](mailto:bettinae24@gmail.com)

## Mission Viejo, Lake Forest, El Toro & foothills

Area Leader: *Bettina Eastman*  
(714-293-1079) [bettinae24@gmail.com](mailto:bettinae24@gmail.com)

## Former El Toro Marine Base & foothills

Area Leader: *Bettina Eastman*  
(714-293-1079) [bettinae24@gmail.com](mailto:bettinae24@gmail.com)

## Rattlesnake & Siphon Reservoirs

Area Leader: *Christine Tischer*  
(714-955-1000) [clmukai@netscape.net](mailto:clmukai@netscape.net)

## Peters Canyon Reg. Park & Lemon Heights

Area Co-Leader: *Linda Oberholtzer*  
(213-840-5546) [lindaoberholtzer@gmail.com](mailto:lindaoberholtzer@gmail.com)  
Area Co-Leader: *Brad Dawson* (562-438-8898)

## Laguna Niguel Reg. Park & vicinity

Area Leader: *Merrí Levy*  
[MLevy81382@aol.com](mailto:MLevy81382@aol.com)

## San Clemente

Area Leader:

## Caspers Wilderness Park

Area Leader: *Diane Etchison*  
949-388-0709; [Detchison22@cox.net](mailto:Detchison22@cox.net)

## Pelagic Areas or Sea Watch

Area Leader: *Jerry Tolman*  
phone: 714-539-8040

## Saddleback College & vicinity

Area Leader: *Mark Kincheloe*  
[kinch824@aol.com](mailto:kinch824@aol.com)

## Prima Deshecha Landfill & vicinity

Area Leader:

## Upper San Juan Creek & vicinity

Area Leader: *Doug Lithgow*

## Aliso-Woods Cyn & Ziggurat/Costco area

Area Leader: *Darrell Wilson*

## San Clemente hillside area

Area Leader: *Kim Lopina*

## Dana Point: Doheny State Beach, Dana Point Harbor, Dana Point Headlands, Salt Creek Beach, local parks, golf course

Area Leader: *Joel Weintraub*  
[jweintraub@cox.net](mailto:jweintraub@cox.net)

## Thomas F. Riley Wilderness Park

Area Leader: *Darrell Wilson*  
[darrellwilson@cox.net](mailto:darrellwilson@cox.net)

## A Slow-Paced, "Semi-Accessible" CBC Option

Sea & Sage is offering a slow-paced, somewhat accessible CBC choice this season for those with mobility issues, but probably not ideal for wheelchairs. It will be held in a section of Riley Wilderness Park. For more information, see the article on the next page.

If you took part in our 2019 CBC and plan to do so again this year, please contact your Area Leader to let him or her know you will be there to help out. If you are new to the CBC, contact Darrell Wilson, CBC Coordinator at [darrellwilson@cox.net](mailto:darrellwilson@cox.net) or 714-401-7852; Darrell will assign you to an area which needs your help. For additional information about our Christmas Bird Counts, visit our Sea & Sage Christmas Bird Counts webpage at: <http://tinyurl.com/yf7nxnn>



# Christmas Bird Counts - 2021

**Puente-Chino Hills CBC**®  
Friday, December 31

**Coastal CBC**  
Sunday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>

Samuel Bressler is organizing a new Christmas Bird Count circle for Sea & Sage in the northern section of Orange County. This count will be held on Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup>. He ran the count last year with a small group of birders and found that the area was very productive in the number of species and abundance of birds. If you are interested in participating in this new count, contact Samuel. ([pacificgoldenplover@gmail.com](mailto:pacificgoldenplover@gmail.com) or 657-378-5367) Remember to provide your Covid vaccination info (type and dates) or a photo of your vaccination card. He will also need your email address and phone number.

