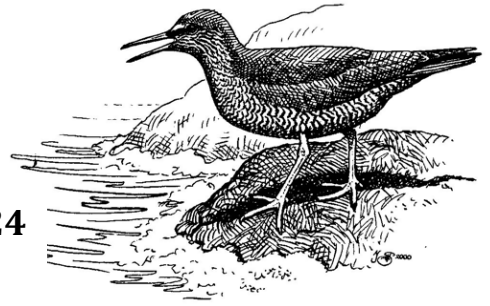


Wandering Tattler

Dec. 2023 - Jan. 2024
Volume 73, Number 4



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

Our Annual Appeal

by Jonathan Aguayo, President

Sea and Sage is a fully non-profit organization that continues to rely on the generous donations of our membership to sustain the vital work we do. Each year, our dedicated members have generously supported Sea and Sage in its important efforts:

1. Protecting birds and other wildlife along with their habitats.
2. Sharing the pure joy of birding.
3. Educating lawmakers who have the power to influence environmental policy.
4. Collaborating with like-minded organizations that share our vision to maximize our collective impact.

As a member of Sea & Sage Audubon Society, you are an integral part of our achievements. When our members unite and harness our collective strength, Sea & Sage Audubon can truly make a significant difference.

We have committed to the principle of requesting donations from our members only once a year. We have selected the month of December for this purpose, following Giving Tuesday on November 28, a global movement that inspires millions of people to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity.

We are once again fortunate to have the support of an anonymous donor who will match dollar-for-dollar contributions of \$200 or more. Please rest assured that all donations, regardless of their size, are warmly welcomed. The official Annual Appeal letter will be sent to you with an enclosed remittance envelope. Alternatively, for your convenience, you can now donate online by clicking the "Donate" button on our website at www.Seaandsageaudubon.org. Upon your donation, you will receive an acknowledgment for tax purposes, along with our heartfelt gratitude for your support.

We encourage you to consider assisting us in making the most of this tremendous fundraising opportunity. Your generosity has a profound impact on the important work we do at Sea and Sage, and we are deeply grateful for your continued support.

General Meeting - Via Zoom

Friday, January 17 - 7:00 PM

"Dark-eyed Juncos: Adaptations to the Urban Environment"

Presented by Ellie Diamant & Samuel Bressler

Ellie Diamant is a behavioral ecologist and evolutionary biologist interested in the interaction between human-caused environmental change and wildlife response, particularly birds in the built environment. She is currently a Zuckerman Postdoctoral Scholar at Ben Gurion University of the Negev. She explored how populations respond to multiple stressor interactions, with an emphasis on the pattern and process of behavioral and morphological adaptation in an urbanizing songbird, the dark-eyed junco

Samuel Bressler is a Biological Consultant with LSA Associates, Inc., specializing in the birds of Southern California. He received his Master's in biology in 2020 from UCLA, where he studied nesting behavior in dark-eyed juncos. He is also a long-time volunteer and former board member of Sea and Sage Audubon Society, and compiles the organization's Puente-Chino Hills Christmas Bird Count.

Dark-eyed Juncos are a model species to study urban adaptation and response in California. Together, Ellie Diamant and Samuel Bressler will discuss their 6 years of research into how juncos are being shaped by the urban environment, and the patterns and processes underlying their adaptation to the urban environment.

Please join us for this fun filled program. 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/89485412380>

(If this link isn't working for you, try Meeting ID: 894 8541 2380) Need Help? Email Christine Kim at chrislakim@gmail.com

Conservation News



Meetings in December and January - Join us!

Conservation Committee: first **TU DEC 5, JAN 2**; (Susan Sheakley, Chair) '4th Tues.' None in DEC; **TU JAN 23** Tackling Climate & Trash third **TH JAN 18** (Melissa Rapp, Co-Chair); Legislation & Advocacy **SU JAN 28** (Vic Leipzig, Chair)

“4thTues.”

Conservation Lecture

Tuesday, January 23rd – 7:00 pm

Zoom Doors will open at 6:30 pm

“Audubon Starr Ranch Sanctuary: A Southern California Treasure.”

*presented by Sandy DeSimone,
Director of Research, Education and
Land Management*

Plants and birds are a passion for Sandy DeSimone, who did her doctoral research on coastal sage scrub, a globally endangered shrubland. After receiving her PhD, she took on the role of Director of Research, Education and Land Management at 4000- acre Audubon Starr Ranch Sanctuary in southeast Orange County.

Sandy's programs, both land management and education, are research-based. Sandy initiated a series of experiments to test methods for controlling the highest priority upland nonnative on Starr Ranch - artichoke thistle. After several years of research on biology and nonchemical control of artichoke thistle, the Starr Ranch field crew, comprised of a full -time field supervisor and four seasonal field assistants, started work. Since 1999 Starr Ranch has used an experimentally based method that has reduced artichoke thistle cover by 95% in a work site after one season of nonchemical treatment. Land managers from Ventura to San Diego Counties have visited Starr Ranch to hear about the research-based, sustainable land management practices and visit the restoration sites.

