

SEA AND SAGE AUDUBON SOCIETY
BIRDS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
An Introductory Birding Skills Workshop
Presented by Sylvia R. Gallagher

Sea and Sage Audubon Society is again offering a ten-week workshop on bird identification for beginning birders or those with a small amount of knowledge, which is likely disorganized and lacking in unifying principles. Professional biologists whose expertise is not in ornithology, or whose studies have been confined to just a few species or places, will find this workshop helpful, too. Each session will feature about 15 common birds of a particular local habitat on the coastal side of the mountains. With the use of printed worksheets and photos from the Sea and Sage Library, Sylvia Gallagher will help you to learn to identify those birds. In the process, you'll also be introduced to a variety of other topics, such as bird families, plumages and molts, bird topography, distribution and habitat preferences, behavior, vocalizations, the birding literature, birding ethics and etiquette, etc.

The topics to be covered in the series are:

1. Birds of neighborhoods.
2. Birds of playing fields and parking lots.
3. Birds of mudflats and shallow water.
4. Birds of the ocean shore.
5. Birds of the open country.
6. Birds of prey.
- 7,8. Birds of the streamside woodland (in 2 parts).
9. Birds of bays, lakes, and marshes.

Each person will attend ten weekly meetings via Zoom. For these, you'll need a computer and good internet access. Although sharing computers is possible, for best results, each person should have his/her own computer in a separate room.

You will choose one of these three sections to attend:

- Tues., 9:00 a.m. - ca. noon, Oct. 6 - Dec. 15 except Nov. 24.
- Wed., 7:00 - ca. 10:00 p.m., Oct. 7 - Dec. 16 except Nov. 25.
- Thurs., 7:00 - ca. 10:00 p.m., Oct. 8 - Dec. 17 except Nov. 26.

Expect an occasional session to run up to 30 minutes late.

Four half-day field trips to Orange County locations will be scheduled, and each time you may choose Saturday or Monday. They are on the weekends following the 3rd, 5th, 7th, and 9th workshop sessions. Participants will be divided into small groups of 5-10 people with an experienced leader. The places will be Huntington Central Park (Oct. 24, 26), Crescent Bay Point & Upper Newport Bay (Nov. 7, 9), Irvine Regional Park (Nov. 21, 23), and Yorba Regional Park (Dec. 12, 14)--all Orange County locations. Except for FT No. 2, which depends on the tides, the trips will run from 8:00 am till around noon. The workshop class sessions will be presented remotely using Zoom to accommodate people who don't live close-by, and also meet popular demand.

Mail (not email) your reservation (see form below) for this workshop, **postmarked no earlier than Sept. 8** (2-day penalty for early reservations), to "Introductory Workshop, Sylvia Gallagher, 21562 Kaneohe Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92646." Priority for placement in sections will be based on postmark date. **Enclose a LONG (4" x 9½") self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE).** If you can afford it, also please enclose a workshop donation of \$130.00 (check, cashier's check, or money order), made out to Sea and Sage Audubon Society. **Confirmations will be mailed Sept. 28**, including further information. The donation may be paid in 2 installments, half with your reservation and the other half by Nov. 7.

The maximum enrollment for each section is 21. If any section does not have at least 12 people enrolled by Sept. 24, it will be canceled. Reserve early, though, because some sections may fill quickly.

The required book for the workshop is the **7th (definitely NO OTHER!!) edition** of the *National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America* by Dunn and Alderfer. This book is out of print, but used ones are available.. Recommended, but not required, is *Birds of Southern California* by Garrett, Dunn, and Small.

Shortly after the confirmations are mailed, you will also receive, this time via email, an access code to a portion of Sea and Sage's Dropbox, where you will find the workshop's introductory pictures plus the printed material in .pdf form. **YOU WILL HAVE TO PRINT OUT THE TEXTUAL MATERIAL.** Read first the Dropbox document entitled "Read first" for further information.

If you have questions, contact Sylvia at sjrgallagher@yahoo.com (preferred) or 714-962-8990. If you phone and get no answer, don't leave a message; write an email instead.

Print VERY neatly!!! Be sure no symbol is ambiguous.

ENROLLMENT FORM - INTRODUCTORY BIRDING SKILLS WORKSHOP (FALL, 2026)

Names of all participants _____

Address(es) _____

City _____ ZIP _____ Phone(s) _____

Home email _____ Work email _____

Check (or rank) your choice of section for the Zoom **workshop meetings:**

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

Rank your level of birding experience. This will help us plan the field trip leadership.

TOTAL beginner _____ In between _____ Some experience, perhaps patchy _____

SASE enclosed? _____ Workshop donation enclosed? _____ Amount now. _____