

Wandering Tattler



June, July, August 2023 Volume 72, Number 9

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

Message from the President

I am honored and humbled to introduce myself as the newly elected president of this amazing chapter. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for your trust and confidence in me, and I will do my best to serve this chapter with dedication and commitment.

I want to thank Gail Richards for all her hard work and service as president during a difficult period. Her leadership and dedication to our chapter allowed us to continue to safely operate while social distancing and connect with our members through virtual meetings. She has left a lasting impact, and I have big shoes to fill.

As a wildlife biologist and birder, I am committed to making a meaningful impact on the conservation and protection of birds and their habitats. I look forward to working alongside board members and volunteers to plan exciting events, field trips, and educational opportunities. I believe that every member's voice and perspective are essential to the success of our organization. I encourage everyone to share their ideas and suggestions for events and activities that will bring us together, strengthen our community, and encourage diversity and inclusion.

Thank you for entrusting me with the privilege of serving as your president.

Jonathan Aguayo

Summer BBQ July 29, 2023



“What birds Want to Tell Us” -presented by Steve Kaye

Please join us for a uniquely entertaining and provocative experience filled with stories, solutions, inspirations, and (of course) photos. Steve Kaye has been taking photos casually since 1954 and professionally since 2010. During the past 13 years he has given more than 200 presentations, created 6 books, published dozens of articles, and written more than 164 blog posts - all to inspire respect for Nature.

This is an excellent program for anyone who wants to know more about how they can help birds. And it's a wonderful reminder of the extraordinary beauty that we have outdoors. Join us and bring a friend!

~ 2023 Summer Barbecue~

at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary

Sat., July 29th - 5:00 to 9:30 p.m.

Bring the family and friends and join us for this special occasion: dining on the lawn, live music, evening walks around the marsh, a used book sale, and a program speaker: Steve Kaye, an accomplished photographer and presenter, will be sharing with us, "What Birds Want to Tell Us". Our menu will include freshly grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, and vegetarian hamburgers, salad, chips, watermelon, cake, lemonade, iced tea, soft drinks, and coffee.

We are determined to be more environmentally friendly by reducing the paper waste, trash, and single-use items going to the landfill. **Place settings will be available, but we encourage you to bring your own reusable cup, plate, cloth napkin and silverware- those who do will earn a ticket for the Tackling Climate and Trash Raffle!** We thank you for your support. Scrape/rinse and wash stations will be available, and we happily accept volunteers to help us staff them.

Advance reservations for the Summer BBQ are essential so we can know how much food to buy. Please go to our website to **Eventbrite** under What's New to register and pay for your tickets. Tickets for the barbecue and program are \$25.00, children under 5 are free; tickets for the BBQ volunteers are \$20.00. Your ticket will cover your meal & beverage, evening marsh walks, and the program. Everyone will need to pick up their meal ticket at the Welcome Table when they arrive.

Activities begin at 5:00 pm when the Used Books Sale opens. Dinner will be from 6:00 to 7:00 pm, followed by the program (as soon as it is dark). The guided marsh walk will take in the sights and sounds as marsh life settles in for the evening. *Mosquitos may be present: wear clothing that covers your skin and/or apply mosquito repellent.*

This event is staffed entirely by chapter volunteers! If you can help us out in any capacity, we would really appreciate it and you will save \$5 on your barbecue ticket! For information on volunteering, contact Gail Richards at; agrigh@me.com.

If you are not able to use Eventbrite, please use this to register. Print clearly!

Name(s) _____ How many in your party? _____

Email Address _____

Entrees: (how Many?) Hamburger _____ Hot dog _____ Vegetarian _____ Gluten free _____

Amount enclosed _____ (\$25 per person; children under 5 are free)

(\$20 for Volunteers helping with the BBQ)

Make your check payable to Sea & Sage Audubon and mail it with this form to: Gail Richards, 6864 E Georgetown Circle, Anaheim, 92807



Conservation News

Meetings this summer: Conservation Committee: JUN 6, AUG 1; Tackling Climate & Trash: JUN 15, AUG 17; Legislation & Advocacy: JUN 25, JUL 23, AUG 27; '4th Tuesday' Lecture Program: TU June 27th Join us! (Note: no '4th Tues.' in July or August.)

'4th Tues.'

