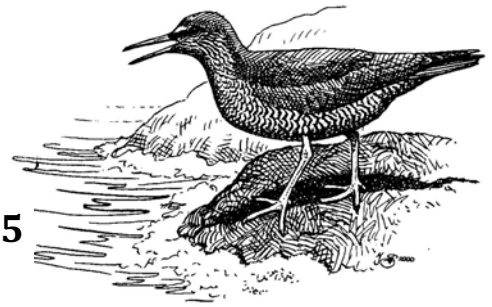


Wandering Tattler

Dec. 2024/Jan. 2025
Volume 74, Number 4



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

President's Message Our Annual Appeal

Sea and Sage Audubon Society is a non-profit organization that relies on the generous donations of our members to sustain the vital work we do. Each year, our dedicated supporters help us achieve key goals, including:

1. Protecting birds, wildlife, and their habitats.
2. Sharing the joy of birding with our community.
3. Educating lawmakers who shape environmental policy.
4. Partnering with like-minded organizations to amplify our impact.

As a member of Sea & Sage, you play a crucial role in these successes. When we unite, we harness the collective power of our community to make a real difference.

In keeping with our commitment to ask for donations only once a year, we have chosen December for our Annual Appeal. This year, it will follow Giving Tuesday on December 3, a global movement inspiring millions to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity.

Every donation, no matter the size, makes a difference. You will receive an official Annual Appeal letter with a remittance envelope, but for convenience, donations can also be made online by clicking the "Donate" button on our website at www.seaandsageaudubon.org. All contributions will be acknowledged with a tax receipt and our deepest gratitude.

Please consider helping us maximize this incredible fundraising opportunity. Your generosity directly supports the important work we do at Sea and Sage, and we are deeply grateful for your continued support.

General Meeting – Online Presentation Friday, January 17th – 7:00 PM

Via Zoom

"The Magic of Bird Song" *presented by David Haskell*

Birdsong offers delight to our ears and also reveals hidden aspects of birds' lives. David Haskell will discuss how careful listening can help us understand why birdsong is so diverse, how birdsong is embedded in the other sounds of the world, and the role of sound in conservation. He will focus on the many ways that birdsong is influenced by the physical and biological characteristics of the environment, and how these relationships generate sonic diversity.

David George Haskell is a writer and a biologist. His books about the natural world have won numerous awards, including twice being finalists for the Pulitzer Prize. His latest book, *Sounds Wild and Broken*, invites readers to listen more deeply to the stories of sound in nature. Haskell is William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies at the University of the South in Sewanee, TN, a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London, and a Guggenheim Fellow. You can learn more about his work at : <https://dghaskell.com/>



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:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84198423399>

(If this link isn't working for you, try
Meeting ID: : 841 9842 3399

Need help? Email Melissa Rapp at reedjandm@cox.net

Melissa & Catherine, Program Co-Chairs

Conservation News

Susan Sheakley, Conservation Chair

Meetings Dec/Jan: *Join us!* Cons. Com. TU Dec 3/Jan 7 (S Sheakley); Coastal Issues TBD (S Thomas); Tackling Climate & Trash TH Dec 19/Jan 16 (S Warrior); Leg. & Advocacy SU TBD (V Leipzig); '4th Tues' Cons. Lecture TU Jan 28



'4th Tues.' Conservation Lecture

Tuesday, January 28th – 7:00 pm
Zoom - Doors will open at 6:30 pm

"Honeybee Health, Bee Hotels, and the CIBER Team behind the Science"

Presented by - Emilia Burnham, B.S.
UC Riverside Entomology M.S.
Class of 2025

The Center for Integrative Bee Research (CIBER) is a research lab at the University of California, Riverside, that focuses on three main areas: honeybee health management tools through developing medications and innovative ways to repel bees from dangerous areas like insecticide-treated crops, monitoring bee health using sensors, and breeding better bees that can defend against pests and pathogens, like Varroa destructor and Nosema ceranae, and are heat-tolerant. In addition to the study of honeybee health, the lab is studying the effectiveness of bee hotels and observing the insect biodiversity of those which occupy them.

