

Wandering Tattler

October 2022 Volume 72, Number 2



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

The BBQ was cancelled, but the Pancake Breakfast is back!

Gail Richards, President

Pancake Breakfast

After 2 years, the Pancake Breakfast will happen on October 29. Details are included in this Tattler.

All reservations for the Pancake Breakfast will be done online through an online service called Eventbrite. On our website and on the invitation to the Pancake Breakfast, there will be a link to buy tickets. When you click on the link, you will be taken to the Eventbrite website and our Pancake Breakfast registration page will appear. Here you can pay with PayPal and register for the event. If you need help in doing this, please call Jim Kissinger @ 949-713-1148.

Why are we using Eventbrite?

As an organization, we are moving away from the time-consuming process of writing checks and sending in registration forms by mail. With Eventbrite, the payments transfer to Sea and Sage automatically and a list of participants is generated as people sign up. The participant list will include email addresses of all participants, so they can be contacted for any follow up needed. Trip leaders can also communicate details about the trip or last minute changes.

We hope that you will applaud this change in our registration processes. There will certainly be some glitches, but we believe that the days of check writing are ending. Many people do not even have a checking account these days. We can all save some money on postage stamps and envelopes.

General Meeting – Online Presentation Friday, October 21, 2022 – 7:00 PM “Bird-tripping: Tales from the Road to Tuktoyaktuk” Presented by Devon Bradley, Ph.D.

In the summer of 2022, Devon Bradley packed up her binoculars, camera, and pup to go all the way to the shores of the Arctic Ocean. Inspired, in part, by Sylvia Gallagher’s “Trip Diaries”, Devon carved a circuitous route to Alaska, on a ribbon of a road that traverses two mountain ranges, extensive subarctic wilderness, and the breeding habitats of some incredible species of birds, on its way to the Mackenzie Delta and Tuktoyaktuk! In this presentation, Devon will share highlights and anecdotes from this 2.5-month journey.

Devon Bradley is an ecologist, naturalist, birder, photographer, traveler, and all-around-nature-enthusiast. After completing a Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Brown University, Devon made her way to Southern California for a post-doctoral research position at UC Irvine. For the past 12 years, Devon has been a Professor of Biology at Irvine Valley College.

Please join us for this fun filled program. Meeting room opens at 6:30 PM, for some virtual games (e.g., bird trivia, bird ID, bird count). Here is the link to join the meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83439827781>

Meeting ID: 834 3982 7781 Need Help? Contact jonathan.aguayo@psomas.com

Conservation News

Susan Sheakley, Conservation Chair



'4th Tues.' Conservation Lecture

Tuesday, October 25th 7:00 PM

by Zoom

"The SCRIV is for the Birds!"

presented by Rachel E. Bockrath

Our speaker, Rachel Bockrath, a master's student at Cal Poly Pomona, has been surveying the avian communities across six major habitats in the Santa Clara River Valley (SCRIV) to compare the community compositions between habitats, and over seasons. Rachel is eager to share her research results which a Sea and Sage Bloom-Hays Research grant, helped fund.

Having now completed a whole year of surveys, and her second spring and summer season, Rachel has uncovered intriguing similarities and differences between the riparian, scrub, orchard, orchard edge, suburban, and urban habitats.

Not to give too much away, but the species common throughout the SCRIV and the species that are restricted to certain habitats may surprise you! In addition to discovering community-level trends, Rachel is investigating changes in avian activity between habitats and the ecosystem services birds provide in the orchards.

Please join us. Advance registration is required and will be available by Oct. 1st from our website. Look for '4TH Tues.' under '**What's New**' or '**Conservation**'. Pre-meeting at 6:45 PM with brief announcements.

Tackling Climate and Trash (continuing info on Organics Recycling). Organic Wastes include yard waste, wood and paper products, and food. Trash collection companies are required by California law to start up new programs this year to collect and process organic wastes.



Organic wastes have many uses in their recycled or processed forms. Composting facilities provide soil amendments like compost, liquid fertilizer, and mulch. Anaerobic digestion facilities can convert organic waste into biofuel and electricity.

How can we help with organic food waste?

