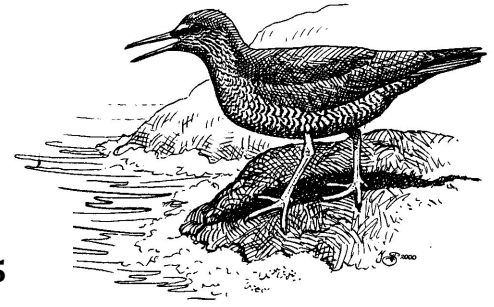


Wandering Tattler

February 2023
Volume 72, Number 5



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

Looking Back

Gail Richards, President

2022 has been a good year for Sea and Sage Audubon, as we came back into a full mode of operation after the closures during the pandemic. We offered a full program of field trips and bird counts, the Pancake Breakfast returned and so did the Summer BBQ, but it was cancelled due to much needed rain. Our 34 various committee chairs volunteered 10,000 hours, and members joining those committees volunteered 15,000 hours to continue their important work. Collectively we reached 12,000 participants in our activities and events.

Some of our other notable accomplishments for 2022 were:

- After a full year of work, the Web Design committee launched our new website in August, which included a complete revision of content from all committees.
- The DEI Committee collaborated to increase outreach at Sea and Sage events, to promote accessibility and inclusivity and to ensure that all attendees feel welcomed. We increased the diversity of young participants and members
- Data Operations developed E-news communications for important announcements to members and added the capability of online registrations for field trips and chapter events using Eventbrite.
- Conservation has partnered with USFWS to provide financial support and volunteer support for the California State Parks 4-year Western Snowy Plover Protection Plan in Orange County.
- Sea and Sage donated \$20,000 to Starr Ranch for their pioneering invasive plant control program and \$5000 to Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve for a camera and signs to reduce vandalism.

We thank you for your support throughout the year and look forward to another great year of leadership in Orange County, California, and the world of Audubon.

General Meeting – Online Presentation

Friday, February 17, 2023 – 7:00 PM
Via Zoom

“Conserving the Spotted Owls When the World is on Fire”

Presented by Dr. Gavin Jones

How have recent megafires impacted California Spotted Owls? And what can be done to conserve Spotted Owls as fires become more severe in a changing climate? These questions and others will be tackled in an upcoming talk by Dr. Gavin Jones. We'll learn about the ecology of Spotted Owls, the history of conflict surrounding management of their habitat, and a new conservation conflict involving wildfire, forest restoration, and Spotted Owl conservation. Dr. Jones will cover recent scientific evidence that will inform long-term conservation of the California Spotted Owl and restoration of fire-suppressed dry forests.

Dr. Jones is a Research Ecologist with Rocky Mountain Research Station – Wildlife and Terrestrial Ecosystems Program (USDA Forest Service) and an adjunct Assistant Professor in the Biology Department at the University of New Mexico. Previously he was a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation at the University of Florida working with Dr. Rob Fletcher. Gavin earned his M.Sc. and Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin-Madison under the supervision of Dr. Zach Peery. He is also an Associate Editor at *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* and *Fire Ecology* which are the flagship peer-reviewed scientific journals of the Ecological Society of America and the Association for Fire Ecology, respectively.

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, bird count)** prior to the 7:00 PM meeting. Here is the link you will need to join the meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87384154458>
See you there (virtually).

(If this link isn't working for you, try Meeting ID: 873 8415 4458) Need Help? email Jonathan Aguayo at: jonathan.aguayo@psomas.com

