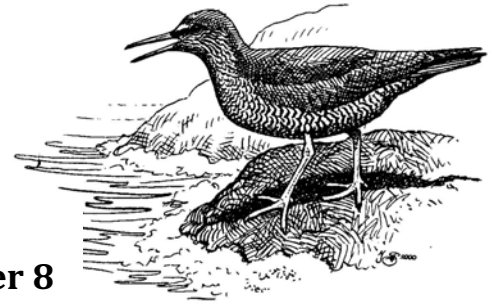


Wandering Tattler

May 2025
Volume 74, Number 8



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

Soaring Forward — A Farewell and New Beginnings

Jonathan Aguayo, President

As my term as President ends, I want to express my gratitude to each of you. Serving our chapter has been an incredible honor, and I feel privileged to have led such a dedicated and passionate community.

A special thank you to the board and staff for their support throughout my 8 years as Director, Vice President, and President. The time and effort they put into this chapter are truly remarkable, and I'm always grateful for their willingness to take on yet another request from me—often with only minor groaning!

And of course, a huge thank you to you, our members. Whether through volunteering, donating, or simply participating, you are the heart of this chapter. Without members, we'd just be a group of board members talking to ourselves.

While I'm stepping down as President, I'm not going far—I'll continue to be involved in my new role as Past President, where I plan to keep throwing in ideas and helping Melissa Rapp as she steps into the role. Melissa brings outstanding qualities that I know you'll appreciate, and I have no doubt she will do a fantastic job as your next President.



General Meeting - Online Presentation
Friday, May 16th - 7:00 PM
Via Zoom

**"Birds of the Longleaf Pine Forest:
An Overview From the Sandhills of
North Carolina"**
presented by Susan Campbell

Come learn about the amazing Longleaf pine forests and the birds of the Northern Carolina. The Longleaf pine forests include a very diverse and remarkable ecosystem which has been markedly reduced. Learn about the history of the Longleaf pine forest and the work being done to conserve this important habitat. Susan will discuss the red-cockaded woodpecker, which was once listed as endangered, and implications of the recent down listing of Red-cockaded Woodpecker.



Susan Campbell has been involved with conservation for a long time and has been a part time Seasonal Naturalist at Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve for three

decades. She routinely leads programs aimed at educating the public about the unique aspects of this endangered landscape. The focus is usually on the pines themselves as well as the Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. Susan is the Cofounder and Science Director of the Cape Fear Bird Observatory as well as a Research Affiliate with the NC State Museum of Natural Sciences.

Meeting room opens at 6:30 PM; join us at 6:45 pm. for a Sea and Sage project highlight; meeting starts at 7:00. Link to 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-Chair

Conservation News

Susan Sheakley, Conservation Chair



May Meetings/Contact Persons: '4th Tues' Cons. Lecture TU May 27, Cons Committee TU May 6/S Sheakley; Coastal TBD/S Thomas; Tackling Climate & Trash TU May 20/S Warrior; Legislation & Advocacy TBD/ V Leipzig

'4th Tues.'

Conservation Lecture

Tuesday, May 27th – 7:00 pm

Zoom - Doors will open at 6:30 pm

**"Saving Birds from Window Collisions:
Simple Solutions for a Big Problem"**

Presented by - Travis Longcore

Each year, millions of birds die from colliding with glass windows, unable to perceive the transparent or reflective surfaces as barriers. These fatalities pose a serious threat to bird populations, but simple, effective solutions—such as patterned window films, external screens, and strategic lighting adjustments—can dramatically reduce collisions. This presentation will explore the science behind bird-window strikes, highlight successful mitigation strategies, and provide practical steps that individuals and communities can take to make their buildings bird-friendly.

Travis Longcore, Ph.D., is an expert in urban ecology and conservation science, with a specialty in the impacts of artificial light and human-built environments on wildlife. He is an Adjunct Professor in the Institute of the Environment and Sustainability at UCLA and Co-chair of its Environmental Science and Engineering doctoral program.

Advance registration is required for this event and will be available through the Sea and Sage website under WHAT'S NEW and CONSERVATION.



Make a Bird-Friendly Place in Your Yard - Plant a Native Plant

Inspired by the May 10, 2025, World Migratory Bird Day theme to protect migratory birds, my husband and I picked out a selection of native plants from Tree of Life Nursery in San Juan Capistrano to plant in our yard this spring. First, we shared these beautiful plants in a display at the March 21 annual dinner. The exhibit attracted attention and there seemed always to be one or two visitors - and often more, gathered at the table to study the tags, sniff and touch the plants, and get a close-up view.

The eight native plants we displayed at the dinner and that we would plant in our yard are: *Ceanothus 'Dark Star'*; *Heuchera Coral Bells*; *Monardella villosa Coyote Mint*; *Ribes viburnifolium*; *Rhamnus californica Coffeeberry*; *Salvia Cleveland Sage*; *Trichostema lanatum Woolly Blue Curls*; and *Lobelia laxiflora Mexican Lobelia*.