Conservation Lecture

Tuesday, June 27th – 7:00 pm

Zoom Doors will open at 6:30 pm



“Diverting organic materials from Orange County landfills”

presented by David Tieu, a landfill

manager for Orange County Waste & Recycling

Do you want to learn more about Orange County Waste & Recycling (OCWR)? Do you have questions regarding the organics law SB1383? To answer these questions, David Tieu will provide an overview of Orange County’s landfill system and recently launched organics processing program to help support cities comply with SB 1383. David manages the central region of OCWR, which includes the Frank R. Bowerman Landfill. David is a registered Professional Civil Engineer and Certified Compost Operations Manager™. His areas of expertise include landfill management, environmental stewardship, and solid waste management.



We are looking forward to learning more about what happens to the stuff we throw away and we hope you will join us. Advance registration is required & will be available on our website under ‘What’s New’ or ‘Conservation’.

More information about Orange County Waste & Recycling (OCWR)

The disposal of organic materials in the landfill is a significant source of greenhouse gases. The organics law SB 1383 requires that organics, food scraps and yard waste be recycled rather than going to the landfill. The goal is a 75 percent reduction in organics going into landfills by 2025.

In response, OCWR has developed a three-phase plan for increasing recycling capacity. In phase 1, OCWR has opened a composting facility at each of the three landfills over the past year, thus diverting organic waste from the landfill and promoting the production of compost and mulch. The compost and mulch are available to the residents of Orange County. In Phase 2, OCWR is working with waste water treatment facilities to divert food waste and increase energy production. Phase 3 is for the future, when organic waste will be used to generate renewable energy via anaerobic digestion plants.



Recycling is not only important for reducing greenhouse emissions, but also for preserving our landfill capacity. “What we do today, will have a long effect, hundreds of years in the future” said David Tieu during a video interview entitled “OC Landfills: The Inside Story.” As individuals, we can have a far-reaching impact by promoting a zero-waste strategy.

(Photos courtesy of OCWR: OC Landfills: The Inside Story)

Education News

Trude Hurd, Project Director of Education

Welcome to our New Naturalists



From Left: Amy, Kate, Claire, Holly (moved back east), Kathy, Mary, Dawn, Mindy, and Sue.

A retired chemistry lab supervisor, retired UCI teacher, retired instructional assistant for Irvine school district, retired junior high science and math teacher, retired mechanical engineer, retired higher education marketing & communications, retired medical sales, and a piano teacher. What do they have in common? A love of sharing nature with elementary school children and willingness to train about how to lead and assist Outdoor Adventures at the marsh!

Seven volunteers completed Outdoor Adventures new naturalist training in May with an additional one postponed due to an injury. They learned how to ask questions that engage the children in looking closer at nature. They practiced briefly explaining how to use binoculars and microscopes. They shared with students the wonder of seeing living macro-invertebrates under the microscopes...and how to put names to the tiny underwater creatures that birds eat.

They demonstrated patience, kindness, and curiosity in addition to commitment to the program and working together as a team. We are proud to add these seven new volunteers to our Outdoor Adventure naturalist program!

Welcome to Mindy Bergen, Claire Bischoff, Dawn Bonker, Kate Grabenstein, Sue Henry Hardcastle, Mary Naasz, and Amy Wisneskie. Kathy Blackmarr is expected to finish in fall.

If you or someone you know is ready to train this fall to help Santa Ana children experience nature in a fun way, contact Trude at seaandsage@sbcglobal.net.

You Can Support Our Taxidermy Birds!

by Ann Barbour and Trude Hurd

If you've been inside Audubon House, you have seen some of our lovely taxidermy bird specimens. More birds are stored in the Learning Center for use during Outdoor Adventures science programs while others are located in our office awaiting loan to educators. Thanks to U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and many donors over 30 years, Sea and Sage is lucky to possess such a precious but fragile collection!

