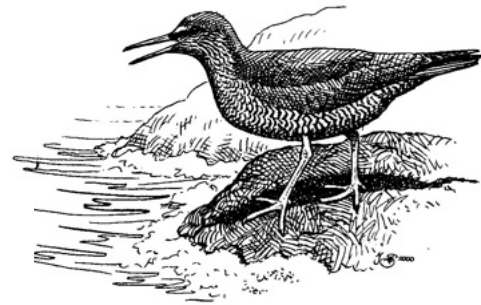


Wandering Tattler

October 2023
Volume 73, Number 2



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

Greetings from my Birding Adventure Vacation in Mindo, Ecuador

I am writing to all of you from the breathtaking town of Mindo, Ecuador. This place is a paradise for birding enthusiasts like us. My family and I are here on a vacation. The lush cloud forests, diverse ecosystems, and incredible bird species make it a must-visit destination for anyone passionate about birds. We have had the privilege of witnessing some of the world's most magnificent birds, including the vibrant tanagers, striking toucans, rainbow of hummingbirds, and the elusive Cock-of-the-Rock that call Mindo home.

I encourage you all to consider a visit to Mindo in the future if you haven't already. The experience of birdwatching in this remarkable place is truly unforgettable. Now for a few announcements...

Fall Migration: A Spectacle of Nature

As we bid farewell to the warmth of summer, we welcome the breathtaking spectacle of fall migration. Our feathered friends are gearing up for their long journeys south, making this season a prime time for birdwatching. Whether you're a seasoned birder or just starting, there's something truly magical about witnessing the incredible journeys of migratory birds.

Pancake Breakfast - Tickets Now Available!

One of the highlights of this fall season is our annual Pancake Breakfast event on October 28th. It's a delightful opportunity to connect with fellow bird enthusiasts, enjoy delicious pancakes, and raise funds to support our chapter. Tickets for this event are now available, so be sure to secure yours before they're all gone.

I want to take a moment to express my appreciation to Mary Joseph, who continues to organize our Pancake Breakfast year after year. Mary has done a wonderful job, dedicating her time and effort to ensuring this event is a success. Her passion for birds and commitment to our chapter are truly commendable. Thank you, Mary!

Upcoming Activities: Join Us!

In addition to our Pancake Event, our chapter continues to offer a range of exciting activities for bird enthusiasts. Don't miss our regular bird walks, where you can explore local birding hotspots and learn from experienced birdwatchers. We also have a dedicated reading group that meets monthly to discuss books and articles related to ornithology and conservation. These activities are fantastic opportunities to deepen your knowledge and connect with fellow bird lovers.

Thank you for being a part of our community, and I look forward to sharing more exciting birding experiences with you in the coming months.

—Jonathan Aguayo, President

General Meeting - Online Presentation Friday, October 20 - 7:00 PM

Via Zoom

“Detective Dog Teams Working for Conservation – An Effective and Non-invasive Monitoring and Survey Technique”

presented by Collette Yee
from Rogue Detection Teams

Rogue Detection Teams adopts the K9 “rogues” of the shelter world; dogs with an obsessive need to play fetch and whose energy makes them otherwise challenging as pets in a home environment. Paired with their “bounders” (their K9 handler counterparts), the detection teams sniff and survey for data on sensitive and endangered species in the wild. The teams have worked around the world to gather essential data for genetic analysis in remote and challenging ecosystems, providing non-invasive, efficient collection for a diversity of odor detection, be this live animal detection, nests, fecal samples, diseases/viruses, or invasive and rare plants.

Collette Yee, with her two rowdy cattle dogs, has surveyed for HawkWatch International for the Eagle Vehicle Strike program and for United States Geological Survey and other researchers to monitor bird and bat fatalities at wind farms. Her team has traveled to Oregon, Maine, and Alaska in search of bat hibernacula sites to help combat the spread of a disease wiping out bats across the nation. She has even utilized the detection dog method to survey for killer whales in the Salish Sea. At 19, Collette discovered her love for field research when given the opportunity to conduct her first study at the Harvard Forest ecological research area. Collette studied Conservation and Resource Studies at UC Berkeley and conducted research at the Claire Kremen Lab.