We had to study our new 'yard maintenance manual', the Tree of Life Native Plants Catalog, to learn: whether a plant likes sun, full shade, or part shade, and how tall or wide it grows; the Ten Easy Steps for Success on how to plant a native plant; and watering instructions for the short and long term.

Benefits of our new native garden:

- Beauty
- Uses less water
- Welcomes birds and bees, butterflies, moths and other insects
- Provides nectar, pollen, and fruits
- Offers shelter and nesting places
- Aromatherapy
- Tranquility
- California nature right in our backyards!

A Takeaway from the Annual Dinner:

Our speaker, Dr. Carl Safina, advises that to heal the planet, change what we value. Value the earth.

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 April and May: Kathy Blackmarr, Leslie El-Sayad, Greg Figge, Elisa Guzman,



Ann Harmer, John Hargrove, Mary Harward, Sue Henry, Dawn Hubbard, Sarah Jayne, Braedon, Kamm, Mary Meister, Paula Monroe, Kelly Morgan, Dagmar Muthamia, Steve Munzinger, Michelle Olson, Barbara Reber, Jennifer Reed,

Paul Saiki, Susan Sheakley, Haini Shyu, Art Strauss, Pat Wells, Phil Westin and Irene Wotta.

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

Reading Group: Tues May 20 – 1 to 2:30

An Immense World - by Ed Young

Check our chapter webpage and look at the Reading Group calendar for the Zoom link for the meeting.

URGENT – Bus Donations Needed!

Twice a year, we fundraise to bring Santa Ana school children to the marsh for Outdoor Adventures science programs. Last fall, we raised \$4,200 for 14 trips in October to December. This spring, we need to fund 27 trips in January to May but have only raised \$2,666 which leaves us \$6,000 short. Please take a look at your financial situation to see if you can make a contribution this spring. We welcome any amount that fits your budget, and your gift will benefit a child to experience birds often for the first time. Please make your check payable to Sea and Sage Audubon and send to Bus, Sea and Sage Audubon, 5 Riparian View, Irvine, CA 92612

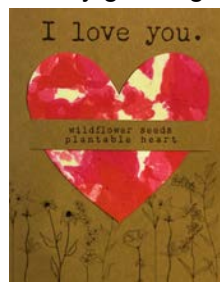


Santa Ana school children at the marsh

Spring News from the Nature Store

With Mother's Day approaching on May 11th, there's no better time to explore the delightful new offerings at the Nature Store. Celebrate the beauty of wildflowers—nature's captivating treasures that enchant us and attract charming birds and vital pollinators to your garden. This spring, give a gift that brings joy and vibrancy into someone's life with the beauty of wildflowers!

We are thrilled to present our newest collection: eco-friendly greeting cards with plantable paper hearts.



Plant these beautifully designed, seed-embedded cards in a pot, provide sunlight, and keep the soil moist. Watch as Mother Nature's magic unfolds right before your eyes! These plantable wildflower cards will create a unique and lasting experience that captures the essence of spring renewal.

Handcrafted with love in a small studio in Portland, OR, these eco-friendly cards are made from recycled paper. They offer a thoughtful gift that promotes sustainability. Choose a gift that leaves a lasting impression while nurturing our planet. Make this Mother's Day unforgettable with a gift that makes a positive impact!

Still Time to Volunteer for Summer Bat Walks

We are looking for a few more people to assist the public that attend our Bat Walk programs. Volunteers walk with guests along the trails and share interesting bat facts. Best of all, they get to watch the sunset and see live bats flying all around us. Requirement is to attend 2 training nights in June and July and commit to help with at least 2 public walks in August and September (all Saturday nights for 1.5 hours). If interested, email Bat Walk Coordinator Jean Savage: summerbatwalks@gmail.com.



Bat Walk volunteers reading a Bat Walks display

Northern Jaguar Project & Annual Dinner Report

Jaguars are endangered in the US and Mexico. This is due to illegal poaching, habitat loss, and other threats. They are the biggest cats in North America and range from 5 to 8 feet long - from nose to tail - and weigh from 90 to 250 lbs. Their diet covers more than 100 species such as deer, javelina, coati, turkeys, turtles, snakes and fish, but their natural habitat is being lost to ranches, agriculture, bright lights, highways with fast moving vehicles and other hazards, including the border wall between the US and Mexico which restricts the jaguars' movements.

The Northern Jaguar Project (NJP) was formed to help the declining jaguar population. They now have a 56,000 acre Northern Jaguar Reserve in a remote area of the Sierra Madre Occidental foothills, 125 miles south of the US-Mexican border. Besides protecting the Jaguars, it also protects Bald Eagles, Military Macaws, Neotropical river otters, mountain lions, ocelots, badgers, and numerous other species of concern.