Conservation News

Susan Sheakley, Conservation Chair



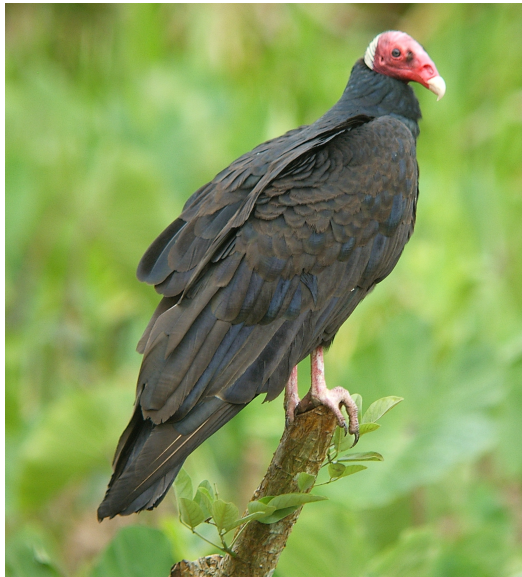
MEETINGS THIS MONTH: Conservation Committee first **TU Feb 7**; Tackling Climate & Trash third **TH Feb 16** (Melissa Rapp, Co-Chair); Legislation & Advocacy **SU Feb 26** (Vic Leipzig, Chair). '4th Tuesday' Conservation Lecture **TU Feb 28**. *Join us!*

“4th Tues.”

Conservation Lecture

Tuesday, February 28th – 7:00 pm

Zoom Doors will open at 6:30 pm



“Turkey Vultures: fascinating scavengers and nature’s cleanup crew”

presented by Bill Clark

The Turkey Vulture is a New World Vulture that occurs widely in the Americas, but barely into Canada. In the past, it has had a bad reputation, but nowadays it has an expanding group of fans and devotees.

Bill will discuss Turkey Vulture plumages, identification, feeding and scavenging behavior, night roosts, nesting, migration, and other interesting aspects of the life of this common, widespread scavenger. Also covered will be changes in its taxonomy, other New World vultures (including two similar species in the same genus), and why they are often called buzzards.

Advance registration is required & will be available on our website under ‘**What’s New**’ or ‘**Conservation**’. **Please join us.**

Inquiring Minds Want to Know “*what happens in Orange County to stuff we throw away?*” In the months ahead, TCT will be exploring the disposition of what goes into our Trash, Recycle, Green and Organic Waste bins. We also want to discover what the current commercial alternatives are to pitching it. If you are interested in working with us on this project, ***join our team.***

Tackling Food Waste

In 2015, the USDA and EPA set a goal to cut US food waste 50% by the year 2030. Here are some ways you can help the US meet this goal.

Plan how you will use large quantities of perishable items. If you find you frequently throw food out, buy in smaller quantities.

Store your food in the best place to preserve its quality or extend its life. In the refrigerator, put eggs and dairy in the lower shelves and in the back where it is cooler and put meat and foods that require coldest temperatures, in the bottom back. Foods already preserved with vinegar or salt, such as ketchup, mustard and dressings, can be stored in the doors. Store fruits and vegetables like apples, mushrooms, and citrus in the low humidity crisper and vegetables like leafy greens, cauliflower, and cucumber, in the high humidity crisper.

Do not store bananas, avocados, and melons with other fruit. Certain fruits like bananas give off ethylene which speeds up ripening.

Store nuts and seeds in the refrigerator in closed containers to extend their life.

Some food items, such as tomatoes, bread, potatoes, and onions, are better tasting when not stored in the fridge.

Use or freeze leftovers. Store in containers labelled with the date and contents.

Learn what the expiration date labels mean.



Sea & Sage Annual Dinner

Friday, March 17th at Mile Square Park Banquet Center
Our Guest Speaker is Dr. Allison Shultz
She will speak on “The Evolution of Bird Diversity”

Join Assistant Curator of Ornithology at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County as she talks about the Ornithology Collection at NHMLAC, and the research she conducts there. Her talk will touch on the many different facets of specimen-based research, and will also delve into her investigations into why and how bird colors evolve. She will talk about why she is careful to use a bird’s visual perspective to study this important signaling trait, and how natural and sexual selection have shaped plumage color in males and females. She will end her program by describing some of her current work on the mechanisms underlying the great diversity of colors in birds.

The evening will also include a Silent Auction and the presentation of our chapter's Fern Zimmerman Conservation Award and Letters of Commendation. The Mile Square Park Banquet Center is located at the south end of Mile Square Park, at the intersection of Warner and Ward in Fountain Valley. Free parking is available. Below is the schedule for the evening:

No Host Bar: 6:00 p.m.

Dinner: 7:00 p.m.

Program: 8:00 p.m., sharp!