Local and regional partnerships that focus on Southern California conservation issues are also a critical aspect of Sandy's work and she works closely with academic and agency partners on tree pests, fire prevention, mountain lions, bird monitoring and rare riparian fish and macroinvertebrates.

Join us to learn about Starr Ranch's natural habitats and how they are being protected.

Advance registration is required and will be available through our website under “What's New” or “Conservation”.

OC Western Snowy Plover & CA Least Tern Quarterly Survey

If you have already attended a Snowy Plover Survey training session, plan to join us in looking for Snowy Plovers, Least Terns, and their habitats on our local beaches, while helping to contribute to endangered species research.

Currently, we do not have dates for the next survey, nor any training scheduled. Please check our website and social media for any announcements in the coming months for updates. Follow the usual instructions to join the survey.

Thank you for your interest and continued support! **Happy Holidays!**

Volunteer Coordinator, Cheryl Egger at
ocsnpisurvey@gmail.com

Conservation “Takes a Village”

Conservation work is not only daunting, but also an expanding and moving target. The more we learn about threats to birds and habitats, the more complicated it becomes to address the issues. Our committee was built on the early conservation work by people like Fern Zimmerman, Pete Bloom, Pete Desimone, Dan Silver, and many more, who worked (or are still working) to protect open spaces from the rapid urbanization and population growth at the turn of the century. Some battles, such as the successful efforts to protect Banning Ranch and to stop the extension of the Foothill Toll Road, continued beyond the turn of the century. It's not to say those battles were not complicated. Indeed, they were! But we now often find ourselves involved with additional issues, such as climate change, protecting already saved open spaces from development and birds in smaller and sometimes urbanized habitats, dealing with plastic waste, and working at local and statewide levels to help curb the use of rodenticides and other poisons that threaten birds and habitats.

To help us work more effectively, we are fortunate to have 3 active Conservation Subcommittees, which would welcome new members:

Legislation & Advocacy, a team led by Vic Leipzig, is tracking conservation legislation and making connections with our local and state elected officials. **Tackling Climate and Trash**, led by Melissa Rapp and Chris Byrd, focuses on perhaps the most serious long-term threats to birds - mounting plastic trash and climate change. This team is helping us understand how to do our part to address the overwhelming issues of reducing carbon emissions and the tangible steps we can take to reduce single use plastics. The **Coastal Commission Issues Subcommittee**, led by Scott Thomas and Catherine Steinberg, is expanding our efforts to protect coastal resources with a connection to the California Coastal Act, including the Western Snowy Plover, California Least Tern, and other

sensitive species along the southern California Coast.

These expansions are only possible with the continued assistance from many able and dedicated volunteers, support from the chapter and our Board, and through the leadership of Susan Sheakley, Conservation Committee Chair. - **Scott Thomas, Conservation Committee Vice Chair**

Accessible Birding and Lunch – Bolsa Chica, Thursday, January 11th, 2:00pm

Sea and Sage Audubon is sponsoring an accessible “Birding and Snack” event at Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve in Huntington Beach on Thursday, January 11th at 2pm. This event is designed for our members who require an easy, accessible, slow paced bird walk. Note the starting time is later than usual to coincide with a very low tide for best viewing. Bolsa Chica is one of the premier birding locations in southern California, and in the winter features a wide variety of waterbirds. We will start birding from the inner bay footbridge, which goes over water and mudflats, and is adjacent to the Reserve's south parking lot. The bridge is flat and long, providing ample area for viewing over the inner Bolsa Bay. From the bridge, those who want to walk will continue on a wide hardpacked trail less than 0.2 miles to view additional bird colonies at the full tidal basin, which connects to the ocean. Afterward, we will enjoy a snack together and discuss the various species we observed. There is no cost or parking fee for this event, but reservations are required. E-mail Sharon Rockwell at srockwell@write.me to register. Sharon will return your email with specific directions to our gathering.

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 advocacy

Season's Greetings from the Nature Store!

You're invited to our Holiday Boutique & Open House, Sunday, December 3rd. 10:00am - 4:00 pm, in the Duck Club.

If you are looking for a unique gift for that bird lover on your holiday shopping list, we have you covered! We have carefully curated several fun products we are sure you will love as much as we do. For your shopping pleasure we have bird themed earrings, bandanas, hats, embroidered book bags, coasters, puzzles, enamel pins and embroidered patches, stickers, boxed Holiday cards and much, much more. For the little ones on your shopping list we have our best-selling stuffed birds with authentic Audubon bird sounds, puzzles, games and coloring books. We also brought in some newly published books for people of all ages. All proceeds from the Nature Store benefit Sea & Sage Audubon.