We send a big thanks to these sponsors in 2022-23:

- Black-headed Grosbeaks – Susan Schwartz with matching funds from Masco Corp.
- Western Bluebird pair – Sea and Sage Audubon Naturalists in memory of Sophie Wickramasinghe (Rudi Berkelhamer, Dejoie Blumberg, Deborah Brin, Amanda Gaskin, Beverly Hargrove, Trude Hurd, Carolyn Noble, Pat Sparks, and Stephanie Tanton)
- Cliff Swallow with nest – Doug Tolbert Estate
- Swallow Family (4 existing birds remounted together) – Doug Tolbert Estate
- Pied-billed Grebe – William Hardcastle
- Lazuli Bunting – Brenda Sabin
- Painted Redstart – Jenny Golden
- MacGillivray's Warbler– Daly Family Foundation
- Warbler Family remount of 10 birds onto 2 logs– Daly Family Foundation
- White Pelican parts (wings, skull, and feet) – Kathy Blackmarr in memory of Steve Blackmarr
- Western Grebe (repair from rodent damage during Covid shutdown) – Ann Sakai & Stephen Weller

Besides sponsorships, we continue to need money for our general fund. Some of our newer specimens are awaiting plexiglass cases so they can travel to schools prior to teachers bringing their students on an Outdoors Adventure program. Since our entire taxidermy fund was depleted by recent taxidermy fee increases, we need an infusion to purchase the cases in addition to paying for other supplies, repairs and even a fabricated Cliff Swallow nest! We hope that you will consider donating. **Any amount will help!** You can mail your check (payable to *Sea and Sage Audubon*) to Taxidermy, Sea and Sage Audubon, 5 Riparian View, Irvine, CA 92612. Thank you for helping us to raise \$2,500 for the birds!

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 advocac

The Audubon Name

Based upon the unfavorable social connotations that have been revealed and are now associated with John James Audubon, Sea and Sage Board members and the DEI Committee (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) are concerned with the recent decision by the National Audubon Society to continue to use the name "Audubon" in the title of the national organization. Each chapter must now decide whether to keep the name Audubon in their chapter name, or to drop it in favor of a new name. This is a national and regional conversation.

On May 9, the Sea and Sage Board established a committee, whose charge it is to lead the process of considering whether to change the name of Sea and Sage Audubon Society. You will be hearing more from this committee in the near future.

Education Summer News

New Naturalist Training

If we get enough interest, we'll offer a new naturalist training class this fall to support Outdoor Adventures. Email Project Director Trude Hurd for details: seaandsage@sbcglobal.net.

Summer Reading:

With Summer just around the corner, you may be on the lookout for great book to read. Here some great books for Birders and Nature lovers

This is a Book for People Who Love Birds -Danielle Bellany

Slow Birding: The Art and Science of Enjoying

Birds in your own Backyard - Joan E Strassman

Conversations with Birds - Priyanka Kumar

Bird Embroidery Class- with Sylvia Gallagher

Many people have enjoyed looking at Sylvia Gallagher's hand-embroidered birds--on quilts, pictures, and shirts--and wondered how she does it. For at least nine Saturday mornings, July 15 through Sept.16, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 pm, she will teach a workshop, on how to do this sort of embroidery.

Participants will learn how to select a bird picture, transfer it to cloth, select embroidery floss colors, and do the stitches to bring the bird to life. The stitches involved are mostly her versions of satin stitch and long-and-short stitches which are quite different from those described in most embroidery books and websites.

Individualized instruction will allow the class to accommodate all levels of embroidery skill--beginner to expert--and all will find themselves learning new techniques. The cost for the class is \$100.00 for new students, \$60.00 for continuing students, who will need less assistance. This price includes a new illustrated document explaining in detail how to do the two main stitches.

For more details and the Registration form, go to our website under What's New.

A Plein Air Event: Save the Date: Saturday, September 23, 2023,

Sea & Sage Audubon, San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary & SOCALPAPA present our first annual Plein Air Quick Draw Competition at the Marsh. Plan now to attend and see some 35 Plein Air Artists capture the unique beauty of San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. Family Fun Day Activities will be scheduled from 10:00-3:00. It will be a great day. Mark your calendars!

Orange County Rarities

by Samuel Bressler

Spring is upon us, and the birds know it. The overwintering vagrants have put in their last appearances and have embarked on their long journey north, while a select group of uncommon vagrants have put in appearances at some of the major migrant traps. This is the season to rejoice in the abundance of Wilson's Warblers, Ash-throated Flycatchers, Warbling Vireos, Lazuli Buntings and dozens of less common migrants, newly arrived after a long, cold winter. With the historic rain year bringing a flush of vegetation and high insect numbers, we hope that this northward trek foreshadows a successful breeding season.

