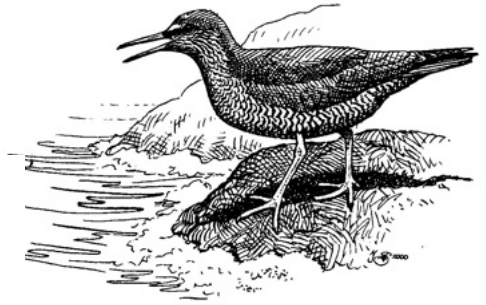


# Wandering Tattler

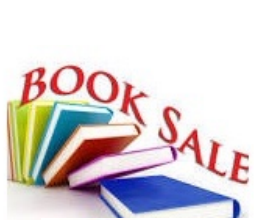
June, July, August  
Volume 72, Number 9



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

## Summer Barbecue!

Sat., July 27: 4:30 - 8 pm  
at the San Joaquin  
Wildlife Sanctuary



**LOTS OF GOOD FOOD!**

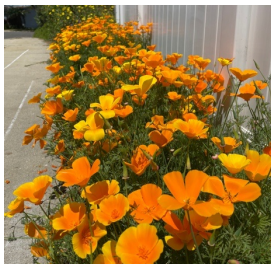


**LIVE MUSIC**



**GUIDED  
BIRD  
WALKS**

## Native plants for your garden



## General Meeting - Online Presentation Friday, June 21 - 7:00 PM

*Via Zoom*

**“Mountain Chickadee Breeding  
Ecology in the Northern Sierra Nevada”**  
*presented by Lauren E. Whitenack*

The Sierra Nevada is a snow-driven ecosystem where the amount and duration of winter precipitation affects the flora and fauna year-round. Animals living at high elevations not only experience harsher overwintering conditions but also experience shorter summer breeding seasons. Food availability during the summer is directly related to winter conditions - winter snowpack holds the year's supply of water, and the abundance of primary prey items (such as insects) is affected by their rate of overwinter survival. Mountain chickadees are perhaps the avian emblem of the Sierra Nevada. They are one of the most abundant bird species throughout the year, and monitoring their populations can help us understand how the Sierra Nevada ecosystem is responding to climate change.

Lauren Whitenack is a PhD student at the University of Nevada, Reno, studying Mountain Chickadees in the northern Sierra Nevada mountains. She investigates the relationships between climate, insect abundance, and bird reproduction, as insects are the main food source for many birds during the breeding season. Come learn what she has discovered over the last 2 years of insect sampling and monitoring Mountain Chickadees in nest boxes!



Meeting room opens at 6:30 PM; join us for some virtual games (e.g. bird trivia, bird ID) prior to the 7 PM meeting.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83848842105>

Meeting ID: 838 4884 2105

Need help? Email Christine Kim at [chrislakim@gmail.com](mailto:chrislakim@gmail.com).

# Conservation News

*Susan Sheakley, Conservation Chair*

*Scott Thomas, Cons Vice Chair*

Please join us at Cons Meetings in June, July & August.  
Cons. Com, Mtgs: TU 6:45pm - 6/4 & 8/6. The next '4<sup>th</sup> Tues' Cons. Lecture will be on Sept. 24, 7pm.  
Tackling Climate & Trash: TH 7pm 6/20 & 7/18 M. Rapp. Legislation & Advocacy: SU 4:30pm 6/23, 7/28, 8/25 V. Leipzig



**\*\*\* Volunteers and assistance will be needed during the next few months. Read on to see how you can help! \*\*\***

**Legislation & Advocacy Subcommittee** has selected 15 bills to track in the current legislative session on a variety of subjects, including: groundwater, clean water, habitat protection, environmental laws, ocean clean-up, 30X30 goals, public access, plastic pollution, rodenticides, and greenhouse gases. They meet on selected 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 4:30pm. Contact Vic Leipzig if you are interested in participating.

**Tackling Climate & Trash Subcommittee** meets on selected 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays at 7pm. They are currently working on refining preparations for reducing plastic, green, organic, and other waste at the summer BBQ; searching for eco-friendly products to display or offer as drawing prizes; and examining what happens in 'the OC' to the stuff we pitch out! What goes to the landfill? Is anything recycled?? What steps can individuals take to impact the outcome? Contact Melissa Rapp if you are interested in working with us on these and other projects.