Join us for a talk that takes you from forest to sea, leave the city and go into the wilderness to learn how conservation detection dog teams are bounding across the globe in the name of science.

Meeting room opens at 6:30 PM; join us for some virtual games prior to the 7:00 PM meeting. Here is the link you will need to join the meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84984055950>

(If this link isn't working for you, try Meeting ID: 849 8405 5950) Need help? Email Christine Kim at chrislakim@gmail.com

Christine Kim, Programs Chair

Conservation News

Susan Sheakley, Conservation Chair



Meetings This Month: Join us! Conservation Com. 1st Tues Oct 3; '4th Tues' Conservation Lecture Tues Oct 24; Tackling Climate & Trash 3rd Thurs Oct 19 (Melissa Rapp, Co-Ch); Legislation & Advocacy Sun Oct.29 (Vic Leipzig, Ch.)

“4th Tues.”

Conservation Lecture

Tuesday, October 24th – 7:00 pm

Zoom Doors will open at 6:30 pm

“Surprise! - Topic TBA”

by Mystery Guest

Arrangements are being made for the October '4th Tues.' Details about the speaker and topic will be posted on our webpage when available. Watch for the announcement on social media.

Registration will be available after October 1 on our website under “What’s New” or “Conservation”.

[Please plan to join us.](#) Zoom meeting room will open at 6:30 pm; program begins at 7:00

Reducing Event Trash and our Carbon Footprint

Sea and Sage Audubon Society, through the Conservation, Tackling Climate and Trash, Education, and Events Committees, is taking proactive steps towards reducing our trash and carbon footprint. We are working to eliminate single-use plates, cups, bowls, napkins and eating utensils at our events. We are also increasing our

recycling efforts and addressing food waste issues.

The reusable tableware at our events has been donated or purchased by our volunteers. During and following our events, volunteers will clean and store the dinnerware for future use. Items such as aluminum and plastic drink containers, collected in our recycling bins, will be deposited at local Recycling Centers. Food waste will be deposited into Organics Waste receptacles. Cloth napkins will be collected and washed for reuse. Unopened and unused food products will be donated to local Food Banks.

Thank you for your patience, help and support with this small but important conservation effort! - Scott Thomas

Tackling Trash & Food Waste at the Pancake Breakfast, Oct. 28



Reminder to BYOP (part of place setting) and to volunteer to help with the Scrape & Rinse, Wash & Dry, and Transfer operations at the Pancake Breakfast, all in aid of our “reusable over disposable” push. Sign up to volunteer when you buy your tickets. Questions on volunteer opportunities? Contact Melissa Rapp or Mary Joseph.



Pancake Breakfast at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary, Saturday - October 28

On Saturday morning, Oct. 28, 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 dining inside the Duck Club, we will also have outdoor seating at the picnic tables.

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, 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. After breakfast, be sure to stop at the Scrape and Rinse station to get your dishes cleaned off.

Advance reservations through Eventbrite are strongly recommended. The cost for tickets will be \$10 for adults, \$6 for children 10 and under, and free for children under 3. Walk-ons pay \$15. To make your reservations go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sea-sages-annual-pancake-breakfast-2023-tickets-717226643197?aff=oddtcreator> . This link will take you directly to Eventbrite, to purchase tickets.

If you need assistance with registration in October, contact Jim Kissinger: (949) 713-1148. If Jim is not available to help you, send your reservation and check to our office address: Sea & Sage Audubon, PO Box 5447, Irvine CA 92616. We will need your phone, email address, and info about how you would like to help at this event.

PLEASE NOTE: Sea and Sage is doing everything we can to reduce our carbon footprint at these events. We encourage you to bring at least two items of **REUSABLE** (*not disposable*) tableware including utensils, cloth napkin, plate, small bowl, juice cup, coffee cup) to the Pancake Breakfast. Those who do so will be entered into a special drawing, compliments of Wild Birds Unlimited.

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

August is a transition month. Most songbirds have already finished breeding, and first-year birds are common on the landscape, including in unusual locations and habitat, providing a fun identification challenge for many of us. August also marks the peak of shorebird migration, and is the peak time to see certain North American vagrants such as Semipalmated and Baird's Sandpipers. Songbird migration is only just starting to ramp up, but by the end of the month, our parks and green spaces are filling up with warblers, buntings, and other visitors on their way south.