Location: Mile Square Park Banquet Center

Tickets: \$55 for all reservations received before March 1st
\$60 for reservations received on or after March 1st

Entrees: Lemon Chicken, Seared Salmon Filet, or Vegetarian Lasagna. (All dinners will include a salad, fresh vegetables, freshly baked rolls, coffee, ice tea, or decaf, and mixed berries sorbet for dessert.)



MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY. Seating will be assigned in the order the reservations are received. If you wish to sit with friends, be sure they make their reservations on the same day you do. **Reservations will be made through Eventbrite, not by check.** You will receive a confirmation email after your reservation has been made. **ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 12:00 A.M. ON MONDAY, MARCH 6th.** If you are late in making your reservation, please phone or email Nancy Kenyon to let her know that you wish to come. (949-892-9212; nancykenyon@cox.net) If you need a special order such as no salt or seasoning, or no dairy products, be sure to report that information to Nancy also.

Your link for registration is: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/40927981695>

~ Photography Showcase ~

Love photographing birds? Love to share your favorite shot? Submit your bird photograph for others to enjoy at our Annual Dinner! You must attend the Annual Dinner on March 17th to win a prize, but all submissions will be featured during the gala. Use this link to enter:

<https://mailchi.mp/seaandsageaudubon.org/share-you-bird-photo>

Sea and Sage Audubon's Silent Auction Needs You!

Again this year, we will have the Silent Auction at our Annual Dinner. The silent auction is lots of fun and it helps us raise funds for such things as scholarships, conservation efforts and education. In order to hold a successful auction, we rely on donations; donations from our members as well as from organizations and businesses. **We're looking for fun and exciting donations.**



So how can you help?

Please consider **donating items or services** such as gift baskets, lessons, airline tickets, tickets to events, or a nicely gift wrapped box of chocolates.

Also, please consider **contacting any organizations or businesses with whom you work or are familiar and asking them for a donation.**

Frequently asked questions:

1. *What about all that stuff in my garage?*

We're sorry to say that that's just not the kind of things we're looking for, unless of course, dear old Aunt Mable happened to leave you an autographed copy of a first edition of a rare book. Then by all means bring it on down.

2. *What kinds of things have people donated in the past?*

We're glad you asked. Here are some items from past auctions:

Nikon binoculars
Seashell wreath
Gift baskets
Whale watching trip for two
Piano lessons
Original artwork
Tickets to plays, amusement parks and so on
Autographed books
Bluebird nestbox



3. *When do we need your donations?*

The sooner the better. Actually, it would be great if we had everything all lined up no later than the end of **February 2023.**

4. *If I have a donation item or more questions, who do I contact?*

Please contact **Cheryl Thomas**, Development Chair, at cthomas1313@cox.net or 949-294-2275



Thank you in advance for your efforts on behalf of the Sea and Sage Annual Dinner and Silent Auction Team!



You are invited to our
Sea and Sage Audubon
Volunteer Appreciation Party



When: Saturday, February 25th, 2023

Time: from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Where: The Duck Club at the SJWS

Thank you for volunteering! This event is our opportunity to honor you and to thank all of our volunteers for their service.

Please join us for some libations, good food and good conversations with fellow volunteers.

Sea and Sage Audubon is a successful organization because of our volunteers.

Please RSVP

by emailing cthomas1313@cox.net

or calling: (949) 294-2275



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

November and December are productive months for unusual and rare vagrants to Orange County; 2022 was exceptionally so. While vagrant seabirds and flycatchers proved somewhat scarce, unexpectedly high numbers of vagrant sparrows and warblers met irruptions of several less expected montane and high country species combined to keep twitchers busy throughout the period. One vagrant in particular captivated not just the birding world, but the greater Los Angeles/Orange County community, landing in the pages of the Los Angeles Times, Orange County Register, and several regional television stations.

The wintering **Mexican Duck** continued at Carr Park through the end of the year; other notable ducks included **Black Scoters** and **White-winged Scoters** in the Huntington and Seal Beach region beginning November 13th. While **Horned Grebes** are locally common along the coast, one at Irvine Lake on December 4th was remarkably far inland for this species. A **Nazca Booby** found in offshore waters, November 14th, was unusually late, as was a **Neotropic Cormorant** at San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary through December 19th. Both of these species are noticeably harder to find in the winter months. Up to four **Pacific Golden-Plovers** are overwintering at Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station; this is by far the most reliable location in the county for this uncommon winter visitor. A **Little Blue Heron** at Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve may be a returning bird; the only other wader of note during this period was a **Cattle Egret** at Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station, December 27th.