Save the Date Sea & Sage Annual Dinner Friday, March 15th at Mile Square Park Banquet Center

Silent Auction donations are needed for the Annual Dinner on March 15, 2024. The auction is a fun event for all and helps to raise funds for various chapter events. Please consider donating.

Ideas for items we are looking for consist of:

- Vacation stays in your vacation property or timeshare
- Bottles of wine (any flavor or variety)
- Bottles of interesting alcohol (craft distilleries)
- Tickets to events (plays, musicals, concerts, amusement parks)
- Music lessons – singing lessons – acting lessons.
- Handcrafted items
- Skeins of yarn
- Trips on a sail boat or motor boat (harbor cruise, whale watch, fishing)

- Gift baskets of your own making (no perishables)

The ideas are endless. Contact Cheryl Thomas at cthomas1313@cox.net or 949-294-2275.

Audubon House Volunteers

We would like to thank the following people for helping



to staff Audubon House in November, December, and January: Kathy Blackmarr, Julie Byers, Bridget Gardner, Bob Goldman, John Hargrove, Ann Harmer, Mary Harward, Sue Henry, Sarah Jayne, Jay Matchett, Judy McInnis, Mary

Meister, Paula Monroe, Dagmar Muthamia, Steve Munzinger, Roberta Ray, Barbara Reber, Jennifer Reed, Paul Saiki, Dev Sellin, 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. Please RSVP to seaandsage@sbcglobal.net. We welcome your ideas, questions, and spirit of adventure!

Nature Day Camps Enrollment

Enrollment for our popular Nature Day Camps opens on February 1st on Eventbrite. Separate camps are for ages 7-8, 9-10, 10-11, and 12-15. Get an informational flyer by email from Project Director Trude Hurd: seaandsage@sbcglobal.net

Join us in January to learn about our Education Program

Join us for our Education Committee meeting on Tuesday January 18 to learn about exciting new opportunities with Sea and Sage's education programs. We meet at 10 AM at the Learning Center, at San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary.

Sea and Sage Audubon

LEARNING CALIFORNIA BIRD SOUNDS (LCBS)

An Intermediate-Level Birding Skills Workshop

Presented by Sylvia Gallagher, with Doug Lithgow and Roy Poucher

Accomplished birders depend on their ears much more than their eyes for detecting and identifying many types of birds, especially when they are in wooded or brushy habitats. They walk along listening and only try to see the bird if they are uncertain about the identification of a vocalization they hear. Usually more than 90% of the birds they find are identified first by the sounds they make. If you are still bird-*watching* most of the time, here's a chance to start bird-*listening*. A Birding Skills Workshop, sponsored by Sea and Sage Audubon and presented via Zoom by a team chaired by Sylvia Gallagher, will serve as an introduction to **LEARNING CALIFORNIA BIRD SOUNDS (LCBS)**. We'll cover around 60 common species of the California lowlands west of the mountains that are most frequently detected first by voice. In addition, there will be a short lecture each week on the nature and meaning of bird sounds.

If you have a fairly good knowledge of the appearance of the common birds, you should be well prepared for this ten-week workshop. (The ten-week Sea and Sage Introductory Birding Skills Workshop is the level of experience presumed for this one.) Those who have done LCBS before are welcome to repeat it as many times as they wish.

Five sections will be offered, but be aware that there is a possibility that one or more of them will be canceled if enrollment is insufficient. Be sure to list as many choices as you can. The dates (including holidays) and times are as follows:

- Mon. evenings, 7:00 - ca. 10:00 p.m., Jan. 8 - Mar. 11.
- Tues. mornings, 9:00 - ca. 12:00 a.m., Jan. 9 - Mar. 12.
- Wed. evenings, 7:00 - ca. 10:00 p.m., Jan. 10 - Mar. 13.
- Thurs. mornings, 9:00 a.m. - ca. noon, Jan. 11 - Mar. 14.
- Thurs. evenings, 7:00 - ca. 10:00 p.m., Jan. 11 - Mar. 14.

The workshop will be accompanied by MANY field trips, led by current and former workshop members who are experienced aural birders. We'll try to have a couple scheduled every week, some on weekends, some on adjacent weekdays. In order to get full benefit from this workshop, plan to spend at least three hours every week listening to birds in the field in a variety of locations; the trips are designed to help you do this.

The maximum enrollment for each section is 22. If any section does not have at least 12 people enrolled by Dec. 26, it will be canceled. Reserve early, though, because some sections will fill rapidly. A donation of \$180.00 or more is requested, if you can afford it. (Send check, made out to Sea and Sage Audubon Society, with your enrollment form.)