## **BROWN PELICAN CRISIS**

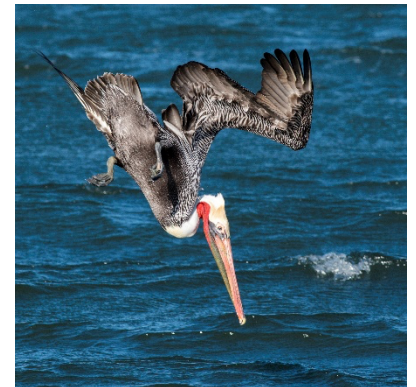
**Pelicans in Crisis:** In the last few months high numbers of California Brown Pelicans have been arriving at southern California rehabilitation facilities in an emaciated condition and seemingly starving.

Although their main prey items seem abundant, scientists speculate that warmer ocean waters may be driving forage fish into deeper waters, making it hard for pelicans to reach their prey.

According to both the Wetlands and Wildlife Care Center (WWCC) in Huntington Beach and the International Bird Rescue (IBR) center in San Pedro, saving and rehabilitating the starving pelicans is expensive and labor-intensive. As of this writing, WWCC has processed 89 pelicans; IBR has received over 230 starving pelicans this spring and believes many more will come.

### **Pitch in to Help Brown Pelicans**

Sea and Sage Audubon Society has made modest donations to both organizations to help with the crisis. If you would like to make a personal donation to one or both organizations, please use the links below:



### **IBR Website – Pelican Crisis**

<https://www.birdrescue.org/surge-of-starving-injured-brown-pelicans-filling-bird-rescues-california-wildlife-centers/>

WWCC Website - <https://www.wccoc.org/>



# Summer Barbecue

at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary  
Sat., July 27<sup>th</sup> - 4:30 to 8:00 p.m.



Bring the family and friends and join us for this special occasion: dining on the lawn, a used book sale, live music, evening walks around the marsh, a brief program and door prizes. Our menu will include, freshly grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, vegetarian burgers, 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 a special drawing from the Tackling Climate and Trash Committee.** We thank you for your support. A scrape/rinse station will be available, and we happily accept volunteers to help us staff them.

Advanced reservations for the Summer BBQ are essential so we can know how much food to buy. To register and pay for your tickets, go to the [seaandsageaudubon.org](http://seaandsageaudubon.org) website after June 1 and look under WHAT'S NEW to find the **Eventbrite** registration link. Tickets for the barbecue and program are \$25.00, children under 5 are free; tickets for the BBQ volunteers are \$20.00. Everyone will need to pick up their meal ticket at the Welcome Table when they arrive.

Activities begin at 4:30 pm when the Used Books Sale opens. Dinner will be served from 5:00 to 6:00 pm. A guided marsh walk begins at 6:00pm that will take in the sights and sounds of evening marsh life. At 7:00pm, the program will start with a drawing to thank participants for bringing their own place settings. Then we will introduce our 2024 Bloom-Hays Award recipients, followed by door prizes at 7:30pm. We will not be hosting a speaker this year, in order to avoid the mosquitoes that arrived last year, as we were waiting for dark, in order to use the big screen. The evening will conclude after door prizes.

**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](mailto: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 CA 92807**



# 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.



## Audubon House Volunteers

We would like to thank the following people for helping to staff Audubon House in May and June: Kathy Blackmarr, Janice Cho, Judi Frant, Bridget Gardner, Bob Goldman, John Hargrove, Mary Harward, Sue Henry, Judy McInnis, Mary Meister, Paula Monroe, Kelly Morgan, Steve Munzinger, Barbara Reber, Jennifer Reed, Paul Saiki, Dev Sellin, Susan Sheakley, Art Strauss, Barb Wasbin, Pat Wells, Phil Westin, and Irene Wotta.



**We welcome new volunteers!** Our volunteers greet visitors to the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary, answer the phone, sell merchandise, answer questions about the sanctuary and birds, etc. You do not need to be a bird expert - just someone who likes people and nature! Training is provided, and scheduling is flexible; you choose either a morning or afternoon shift on whatever days work for you. If you are interested, please call Dev Sellin at 714-943-3682 or Paula Monroe at 480-299-9885. We look forward to hearing from you.