**Samuel Bressler** (657-378-5367)  
[pacificgoldenplover@gmail.com](mailto:pacificgoldenplover@gmail.com)

## A Slow Paced, "Semi-Accessible" Christmas Bird Count Option! - 8:30 to 10:00 AM ®

**Sun. morning, Dec. 26<sup>th</sup> - Riley Wilderness Park**  
Sea and Sage is offering a slow-paced, somewhat accessible CBC choice this season, especially planned for those with mobility issues but probably not ideal for wheelchairs. Anyone who would enjoy a slower-paced event than the usual CBC count is welcome! Please join us on December 26<sup>th</sup> at the Headquarters Garden at Riley Wilderness Park in Trabuco Canyon, where from 8:30 to about 10:00 AM a group of us will observe and count birds at feeders and in the garden area. This garden is a beautiful oak woodland with numerous connecting, short trail loops and lots of shade. Trail surfaces are level but covered by loose, small, decomposed granite (DG). From the hard-packed DG parking lot to the farthest point in the garden is about a 150-yard walk with benches along the way. We'll have a leader with us who is an experienced birder and who will enter our list in eBird. Facilities include handicapped-accessible restrooms and water fountains. Directions and instructions are very important for this group, so contact Nancy Kenyon, [NancyKenyon@cox.net](mailto:NancyKenyon@cox.net), to sign up and ask any questions. The map at [Birdability.org](http://Birdability.org) has photos and much more information about the garden. Come join us to share in the 120-year+ Audubon tradition of Christmas Bird Counts!

**Westminster Mem. Park, Corner of Seal Beach NWR**  
Area Leader: *Linette (Lina) Davenport*  
(714-721-4621) [Littlewing250@gmail.com](mailto:Littlewing250@gmail.com)

**HB Pier, Beach Areas north to edge of Sunset Beach, HCP west, Wintersburg Channel, Seapoint.** Area Leader: *Vic Leipzig*  
(714-330-3558) [vicleipzig@aol.com](mailto:vicleipzig@aol.com)

**Bolsa Chica**  
Area Leader: *Terry Hill*  
(714-756-0168) [terryjohn@earthlink.net](mailto:terryjohn@earthlink.net)

**Mile Square Park**  
Area Leader: *Linda Oberholtzer*  
(213-840-5546) [lindaoberholtzer@gmail.com](mailto:lindaoberholtzer@gmail.com)

**HB Wetlands, Fairview Park, Talbert Preserve, Banning Ranch, SA River Mouth, Canyon Park, CM Golf Course, Fairview Development Center, OC Sanitation District.**  
Area Co-Leaders: *Lena & Nancy*  
Lena Hayashi (714-321-1975) [lenahayashi@gmail.com](mailto:lenahayashi@gmail.com)  
Nancy Kappelmann (949-294-7262) [nakdrd@aol.com](mailto:nakdrd@aol.com)

**Older Areas within Santa Ana**  
Area Leader: *Tracy Mcguire*  
(714-296-0740) [tjm351@roadrunner.com](mailto:tjm351@roadrunner.com)

**Centennial Reg. Park, Windsor Park, Carl Thornton Park, Former MCAS Blimp Base, Marine Corp. Memorial Park.**  
Area Leader:

**Upper Newport Bay - West Side**  
Area Leader: *Bettina Eastman*  
(714-293-1079) [bettinae24@gmail.com](mailto:bettinae24@gmail.com)

**Upper Newport Bay - East Side**  
Area Leader: *Bettina Eastman*  
(714-293-1079) [bettinae24@gmail.com](mailto:bettinae24@gmail.com)

**San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary, UCI Marsh**  
Area Leader: *Nancy Kenyon*  
(949-786-3160) [nancykenyon@cox.net](mailto:nancykenyon@cox.net)

**Mason Reg. Park, UCI Campus & Foothills, Corona del Mar.**  
Area Leader: *Bruce Aird*  
(949-458-1520) [bruceaird@gmail.com](mailto:bruceaird@gmail.com)

**Newport Harbor & Beaches Pelagic Areas along the coast**  
Area Leader: *Jerry Tolman* (714-539-8040)

If you took part in our 2019 CBC and plan to do so again this year, please contact your Area Leader to let him or her know you will be there to help out. If you are new to the CBC, contact Darrell Wilson, CBC Coordinator, at [darrellwilson@cox.net](mailto:darrellwilson@cox.net) or 714-401-7852; Darrell will assign you to an area which needs your help. For additional information about our Christmas Bird Counts, visit our Sea & Sage Audubon Christmas Bird Counts webpage at: <http://tinyurl.com/yf7nxnn>