- First, waste less! Some people find that planning carefully or shopping more often helps them reduce food waste.
- Compost at home, either with backyard composting or using vermiculture (red wiggler worms!) – but note that you should only compost vegetable matter, not meat or pasta or dairy.
- Collect your food wastes and add them to your bin, following the instructions of your trash collection company (programs vary so check with your city).



For this program to thrive, we need **YOU!** Join the Reserve Watch and help Bolsa Chica flourish! **Training is October 22 and 29.** Email annie@bcerwatch.org for more information on volunteering and sign up.



Pancake Breakfast at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary, Saturday, October 29

Saturday morning, Oct. 29th we will be hosting our Annual Pancake Breakfast at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine. The Breakfast menu includes pancakes, sausages, fresh fruit, orange juice, hot coffee and milk for the kids. It will be served from 7:30 to 10:30 AM. This year in addition to having dining in the Duck Club we will have limited seating outside.

It's not Just Pancakes!

This event is more than just a pancake breakfast! Participants will also have the opportunity to browse through the intriguing selection of nature books at our famous Used Book Sale, spend some time in Audubon House checking out new items, wander out to the ponds for some bird watching or go on a guided bird walk, chat with the people from Wild Birds Unlimited about bird feeding techniques, check out the latest birding optics with Optics4Birding staff, visit our chapter exhibits inside the Duck Club and Audubon House, and get your raffle

card stamped and turned in so that you can qualify for the chance to win a gift certificate at our bookstore.

Advance reservations through Eventbrite are strongly suggested. The cost for tickets will be \$10 for adults, \$6 for children 10 and under, and free for children under 3. Walk-ins pay \$15. To make your reservations go to:

[https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sea-sages-annual-pancake-breakfast-tickets-](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sea-sages-annual-pancake-breakfast-tickets-416254477347)

416254477347. This link will take you directly to Eventbrite, to purchase tickets with PayPal.

If you need help with registration contact Jim Kissinger:(949) 713-1148

PLEASE NOTE: Sea and Sage is doing everything we can to reduce our carbon footprint at these events. We encourage you to bring your **REUSABLE** tableware to the Pancake Breakfast; those who do so will be entered into a special drawing.

Thanks to our Audubon House Volunteers for June thru September

We would like to thank the following people for helping to staff the Audubon House from June thru September. Ann Chan-Verdugo, Jim Fiedler, Judy Frant, John Hargrove, Sue Henry, Ann Harmer, Sarah Jayne, Laretta Kyle, Doug Lithgow, Jay Matchett, Judy McInnis, Mary Meister, Judy McInnis, Bobbie Miller, Paula Monroe, Steve Munzinger, Dagmar Muthamia, JoAnn Nothhelfer, Roberta Ray, Barbara Reber, Jennifer Reed, Linda Reed, Paul Saiki, Dev Sellin, Susan Sheakley, Catherine Steinberg, Pat Wells, Phil Westin, Irene Wotta. *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!*

Education News

Trude Hurd, Project Director of Education

Still Time to Train for Outdoor Adventures

If you are looking for a rewarding place to volunteer, then join our Outdoor Adventures team. Training began in September but we have make-up dates. We are looking for friendly people who believe science field trips should be available to all school children. You don't have to be a birding expert since our thorough training classes will help prepare you to assist with tours this winter and spring. If this speaks to your heart, email Project Director Trude Hurd at seaandsage@sbcglobal.net. Thank you!

You Can Support Our Taxidermy Birds!

Each year, school children sit inches from taxidermy bird specimens to learn about bird adaptations. Camp children learn about the diversity of birds through our specimens. Visitors to Audubon House are treated to up-close looks at taxidermy of local birds. All of these are made possible through generous donors who provide funding for Taxidermy.

You can donate **any amount** for our Taxidermy General Fund which provides repairs, storage containers and cleaning supplies (like Dust-off and pest control devices) to keep our collection in the best condition.

We also need sponsors to pay for **specific birds**. For example, families can combine their donations to honor a loved one. We will attach a sponsor plate that includes your name and special phrase if you want! Consider these:

- Pied-billed Grebe - \$850
- Cliff Swallow - \$850
- Display of 4 swallow species - \$850
- Display of 10 warblers "logs" - \$650
- Two spread White Pelican wing, skull and feet cost \$550.