The CIBER Research Team, led by Dr. Boris Baer and Dr. Barbara Baer-Ihmhoof, along with UCR graduate and undergraduate students and others, works with various interdisciplinary research areas, such as microbiology and physics.

The CIBER Research Team is proud of their collaborations with other university researchers, the Southern California Beekeeping clubs, and more incredible people, as it is through these partnerships that CIBER can make the most significant impact on honeybee health.

Our guest speaker will share information about the CIBER team and their research relating to bee hotels and honeybee health.

Please join us January 28th at Sea and Sage's January '4th Tuesday'. (Note -There will be no '4th TU' in December)

Advance registration is required for this event and will be available through the Sea and Sage website by January 1st under 'What's New' and 'Conservation.'



OC Western Snowy Plover & CA Least Tern January Quarterly Survey: Jan 18–26, 2025

Plan to join us to look for Snowy Plovers at their OC winter roosts, Least Terns (though not expected to be present), and both species' suitable habitats on our local beaches, while helping to contribute to endangered species research.

As in the past, the January OC Quarterly Survey will be part of the US Fish & Wildlife Snowy Plover winter window survey, a species wide survey which takes place Jan. 18th to 26th that occurs in Washington, Oregon, and California, and provides a snapshot of the Snowy Plover population along the coast.

Biologist Stacey Vigallon of Nature Nexus Institute will host an online training session on Wed., Jan. 8th (6:30 – 8:30 pm). You must have completed training to participate in the surveys.

For more information or to sign up for the training session or the surveys, contact Brittany Poloni at ocsnpisurvey@gmail.com

Thank you for your interest and continued support.
—*Volunteer Coordinator, Brittany Poloni*

Correction & Clarification for Oct. '4th Tues' article by Susan Sheakley and Melissa Rapp

Thank you to everyone who astutely picked up on the error in the description for the October '4th Tues.' Conservation Lecture and, more, thanks for bringing it to our attention. We appreciate that and apologize for the error.

To clarify, based on information from the source below - <https://ucanr.edu/sites/UrbanHort/files/216568.pdf>

7 % of California's water is used for outdoor
residential NOT 40-50% !

For further clarification of statewide landscape water use, the following is a quote from the above pdf, which provides these numbers: "...Of that 9% of statewide landscape water use, residential accounts for 7%, while parks, golf courses, sports fields, and similar large landscapes account for 2%. Landscape irrigation is estimated to account for about 50% of annual *residential* water consumption statewide. That amount varies widely from about 30% in many coastal communities to 60% or more in many inland suburban communities."

Whew! Thanks for all your help and we're sorry about the mix-up!

Holiday Boutique

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH

10:00 - 4:00

AT THE DUCK CLUB

5 RIPARIAN VIEW, IRVINE

**DON'T MISS THE CHANCE THE CHANCE TO SHOP AND MINGLE
WITH BOTH OLD FRIENDS AND NEW ACQUAINTANCES. ENJOY
DELICIOUS WARM HOLIDAY BEVERAGES AND DELECTABLE
SWEET TREATS AS YOU INDULGE IN FESTIVE CHEER!**



Chapter News & Announcements



For more information about Sea & Sage activities, visit our chapter webpage at seaandsageaudubon.org

Audubon House Volunteers

We would like to thank the following people for helping



to staff Audubon House in November and December: Kathy Blackmarr, Leslie El-Sayad, Greg Figge, Elisa Guzman, Ann Harmer, John Hargrove, Mary Harward, Sue Henry, Sarah Jayne, Mary Meister, Rhonda McKanna,

Kelly Morgan, Dagmar Muthamia, Steve Munzinger, Michelle Olson, Barbara Reber, Jennifer Reed, Paul Saiki, Dev Sellin, Susan Sheakley, Catherine Steinberg, 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 Paula Monroe, 480-299-9885, or Dev Sellin, 714-943-3682.