The NJP is a non-profit organization which needs assistance to continue their work. This includes monetary donations as well as materials and equipment. With an in-kind donation, you can help them keep their costs down and direct more resources toward protecting jaguars and other wildlife. Their fieldwork occurs in places that are incredibly rugged and can take a heavy toll on gear. Their current wish list:

- Garmin GPS units
- Binoculars
- Projector
- Rechargeable batteries (size AA or D)
- Field pants (30, 32, 34, 38)
- Long-sleeved shirts (small, medium, large)
- Hiking boots (men's size 8.5, 9, 10.5)
- Hydration backpacks/bladders
- Backpacking packs
- Lightweight sleeping pads
- Camp tables and chairs
- Wilderness first-aid kits
- Tents
- Solar lights, chargers, and panels
- Large heavy-duty plastic storage tubs and tarps
- Saddles and pack saddles
- 4WD vehicles



Cheryl Thomas will be collecting donations throughout the months of April and May. After which she will deliver all of the items collected to the NJP headquarters in Tucson. Please consider donating. They will also accept gift cards to REI and Bass Pro so they can purchase items. Feel free to contact Cheryl at cthomas1313@cox.net or 949-294-2275.

For more information on the Northern Jaguar Project, see their webpage at northernjaguarproject.org

Our Annual Dinner

We are happy to report that our Annual Conservation Awards Dinner and Silent Auction was a great success. We had 203 people attending, the food was extremely good, and the program was excellent! Our guest speaker, Carl Safina, from the Safina Institute, gave a wonderful talk entitled "Alfie and Me: What Owls Know, What Humans Believe." His talk about raising and releasing an Eastern Screech Owl was moving as well as the part of his talk about conservation.

We wish to thank Mile Square Banquet Center for another wonderful meal and their extremely helpful and professional staff. Thanks also for all the supporters who attended the event and the artists, art collectors, local businesses and chapter members who donated items for the auction. We had a fantastic selection to bid on from dozens of donors (you know who you are), and a special thanks to our volunteers who helped to make this evening a memorable success. Thanks to everyone for your help.



Summer Bats 2025

San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary, Irvine, CA

Experience the marsh at dusk and after dark when bats arrive in small numbers to feed on flying insects. Participants take an outdoor evening walk along the ponds in search of two species of bats. We will use our eyes and bat sonar detectors to find the bats which frequently fly over our heads! We will also learn about their interesting lives.

ON-LINE REGISTRATION OPENS June 1st.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/summer-bat-walks-2025-registration-1280952987869>

Choose from one of these dates:

- Saturday August 2 (8:00 PM - 9:15 PM)
- Saturday August 9 (8:00 PM - 9:15 PM)
- Saturday August 16 (7:45 PM - 9:00 PM)
- Saturday August 23 (7:45 PM - 9:00 PM)
- Saturday August 30 (7:30 PM - 8:45 PM)
- Saturday September 6 (7:15 PM - 8:30 PM)
- Saturday September 13 (7:15 PM - 8:30 PM)

- This is a pre-paid event with on-line registration for adults and children ages 10 years and older.
- Program fee is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children ages 10-12 (there is an additional on-line registration fee.) Children must be accompanied by an adult.
- Due to the presence of disease-carrying insects, there is a strict clothing requirement of long sleeves and long pants. For your safety, failure to comply with the clothing requirement means you cannot participate in this event.

For answers to your questions, email: summerbatwalks@gmail.com



Bat art by Donna Robb

Chapter Financial Report – 2024

BALANCE SHEET	Operations (Excluding Education Project)	Marsh Education Project	Combined
Assets			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash & Equivalents	156,753	138,654	295,407
Investments	1,316,595	50,951	1,367,547
Transfers			
Other Current Assets	24,479		24,479
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	1,497,827	189,605	1,687,432
FIXED ASSETS			
Furniture & Equipment, etc.	519		519
TOTAL ASSETS	1,498,346	189,605	1,687,951
Liabilities and Equity			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Restricted Funds and Payables	45,426	80,867	126,293
TOTAL LIABILITIES	45,426	80,867	126,293
EQUITY			
Endowment Fund	694,827		694,827
General Fund	616,889		616,889
Conservation Fund	64,308		64,308
San Joaquin Marsh Fund		79,855	79,855
TOTAL EQUITY	1,376,025	79,855	1,455,880
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	1,421,451	160,722	1,582,173
INCOME & EXPENSE STATEMENT			
Income			
Chapter Transfer to Marsh Education Project		30,000	*see note
Dues Split	11,410		11,410
Direct Mail Appeal	101,452	8,600	110,052
Other Donations	36,694	38,851	75,546
Grants	0	50,000	50,000
Birding Skills Workshops	22,990		22,990
Merchandise Sales - Bookstore	50,954		50,954
Other Income	50,675	42,530	93,205
TOTAL INCOME	274,176	169,981	414,157 *
Expenses			
Chapter Transfer to Marsh Education Project	30,000		*see note
Education Program Expenses		137,993	137,993
Newsletter Publication	17,949		17,949
Committee Expenses	63,985		63,985
Cost of Sales – Bookstore	51,061		51,061
Other Chapter Expenses	139,122		139,122
TOTAL EXPENSES	302,117	137,993	410,109 *
NET ORDINARY INCOME	-27,940	31,988	4,048
INTEREST AND INVESTMENT INCOME (LOSS)	100,772	958	101,730
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	72,832	32,947	105,779
*Note: Internal transfer of \$30,000 not shown in combined totals.			