If interested, email Project Director Trude Hurd at seaandsage@sbcglobal.net for information.

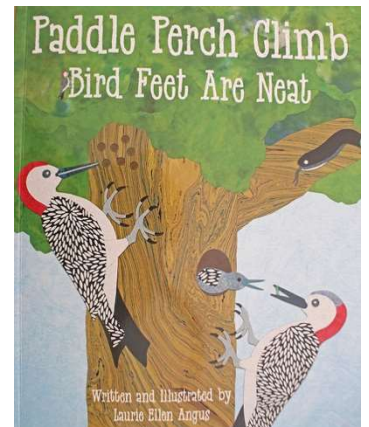
Children's Meadow Walk (NEW)

Are you looking for something new to do in nature with your pre-school children or grandchildren? Sea and Sage's Education Team has a new program just for you! It is based on the popular StoryWalk® at libraries and nature centers throughout the United States. This combines a children's book with a walking route so that families can enjoy a story, explore nature, and read together. It's educational and fun!

Our naturalists selected the book **Paddle Perch Climb: Bird Feet Are Neat** by Laurie Ellen Angus for our pilot walk in October at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine. The book pages are laminated and will be on individual stakes around the meadow behind the Duck Club beginning **Saturday October 22 and will be left up until Saturday November 5**. You and your family can come and walk the route during daylight hours, read the story, try the fun activities with the pages, and take home a nature activity related to the birds featured in the story.

As an added bonus, our friendly naturalists will be available on **Saturday October 22 from 10 AM to 12 PM** and again on Saturday **November 5 from 10 AM to 12 PM**. During this time, you can see up-close taxidermy birds that represent the birds in the story. Event is free but please RSVP to seaandsage@sbcglobal.net.

We give thanks to the Irvine Ranch Water District for allowing us to pilot this new program at the marsh and to our Planning Team of Deborah Brin, Holly Frank, Susan Gibb, Trude Hurd, Claire Readey, Stephanie Tanton, and Debbie Spurr.



Fall Birding

Nancy Kenyon, Field Trip Chair

Check the chapter webpage at:
<http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org>
to find out if the trip you want to go on still has space available. Fieldtrips are located under the Birding tab. Questions about field trips? Contact FieldTrips@seaandsageaudubon.org

Nature Walks at the SJWS – Cancelled for rest of year

Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS **Oct. 9, Nov. 13, - 8:00 to 12:00**

Trip leader- Jeff Bray
The walk, which is open to birders of all ages, but minors must be accompanied by an adult

Dana Point Harbor **October 14, -8:00-11:00**

Trip Leader- Diane Etchison
(Parking fee).

Anaheim Coves Park **Oct. 16, - 8:00 to 12:00**

Trip Leader- Samuel Bressler

Upper Newport Bay Bird Walk **Oct. 30, -8:00 to 11:30**

Trip leader: Mark Kincheloe,

Bolsa Chica Bird Walk **Nov. 17, - 8:00-12:00**

Trip Leader- Vic Leipzig

Upper Newport Bay by pontoon boat **Oct. 19, Full Nov. 16, -8:15 to 11:30**

Trip Leader, Darrel Wilson. Trips are limited to 15 persons and there is a \$20 trip fee.

Advance reservations are necessary;
Directions & trip information will be provided to those with a reservation.

Morro Bay Weekend Trip **Friday Nov. 4- Sunday, Nov. 6**

Trip Leader- Kaaren Perry

We have planned a wonderful weekend of birding and exploration for you. The trip begins on Friday afternoon with a Harbor Cruise.

Advance reservations are necessary; Cost of the trip is \$61. Directions & trip information will be provided to those with a reservation.

Accessible Birding!