Accessible Birding and Brunch

Mason Regional Park, Friday, Jan 24th - 9:00 AM

We will be trying a new location for winter birding. William Mason Regional Park in Irvine has a large lake and plenty of winter waterfowl, with flat paved paths and stationary handicapped restrooms. All are welcome to join this slow-paced walk around the lake. Bring your own brunch to follow. There is a \$3 park entrance fee if you don't have an OC Parks card. To register, e-mail Sharon Rockwell at srockwell@writeme.com. She will send you more trip information.

Camp Enrollment opens Feb. 1st

Enrollment for our popular Nature Day Camps opens on February 1st on Eventbrite. Separate camps are for ages 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, and 13-16. Get an informational flyer with dates and fees on our chapter website in January.

READING GROUP — Tues, Jan. 21 – 1 pm

Reading Group: *The Backyard Bird Chronicles* — by Amy Tan. Check our chapter webpage and look at the Reading Group calendar for the Zoom link for the mtg. (Due to the holidays in December, there will be no Reading Group meeting in December.)

Annual Pancake Breakfast

Photos by Melissa Rapp



The 31st Sea & Sage Annual Pancake Breakfast took place on Saturday, October 26th, and, as always, it was a remarkable success. Attendees enjoyed fluffy

pancakes with various options, including plain, pecan, and strawberry, breakfast potatoes, sausage (including a plant-based choice), and fresh fruit bowl.



This year's event featured engaging activities, highlighted by our beloved Used Book Sale that inspired many. We hosted two bird walks, one tailored for accessible birders, lawn

games, a photo booth, a California native plant sale, and an inspiring talk by our own Sylvia Gallagher titled "How I Became a Birder." Many participants visited the booths of Wild Birds Unlimited and Optics4Birding, enhancing their experience.

The Chapter's commitment to reducing single-use plastics and waste was evident, thanks to the dedicated Tackling Trash Committee, which set



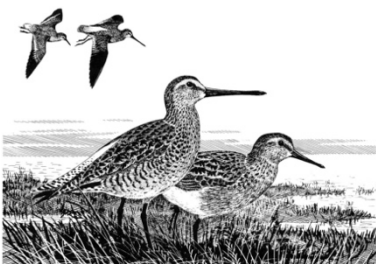
up a rinse station for all reusable plates, cups, and utensils. Overall, the event fostered a welcoming atmosphere for everyone involved.



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all 62 volunteers who dedicated their time

and energy to the event. Special thanks to Scott Thomas, Catherine Steinberg, and Cheryl Thomas for coordinating such a memorable occasion

—Catherine Steinberg



Sea & Sage Audubon Society

Learning MORE CA Bird Sounds

Groups 1-4 only
an Advanced Aural Workshop
presented by Sylvia R. Gallagher

Starting Jan. 28-30, Sylvia Gallagher will offer the first half of the workshop, LEARNING MORE CALIFORNIA BIRD SOUNDS (LMCBS), which was last presented in 2009. It consists of a variety of birds, mainly but not entirely species associated with water. It will presume that you have installed and know how to use Raven Lite software (free from Cornell Lab. of Ornithology), version 2.0.3 or 2.0.4 (the 2 versions in use during 2024) and have fairly well learned the sounds in LEARNING CALIFORNIA BIRD SOUNDS (LCBS), the introductory sounds workshop. LCBS was most recently presented Jan.- Mar., 2024. The appearances of the birds will not be considered. A list of the birds to be covered in the various LMCBS groups is on the website www.seaandsageaudubon.org.

Three sections will be offered, each meeting once a week, including holidays. We'll proceed at a slower pace than the intro sounds workshop did, comparing the new birds with any LCBS birds they resemble. An ending date will not be announced, but it should be well before Memorial Day. The sections are:

Tues. mornings, 9:00 a.m. - ca. noon. Starts Jan. 28.
Wed. evenings, 7:00 - ca.10:00 p.m. Starts Jan. 29.
Thurs. evenings, 7:00 - ca.10:00 p.m. Starts Jan. 30.