August 2023 was dominated first and foremost by a series of highly unusual pelagic species, including no fewer than three county firsts. The

first of these, a **Tufted Puffin** found offshore on August 4th, was Orange County's 499th species.

This was swiftly followed by the county's 500th species, a **Cook's Petrel** found right on the offshore county line on the Sea and Sage August 6th pelagic trip. Orange County now joins Los Angeles and San Diego as one of very few counties to have reached the formidable five hundred mark. The 501st species arrived with the wind and rain brought by Hurricane Hilary. On August 21st, the day after this storm passed over Southern California, at least five **Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrels** were found foraging off Newport Pier. This species, which normally approach our waters no closer than the waters off southern Baja California, had previously been recorded fewer than twenty times in California; our records were a small fraction of the over seventy recorded offshore and across inland waterbodies in the days following the event. Almost as remarkable was a **Least Storm-Petrel**, observed August 20th along the Santa Ana River south of Lincoln Ave, during the height of the storm. This was the first inland record of any storm-petrel species in Orange County, and also the last; unlike in other Southern California counties, storm-petrels were not found at any of our inland reservoirs in the aftermath of the storm.

White-winged Doves, a rare but regular late summer vagrant, were found at Buena Park and Sea Canyon Park on August 22nd and 23rd, respectively

August is typically the peak of shorebird season, though they have been scarce on the ground this year. Our favorite **Ruff** made its annual appearance along the upper Santa Ana River between August 3rd and 19th, before the river swelled in Hilary's aftermath. **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were found along San Diego Creek August 9th through the 22nd, as well as at Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve August 23rd-24th. A pair of **Baird's Sandpipers** were found at San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary from the 21st through the 23rd, and at Bolsa Chica on August 28th. Similarly, **Pectoral Sandpipers** were at San Joaquin from the 21st through the end of the month, and at Bolsa Chica on the 30th. A pair of **Black Terns** were found off Newport Pier, August 21st.

A flock of **Purple Martins** were observed migrating off Dana Point, August 20th, while a **Bank Swallow** visited Bolsa Chica, August 19th-21st. A **Cassin's Vireo** at Hiltcher Park, August 28th-29th, was relatively early for this scarce fall migrant. An **Orchard Oriole** visited a feeder in Fountain Valley, August 14th-19th, while a **Black-throated Sparrow** visited a yard in Cypress, August 19th-21st. **Lucy's Warblers** are typically amongst the first vagrant warblers to turn up along the coast in fall; this year was no exception, as one was found at Mile Square Regional Park, August 24th-27th. It was joined by a **Virginia's Warbler**, August 24th-25th; another bird was at Huntington Central Park, August 31st. **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were at Santiago Oaks Regional Park, August 13th, and at Mile Square Regional Park, August 24th.

Chapter News & Announcements



For more information about Sea & Sage activities, check our CALENDAR of Chapter Activities on our webpage:
<http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org/Chapter/ChapterCalendars.pdf>

Audubon House Volunteers

We would like to thank the following people for helping to staff Audubon House in September and



October: Kathy Blackmarr, Susie Burgess, Julie Byers, Bettina Eastman, Judy Frant, Beverly Hargrove, John Hargrove, Ann Harmer, Sue Henry, Sarah Jayne, Paula Monroe, Mary Meister, Steve Munzinger, Dagmar Muthamia, , JoAnn

Nothelfer, Roberta Ray, Barbara Reber, Jennifer Reed, Paul Saiki, Dev Sellin, Susan Sheakley, Tom Wang, Barb Wasbin, Pat Wells, Phil Westin and Irene Wotta.

Our volunteers greet visitors, answer the phone, sell merchandise, answer questions about birds, check out binoculars, etc. If you are interested in helping at Audubon House, please call Dev Sellin, 714-943-3682, or Paula Monroe, 480-299-9885.

READING GROUP — Tues, Nov. 21 – 1:00 PM

Reading Group: *The Feather Thief: Beauty, Obsession, and the Natural History Heist of the Century* by Kirk Wallace Johnson.