For the third year in a row, an immature **Bald Eagle** has taken to haunting the north-coastal Orange County slope; favored spots include Upper Newport Bay, Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, and Fairview Park. **Zone-tailed Hawks** were reported through the end of November at their usual wintering spots in the county's central and southern foothills, including Irvine Regional Park, Serrano Creek Trail, and Aurora Park. Curiously these birds went unreported in December when the only one found was at Clark Regional Park on December 17th, an unusually urban location for this species. The only record of **Short-eared Owl** so far this winter has been a single bird at Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve on November 18th.

While it is not uncommon for very rare and unusual vagrants to excite our local birding community, it is quite rare for a bird to ignite a media firestorm that reverberates beyond the birding community into the broader Los Angeles population. And yet this is exactly what happened after a **Snowy Owl** was found roosting on a suburban rooftop in Cypress, November 26th. Needless to say, if accepted, this would be a first Orange

County record if accepted by the California Bird Records Committee, and only the second ever for Southern California. This is almost certainly the same individual found by non-birders in nearby San Pedro last month, lending credence to the ship assistance hypothesis for its provenance. The birding community is reminded to exhibit basic etiquette to both the bird and the local neighbors: remember to watch and photograph the bird from a healthy distance, keep noise to a minimum, and to avoid watching the bird from the middle of the road.

All four species of sapsucker are known to be wintering in the county this year: in addition to the relatively common Red-breasted and less common Red-naped, an immature **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was found at Carbon Canyon Regional Park, December 31st, while a **Williamson's Sapsucker** at the Los Pinos Probation Camp in the Santa Ana Mountains was present from November 18th through the end of the year. It was a good flight year for **Lewis's Woodpeckers**: in addition to the likely returning bird at Irvine Regional Park first seen November 17th, four were seen in Limestone Canyon on the December 18th Inland Christmas Bird Count. A **Gray Flycatcher** at River View Park in Santa Ana, November 14th, may have been a late fall migrant; that same day a **Brown-crested Flycatcher** returned for yet another winter to the Chrisanta Drive Riparian area in Mission Viejo. **Tropical Kingbirds** were found at Harriett Wieder Regional Park, November 4th, and at San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary beginning November 9th. Both these birds continued through the end of the year, though one at Overlook Park November 13th was not subsequently refound.

A **Verdin** at Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, November 30th-December 8th was only the third record for Orange County, while a **Sage Thrasher** was found in the hills above Olinda Village, December 26th. **Townsend's Solitaires** are having a banner year in the county, with a high count of fifteen at Blue Jay Campground on November 21st, while single individuals were also found at Huntington Central Park on November 22nd, Chrisanta Drive, December 8th-20th, and Irvine Regional Park, December 27th through the end of the year. It has also been an exceptional flight year for **Mountain Bluebirds**, with a flock of 26 at Carbon Canyon Regional Park November 15th, and smaller numbers at Irvine, Talbert, Harriett Wieder, and Fairview Regional Parks, Upper Newport Bay, Irvine Lake, and Silverado Canyon. Despite being the quintessentially irruptive thrush, **Varied Thrushes** did not turn up in large numbers as two at Irvine Regional Park, with only 2 present at Irvine Regional Park November 23rd-December 27th. This has also been an off-year for most of our irruptive winter finches, so a flock of nine **Red Crossbills** over Blue Jay Campground November 20th was noteworthy. A **Lapland**

Orange County Rarities

by Samuel Bressler



Longspur joined a flock of House Finches at Pattinson Park in Huntington Beach, November 7th – 12th.

A **Grasshopper Sparrow** found at Irvine Regional Park November 22nd continued through the end of the year; others were found at Bommer Canyon, December 7th, and the Olinda Oil Museum Trail, December 31st.