For those who need a refresher on Raven Lite, there will be three optional review sessions. They are scheduled on days that do not conflict with the Morro Bay Festival, which many of you will want to attend. The dates and starting times are Jan. 14 at 9:00 am, Jan. 22 at 7:00 pm, and Jan. 23 at 7:00 pm. If possible, please choose the help session that occurs on the same day of the week as the workshop section you're enrolled in.

To profit from these review sessions, you must have Raven Lite installed and have carefully studied and tried out the directions for the use of that software that were included in the LMCBS package for the section that started in Jan., 2025. A copy of those instructions will also be found on the Sea and Sage website under "Sylvia's classes."

The "textbook" for the workshop will be Sylvia's sound package, LEARNING MORE CALIFORNIA BIRD SOUNDS, which will go on sale in Jan. at Audubon House (\$39.00). The precise date will be emailed to those who enroll. It is not known as this announcement is being written in late October.

Your enrollment envelope may be postmarked or hand-delivered no earlier than Mon., Dec. 2, 2024 (2-day penalty for earlier dates). Enclose in your envelope the following three items: (1) the legibly filled out enrollment form below; (2) a check, money order, or cashier's check made out to Sea and Sage Audubon Society for \$200.00, if you can afford it (installment plan OK); (3) a self-addressed stamped envelope. **Mail your enrollment envelope to: LMCBS, Sylvia Gallagher, 21562 Kaneohe Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92646.** No emailed reservations will be accepted except at the very last minute—if any vacancies are left by then.

The maximum enrollment for each section is 21. If any section does not have at least 12 people enrolled by Jan. 3, it will be canceled. Reserve early though, because some sections may fill rapidly.

We'd like to have a large number of informal field trips, led by workshop participants, but these can occur only if someone volunteers to coordinate them. Where can YOU take us to hear these special birds?

If you have questions, contact Sylvia Gallagher at sjrgallagher@yahoo.com (preferred) or 714-962-8990.

Enrollment Form for Learning MORE CA Bird Sounds (LMCBS) Workshop – 2025

Names of all participants _____

Address(es) _____

City & Zip Code _____

Phone(s) _____ SASE enclosed? _____

Email Address _____

Check or rank at least two choices of section: TUES am____ WED pm____ Thurs pm____



Christmas Bird Counts - 2024



Please contact your Area Leader if you wish to take part in the Christmas Bird Count this year. Contact Doug Lithgow, Coordinator and Compiler for the NE (Inland) Count — or Darrell Wilson, Coordinator and Compiler for the San Juan Capistrano (South County) Count.

NE (Inland) CBC: Compiler: Doug Lithgow
(714) 962-4145 – SUN, December 15
dmlithgow@aol.com

Irvine Regional Park
Area Leader: *Jan Gaffney*
(562-439-5631) janrduck@icloud.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
Area Leader: *Tracy McGuire*
(714-296-0740) tjm351@roadrunner.com

Mountain Areas
Area Leader: *Brian Leatherman*
Closed due to fire damage.

Modjeska & Harding Canyons
Area Leader: *Samuel Bressler*
(657-378-5367)
pacificgoldenplover@gmail.com

O'Neill Regional Park & Plano Trabuco
Area Leader: *Darrell Wilson*
(714-401-7852) darrellwilson@cox.net

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)

San Juan Capistrano (South County) CBC
(714) 401-7852 - SAT, December Dec. 21
Darrell Wilson, Compiler
darrellwilson@cox.net

Laguna Niguel Reg. Park
Area Co-Leader: *Jan Gaffney*
(562-439-5631) janrduck@icloud.com
Area Co-Leader: *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: tba

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

San Clemente Hillside
Area Leader: *Kim or Louise Lopina*
Lwildbrook@yahoo.com

Dana Point & vicinity: Doheny State Beach, Dana Point Harbor, Dana Point Headlands, Salt Creek, local parks, golf course
Area Leader: *Joel Weintraub* & helpers
jweintraub@cox.net

Thomas F. Riley Wilderness Park
Area Leader: *Darrell Wilson*
(714-401-7852) darrellwilson@cox.net

Christmas Bird Counts - 2024

Please contact your Area Leader if you wish to take part in the Christmas Bird Count this year. Contact Bettina Eastman, Coordinator and Compiler for the Coastal Count — or Samuel Bressler, Coordinator and Compiler for the Chino Puente-Hills Count.