### READING GROUP - Tues, June 18 – 1:00 PM

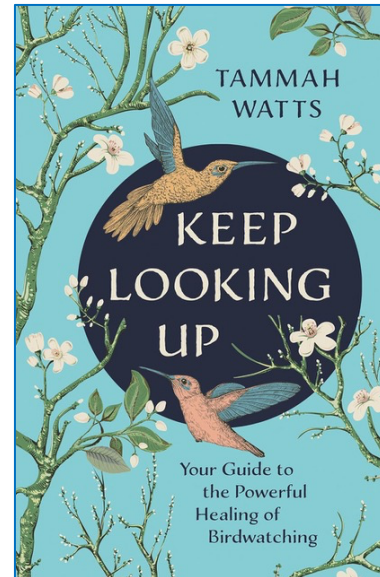
Reading Group--*What an Owl Knows*  
by Ackerman

### READING GROUP - Tues, August 20 – 1:00 PM

Reading Group--*Krakatoa: The Day the World Exploded* by Winchester

## Enroll in Summer Camp Fun

We still have a few openings for our popular Nature Day Camps for older children at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary: Coastal Camp for 11-12 year olds and Advanced Bird Camp for 13-16 year olds. Both camps include daily walks, nature journaling, creative art, research project, one off-site trip and a stunning camp shirt designed by one of our teens. Campers will spend time with other children who love birds and nature as much as they do! For a flyer about how to enroll on Eventbrite, email Project Director Trude Hurd: [seaandsage@sbcglobal.net](mailto:seaandsage@sbcglobal.net) without delay. (Please note that Fledgling Camp for ages 7-8 and Marsh Camp for ages 9-10 are already full).



## Keep Looking Up

*Your Guide to the Powerful Healing of Birdwatching*  
by Tammah Watts

A BIRDING JOURNEY AT HOME AND BEYOND  
It began with a flutter of yellow feathers flitting through the trees, casting beams of sunshine and promise that burst through her kitchen window. This was her sign to look up. As a licensed therapist, Watts knew that she needed to seek and accept hope, love, and support to overcome her chronic pain and cultivate resilience. But she could not predict that the little yellow bird would put her on the path to healing by fostering a powerful connection with birds and the experience of birding.

Right outside your door, flies just what you've been looking for to help ease symptoms of stress, pain, depression, and anxiety. All you have to do is look up, take notice, and open your heart and mind. No matter where you are, what you look like, or what you're going through, you can create sacred space and connection with birds, and begin to heal.

"Watts draws undeniable links between ecological interconnection and socio-psychological health—and purposefully articulates just how badly we need one another. A moving, necessary read for anyone in search of healing."

— Sydney Golden Anderson, MA, co-author of *Birding for a Better World*

Tammah Watts serves on the Audubon California Advisory Board of Directors

**Now available in our Sea & Sage Nature Store**

# Education News this Summer

Trude Hurd, Project Director of Education

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## Welcome to our New Naturalists



*From Left: Kathy Blackmarr, Sandy Smith, Barbara Wasbin, Michael Binder, Ellyn Siskind, and Alison Mizera.*

Do you think that in the future we will have a well-informed population that can make unbiased decisions to help the environment? To make this happen, you can do something right now. You can help school children develop a basic understanding of science and ways they can protect nature and birds. You can volunteer to become an Outdoor Adventures naturalist or you can donate money for bus transportation to bring students to the marsh for this outstanding program. Keep reading to learn how!

It is not true that you need to be a bird expert or have a scientific degree to be an Outdoor Adventures naturalist. All we ask is that you have a strong desire to share nature with elementary school children, a willingness to learn specific techniques about how to effectively share nature at the marsh, and a commitment to volunteering for only 2 tour mornings a month from October through May.

In 2023-24, eleven volunteers completed the Outdoor Adventures training. Their background is as varied as the birds we encounter at the marsh. Some are former teachers of high school Spanish, fifth grade in the Santa Ana school district, Advanced Placement English, and special education. One was an environmental regulatory specialist with Boeing while another is just starting a career in childhood education or environmental studies. A few are new to the area while others already volunteer with Sea and Sage projects like Audubon House, bird census, Bat Walks, and Nature Day camps. Each one is unique and well capable of sharing their love of nature.

During Project Director Trude Hurd's training classes, they learned how to ask engaging questions, how to teach children to effectively use binoculars and microscopes, and how to identify common birds and macro-invertebrates encountered during the tours. The new naturalists showed kindness, curiosity, and patience as they worked together as a team. We are proud to add these eleven new volunteers to our Outdoor Adventure naturalist program!