Our next **Accessible Birding Event** will be held at the Shipley Nature Center in Huntington Central Park West, October 21, 9:00 AM. This event is designed for birders who prefer a slower paced event with minimal walking, and for those who might want to venture out on a short, soft dirt trail. We will set up our picnic tables for birding and brunch just outside the entrance to the Shipley Nature Center (bring your own brunch). It is a short distance to the interesting interpretive center. From there, we will split off for those who want to navigate the wood chip trail with <5% slopes that takes you past a Coast Live Oak grove, a meadow grassland, a Coastal Redwood Forest and to a small pond. From the interpretive center to the pond is approximately 0.3 mile. Interested in learning more about Shipley Nature Center? This website has a series of short panoramic views of the Nature Center and the trails: [https://www.surfcityusa.com/listing/shipley-nature-center/118/Shipley Nature Center](https://www.surfcityusa.com/listing/shipley-nature-center/118/Shipley%20Nature%20Center). Register by contacting Sharon Rockwell at: srockwell@writeme.com.

BIRDS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

An introductory Birding Skills Workshop

Presented by Sylvia Gallagher on Zoom

This is a condensed version of the announcement that ran in Sept. The full announcement is on the website under Education/Birding Skills Workshop, then click on blue printing for announcement.

Sea and Sage Audubon Society is again offering a ten-week workshop on bird identification for beginning birders. Each session will feature about 15 common birds of a particular local habitat on the coastal side of the mountains.

Each person will attend ten weekly meetings via Zoom. You will choose one of these three sections to attend:

Wednesdays- 7:00 - 10:00 p.m., PST.
Oct. 5 - Dec. 14 except Nov. 23

Thursdays- 9:00 a.m. - noon, PST.
Oct. 6- Dec. 15 except Nov. 24

Thursdays- 7:00 - ca. 10:00 p.m., PST.
Oct. 6 - Dec. 15 except Nov. 24

Four half-day field trips to Orange County locations will be scheduled, and you may choose Saturdays or Mondays. See dates below.

A donation of \$120 (or more) per person, payable to Sea and Sage Audubon, is requested, if you can afford it. Enclose at least half of it with your reservation. An installment plan is 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.

Send your reservation (see form below) for this workshop, to "Introductory Workshop, Sylvia Gallagher, 21562 Kaneohe Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92646." Priority for placement in sections will be based on postmark date.

Enclose a LONG (4" x 9½") self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE). Confirmations will be mailed Sept. 28, 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.

If you have questions, contact Sylvia at sjrgallagher@yahoo.com (preferred) or 714-962-8990.

ENROLLMENT FORM - INTRODUCTORY BIRDING SKILLS WORKSHOP (FALL, 2022)

Names of all participants _____

Address(es) _____

City _____ ZIP _____

Phone(s) _____ E-mail(s) _____

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

Wed. p.m. _____ Thurs. a.m. _____ Thurs. p.m. _____

Circle your choice of field trip dates—one date each weekend. All are Saturdays and Mondays.

10/22 or 10/24. 11/5 or 11/7. 11/19 or 11/21. 12/10 or 12/12

SASE enclosed? _____

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.i

While a few birds, including swifts, kingbirds, and doves, continue breeding into August, most have already raised this year's young, and will instead spend the month undergoing their annual molt, replacing old feathers worn down by spring migration and rearing young. This molt is particularly essential for long-distance migrants, and many species will stage for weeks in suitable habitat until their new flight feathers are ready for the long journey south. August also marks the peak migration for shorebirds; most will already be in Latin America by the time songbird migration begins in earnest, but for now they rest and refuel in our estuaries, riverbeds and marshes. Finally, August brings a variety of rare seabirds north from Baja California and the Pacific coast of Mexico, likely drawn by the warm waters and at last unchained from their own breeding colonies.

A **White-winged Dove** was at Mile Square Regional Park on August 17th. One to two **Pacific Golden-Plovers** were found at Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve on August 10th, with one continuing through August 22nd. A **Stilt Sandpiper** at San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary on August 16th was the rarest shorebird of the month, while a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at the same location on August 11th was the only record in the county this fall; typically 2-3 can be found in most years. Single **Baird's Sandpipers** were found in back areas of Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve on August 19th and August 31st. **Red Phalaropes**, normally our most "pelagic" shorebird, were found at Talbert Marsh from August 1st-6th and at Bolsa Chica on August 10th, while a lingering **Solitary Sandpiper** continued at San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary August 5th.