The required "textbook" for the workshop is Sylvia's **Learning California Bird Sounds (4th ed., 2016)**, available at Audubon House, a package containing worksheets and a flash drive with introductory and practice sounds (\$39.00). **Older editions will not be acceptable.** (If you last did the workshop in Jan. - Mar., 2016, and only have the preliminary version of the workshop package used then, you must purchase the final version. It became available in summer, 2016; you may have purchased it then.) If two people in the same household plan to share the sounds, each one must have a copy of the worksheets. Make your own copies of the ones that come in the package. You must buy the required workshop package far enough ahead of the first session that you will have time to do a little homework before the first meeting. This will be outlined in your confirmation letter.

A highly recommended book is the **Peterson Field Guide to Bird Sounds of Western North America** by Nathan Pieplow. Brand new copies will be on sale at Audubon House for only \$10.00 from Nov. 1 - Jan. 10. Get it while supplies last.

In addition, these four apps/websites are recommended (The first 3 have both pictures and sounds.):

- Sibley Guide to Birds* Macaulay Library, part of Birds of the World (BOW)
- iBird Pro* Xeno-Canto

Your workshop experience will be *greatly* enhanced if you install **Raven Lite** sonogram-making software in your computer--and you must have a computer (PC or Mac) in order to use the flashdrive. This free service from the Cornell University Lab. of Ornithology is available on-line from **RavenSoundSoftware.com**. In fact, **you will be seriously handicapped if you try to do the workshop without Raven Lite!** If you already have an older version, you must upgrade it to the current Raven Lite 2.0.4. For problems with installation, contact Doug Lithgow (dmlithgow@aol.com). We are working on revised instructions for using the new Raven Lite 2.0.4. The instructions that Cornell provides are not easy to understand.

To reserve a space in the workshop, please send the form below, **postmarked no sooner than Dec. 4** (two day penalty for early reservation), to: **LCBS Workshop, Sylvia Gallagher, 21562 Kaneohe Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92646.**

Enclose your check and a **long** (4"x9½") self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE). Confirmation and further information will be mailed Dec. 29. For further information, contact Sylvia at sjrgallagher@yahoo.com (preferred) or 714-962-8990.

ENROLLMENT FORM - LEARNING CALIFORNIA BIRD SOUNDS (LCBS) WORKSHOP (2024)

Names of all participants _____

Address(es) _____ City _____ ZIP _____

Phone(s) _____ E-mail _____ SASE enclosed? _____

To ensure placement, check or rank **at least** two choices of section (three if one's a morning and one's an evening):

- Mon. p.m. _____
- Tues. a.m. _____
- Wed. p.m. _____
- Thurs. a.m. _____
- Thurs. p.m. _____

Christmas Bird Counts – 2023

We hope you will join us this year on one or more of our Christmas Bird Counts. Sea & Sage now has four Count Circles: Northeastern (Inland CBC), San Juan Capistrano (South County CBC), Puente Chino-Hills (North County CBC), and the Coastal CBC.

Northeastern (Inland) CBC on Sunday,

December 17th. This count covers inland areas in Irvine, Mission Viejo, Lake Forest, and parts of Lemon Heights. If you are interested in this count and have previously participated in it, please contact the Area Leader with whom you worked. Or you may contact Doug Lithgow, the Compiler for this circle.

Next up is the **South County CBC on Saturday, December 23rd.** This count covers areas such as San Juan Capistrano, San Clemente, Dana Point, and Doheny State Beach to name a few. Please contact Darrell Wilson, the Compiler for this circle.

Following the South County CBC on Saturday, December 30th is the new **Puente Chino-Hills CBC.** This count covers areas of North Orange County. Please contact Samuel Bressler, the compiler for this circle.

Don't put your binoculars away just yet, because on **Monday, January 1st is our fourth and final count, the Coastal CBC.** This count is our longest running Count Circle having been around for over 40 years. Please contact Bettina Eastman, the Coastal CBC Compiler for more information.

So please help us continue this cherished tradition of Community Based Science with your important bird observations.

NE (Inland) Compiler: Doug Lithgow
(714) 962-4145 – SUN, December 18
dmlithgow@aol.com

Irvine Regional Park

Area Leader: *Jan Gaffney*
(562-439-5631) ianrduck@icloud.com

Irvine Lake & vicinity

Area Leader: *Taylor Dee*
(909-331-6965) dee@ecorpconsulting.com

Irvine Lake & vicinity

Area Leader: *Taylor Dee*
(909-331-6965) dee@ecorpconsulting.com

Silverado Canyon

Area Leader: *Doug Lithgow*
(714-962-4145) dmlithgow@aol.com

Upper & Lower Black Star Canyon

Leaders: *Al & Janet Baumann*
Aljanetbaumann@aol.com

Mountain Areas

Area Leader: *Brian Leatherman*
(714-779-7077) bleathermanwlb@aol.com

Modjeska & Harding Canyons

Area Leader: *Sam Bressler*
(940-458-1520) bruceaird@gmail.com

O'Neill Regional Park & Plano Trabuco

Area Leader: *Jerry Tolman/Darrell Wilson*
(714-539-8040)