Clay-colored Sparrows were found in early November, but the only one to stick around was a returning bird at Clark Regional Park in Buena Park. It's been a good winter for both **Vesper Sparrows**, with five birds overwintering at Irvine Regional Park and smaller numbers at Seal Beach Naval Weapons station and across much of the foothills. Over a dozen **White-throated Sparrows** across the county is likely a historically high count. **Swamp Sparrows** were reported from San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary November 13th-15th, and Carl Thornton Park, December 3rd - 8th.

An **Orchard Oriole** was in Fountain Valley November 25th- December 3rd, while **Baltimore Orioles** were at Mile Square Regional Park, November 8th to December 17th, an at Chrisanta Drive, December 6th. An **Ovenbird** found at Huntington Central Park, December 22nd, continued through the end of the year. Estancia Park hosted a **Black-throated Green Warbler** (found December 18th) and a **Northern Parula** (found January 7th); another Parula was at Del Obispo Park, November 2nd through December 25th. Del Obispo Park also hosted a **Tennessee Warbler**, December 8th-23rd, while others were at El Niguel Golf Course, December 17th and Veeh Ranch Park, December 18th. Other warblers overwintering in the county include the more common **Black-and-white Warbler**, **Lucy's Warbler**, **Palm Warbler**, and **American Redstart**. A **Painted Bunting** was a one-day wonder at Carl Thornton Park, December 3rd, while **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were at Chrisanta Drive, December 19th - 24th and in Laguna Canyon, December 24th. Perhaps the most notable vagrant seen in the county so far this winter was an exceptionally late **Blue Grosbeak** along Peters Canyon, November 29th; this species typically is gone from the county by the end of September.

Shorebirds Part 2 (An Advanced Workshop) *presented by Sylvia Gallagher*

It was originally planned that this workshop would start in mid-March, which would have given Sylvia three months to prepare for it. However, her severe back pain will require that the workshop be delayed at least a month after that. This means that the workshop may have to last all summer. It will be modular, though, so missing bird groups here and there should not handicap you seriously when you do the ones after them.

This is an advanced workshop, with Shorebirds Part 1 from last spring and summer as a prerequisite. Anyone else who feels they are qualified for this workshop must discuss their reasons with Sylvia. It will probably meet on Tues. mornings, Wed. and Thurs. evenings so that she won't have to sit through two sessions on the same day.

Workshop participants from last year plus any new people who have Sylvia's permission, will receive further information from time to time and an enrollment form when it becomes available. For further information, email Sylvia at sjrgallagher@yahoo.com.

OC Nesting Raptor Surveys Volunteers Needed!!

The Raptor Research Committee is seeking volunteers to assist with a study of nesting raptors in Orange County parks and open spaces. We are interested in the reproduction success of raptors in selected open spaces where Sea and Sage Audubon and local raptor ecologist expert Dr. Pete Bloom have gathered significant historical data for comparison. We are particularly interested in nesting attempts and success of Red-tailed Hawks, Red-shouldered Hawks, Cooper's Hawks and our larger owls, Great Horned and Barn Owls. As always, we are also interested in documenting any use of these habitats by White-tailed Kites.

Starting in late February, volunteers will search for active nests in assigned locations and then observe the nests periodically through the 2023 spring breeding season to document chick survival. Strong raptor ID skills are not a prerequisite! Scott Thomas will provide a training in basic raptor ID and nesting ecology, data collection, basic survey methods, and responsible nest searching and monitoring techniques. Volunteer assignments will be flexible depending on volunteers' schedules and abilities. Throughout the season, Scott will also conduct several field trips into selected parks to work as a team and learn more about our local raptor populations. Mina Brown will assist with volunteer coordination and data compiling. To help with this project, please contact Mina Brown at (714) 514-6375, gocreativeplaces@gmail.com; or Scott Thomas at (949) 293-2915, redtail1@cox.net. Information about the study will also be posted on the Sea & Sage website.