# Enjoy Birds in Your Yard This Winter

Trude Hurd, Project Director of Education

After being a renter most of my life, I was delighted to finally own a house where I could create an outdoor home for wildlife. I planted southern California native plants and put out a three-tiered fountain and 3 shallow bird baths. Then I joined Cornell Lab of Ornithology's **FeederWatch program** to keep track of which species were using my yard. I counted yard birds on weekends from November through March, enjoyed watching, and was glad to help bird researchers with my FeederWatch sightings.



**Lesser Goldfinches** are small social birds that hang out with other seed-eaters like House Finches and White-crowned Sparrows. It's not always calm as

there can be a few squabbles at the water sources and staging areas. The goldfinches arrive with a few buddies to bathe and feed on Hooker's evening primrose. Despite their small size, they bend the tall stalks of flowers-gone-to-seed. Acrobatically, they sway and hang sideways as they poke open the seed pods.

**White-crowned Sparrows** were my Mom's favorite yard bird so I eagerly await their return in September and



dread their departure in April. I delight in hearing their song which begins with a high-pitched whistle and continues with trills. Like goldfinches, these winter sparrows feed with their flock mates. They scratch in the leaf litter under my elderberry and mallows for fallen seeds from those plants. They also find seeds where wildflowers and weedy grasses grew earlier in the year. They are never far from cover. Our pomegranate tree was abundant with fruit this year but my parrot decided he didn't like them anymore. So each day, I split a fruit into quarters and left them on the slope for the white-crowns and House Finches. They picked out the seeds and left the hulls. I am glad the fruit was used by the birds!

In my yard, there's usually a mixture of adult and immature White-crowned Sparrows, but sadly the flock is smaller with the passing years. I noticed the adults are first to leave my yard, usually around March. I photograph the remaining immatures as they molt from their gray and brown head stripes to the adult black and white stripes; there's an interesting in-between stage where the front half is adult and the rear is still immature! Then one day in April, I wonder: I haven't seen the white-crowns in a few days. And I know they have migrated to the boreal forests of northern U.S. and Canada and I have to wait until fall to see and hear them again.



**Yellow-rumped Warblers** are common and widespread. In winter, they flit through my native shrubs, plucking insects off the

leaves and stems. Sometimes, they sit on the wooden fence, looking this way and that, before flying up and chasing "something." They especially liked our termite-infested fence before we replaced it. After they bathe, they perch in the dead peach tree or the elderberry, shaking and preening and flashing their yellow rump. This warbler is affectionally called "butter butt" because their rump resembles a pat of butter!

Where there are songbirds, there's an avian predator to hunt them: the **Cooper's Hawk**. It's short wings and long tail



are good adaptations for chasing small birds between shrubs and trees without injury. Sadly, the chaser and chasee sometimes strike people's windows because they are distracted. I once watched this raptor disappear into a 3-foot wide hedge as it followed a House Sparrow. I later looked into the hedge and tried to put my arm into it and couldn't; how did the hawk do it?

Do you have Acrobats, Butter Butts, or Surprise Attackers in your yard like mine? We're lucky!

# Directions and Membership

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



## Tattler Subscriptions

Non-Audubon members or members from other Audubon chapters who wish to subscribe to our chapter newsletter, may do so for \$14.00 per year. Make check payable to "Sea and Sage Audubon" and mail to: Tattler Subscriptions, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612

## Go Paperless!

Sign up to receive your newsletter via email — get your issues faster, help save natural resources, reduce waste, and help our chapter save money! You can read it online or print out the pages you need to refer to more frequently. It is in pdf format and will look and print exactly like the original ones. Photos will be in color. Send an e-mail to [nancykenyon@cox.net](mailto:nancykenyon@cox.net) to start your paper-free Tattler delivery today! (offer good only for chapter members in good standing)

## Remember Us in Your Will or Trust

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

## Directions to the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary (5 Riparian View, Irvine) Our entrance is from Campus Dr., not Michelson

From the San Diego Fwy (405): Exit on Jamboree, south toward Newport Beach. At the 1st signal, Michelson, turn left. Continue on Michelson (past the old entrance to the SJWS) to the 5th signal which is Harvard and turn right. Drive to University & turn right. Drive to Campus Drive & turn right. Stay in the far right lane and immediately turn right onto Riparian View which will enter the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. The entrance road is marked by a green sign. If you miss the turn and reach Carlson, turn right and go around the block again to Harvard. The sanctuary is open every day from dawn until dusk.