Lion Country & Areas south of the 405

The area between Lake Forest & El Toro to Glen Ranch Rd, excluding Oso Reservoir

Area Leader: *Bettina Eastman*
(714-293-1079) bettinae24@gmail.com

Mission Viejo, Lake Forest & Foothills

Area Leader: *Bettina Eastman*
(714-293-1079) bettinae24@gmail.com

Former El Toro Marine Base & Foothills

Area Leader: *Bettina Eastman*
(714-293-1079) bettinae24@gmail.com

Rattlesnake & Siphon Reservoirs

Area Leader: *Christine Tischer*
(714-955-1000) clmukai@netscape.net

Peters Canyon Reg. Park & Lemon Heights

Area Co-Leader: *Linda Oberholtzer*
(213-840-5546) lindaoberholtzer@gmail.com
Area Co-Leader: *Brad Dawson* (562-438-8898)

Please contact your Area Leader if you wish to take part in the count again this year. If you are new to the CBC, contact Doug Lithgow, Coordinator for the Northeastern CBC on Dec. 18 (dmlithgow@aol.com, 714-962-4145).

Christmas Bird Counts – 2023

We hope you will join us this year on one or more of our Christmas Bird Counts. Sea & Sage now has four Count Circles: Northeastern (Inland) CBC, San Juan Capistrano (South County) CBC, Puente Chino-Hills (North County) CBC, and Coastal CBC.

San Juan Capistrano (South County)
Compiler: Darrell Wilson
(714) 401-7852 - SAT, December 23
darrellwilson@cox.net

Laguna Niguel Reg. Park

Area Leader: *Jan Gaffney* (562-439-5631)
janrduck@icloud.com
& *Braxton Landsman*
balbhl@icloud.com

San Clemente

Area Leader: *tba*

Caspers Wilderness Park

Area Leader: *Diane Etchison*
949-388-0709; Detchison22@cox.net

Pelagic Areas or Sea Watch Area Leader:
Jerry Tolman phone: 714-539-8040

Saddleback College & vicinity

Area Leader: *Jim Kendall*
jak86094@icloud.com

Upper San Juan Creek & vicinity

Area Leader: *Doug Lithgow*
(714-962-4145) dmlithgow@aol.com

Aliso-Woods Cyn

Area Leader: *Darrell Wilson*
(714-401-7852) darrellwilson@cox.net

San Clemente Hillside

Area Leader: *Kim Lopina*

Dana Point: & vicinity

Area Leader: *Joel Weintraub* & helpers
jweintraub@cox.net

Thomas F. Riley Wilderness Par

Area Leader: *Darrell Wilson*
(714-401-7852) darrellwilson@cox.net

Please contact your Area Leader if you wish to take part in the count again this year. If you are new to the CBC, contact Darrell Wilson, Coordinator for the San Juan Capistrano CBC on December 26. He will assign you to an area which needs your help.

Puente Chino-Hills (North County)
Compiler: Samuel Bressler
(657) 378-5367 - SAT, December 30
pacificgoldenplover@gmail.com

- **Chino Hills State Park**
 - **Carbon Canyon Wilderness Park**
 - **Craig Reg. Park**
 - **Yorba Reg. Park**
 - **Santiago Oaks Reg. Park**
 - **West Coyote Hills**
 - **Gilman**
 - **Tri-City Yorba Linda Lakebed Parks**
 - **Weir Canyon Nature Reserve**
-

Please contact Samuel Bressler if you wish to take part in this count again this year. If you are new to the CBC, contact Samuel who is the Coordinator this Puente Chino-Hills CBC on December 31. He will assign you to an area which needs your help.

Christmas Bird Counts – 2023

We hope you will join us this year on one or more of our Christmas Bird Counts. Sea & Sage now has four Count Circles: Northeastern (Inland CBC), San Juan Capistrano (South County CBC), Puente Chino-Hills (North County CBC), and the Coastal CBC.