Coastal CBC: Compiler - Bettina Eastman
(714) 293-1079 – SAT, January 4
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 terrynjohn@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-Leader: Nancy Kappelmann
(949) 294-7262 nakdrd@aol.com
Co-Leader: TBA

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

Coastal CBC: SAT, January 4
Continued —

Older Areas within Santa Ana

Area Leader: Tracy Mcquire
(714) 296-0740 tjm351@roadrunner.com

Upper Newport Bay - West Side

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

Upper Newport Bay - East Side

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

San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary, UCI Marsh

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

Chino Puente-Hills CBC

Compiler: Samuel Bressler
(657) 378-5367 - SAT, Dec. 28
pacificgoldenplover@gmail.com

Chino Hills State Park

Carbon Canyon Wilderness Park

Craig Regional Park

Yorba Regional Park

Santiago Oaks Regional Park

West Coyote Hills

Gilman

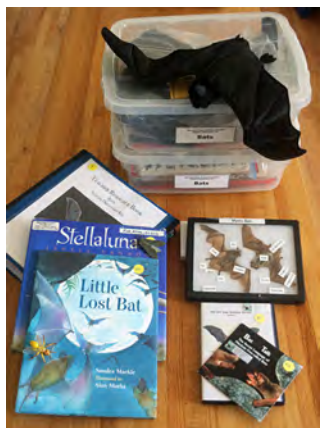
Tri-City Yorba Linda Lakebed Parks

Weir Canyon Nature Reserve

Loan of Nature Discovery Kits Reopens in February 2025

You have probably read about our Outdoor Adventures science program for 4-5th grade students, Nature Day Camps for ages 7-16, Summer Bat Walks, and teen Junior Naturalists. But did you know that we have another outreach program called **Nature Discovery Kits**? These kits were designed by our Education Committee many years ago to help local educators and their students gain a greater appreciation of Orange County wildlife. Kits also provide the community with great material to educate and inspire students of all ages. *"The kit provided our group with resources, experiences and learnings that we would not have had otherwise. We were very thankful for the use of the kits and their incredible contents."* – Skyler K and Jolynda A.

Who can borrow the kits? In the past, we have loaned them to science specialists with Irvine Unified School District, city and county librarians, county rangers, home school family groups, and others who give nature presentations to the public. The loan is **FREE** for up to two weeks. While they are designed for K-3rd grade students, the contents can be adapted for younger and older students, and the real specimens are useful for people of all ages.



We have six exciting topics to choose from: Owls, Bats, Songbird Nests, Butterflies & Moths, Reptiles & Amphibians, and Wonderful Life of Dying Trees. As you can imagine, owls and bats are popular in fall due to the spooky holiday.

What is in a kit? Most popular are actual specimens such as a Barn

Owl, Red-eared Slider Turtle, Yuma myotis bat, and pressed butterflies and moths. *"Students love to see actual specimens! Learning comes alive when they can experience it in this way."* - Megan S. Kits also include art projects, posters, puppets, read-aloud stories, student research projects, and resource books for both educators and students.

Do these kits have an impact on their audience? Yes, according to borrowers. Here's what they write:

- *"These kits are amazing for teaching children about nature while allowing them to have a closer real look at the subject at hand. Children develop compassion towards nature and an understanding of their place on the earth."* Gabby R.
- *"Students benefitted from these resources because it gives them a visual and more hands-on learning on the topic."* Bing L.
- *"Yesterday after talking about reptiles and then going over our local snakes, one of the kids was out with his parents and found a snake tangled in fencing. He recognized it wasn't a dangerous snake and they helped free it."* – Jill R.

Loan of the kits has been on hold post-pandemic, but we now have a team of four educators who will oversee this community outreach: Dejoie Blumberg, Linda Daily, Debbie Spurr and Amy Wisneskie. Check our website in January for how you can borrow a kit!