## Audubon House

We plan to be open daily from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Call first to make sure we are open.

949-261-7963

## Your Membership Payment

Do you want to join National Audubon and Sea and Sage? Use the membership form at the bottom of this page. An Individual Membership or a Family Membership is only \$20. Sea & Sage receives 100% of a chapter generated new member's dues for the first year. Mail the form and your check - payable to National Audubon Society - to Sea and Sage Audubon, PO Box 5447, Irvine CA 92616. If you want to use a credit card for your membership payment, go online to: <http://www.audubon.org/membership> If you have questions, please contact Membership Chair, Jim Kissinger, at [membership@seaandsageaudubon.org](mailto:membership@seaandsageaudubon.org)

## Temporarily Away or Moving?

Please notify Jim Kissinger of your new address if you are temporarily, or permanently, moving from your current address; or, let him know if you do not want to continue to receive the Tattler. This will save us postage.

Jim Kissinger, Membership Chair  
[membership@seaandsageaudubon.org](mailto:membership@seaandsageaudubon.org)

## Audubon Membership Application

We invite you to become a member of the National Audubon Society and the Sea and Sage Audubon chapter. Members receive the AUDUBON magazine as well as the WANDERING TATTLER newsletter.

**NEW MEMBERSHIP is \$20 for an individual or for a family.** (The membership is good for one year.)

**To join:** Complete the form below & mail it along with your payment to: Sea and Sage Audubon, PO Box 5447, Irvine CA 92616

**Make your check payable to: NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY.** Please pay by check only; do not send cash.

Or, go online to: <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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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  
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### STAFF

#### AUDUBON HOUSE ..... 949-261-7963

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 Education Assistant ..... Deborah Brin ..... 949-261-7964  
 Sales Manager ..... Catherine Steinberg ..... 949-261-7963  
 Administrative Aide ..... Sandrine Biziaux ..... 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

#### December 2021:

04 Sat Nature Table at the SJWS ..... 9:00 am  
 05 Sun Grand Re-opening of Gift Store at Aud Hse .. 9:00 am  
 07 Tues Conservation Committee Mtg. via Zoom ..... 6:45 pm  
 12 Sun Bird Walk at the SJWS ® (Full) ..... 8:00 am  
 14 Tues Board Meeting via Zoom ..... 7:00 pm  
 19 Sun NE (Inland) CBC ..... tba  
 26 Sun San Juan Capistrano CBC ..... tba  
 31 Fri Puente-Chino Hills CBC ..... tba

#### January 2022:

01 Sat Nature Walk at the SJWS ® ..... 9:00 am  
 02 Sun Coastal CBC ... ..... tba  
 04 Tues Conservation Committee Mtg. via Zoom ..... 6:45 pm  
 08 Sat Winter Pelagic Trip ® (Full) ..... 6:30 am  
 09 Sun Bird Walk at the SJWS ® (Full) ..... 8:00 am  
 11 Tues Board Meetings Via Zoom ..... 7:00 pm  
 15 Sat CBC Specialties Trip ® ..... 7:00 am  
 16 Sun Carbon Canyon bird walk ® ..... 8:00 am  
 20 Thurs Bolsa Chica bird walk ® (Full) ..... 8:00 am  
 21 Fri GENERAL MEETING ..... 7:00 pm  
 25 Tues 4<sup>th</sup> Tues. Conservation Lecture Via Zoom ..... 7:00 pm  
 30 Sun Upper Newport Bay ® (Full) ..... 8:00 am