White-winged Scoters were observed off Huntington Beach through April 9th, while **Black Scoters** were last observed off Huntington Beach on April 16th and off Newport Beach through the 4th. A **Long-tailed Duck** was seen off Huntington Beach April 2nd, as were a pair of **Ancient Murrelets**. A **Calliope Hummingbird** visited Moulton Meadows Park April 12th-15th. A **Red-throated Loon** that was found at SJWS April 26th perished the next day.

April 14th-15th, Anaheim Coves Park April 18th, A **Lewis's Woodpecker** at Limestone Canyon April 19th was relatively late, while the long-staying Lewis's Woodpecker at Irvine Regional Park continued through at least the end of the month; at this point it will be interesting to see if this individual might decide to summer locally! The **Brown-crested Flycatcher** was last seen at the Chrisanta Drive Riparian Area April 11th. A **Townsend's Solitaire** was found at Oak Canyon Nature Center April 14th and continued through at least the 23rd, while other individuals continued at Huntington Central Park through the 6th and in the Blue Jay Campground area through the 20th.

Almost all the **White-throated Sparrows** had already departed the county before April, with the exceptions of individuals at Salt Creek Trail on the 4th and one at Tucker Wildlife Sanctuary last seen on the 8th. **Swamp Sparrows** continued at Huntington Central Park through the 17th and at Esencia Sports Park through the 16th; the latter location also hosted a Brewer's **Sparrow** on April 20th. A notable pulse of **Green-tailed Towhees** passed through the county in April, as they were found at several locations (including Coal and Fremont Canyons, Oak Canyon Nature Centers, Esencia Sports Park, and a private residence in Mission Viejo) where they were not known to have overwintered. A flock of 3-4 **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were found at Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station April 13th and continued through 26th. The overwintering **Baltimore Oriole** at Mile Square RP continued through at least the 23rd.

Black-and-white Warblers continued at Eisenhower Park through April 11th, Aurora Park through April 23rd, and Huntington Central Park through April 24th. One observed at San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary may have been a spring migrant. A **Lucy's Warbler** was at Aldrich Park April 7th, while the **Tennessee Warbler** at Laguna Niguel Regional Park continued through the 20th. Laguna Niguel Regional Park also hosted an **American Redstart** through April 29th, as did Huntington Central Park. A **Northern Parula** at Del Obispo park continued through April 18th, while the **Black-throated Green Warbler** at Estancia Park and **Palm Warbler** at Mason Regional Park continued through April 22nd and April 25th, respectively. A **Bay-breasted Warbler** that was found at Gum Grove Park April 8th was an excellent find. Somewhat uncharacteristically for most spring migrants, it lingered for two weeks, last being seen on the 22nd.

Summer Field Trips

For trip updates & additional trip information, check our chapter website at: <http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org> ,
Questions about field trips? Contact: nkenyon@seaandsageaudubon.org

Owl and Hawk Banding(R)

June 10- 4 to 10pm.

Leaders: Pete Bloom and Scott Thomas
Advance reservations are necessary.

Quail Hill Open Space Preserve Bird Walk

Alternate 2nd Tuesday,
starting June 13- 7 to 10am.

Leader: Pete Gordon.

Advance reservations are requested.

Anaheim Coves Park

Alternate 3rd Sunday-

June 18 & Aug. 20 – 8:00 to 12:00

Leader: Samuel Bressler

Advance reservations are requested.

Mammoth Lakes (\$)

5:15am Saturday June 24 to

Sunday June 25, 4:00pm. The trip is full.

Upper Newport Bay Bird Walk

Last Sun of each month – 8:00 to 11:30
(June 25 – July 30 – Aug. 27)

Leaders: Mark Kincheloe, Jim Kendall and Betty Kanne in Upper Newport Bay
Advance reservations are requested.

Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS

2nd Sun. of each month - 8:00 to 12:00 (July 9 – Aug. 13 – Sept. 10)

Leader: Jeff Bray.

The walk, is open to birders of all ages, but minors must be accompanied by an adult.

Advance reservations are requested.

Carbon Canyon Regional Park

Alternate 3rd Sunday- 8:00 to 12:00 (July 16)

Leader: Samuel Bressler

Advance reservations are requested.

Bolsa Chica Bird Walk

Alternate 3rd Thurs.- 8:00 to 12:00
(July 16 – Sept. 21)

Leader: Vic Leipzig

Advance reservations are requested.

Fall Pelagic Trip- Full

Sunday Sept 25 – 6:30 am to 3:00 pm

Advance reservations are necessary. Check the Sea & Sage webpage to be added to the waiting list.