And if you enjoy knowing children are getting excited about nature as a result of our nature kits, please consider making a donation to our education project to keep these kits current. Thanks for your support!



We Met Our Bus Fund Goal for Fall 2024!

Thanks to 21 kind-hearted donors, we received \$4,230 to fully fund all 14 bus trips for Outdoor Adventures this fall! We are so grateful that they responded to our request so that the Santa Ana school children can come to the marsh to see science in action. **Thank you** to Mark Adamson & Nancy Tschiderer, Matt & Carolyn Biller, Kathy Blackmarr, Dejoie Blumberg, Sandra Geiler, Gwen Ginocchio, Holly Joslin, Bev Krassner Bulas, Erin & Brent Kraus in loving memory of Dr. Howard Emery, Li Larson, Babs Levitan, Robin Maguire, Cynthia Nelson, Nancy Kenyon, Carol Paquette, Helen Porter, Janice Rhoads, Patricia Smith, and Art Strauss. You are making an impact!

Looking forward to 2025; we need to fund 27 trips (January to May, and hope you will become a donor!)



Annual Dinner

**Friday, March 21 at Mile Square Park
Banquet Center**

**Our Guest Speaker is Carl Safina.
He will speak on “Alfie & Me: What
Owls Know, What Humans Believe”.**

Reservations will open in January.

Again this year, we will have a SILENT AUCTION at the Annual Dinner. The Silent Auction is lot of fun and it helps us raise funds for such things as scholarships, conservation efforts and education. In order to hold a successful auction, we rely on donations from our members as well as from organizations and businesses. *We’re looking for fun and exciting donations such as: Nikon binoculars, Seashell wreath, Gift Baskets, Whale Watching trip for two, Original Artwork, Tickets to events such as plays – amusement parks – musicals, Bluebird or Owl nestboxes, a nicely wrapped box of chocolates, etc..*

If you have a question about a donation item or about possible suitable items, ask Cheryl Thomas, Events Chair at cthomas1313@cox.net or 949-294-2275.

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

This October was a productive month for certain vagrant groups (e.g. raptors, warblers), but very much not so for others (shorebirds, flycatchers). The final days of Autumn will probably bring one more pulse of lost migrants through mid-late November, at which point things will stabilize and we find out which rarities decide to spend the winter behind the Orange Curtain.

This has been a good fall for inland **Sabine's Gulls** in Southern California, including one at



Sabine's Gull - by Trish Gussler

Anaheim Coves Park from the start of the month through Oct. 6. A second bird was seen in more typical circumstances, offshore on the Sea and Sage pelagic trip Oct. 19. The same trip also produced a

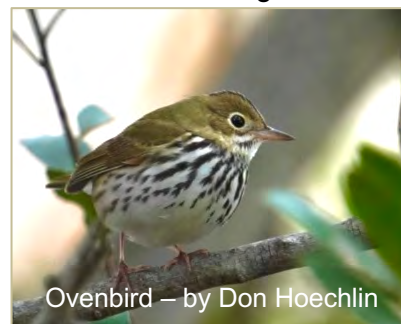
Flesh-footed Shearwater (the first in the county since 2020), and at least three **Manx Shearwater** (a record high count). A **Little Blue Heron** was found at Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve Oct. 4 and was later joined by a **Tricolored** on the 19; both continued through the end of the month. A **Western Cattle Egret** was at Upper Newport Bay Oct. 24-25. Somewhat surprisingly, no shorebirds of note were encountered in the county this October.

This fall's incursion of **Broad-winged Hawks** continued through October, with reports from at least eight different locations along the coastal slope and in the foothills. A **Zone-tailed Hawk** was seen along Borrego Trail in the Great Park Oct. 4-13. The only flycatcher of note in December was a single **Tropical Kingbird** at Huntington Central Park Oct. 24-27. Essentially extirpated as a breeder in the county, **Loggerhead Shrikes** have long been reduced to a very scarce migrant and winter visitor in the county, but reports from over a dozen sites marks the largest fall total in years, if not decades. **Plumbeous Vireos** were at Huntington Central Park Oct. 1-23, Westminster Memorial Park October 7, Mile Square Regional Park Oct. 22, and Silkwood Park Oct. 27.