Coastal CBC. Compiler: Bettina Eastman
(714) 293-1079 – MON, January 1, 2024
bettinae24@gmail.com

Westminster Mem. Park, Corner of Seal Beach NWR
Area Leader: *Linette Lina*
(714-721-4621) Littlewing250@gmail.com

HB Pier, Beach Areas north to edge of Sunset Beach, HCP west, Wintersburg Channel, Seapoint
Area Leader: *Vic Leipzig*
(714-330-3558) vicleipzig@aol.com

Bolsa Chica
Area Leader: *Terry Hill*
(714-756-0168) terryjohn@earthlink.net

Mile Square Park
Area Leader: *Linda Oberholtzer*
(213-840-5546) lindaoberholtzer@gmail.com

HB Wetlands, Fairview Park, Talbert Preserve, Banning Ranch, SA River Mouth, Canyon Park, CM Golf Course, Fairview Development Center, OC Sanitation District. Area Co-Leaders: *Lena & Nancy*
Lena Hayashi (714-321-1975) lenahayashi@gmail.com
Nancy Kappelmann (949-294-7262) nakdrd@aol.com

Older Areas within Santa Ana
Area Leader: *Tracy McGuire*
(714-296-0740) jim351@roadrunner.com

Centennial Reg. Park, Windsor Park, Carl Thornton Park, Former MCAS Blimp Base, Marine Corp. Memorial Park. Area Leader: *Bettina Eastman*
(714-293-1079) bettinae24@gmail.com

Upper Newport Bay - West Side
Area Leader: *Bettina Eastman*
(714-293-1079) bettinae24@gmail.com

Upper Newport Bay - East Side
Area Leader: *Devon Bradley*
(949-287-1715) devonjbradley@gmail.com

San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary, UCI Marsh
Area Leader: *Darrell Wilson*
(714-401-7852) darrellwilson@cox.net

Mason Reg. Park, UCI Campus & Foothills, Corona del Mar. Area Leader: *Samuel Bressler*
(657) 378-5367 pacificgoldenplover@gmail.com

Newport Harbor & Beaches
Area Leader: *Devon Bradley*
(949-287-1715) devonjbradley@gmail.com

Pelagic Areas along the coast
Area Leader: *Jerry Tolman.* (714-539-8040)

Please contact your Area Leader if you wish to take part in the count again this year. If you are new to the CBC, contact Bettina Eastman, Coordinator for this Coastal CBC on January 1st. She will assign you to an area which needs your help.

Western Snowy Plover/CA Least Tern Survey
Currently, we do not have dates for the next survey or any training scheduled. Please check our website and social media for any announcements in the coming months for updates. Thank you for your interest and continued support!

Cheryl Egger
Survey Volunteer Coordinator
OCSNPLSurvey@gmail.com

Education News

by Trude Hurd, Project Director of Education

Overheard recently at the San Joaquin marsh:

- "I can learn and have fun at the same time."
- "It's okay that we're missing recess; this is fun."
- When asked if they were ready to leave and go to the bus, the students shouted "NO, we want more!"

Quotes like these make me smile to know that children are benefiting from our programs. In 2023-4, 4th and 5th grade students in 45 Santa Ana classes will experience Outdoor Adventures science discovery program. To accomplish this outreach, we rely on 2 things: volunteer naturalists and donations.

For three months, new volunteers have cheerfully attended my 7 training classes where they learned the basics of the three activities during Outdoor Adventures: Bird Walk, Pond Study, and Bird Beak Adaptations. They learned how to use interpretive techniques to make the lessons interesting and interactive plus how to teach children to look effectively through binoculars and microscopes.

These eleven **New Naturalists** are now moving on to the next phase which is to observe actual tours and practice teaching. We say good luck and keep learning to Michael Bender, Deb Gala, Judi Houlihan, Lori Mayeda, Alison Mizera, Paula Monroe, Cathy Palmer, Ellyn Siskind, Sandy Smith, Barbara Wasbin, and Irene Wotta. Two more plan to finish after a short delay: Kathy Blackmarr and Sarah Baker.

They will join the **Outdoor Adventures Naturalists** who share their talents and patience with children: Darrel Airhart, Ann Barbour, Mindy Bergen, Rudi Berkelhamer, Claire Bischoff, Dejoie Blumberg, Dawn Bonker, Teresa Cullen, Linda Daily, Bettina Eastman, Amanda Gaskin, Kate Grabenstein, Sue Henry, Chris Holland, Babs Levitan, Doug Lithgow, Maya Matkin, Mary Naasz, Debbie Spurr, Stephanie Tanton, Pat Vranicar, Amy Wisneskie, and Mary Ellen Wynn.



One important aspect of Outdoor Adventures is assisting children with **Reading and Science Literacy**. We give each student a copy of our 28-page *Birds of SJWS* field guide plus three issues of *Audubon Adventures*, National Audubon's nature newsletters for children.

We promised all 45 teachers that we would pay for their bus transportation which will cost \$12,000 (about \$300 per bus). Thank you to these 21 kind supporters who responded by donating \$9,875 to our **School Bus Fund**: Anonymous, Mark Adamson & Nancy Tschiderer, Sonia Appell, Kathy Blackmarr, Dejoie Blumberg, Matthew & Carolyn Biller, Mary Cupp & Thomas Makar (in honor of Amy Newsum), Kate Grabenstein, Ann Harmer, Nancy Kenyon, Patricia Knight, Bev Krassner Bulas, Babs Levitan, Michael Mitchell, Helen Porter, Andy & Ellyn Siskind, Bev Spring, Beth Waterman, and Gloria Widmann.