**We welcome** our graduates: Kathy Blackmarr, Michael Binder, Deb Gala, Judi Houlihan, Lori Mayeda, Alison Mizera, Paula Monroe, Sandy Smith, Ellyn Siskind, Barbara Wasbin, and Irene Wotta,

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](mailto:seaandsage@sbcglobal.net).

## Grateful for Donations for School Bus Trips

This spring, ten people with generous hearts donated a total of \$8,850 to bring Santa Ana school children to the marsh for our science program. For many of the children, this is their first field trip, first time on a bus, first time using binoculars & microscopes, and first time seeing birds in a natural habitat. Outdoor Adventures helps increase the Santa Ana students knowledge about wetlands and how to protect birds, and has an even bigger impact on some individuals.

One Santa Ana teacher wrote: "One of our female students was so inspired that she built a birdhouse with her dad. She was excited to be able to see the different types of birds through the binoculars and recognized some of them through her research. She wants to be an astronaut and loves science. I overheard her explaining to another student about the food web and how important it is not to litter."

We are very grateful to Anonymous, Sonia Appell, Diane Gillespie, Kate Grabenstein, Barbara Hosmer, Ron & Charice King, Patricia Knight, Carol Paquette, and Dev Sellin for ensuring our future generation cares about the environment. You too can make an impact by donating next fall during Outdoor Adventures 2024-25. You'll be glad you did!

# Orange County Rarities

by Samuel Bressler



Photos by Don Hoechlin

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](mailto:OrangeCountyBirding+subscribe@groups.io)

*April brings hordes of warblers, vireos, flycatchers, and other neotropical migrants, arriving in fresh plumage and peak condition from their southern wintering grounds. Diligent searching can result in the occasional eastern vagrant amongst the flocks of Wilson's Warblers, Warbling Vireos, and Western Flycatchers, but they are perhaps harder to find than in May or June. Overall there are fewer vagrants now than in fall migration, likely because there are no freshly fledged juveniles that have not honed their navigational skills, and there is greater evolutionary pressure on migration towards the breeding grounds than during fall, because the former individual is less likely to successfully find a mate and reproduce.*

**Calliope Hummingbirds** are scarce spring migrants in our coastal lowlands. Last month at least three were found, one at Sea Terrace Community Park April 9<sup>th</sup>, and two at Crown Valley Community Park; an adult male on April 14<sup>th</sup> and an immature male, April 16<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>. The long-staying South County **American Oystercatcher** was last seen at Salt



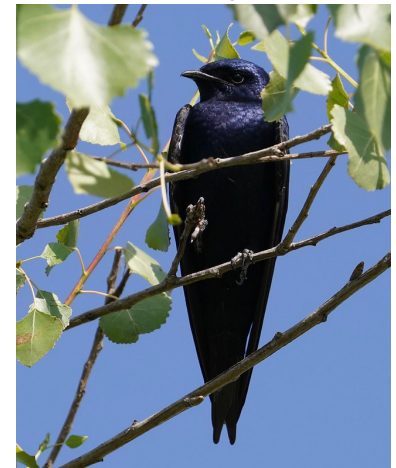
Creek Beach on April 30<sup>th</sup>, while a **Solitary Sandpiper** was found at Fairview Park the same day. The latter species is a more regular vagrant in

fall in the county, but quite a rare visitor in spring. A **Franklin's Gull** found at Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, April 25<sup>th</sup>, continued through the end of the month, while a **Western Cattle Egret** was found at Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station, April 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Gray Flycatchers** were at San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary on April 12<sup>th</sup> and Chrisanta Drive Riparian Corridor on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Over a dozen Plumbeous Vireos were found throughout the county in April, a continuation of an incursion that

was first observed in late winter. A significantly rarer **Yellow-throated Vireo** was found at North Lake in Irvine April 16<sup>th</sup>; it continued through the 17<sup>th</sup>; this is a much rarer eastern vagrant that is not observed every year. A **Purple Martin** was photographed at Little Cottonwood Park in Los Alamitos on April 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were seen at the Orange County Great Park on April 18<sup>th</sup>, Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station on April 29<sup>th</sup>, and



Anaheim Coves Park on April 30<sup>th</sup>. A **Baltimore Oriole** continued at Emery Park in Fullerton through April 11<sup>th</sup>, while another bird was seen at Laguna Lake Park on April 6<sup>th</sup>. **Green-tailed Towhees** at Irvine Regional Park on April 24<sup>th</sup> and Harriett Wieder Regional Park on April 29<sup>th</sup> may have been continuing overwintering individuals while a presumed migrant was found at Huntington Central Park on April 24<sup>th</sup>.