Chapter News & Announcement

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 January and February: Sarah Baker, Kathy Blackmarr, Susan Burgess, Ann Chan-Verdugo, Judy Frant, John Hargrove, Ann Harmer, Sue Henry, Sarah Jayne,

Loretta Kyle, Jay Matchett, Mary Meister, Paula Monroe, Steve Munzinger, Dagmar Muthamia, Roberta Ray, Barbara Reber, Jennifer Reed, Paul Saiki, Dev Sellin, Susan Sheakley, Catherine Steinberg, Barbara Wasbin, Pat Wells, Phil Westin and 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!*

Bird of the Year -

Did you know the American Birding Association has named the Belted Kingfisher as the 2023 bird of the year. This songbird is unique in many ways; the



female is more colorful, it digs and nests in burrows along earthen banks and regurgitates pellets. You can learn more about this fascinating bird in a new book by Marina Richie entitled *Halcyon Days: In Search of the Belted Kingfisher*. This marvelous book is a lyrical story of observation, revelation, and curiosity in the presence of flowing waters. An

enjoyable book for people who love birds or simply seek solace in nature, an inviting introduction to the mythic and mysterious Belted Kingfisher. Come get your copy today! *All proceeds benefit Sea & Sage Audubon.*

—Catherine Steinberg

Bloom-Hays Ecological Research Grant and Announcing the *NEW* Zembal Research Grant!

Sea & Sage has been awarding the Bloom-Hays Ecological Research Grant for 10 years in the names of Pete Bloom and Loren Hays, both well known within the chapter for their passion to protect birds and open spaces. Another well-known champion of wildlife in the chapter is Richard Zembal, Natural Resources Director for the Orange County Water District, who is known for his contributions to wetlands restoration, wildlife research, and wildlife management. This includes protection of coastal and riparian endangered species such as the Light-footed Ridgway's Rail, Belding's Savannah Sparrow, California Least Tern, and Least Bell's Vireo. Mr. Zembal has generously gifted funds to Sea & Sage Audubon to provide an ecological research grant specifically in support of wetlands research!

Graduate and undergraduate students are invited to apply for both the Bloom-Hays Ecological Research Grant and the new Zembal Grant with research grants varying from \$250 to \$2,500. The 2023 application instructions will be posted on the Sea and Sage website under Conservation. Application packages must be received by email no later than April 7, 2023.

—Amber Heredia

Sea & Sage Reading Group

Please join us for one of our upcoming monthly Sea and Sage Reading Group sessions where we'll be discussing the following:

Feb. 21 – Scott Weidersaul's *World on the Wing: the Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds.*

February Field Trips

Fri, **Feb. 3** - Birdability Trip at Irvine Reg. Park
Sat, **Feb. 12** – Bird Walk at SJWS
Wed, **Feb. 15** – UNB Pontoon Boat Trip ®
Sun, **Feb. 19** – Anaheim Coves Park
Sun, **Feb. 26** – San Jacinto Wildlife Area ®
Sun, **Feb. 26** – Upper Newport Bay

Join Us on February 18-21

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Celebrate 26 Years of Counting Birds!

<https://www.birdcount.org/participate/>

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 pol



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Nature Day Camps For Children

Sea and Sage Audubon's nature day camps are a great way for your child to experience the wonderful world of birds and bird-watching at the beautiful San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. Our experienced naturalists love nature and children, and each camp program is designed for maximum fun and discovery. Start planning now for these dates in Summer 2023:

FLEDGLING CAMP: June 12 – 16; 8:30 to 12:30

MARSH CAMP: June 19 – 23; 8:30 to 12:30

INTERMEDIATE CAMP: June 26 – 30; 8:30 to 12:30

ADVANCED CAMP I: July 10 – 14; 8:30 to 2:00

ADVANCED CAMP II: July 17 – 21; 8:30 to 2:00

Our camps are very popular and fill up quickly, so enroll your children as soon as possible so they don't miss out. [Look for the enrollment forms in the March Tattler, in Audubon House, and on the website in March at \[www.seaandsageaudubon.org\]\(http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org\).](#)