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, 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 green 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 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/zibs5tt>

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

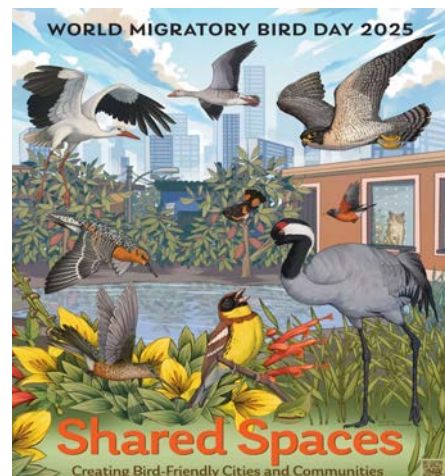
E-mail _____



C15

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BOARD MEMBERS

Executive Committee:

President	Jonathan Aguayo	805-204-6986
Vice President	Melissa Rapp	949-351-2539
Secretary	Mary Harward.....	714-270-7640
Treasurer.....	Chris Byrd	714-815-5158
Director 2025.....	Mary Ellen Wynn	714-458-0778
Director 2025.....	Pete Gordon.....	949-598-0794
Director 2026.....	Sudha Warriar	908-917-7835
Director 2026.....	Maia Nguyen	714-333-5734
Director 2027.....	Barbara Wasbin	949-433-3889
Director 2027.....	Irene Wotta.....	949-413-4566
Past President.....	Gail Richards.....	714-267-2420

Committee Chairpersons:

Accessible Birding	Sharon Rockwell	714-299-1579
Archives & Records.....	Chris Byrd	714-815-5158
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	Cheryl Thomas.....	949-294-2275
Exhibits.....	Mary Joseph.....	714-848-8362
Field Trips.....	Gail Richards.....	714-267-2420
Finance	Tom Van Huss	714-417-9940
Insurance	Vic Leipzig.....	714-848-5394
Membership	Gal Richards.....	714-267-2420
Newsletter Editor.....	Nancy Kenyon.....	949-892-9212
Programs Co-Chair	Melissa Rapp	949-351-2539
Programs Co-Chair	Catherine Steinberg	949-378-6501
Raptor Research	Scott Thomas.....	949-293-2915
Research Grants	Amber Heredia	714-812-2430
SJWS Liaison	Melissa Rapp	949-351-2539
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.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

May 2025:

ORANGE COUNTY SPRING COUNT ALL MONTH			
02	Fri	Accessible Birding at SJWS	9:00 am
03	Sat	Spring Pelagic Trip ®.....	6:30 am
06	Tues	Conservation Com. Mtg via Zoom.....	6:45 pm
10	Sat	WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY	
11	Sun	Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS ®	8:00 am
13	Tues	Board Meeting via Zoom	7:00 pm
16	Fri	GENERAL MEETING via Zoom	7:00 pm
17-25	Sa-Su	OC SNPL/CLTE Breeding Survey Week	
18	Sun	Carbon Canyon Reg. Park Bird Walk ...	8:00 am
21	Wed	UNB by pontoon boat ®	8:15 am
22	Thurs	Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve Bird Walk	8:00 am
25	Sun	Upper Newport Bay Monthly Bird Walk.....	8:00 am
27	Tues	'4 th Tues' Conservation Lecture via Zoom...	7:00 pm

June 2025:

03	Tues	Conservation Com. Mtg via Zoom.....	6:45 pm
08	Sun	Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS ®	8:00 am
08	Sun	Least Tern Preserve Bird Walk.....	8:00 am
10	Tues	Board Meeting via Zoom	7:00 pm
15	Sun	Anaheim Coves Bird Walk.....	8:00 am
17	Tues	Quail Hill Open Space Preserve Bird Walk....	7:00 am
20	Fri	GENERAL MEETING via Zoom	7:00 pm
29	Sun	Upper Newport Bay Monthly Bird Walk.....	8:00 am