A **Tennessee Warbler** continued at El Niguel Golf Course through April 26<sup>th</sup>, while the **Chestnut-sided Warbler** at North Lake was last seen on April 9<sup>th</sup>. The continuing **American Restart** and **Black-and-white Warblers** at Huntington Central Park were last seen April 22<sup>nd</sup> and April 11<sup>th</sup> respectively, while the overwintering **Black-and-white Warbler** at Irvine Regional was last seen on April 6<sup>th</sup>. A **Palm Warbler** at Anaheim Coves Park on April 21<sup>st</sup> was a likely spring migrant.

# Directions and Membership

Sea and Sage Audubon Society's mission is to protect birds, other wildlife, and their habitats through education, citizen science, research, and public policy.



## Tattler Subscriptions

Non-Audubon members or members from other Audubon chapters who wish to subscribe to our chapter newsletter, may do so for \$14.00 per year. Make check payable to "Sea and Sage Audubon" and mail to: Tattler Subscriptions, 14231 Clarissa Ln, Santa Ana CA 92705.

## 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](mailto: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

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

## Your Membership Payment

Do you want to join National Audubon and Sea and Sage? Use the membership form at the bottom of this page. An Individual Membership or a Family Membership is only \$20. Sea & Sage receives 100% of a chapter generated new member's dues for the first year. Mail the form and your check - payable to National Audubon Society - to Audubon Membership, 14231 Clarissa Ln, Santa Ana CA 92705. If you want to use a credit card for your membership payment, go online to: <http://www.audubon.org/membership> For questions, please contact Membership Chair, Jim Kissinger, at [membership@seaandsageaudubon.org](mailto: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](mailto: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 <https://act.audubon.org/onlineactions/DH8fxTkoC0qHjXF9fZCtRw2?chapter=C15> (Our chapter code is C15)

**To renew membership:** renew directly with National Audubon by direct mail or online: [https://act.audubon.org/a/renew?ms=s\\_src-2015\\_AUDHP\\_ftr-](https://act.audubon.org/a/renew?ms=s_src-2015_AUDHP_ftr-) (Renewals are \$20 per year.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_



C15

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Help the Brown Pelicans!

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### Committee Chairpersons:

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 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  
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 Social Media ..... Sandrine Biziaux-Scherson.949-413-0297  
 Starr Ranch/Envir. Liaison.Sandy DeSimone ..... 949-858-0309  
 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..... Mindy Bergen..... 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.wwccoc.org/>

## SCHEDULE of CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

(p) – OC Parks card or pay park fee at entrance  
 (R) – Space limited; reservations necessary – see webpage

### June 2024:

04 Tues Conservation Meeting via Zoom ..... 6:45 pm  
 09 Sun Monthly bird walk at the SJWS @..... 8:00 am  
 11 Tues Quail Hill Open Space bird walk..... 7:00 am  
 11 Tues Board Meeting via Zoom ..... 7:00 pm  
 16 Sun Anaheim Coves bird walk..... 8:00 am  
 19 Wed UNB by pontoon boat @ ..... 8:15 am  
 22 Fri GENERAL MEETING via Zoom ..... 7:00 pm  
 22 Sa-Su Mammoth Lakes Weekend (\$)... 5:15 am  
 30 Sun Upper Newport Bay bird walk..... 8:00 am

### July 2024:

02 Tues Conservation Mtg via Zoom ..... tbd  
 14 Sun Monthly bird walk at the SJWS @..... 8:00 am  
 18 Thurs Bolsa Chica bird walk ..... 8:00 am  
 20 Sat Summer Pelagic Trip (\$R)..... 6:30 am  
 21 Sun Carbon Canyon bird walk..... 8:00 am  
 27 Sat SUMMER BARBECUE (\$R) ..... 4:00 pm  
 28 Sun Upper Newport Bay bird walk..... 8:00 am

### August 2024:

06 Tues Conservation Meeting via Zoom ..... 6:45 pm  
 11 Sun Monthly bird walk at the SJWS @..... 8:00 am  
 13 Tues Board Meeting via Zoom ..... 7:00 pm  
 18 Sun Anaheim Coves bird walk..... 8:00 am  
 25 Sun Upper Newport Bay bird walk..... 8:00 am  
 28 Wed UNB by pontoon boat @ ..... 8:15 am