San Jacinto Wildlife Area @ Sunday, Feb. 26th - 8:00 AM

The San Jacinto Wildlife Area consists of a series of ponds, much like the San Joaquin marsh, however, these are mostly drivable. The field trip will be split between some car birding and some walking of trails. All within the scenic backdrop of Mt. San Gorgonio and the San Bernardino Mountains. The ponds support an abundance of waterfowl and shorebirds. In addition to the ponds, there are nearby grasslands where you may see foraging eagles and a variety of other raptors. Rather than trying to cover the entire area on foot, you will be driving to some of the areas and walking to others. Two-way radios will be provided to help keep the group together when driving and to help the leader point out birds along the way. **BRING:** your binoculars, a scope if you have one, water, a sack lunch and snacks. Wear warm layered clothing as it may be quite cold early in the day. **MEETING TIME:** 8 o'clock. The trip will run until 1:30 or 2:00, depending on the birds, the weather, and the whims of the group. **MEETING PLACE:** just inside the entrance gate near the restrooms and covered picnic area.

DIRECTIONS to the San Jacinto Wildlife Area:
(17050 Davis St, Lakeview, CA 92567)

--- **From Orange County**, make your way to State route 55N, then merge onto CA-91E.

---**Take exit 65B to merge onto CA-60E** (towards-215S towards San Diego/Indio) Keep right at the fork to stay on I-215S/San Diego.

---**Take Exit 22 for Ramona Expressway/Cajalco Expressway.** Use the Left lanes to turn Left onto Ramona Expressway.

--- **Follow Ramona Expressway until you reach Davis Road** (sign is on the left) Then turn Left onto Davis Road.

--- **Follow Davis Road to the entrance to San Jacinto Wildlife Area**, on your right-hand side.

PLEASE DO NOT USE YOUR GPS SYSTEM!

It will give you several options on how to approach San Jacinto Wildlife Area, many of which will take you to locked gates and/or dirt roads which may or may not take you into the wildlife area and our meeting spot, and will likely get you lost, at best.

RAIN CANCELS THE TRIP.

Trip size is limited; reservations are needed.

Contact Bettina if you want to go.

Questions? contact Bettina Eastman

bettinae24@gmail.com . Use cell phone if you have problems finding the meeting location on Sunday.
714-293-1079

Accessible Birding at Irvine Reg. Park Friday, Feb. 3rd – 9:00 AM

Sea and Sage will host an accessible birding event at Irvine Regional Park on Friday, February 3rd at 9am. We will be birding from one central location at picnic tables, followed by a bring-your-own brunch. Irvine Regional Park is an eBird Orange County Hotspot nestled among beautiful, old oak and sycamore trees. It is highly rated for accessibility. Our location is close to the parking lot with handicapped restrooms nearby. While this event has been designed for those with mobility issues in mind, all are welcome. Anyone interested in a short walk can visit a nearby birdbath or nature center. The event is free but the park requires a \$3 entrance fee or OC Park card. To register or for questions, contact Sharon Rockwell at srockwell@writeme.com.

Marsh Education Project Annual Report 2022

"Audubon Camp inspired me to become a better birder and be more aware about nature around me."

Thanks to your support in 2022, our Education Team was able to re-connect people with nature after the pandemic. From interactive science programs for elementary school children to exciting night-time bat walks for adults, Sea and Sage Audubon created a safe environment for people to enjoy nature at the beautiful San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. Our 52 adult naturalists and 7 teen volunteers donated over 3,500 hours to make these accomplishments happen. We thank everyone who helped us to share the important message of protecting birds and their habitat: donors, naturalists, coordinators, and the Irvine Ranch Water District.