A unique feature of Outdoor Adventures is that school children can sit inches from **Taxidermy Bird Specimens** to better observe bird characteristics and adaptations. We thank Emma Willey for her donation to keep our birds clean and pest-free. We also thank Ann Barbour for sponsoring a Hooded Oriole and Sue Henry who sponsored a Pied-billed Grebe in honor of her son William Hardcastle who is a graduate from our camps and Junior Naturalist teen program.



Donors who give to education without restriction allow us to use their money where needed especially for any shortfalls with Outdoor Adventures. We gratefully received \$10,100 from these generous 12 donors: Anonymous (2), Kathy Blackmarr, Gordon Generation Foundation, Irvine Community Partnership, Shirley Johnson, Paul Klahr, Maya & Gary Matkin, Grace McElhiney, Roger's Garden's, Ralph Sugg, and Wickramasinghe Family Fund.

We appreciate **Education Assistant Diana Terreros** who collects the live pond samples so vital to the children's experience during Outdoor Adventures. She also is responsible for loaning the field trip curriculum kits to teachers so they can prepare their students for their adventure at the marsh!

Finally, a heart-felt thanks to the **Irvine Ranch Water District** for allowing us to use their marsh and buildings to connect children to nature.

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

October is a paradoxical month, in that most of our common migrants have already departed for the south, yet in many ways it's the best time of the year to encounter eastern vagrants, especially for those who can diligently sort through the massive flocks of newly-arrived Yellow-rumped Warblers and White-crowned Sparrows. Most of these vagrants only stay with us for a few days or weeks before disappearing, but some may choose to winter in our well-planted parks and gardens.

A **Pacific Golden-plover** was at Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve from the 26th-29th, while a **Pectoral Sandpiper** was observed on the 22nd. A continuing Pectoral Sandpiper at San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary was last seen on the 17th. A **Masked Booby** was brought in from an offshore vessel early in the month, while a **Nazca Booby** was seen on an offshore pelagic trip on the 8th. Also seen on the same trip were at least three **Common Terns** and a **Sabine's Gull**. These latter species were also encountered at Bolsa Chica on the 6th and offshore on the 8th, respectively. A **Little Blue Heron** first seen on the 24th continued through the end of the month, while a total of eight **Western Cattle Egrets** observed there on the 11th was a remarkable high count for anywhere in the county. Cattle Egrets have been widely reported across the county this month, with up to three reported at San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary through the 25th, and an inland record at Anaheim Coves Park on the 25th.

Up to three **Ferruginous Hawks** were seen in the county, with one at Arbor Park in Los Alamitos observed from the 4th through the 26th, and a potentially separate individual observed at Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach on the 25th. While both of these hotspots provide some of the best remaining open space for this species along the coastal slope, one observed flying over a Fullerton neighborhood was almost certainly just a migrant. Other notable migrant raptors included a single **Swainson's Hawk** at Jeronimo Open Space Park on the 6th, as well as 5 individuals seen over Fullerton October 16th and over Arevalos Park on the 18th; it's possible that these latter two observations might pertain to the same kettle.

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were at Gibbs Park in Huntington Beach, October 23rd-25th, and at Harvard Community Park on the 31st. A **Tropical Kingbird** continued at Harriett Wieder Regional Park through the 13th, while new birds were observed at San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary October 4th-21st, and at Craig Regional Park October 14th-15th. Gibbs Park also produced a one-day wonder **Varied Thrush** on October 26th, an unusually coastal location for this species outside of irruption years. A first-county **Wood Thrush** was a remarkable find at Irvine Regional Park, where this normally reclusive species proved highly cooperative for the hundreds of birders who visited it from October 16th-23rd.

The latter half of fall delivered a surprising dearth of vagrant sparrows; the most notable of these were a large number of **Vesper Sparrows** across the county, a **Swamp Sparrow** at Canyon Park, October 28th, **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were at San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary on the 14th, the Randall Preserve (formerly Banning Ranch) on the 22nd, and the Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station on the 24th. The **Orchard Oriole** continuing in residential Fountain Valley continued through the 23rd, while a second individual was observed at nearby Mile Square Regional Park on the 22nd; Mile Square also hosted a pair of continuing **Baltimore Orioles** through the end of the month.

As usual, October brought a large number of eastern warblers to the county, with the most notable being a **Painted Redstart** at Canyon Park in Costa Mesa, first seen on the 12th and continuing through the end of the month, a **Chestnut-sided Warbler** at Mesa Verde Park, October 25th-28th, and a **Blackburnian Warbler** at Mile Square Regional Park, October 15th. Other, less unexpected warblers, included **Blackpoll Warblers** at Gilman Park through the 7th, and at Laguna Lake Park on the 18th, **Lucy's Warbler** at Hiltcher Park, October 11th-13th, and a handful of **Black-and-white, Tennessee, and Palm Warblers** scattered across the county. A highly sought-after **Dickcissel** was seen at O'Neill Regional Park, October 14th-15th, while a second individual was detected on the 25th.