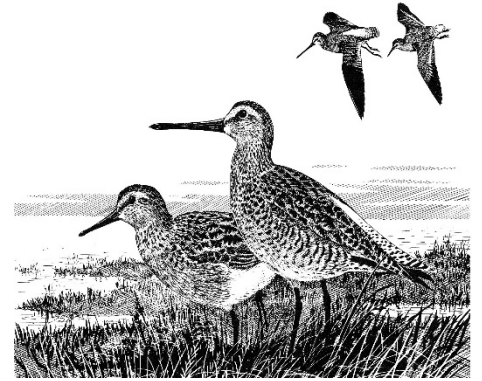
Upper Newport Bay by Pontoon (\$)

Starting Aug. 23 – 8:00 to 11:00am Leaders: Darrell Wilson, and Sally Menzel. Trips are limited to 15 persons and there is a \$20 trip fee per person.

Advance reservations are necessary.

Sea and Sage Audubon
 PO Box 5447, Irvine CA 92616
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 Vice PresidentChristine Kim.....714-296-9009
 SecretaryMelissa Rapp.....949-351-2539
 Treasurer.....Chris Byrd.....714-639-0967
 Director 2024Barbara Wasbin.....949-433-3889
 Director 2024.....Catherine Steinberg...949-378-6501
 Director 2025.....Mary Ellen Wynn714-458-0778
 Director 2025.....Sarah Baker.....917-673-9060
 Director 2026.....Sudha Warriar908-917-7835
 Director 2026.....Maia Nguyen714-333-5734
 Past President.....Gail Richards.....714-267-2420

Committee Chairpersons:

Accessible BirdingSharon Rockwell.....714-299-1579
 Archives & RecordsChris Byrd.....714-639-0967
 Audubon House.....Doug Lithgow.....714-962-4145
 Audubon House Volunteers Paula Monroe.....480-299-9885
 Audubon House Volunteers Dev Sellin714-943-3682
 Bird InformationSylvia Gallagher714-962-8990
 Bird SurveysDarrell Wilson714-401-7852
 By Laws & Related Documents...Janet Baumann
 ConservationSusan Sheakley.....949-552-5974
 CounselSean Sherlock
 Development & EventsCheryl Thomas949-294-2275
 EducationEllyn Siskind657-289-1300
 Exhibits & EventsMary Joseph714-848-8362
 Field Trips.....Gail Richards714-267-2420
 Finance.....Hal Sheakley949-552-5974
 Insurance.....Vic Leipzig714-848-5394
 Membership.....Jim Kissinger949-713-1148
 Newsletter EditorNancy Kenyon949-892-9212
 Programs.....Jonathan Aguayo.....805-204-6986
 Raptor ResearchScott Thomas949-293-2915
 Research GrantsAmber Heredia714-812-2430
 Science.....Bruce Aird.....949-892-8699
 SJWS LiaisonChris Obaditch.....949-640-7234
 Social MediaSandrine Biziaux-Scherson.949-413-0297
 Starr Ranch/Envir. Liaison. Sandy DeSimone.....949-858-0309
 Webpage Design.....Darrell Wilson714-401-7852

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

STAFF

AUDUBON HOUSE949-261-7963

Marsh Education Project Director Trude Hurd949-261-7964
 Education AssistantDiana Terreros949-261-7964
 Sales ManagerCatherine Steinberg.949-261-7963
 Administrative AideSandrine 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

All Meetings are via Zoom

Summer Field Trips are listed on pg. 6

June 2023

06 Tues Conservation Committee Mtg 6:45 pm
 13 Tues Board Mtg 7:00 pm
 15 Thurs Tackling Climate & Trash 7:00 pm
 20 Tues Sea & Sage Reading Group..... 1:00 pm
 25 Sun Legislation/Advocacy 4:30 pm
 27 Tues 4th Tuesday 7:00 pm

July 2023

29 Sat Summer BBQ at SJWS..... 5:00 pm

August 2023

01 Tues Conservation Committee Mtg..... 6:45 pm
 08 Tues Board Mtg 7:00 pm
 17 Thurs Tackling Climate & Trash 7:00 pm
 20 Tues Sea & Sage Reading Group..... 1:00 pm
 27 Sun Legislation/Advocacy 4:30 pm