We Need Your Used Books!

Start your fall cleaning now! Take a look at your bookshelves and take down any unused books on birds and other animals, plants, natural history, birding, travel and gardening, to donate to Sea and Sage Audubon for our Annual Pancake Breakfast Used Book Sale. Proceeds from this sale will benefit our chapter programs, including Education and Conservation. All donations will be greatly appreciated, first by the chapter, and then by our fellow book lovers who will get the opportunity to buy and enjoy them. All books are sorted and priced by the Used Book Sale volunteers. Before being offered for sale, books that are suitable may be used in our Nature Library inside Audubon House or in our Conservation, Marsh Education, or Camp programs. Please deliver your donations to Audubon House by 3:30 PM on Thursday, October 26, to allow time for our volunteers to sort and price them.

Your Donation Brings Santa Ana Students to the Marsh

We continue our bus scholarship program to bring 40-45 Santa Ana classes to the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary for an exciting science program in 2023-24. If you support outdoor experiences for local school children, then please consider sending a school bus donation this fall. Bus costs vary depending on distance and length of time from the school to the marsh. All donations are helpful: \$300 for 30 students (one bus), \$150 for 15 students (half bus), \$100 for 10 students, \$50 for 5 students, \$10 for 1 student. They all add up! Send your check to **School Bus, Sea and Sage Audubon, 5 Riparian View, Irvine, CA 92612.**

Accessible Birding & Brunch Huntington Central Park East Friday – October 20 – 8:30 am

Sea & Sage is sponsoring an accessible “Birding and Brunch” event at Huntington Central Park East on Friday, October 20th at 8:30 am. This event will include a slow-paced 1.5 hour walk around a lake with multiple stops along the way and all are welcome. Handicapped restrooms are available throughout the park. To assure there will be plenty of parking, the starting time will be earlier than usual, at 8:30 am. Huntington Central Park is one of e-Bird’s Hotspots for birding. The park is shady with paved, wide paths. After birding, we will enjoy a bring-your-own brunch. Bring a portable chair that you can retrieve from your car when it is time for brunch. The event is free, but reservations are required. There is a \$3 park entrance fee if you do not have an OC Park card. E-mail Sharon Rockwell at srockwell@writeme.com to register. Sharon will return your email with specific directions to our gathering

Free Milkweed Exchange

Plant Locally Native Milkweed to Save Monarch Butterflies. Receive ONE FREE, pesticide-free, native narrowleaf milkweed plant, when a tropical milkweed is removed and brought to Roger’s Gardens.* Monarch butterflies are in peril and need help from gardeners. Native milkweeds are best for monarchs. For the health of monarch butterflies, plant only locally native milkweeds

*While supplies last. Exchange is for one, 1 gallon size, valued at \$16.99.
Limit one plant per household, no purchase necessary.
Available in-store only. (Call store for availability.)

Summer Adventures *by Deborah Brin and Trude Hurd*



“After the very first day, our daughter told us she wanted to do this camp every year until she was too old to anymore, and then she wants to be a counselor. I can’t imagine a stronger recommendation!” – parent of camper

This past summer, 56 children enjoyed learning how to watch birds while at the beautiful San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. We held 4 week-long sessions of age-appropriate activities for different age groups from 7-15 years old. For each camp, children took a daily morning bird walk that included nature journaling about what they noticed and what they wondered. They also learned bird identification techniques using field marks of color, shape, behavior, habitat and sound. After the walk, they were eager to share their observations during our traditional tally. We saw over 50 species of birds!

Fledgling Camp for 7-8 year olds brought us intelligent, eager young birders. Their hands were constantly raised to answer our questions! We were in awe of these youngsters. The week ended with a Birdathon where teams tried to find and identify as many birds at the marsh as possible. Parents wrote: “This got him so excited about bird watching and nature. He came home each night and practiced his sketches” and “[my child enjoyed] getting to know other kids that are just as passionate about birds and befriending like-minded kids.”



Marsh Camp for 9-10 year olds featured a Pond Study where the children learned about food chains and looked at pond creatures under microscopes to discover what birds eat in the ponds. They also made nature sun prints and had a paper bird-plane flying contest. Everyone was amazed by the video of Peregrine Falcons fly. One child wrote “I liked how now I can identify birds by their calls.”