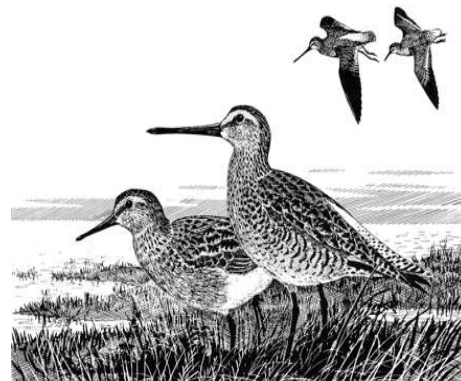
The August 13th pelagic trip off Dana Point produced at least four **Craveri's Murrelets**, and a **Pigeon Guillemot** was seen off Newport Pier on August 19th. Also found on the August 13th pelagic trip were an incredible *thirteen* **Sabine's Gulls**, and five **Long-tailed Jaegers**, both high counts for these two rare but regular offshore migrant species. Both species were also seen offshore on a separate pelagic trip on August 5th.

August is the best time of year to see a variety of uncommon tropical and subtropical storm-petrel species, and this year certainly did not disappoint. The August 13th pelagic produced an incredible four species of storm-petrel, including two **Least Storm-Petrels** (the first in almost ten years), five **Ashy Storm-Petrels**, and seven **Leach's Storm-Petrels**. This last species is staging an unprecedented intrusion into Orange County waters, which have traditionally been considered too shallow for this deep-water species. The August 5th pelagic produced two other Ashy storm-petrels as well as a purported **Townsend's Storm-Petrel**, a very close relative of Leach's known to breed only on Guadalupe Island off the coast of Baja California. A **Red-billed Tropicbird** seen on an August 27th whale watching boat off Newport Beach was unexpected.

Reddish Egrets have become regular visitors to several coastal estuaries over the last two decades, particularly Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve. However, one at San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary August 28th is one of very few inland records. A more unexpected late summer visitor to San Joaquin was a **Cattle Egret** on August 19th.

Sea and Sage Audubon
PO Box 5447, Irvine CA 92616
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| Audubon House..... | Doug Lithgow..... | 949-552-5974 |
| Audubon House Volunteers | Paula Monroe..... | 480-299-9885 |
| Audubon House Volunteers | Dev Sellin..... | 714-943-3682 |
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| Starr Ranch Liaison..... | Sandy DeSimone..... | 949-858-0309 |
| Student Grants..... | Amber Heriedia..... | 714-812-2430 |

Webpage: <http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org>

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| Sales Manager..... | Catherine Steinberg ... 949-261-7963 |
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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.wccoc.org/>

SCHEDULE of CHAPTER ACTIVITIES All Meetings are via Zoom

- Oct. 4 Conservation Committee Meeting, 6:45PM
- Oct. 5, Dec., Birding Skills Workshop begins.
- Oct. 9, Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS, 8:00AM
- Oct.14, Dana Point Harbor 8:00AM
- Oct.16, Anaheim Coves Park, 8:00AM
- Oct.11, Board Meeting 7:00PM
- Oct 19, UNB by pontoon boat (\$) 8:15AM
- Oct. 20, Tackling Trash & Climate Change 7:00PM
- Oct. 21, General Meeting 7:00PM
- Oct. 21, Accessible Birding Event, 9:00AM
- Oct. 23, Legislation & Advocacy Meeting ,4:30 PM
- Oct. 25, 4th Tuesday, 7:00PM
- Oct. 29, Pancake Breakfast, 7:30 AM-10:30AM
- Nov 4-Nov 6, Morro Bay Weekend Trip
- Nov. 13, Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS, 8:00AM
- Nov. 16, UNB by pontoon boat (\$) 8:15AM
- Nov. 17, Bolsa Chica Bird Walk, 8:00AM
- Nov. 20, Carbon Canyon Bird walk, 8:00AM
- Nov. 27, Upper Newport Bay Bird Walk, 8:00AM
- Dec. 4, Holiday Open House in the Duck Club, 10:AM-2:00PM