- **Outdoor Adventures** (1,168 children; 1,124 Title 1): We enrolled 48 elementary school classes (46 Santa Ana scholarships) for the 2022-23 school year which included a science field trip, loan of field trip curriculum kit and 3 nature newspapers for each student.
- **Outdoor Adventures New Naturalist Training.** Nine new recruits attended our 7 training classes. They are now observing and practicing how to lead and assist the science programs. We welcome them!
- **Nature Walk** (46 people): Visitors learned about the marsh ecosystem from 6 naturalist-led walks and 4 seasonal nature displays in kiosks in the parking lot and Pond B.
- **Nature Day Camps** (58 children): Children and teens enjoyed 4 week-long, half-day camps at the marsh with daily nature walks, nature journaling, art projects, and more. Habitat themes for Advanced Bird Camps were coastal sage scrub and oak woodlands.
- **Summer Bat Walks** (60 people): Participants marveled as hundreds of insect-eating bats flew over us during 5 evening walks in August and September. They also learned about the superpowers of bats.
- **Junior Naturalists** (24 teens): Teens connected with each other through field trips, bird surveys and stewardship projects.
- **Nature Discovery Kits** (321 children and 17 adults): Children saw nature specimens close-up through loan of our kits. Seven educators borrowed kits on owls, nests, bats, butterflies and reptiles.
- **Children's Book Walk - NEW:** We displayed pages from "Paddle Perch Climb: Bird Feet are Neat" by Laurie Ellen Angus for two weeks in the meadow plus had fun activities on opening and closing days.
- **Taxidermy Specimens.** Over 8,620 people viewed our birds during science programs, at community events, and in Audubon House.
- **New Chapter Website:** We completed rewriting all education pages and our new website launched in fall 2022. You can visit it at <https://wp.seaandsageaudubon.org/>. Take a look!

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 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

AH is usually open daily from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The restrooms, trails, and parking lots are open from dawn until dusk. Call 949-261-7963 for information.

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

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

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 _____

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City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

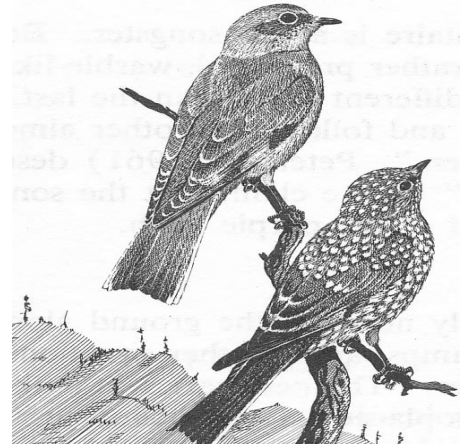
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 Director 2024..... Catherine Steinberg ... 949-378-6501
 Director 2025..... Mary Rice Wynn..... 714-458-0778
 Director 2025.....
 Past President..... Doug Lithgow 714-962-4145

Committee Chairpersons:

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 Webpage Design..... Darrell Wilson 714-401-7852

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

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 Education Assistant..... Deborah Brin 949-261-7964
 Sales Manager Catherine Steinberg.. 949-261-7963
 Administrative Aide..... Sandrine Biziaux-Scherson.949-413-0297

OTHER CONTACTS

Wetlands & Wildlife Care Center – for injured or sick birds and other native wild animals in need of help (corner of Newland & PCH in HB) 714-374-5587. <http://www.wwccoc.org/>

SCHEDULE of CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

February 2023:

07 Tues Conservation Committee Mtg. via Zoom..... 6:45 pm
 12 Sun SJWS Bird Walk..... 8:00 am
 14 Tues Board Mtg. via Zoom..... 7:00 pm
 15 Wed Pontoon Boat Trip ® 8:15 am
 17 Fri GENERAL MEETING 7:00 pm
 19 Sat Anaheim Coves Park bird walk 8:00 am
 21 Tues *Sea & Sage Reading Group* 1:00 pm
 25 Sat Volunteers Appreciation Party ®..... 5:00 pm
 28 Tues 4th Tues Turkey Vulture Lecture ®..... 7:00 pm
 26 Sun Upper Newport Bay Bird Walk 8:00 am
 26 Sun San Jacinto Wildlife Area ® 8:00 am

March 2023:

4-5 Sa/Su Intro Raptor ID Workshop ®..... 9:00 am
 07 Tues Conservation Committee Mtg. via Zoom..... 6:45 pm
 11-12 Sa/Su Intermed/Adv ID Raptor Workshop ® 9:00 am
 12 Sun SJWS Bird Walk 8:00 am
 14 Tues Board Mtg. via Zoom..... 7:00 pm
 15 Pontoon Boat Trip ® .. 8:15 am
 16 Thurs Bolsa Chica bird walk..... 8:00 am
 17 Fri ANNUAL DINNER ®..... 6:00 pm
 19 Sun Carbon Canyon bird walk..... 8:00 am
 21 Tues *Sea & Sage Reading Group* 1:00 pm
 26 Sun Upper Newport Bay Bird Walk 8:00 am