Coastal Camp for 11-12 year olds covered birds of wetlands and beaches plus the hazards they face. We traveled to Bolsa Chica to witness first-hand the terns and shorebirds we had been learning about. What a thrill to see terns fly right over our heads on the foot bridge! We spotted tiny Snowy Plovers with their chicks, Horned Lark perched on the nesting enclosure fence, and the dancing Reddish Egret delighted all. One child wrote: “The ECO-ART taught me about the effects of plastic.”

Advanced Camp for 13-15 year olds was full of raptors! We were fortunate to have special guest birder Bruce Aird who shared his immense knowledge with us. And OC Bird of Prey Center brought live raptors for us to marvel at up close. Courtesy of UCI, we took a special walk through the UCI Marsh, another world just across Campus Drive. We observed nesting Barn Owls, White-tailed Kite, endangered California Gnatcatcher, and 3 Greater Roadrunners perched on large solar panels. Art projects included painting a wooden owl model and making prints using a self-made rubber pad to decorate shirts, canvas totes, and personal cards sent to various local legislators. We all loved the two Advanced Camp shirts designed by Lili Sebestyn, one of our talented teen Junior Naturalists!



“It’s such a unique camp that’s run by friendly, knowledgeable, passionate birders” reports a parent, and we agree! We appreciate our hard-working, friendly Camp Team volunteers: Darrel Airhart, Sarah Baker, Claire Bischoff, Kathy Blackmarr, Dejoie Blumberg, Deborah Brin, Amanda Gaskin, Kate Grabenstein, Chris Holland, Trude Hurd, Mary Joseph, Babs Levitan, Maya Matkin, Jay & Marquita Miller, Mary Naasz, Carolyn Noble, Debbie Spurr, Ellyn Siskind, Stephanie Tanton, Pat Vranicar, Amy Wisneskie, Irene Wotta, and Mary Ellen Wynn. Our teen helpers were incredible role-models to our campers: Nina Arnold, Javier Greenway, Aashay Mody, Anabel Meng, Lili Sebestyn, Kyle Okino, Owen Noble, Jude Flores, and Bella Liu. We’re already looking forward to next summer...Join us!

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 advocacy.



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 large 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
Open daily - 8 am to 4 pm
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

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 _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____



C15

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Hope to see you at the
Pancake Breakfast!

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 Vice President Christine Kim 714-296-9009
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 Director 2024 Catherine Steinberg 949-378-6501
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 Webpage: <http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org>

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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.wwccoc.org/>

SCHEDULE of CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

October 2023:

03 Tues Birding Skills Workshop begins this week.....
 03 Tues Conservation Committee Mtg. 6:45 pm
 07 Sat Fall Pelagic Trip @..... 6:30 am
 08 Sun Monthly bird walk at the SJWS 8:00 am
 10 Tues Quail Hill Open Space Preserve bird walk 8:00 am
 10 Tues Board Meeting via Zoom 7:00 pm
 15 Sun Anaheim Coves Park bird walk 8:00 am
 18 Wed UNB by pontoon boat @ 8:15 am
 19 Thurs Dana Point Harbor bird walk 8:00 am
 20 Fri Accessible Birding, Huntington Central Park . 8:30 am
 20 Fri GENERAL MEETING via zoom 7:00 pm
 24 Tues 4th Tues Conservation Lecture via Zoom 7:00 am
 28 Sat PANCAKE BREAKFAST 7:30 am
 29 Sun Upper Newport Bay bird walk 8:00 am

November 2023:

07 Tues Conservation Committee Mtg. 6:45 pm
 12 Sun Monthly bird walk at the SJWS 8:00 am
 14 Tues Board Meeting via Zoom 7:00 pm
 15 Wed UNB by pontoon boat @ 8:15 am
 16 Thurs Bolsa Chica bird walk 8:00 am
 17 Fri GENERAL MEETING via zoom 7:00 pm
 19 Sun Carbon Canyon bird walk 8:00 am
 26 Sun Upper Newport Bay bird walk 8:00 am
 28 Tues 4th Tues Conservation Lecture via Zoom 7:00 am