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 _____

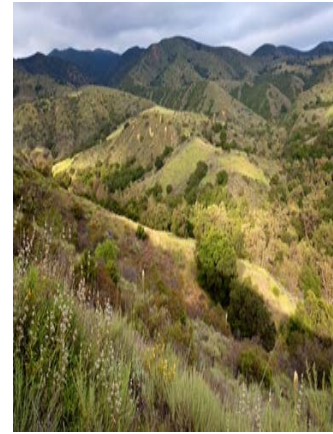


C15

Sea and Sage Audubon
 PO Box 5447, Irvine CA 92616
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Santa Ana, CA
 Permit No. 164

Starr Ranch



BOARD MEMBERS

Executive Committee:

President Jonathan Aguayo 805-204-6986
 Vice President Christine Kim 714-296-9009
 Secretary Melissa Rapp 949-351-2539
 Treasurer Chris Byrd 714-639-0967
 Director 2024 Barbara Wasbin 949-433-3889
 Director 2024 Catherine Steinberg ... 949-378-6501
 Director 2025 Mary Ellen Wynn 714-458-0778
 Director 2025 Sarah Baker 917-673-9060
 Director 2026 Sudha Warriar 908-917-7835
 Director 2026 Maia Nguyen 714-333-5734
 Past President Gail Richards 714-267-2420

Committee Chairpersons:

Accessible Birding Sharon Rockwell 714-299-1579
 Archives & Records Chris Byrd 714-639-0967
 Audubon House Doug Lithgow 714-962-4145
 Audubon House Volunteers Paula Monroe 480-299-9885
 Audubon House Volunteers Dev Sellin 714-943-3682
 Bird Information Sylvia Gallagher 714-962-8990
 Bird Surveys Darrell Wilson 714-401-7852
 By Laws & Related Documents ... Janet Baumann
 Conservation Susan Sheakley 949-552-5974
 Counsel Sean Sherlock
 Education Ellyn Siskind 657-289-1300
 Events & Exhibits Mary Joseph 714-848-8362
 Events Cheryl Thomas 949-294-2275
 Field Trips Gail Richards 714-267-2420
 Finance Tom Van Huss 714-417-9940
 Insurance Vic Leipzig 714-848-5394
 Membership Jim Kissinger 949-713-1148
 Newsletter Editor Nancy Kenyon 949-892-9212
 Programs Christine Kim 714-296-9009
 Raptor Research Scott Thomas 949-293-2915
 Research Grants Amber Heredia 714-812-2430
 SJWS Liaison Chris Obaditch 949-640-7234
 Social Media Sandrine Biziaux-Scherson. 949-413-0297
 Starr Ranch/Envir. Liaison. Sandy DeSimone 949-858-0309
 Webpage Design & Webmaster... Darrell Wilson ... 714-401-7852
 Webpage: <http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org>

STAFF

AUDUBON HOUSE 949-261-7963
 Marsh Education Project Director Trude Hurd 949-261-7964
 Education Assistant Diana Terreros 949-261-7964
 Sales Manager Catherine Steinberg.. 949-261-7963
 Administrative Aide Sandrine Biziaux-Scherson . 949-261-7963

OTHER CONTACTS

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

SCHEDULE of CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

December 2023:

03 Sun Holiday Boutique and Open House 10:00am
 05 Tues Conservation Committee Mtg via Zoom. 6:45 pm
 10 Sun Monthly bird walk at the SJWS 8:00 am
 12 Tues Quail Hill Preserve Bird Walk 8:00am
 12 Tues Board Meeting via Zoom 7:00 pm
 15 Fri NO GENERAL MEETING this month
 17 Sun Inland CBC tba
 20 Wed UNB by pontoon boat ® 8:15
 23 Sat San Juan Capistrano CBC tba
 26 Tues NO 4th Tues Conservation Lecture this month
 30 Sat Puente Chino-Hills CBC tba

January 2024:

01 Mon Coastal CBC ... tba
 02 Tues Conservation Committee Mtg via Zoom. 6:45 pm
 TBA Winter Pelagic Trip ®
 09 Tues Board Meeting via Zoom 7:00 pm
 14 Sun Monthly bird walk at the SJWS 8:00 am
 19 Fri General Meeting 7:00pm
 21 Thurs Bi-Monthly Bolsa Chica Bird Walk 8:00 am
 23 Tues 4th Tues Conservation Lecture 7:00pm
 27-28 SS Salton Sea Weekend Trip ® tba
 28 Sun Monthly Bird Walk at UNB 8:00am