Vesper Sparrows were found at several coastal and interior sites throughout October, while **Clay-colored Sparrows** were at San Clemente Golf

Course Oct. 13 and Linda Vista Park in Mission Viejo Oct. 19. While **Grasshopper Sparrows** are known breeders in the county's interior grasslands, one at the Los Cerritos Wetlands in Seal Beach was almost certainly a fall migrant. **Green-tailed Towhees** were at Overlook Park in Huntington Beach Oct. 19-27, Green-tailed Towhee, Upper Newport Bay Oct. 25, and Anaheim Coves Park Oct. 28. The most interesting "sparrow-like bird" of the month (though technically not a sparrow itself) was a **Chestnut-collared Longspur** at Huntington Central Park Oct. 27. While once a regular winter visitor to the county, this species has declined with the conversion of ranchland to urban development, and this is the first confirmed record of this species for the county since 2017. **Bobolinks** were reported at the UCI Marsh Oct. 2 and Tri-city Park Oct. 16-18.

Long-time listers frequently lament that fall birding at Huntington Central Park isn't what it used to be, so it is noteworthy that this venerable birding hotspot hosted individuals of virtually every vagrant warbler found in the county this fall. To start off, one to two **Black-and-white Warblers** continued there through the end of the month, while additional individuals were at Aurora Park Oct. 2-12, San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary Oct. 26, and an **Ovenbird** at Huntington Central Park Oct. 18 was a



Ovenbird – by Don Hoechlin

one-day wonder, as was a **Northern Waterthrush** on Oct. 25. A continuing **Prothonotary Warbler** at Russell Cook Park continued through

at least the 6th, while a second individual was seen at a residence in Orange Oct. 4. A **Tennessee Warbler** was found in Tustin Oct. 13, while at least one **American Redstart** continued at Huntington Central Park through the end of the month. **Palm Warblers** were at Bartlett Park Oct. 18 and at Bartlett Park Oct. 25-26, while **Blackpoll Warblers** were at Huntington Central Park Oct. 20 and Veeh Reservoir Oct. 1-5. An **Indigo Bunting** and **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** were both at Huntington Central Park Oct. 9 and 10 respectively.

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 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 our Membership Chair, Gail Richards, at membership@seaandsageaudubon.org.

Temporarily Away or Moving?

Please notify Gail Richards of your new address if you are temporarily, or permanently, moving from your current address; or, let her know if you do not want to continue to receive the Tattler. This will save us postage.

Gail Richards, 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 <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- (Renewals are \$20 per year.)

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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

(p) – OC Parks card or pay park fee at entrance
(R) – Space limited; reservations necessary – see webpage
(\$) – Pay in advance for trip – see webpage writeup on trip

December 2024:

03	Tues	Conservation Com. Mtg via Zoom	6:45 pm
08	Sun	Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS ®	8:00 am
08	Sun	HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE	10:00 am
10	Tues	Quail Hill Open Space Preserve ®	7:00 am
10	Tues	Board Meeting	7:00 pm
15	Sun	Northeastern (Inland) CBC	tba
18	Wed	UNB by pontoon boat ®	8:15 am
20	Fri	NO GENERAL MEETING.....	
21	Sat	San Juan Capistrano CBC.....	tba
28	Sat	Chino Puente-Hills CBC	tba

January 2025:

04	Sat	Coastal CBC	tba
07	Tues	Conservation Com. Mtg via Zoom.....	6:45 pm
12	Sun	Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS ®	8:00 am
14	Tues	Board Meeting	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 (p).....	8:00 am
24	Fri	Accessible Birding at Mason Reg. Park ® ..	9:00 am
25	Sat	Winter Pelagic Trip ®	6:30 am
25-26	S/S	Salton Sea weekend trip ®	
26	Sun	Upper Newport Bay Monthly Bird Walk.....	8:00 am
28	Tues	'4 th Tues' Conservation Lecture via Zoom...	7:00 pm