

# Marsh Education Project Annual Report 2021

*"You did such a great job in these covid times." Camp parent*



Food Chains and Food Webs

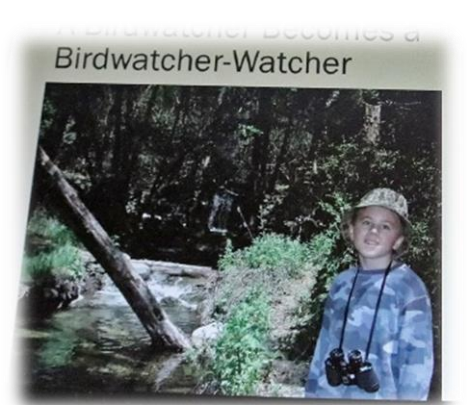
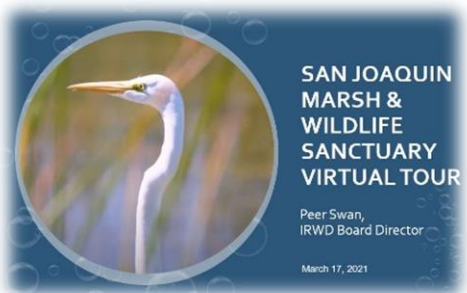


and Sage Audubon Society, 2021.  
Narrated by Debbie Hays.



A challenging but successful year. Working safely, our Education Team supported Santa Ana elementary school children, reopened education programs in modified formats at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary, and planned new programs and partnerships. The 39 active naturalists donated over 2,025 hours to make these accomplishments happen. We appreciate our partnership with the Irvine Ranch Water District plus the generous support of an Anonymous Foundation. We thank everyone who helped us re-connect people with nature during the pandemic!

- **Outdoor Adventures** (780 children): Created 4 virtual science lessons on YouTube for use during distance learning.
  - Bird Beak Adaptations (<https://youtu.be/Giyoo9GQ37s>)
  - Food Chains and Food Webs ([https://youtu.be/U8\\_celbm1JM](https://youtu.be/U8_celbm1JM))
  - Water Quality of a Marsh (<https://youtu.be/44Mx9qH5898>)
  - The Language of Birds (nearpod lesson; contact Trude for code)
- **Nature Walk** (143 people): Hosted monthly Nature Table from July to December for marsh visitors, 4 seasonal nature displays in a kiosk, and one year of weekly nature posts on Facebook.
- **Nature Day Camps** (43 children): Held 3 week-long, half-day camps under shady cottonwoods with nature walks, art, and more.
- **Summer Bat Walks** (48 people): Led 4 evening walks in August as dozens of insect-eating bats flew around us.
- **Junior Naturalists** (24 teens): Helped teens connect with each other through zoom meetings, field trips, and hawk & owl banding.
- **Nature Discovery Kits** (485 children and adults): Loaned our owl, bat, and butterfly kits plus taxidermy specimens to educators.
- **Nature Journaling Club - NEW:** Trying an outdoor club to encourage artists to utilize the marsh and "I observe, I wonder" techniques.
- **Picture Book Walk - NEW:** Began plans to engage younger audience through pages of a children's nature book displayed along the marsh trails with interactive activities.
- **Partnership with Cavity Conservation Initiative - NEW:** Began plans to provide educational materials to O.C. Parks' Resource Specialists about the value of trees to birds and other wildlife.
- **Partnership with Roger's Gardens - NEW:** Assisted a Newport Beach nursery during their Hummingbird Summer event and created a new "Hummingbirds of OC" brochure for the public.
- **Audubon Naturalists:** former camper/Yale graduate Hunter Craft shared anthropological insight about birders at winter meeting; gave shows about marsh seasons; and created inclusivity guidelines.
- **New Chapter Website:** Revised all education pages and new content about getting started in birding and where to go in OC.
- **Bolsa Chica Theft subcommittee:** Helped develop victim survey and created PowerPoint of survey results to share with city officials to decrease the theft problem at this birding hotspot.
- **IRWD Live Virtual Marsh Tour:** Trude Hurd was 1 of 3 co-host presenters for over 300 people at these tours in March & September.
- **Pollinators Garden:** 36 new plants after new drain system installed.



## What the Community Says about our Programs

- “The lessons are awesome and are exactly what I needed for my science curriculum.” Outdoor Adventures, teacher Mark Groves, Sepulveda Elementary School.
- “We have been enjoying learning about adaptations, food chains, and water quality from the lessons you and your team created. The students are engaged and are participating in the Q&A. Thank you for your continued support of education and nature. My students are all interested in visiting the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary with their families.” Outdoor Adventures, teacher Ellen Renzas, Lincoln Elementary School.
- “This made our day all more interesting.” Nature Walk, Grandmother with 5-year old grandson.
- “[My son] has enjoyed being around other people who love birds and wildlife as much as he does. THANK YOU for bringing camp back this summer!” Nature Day Camp parent.
- “My daughter loves this camp because she learns so much about local birds and the staff are so knowledgeable and kind.” Nature Day Camp parent.
- “Students were able to see actual samples. It added so much to their experience of dissecting an owl pellet. They were able to understand clearly the adaptations of the owl in its ecosystem.” Borrower of Nature Discovery Kit.
- “The children enjoyed viewing a real bat! These kits are amazing for teaching children about nature while allowing them a closer real look at the subject at hand. Children develop compassion towards nature and an understanding of their place on earth.” Borrower of Nature Discovery Kit.

## Financial Support

- Special thanks to an Anonymous Foundation for \$50,000!
- We gratefully received donations ranging from \$500 to \$10,000 from Anonymous (2), Deborah Brin, Mitchell Brin with matching funds from AbbVie, Daley Family Foundation, Disney VoluntEARS, Gordon Generation Foundation, Paul Klahr, Gary & Maya Matkin, Jay & Marquita Miller, Roger’s Gardens’ “Hummingbird Summer event”, Susan Swartz with matching funds from Masco Corp., Tom & Edith Van Huss, Linda & Tod White, and Sophie & Kumar Wickramasinghe. Thank you!

We welcome new volunteers and donations to help us share the importance of birds and their habitats. Contact Project Director of Education Trude Hurd by email: [seaandsage@sbcglobal.net](mailto:seaandsage@sbcglobal.net).