

Marsh Education Project Annual Report 2024

"Great experience, very personal care and a family-like sense of community."

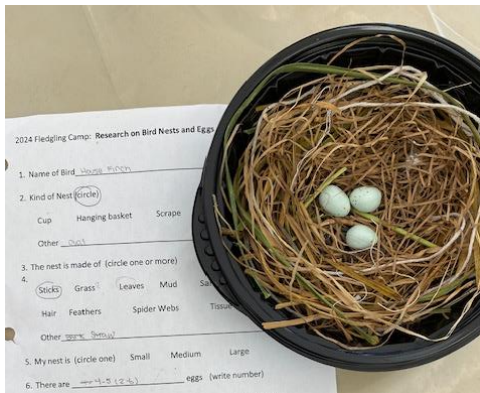
Because of your support in 2024, over 10,900 adults and children better understand the importance of birds, their habitat, and how to protect them. We are fortunate to have so many people volunteer their time, donate money, enroll in our programs, spread the word and more. Thank you for caring about birds and the environment, and enabling others to experience nature at the beautiful San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary! We are especially grateful to:

- **Irvine Ranch Water District** for providing the facilities and maintenance for the past 32 years!
- **Audubon Naturalists:** 62 adults & 9 teens who donated their talents and time totaling over 5,300 hours.
- **School Bus Donors:** 40 donors contributed \$15,355 to bring Santa Ana school children to the marsh.
- **Education donors:** 32 who generously gave \$55,373 to keep all programs and paid staff fully functioning.
- **1 Anonymous Foundation** for \$50,000 to enroll Santa Ana classes in Outdoor Adventures 2024-25.



WE SHARED SCIENCE WITH SCHOOL CHILDREN AND THEIR TEACHERS

- Outdoor Adventures – 45 Santa Ana classes + 4 other classes.
 - Naturalists and New Naturalists – 30 + 6 dedicated volunteers.
 - Bus Scholarships – raised \$14,355 for 42 trips (a few double classes).
 - Naturalist Manual completely rewritten– anonymous donation.
- Quote: "These kinds of field trips are a great opportunity for our students to experience something they do not see at school or in a book. My students were in a lab using microscopes and looking at living microorganisms. This experience is not something they will forget about." Diamond School teacher.



WE SHOWED CAMPERS THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF BIRDS AND THEIR HABITATS

- Total 76 children and teens enrolled in the following 4 camps:
 - Fledgling Camp for 7-8 year olds – 22 children
 - Marsh Camp for 9-10 year olds – 23 children
 - Coastal Camp for 11-12 year olds – 20 children
 - Advanced Camp – Grasslands for 13-16 year olds – 11 teens
- Quote: "Our child cares about the earth more and uses less plastic." Camp parent.
- Quote: "My daughter points out birds as we drive and tries to guess what they are." Camp parent.



WE PROVIDED NATURE RESOURCES TO THE COMMUNITY

- Bat Walks – 7 summer night walks with 105 people.
 - Junior Naturalists – 23 teens on monthly trips and stewardship.
 - Nature Discovery Kits – 8 loans reached 619 people.
 - Taxidermy Specimens – 26 loans and displays in Audubon House and at community events reached 8,556 people.
 - Specialty Tours – 9 presentations reached 288 people.
- Quote: "Throughout the group, there was general wonder and awe. As the bats dipped closer to us, participants became more excited about the encounter. By the end of the walk, we were being thanked with smiles and comments about how great the bats were. All in all, a perfect night." Bat Walk leader Ellen Mansour.

If you would like to learn how to volunteer with the Marsh Education Project or make a donation, please contact Education Project Director Trude Hurd: SeaAndSageEducation@gmail.com.

AUDUBON NATURALISTS. We are proud of these volunteers who are vital to our programs.

- **Adults (56):** Darrel Airhart, Phyllis Anderson, Ann Barbour, Mindy Bergen, Rudi Berkelhamer, Michael Binder, Claire Bischoff, Kathy Blackmarr, Dejoie Blumberg, Dawn Bonker, Deborah Brin, Kelly Christensen, Tina Coombe, Teresa Cullen, Linda Daily, Bettina Eastman, Deb Gala, Amanda Gaskin, Kate Grabenstein, Sue Henry, Chris Holland, Judi Houlihan, Trude Hurd, Star Howard, Teri Jones-White, Julia Kim, Susan Kramer, Babs Levitan, Doug Lithgow, Ellen Mansour, Maya Matkin, Lori Mayeda, Karen McKinley, Hannah Mitchell, Alison Mizera, Paula Monroe, Mary Naasz, Jodi Newell, Carolyn Noble, Laura Osteen, Gail Richards, Jean Savage, Dev Sellen, Ellyn Siskind, Sandy Smith, Debbie Spurr, Stephanie Tanton, Russell Tanton, Ellen Tipping, Dan Trinidad, Pat Vranicar, Barbara Wasbin, Larry Wasbin, Amy Wisneskie, Irene Wotta, and Mary Ellen Wynn.
- **Special thanks** to Amanda Gaskin, Deborah Brin, Mary Ellen Wynn, Debbie Spurr and Kathy Blackmarr who each donated 200-500 hours!
- **Youth (9):** Nina Arnold, Jude Flores, Javier Greenway, Jolee Kuo, Annabel Meng, Aashay Mody, Peregrine Reed, Lili Sebestyn, and Jake Xia.
- **New Outdoor Adventures Naturalists in training (6):** Sandra Geiler, Mary Harward, Youlin Kingery, Michele Meyer, Emma Trammell, and Ray Wong.



FINANCIAL AND IN-KIND SUPPORT

- Partnership: We greatly appreciate our extraordinary partnership with the Irvine Ranch Water District for the past 32 years at the beautiful San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine.
- Grant: Very special thanks to a long-time Anonymous Foundation for their very generous \$50,000 grant.
- General Education Fund: \$48,298 raised from 23 donors: Anonymous (2), Kelsi Black, Gordon Generation Foundation, Tim & Mary Harward, Lena Hayashi, Amy Jackson, Daniel & Betty Kanne Charitable Fund, Nancy Kenyon, Paul Klahr, Gary & Maya Matkin, Mary Naasz, Newport Hills Garden Club, R. Phillips, Margaret Renton, Catherine Reynolds, Roger's Gardens, Ann Sakai, Kristine Swan, John & Karen Terry, Wickramasinghe Family Fund, Sudha Warriar and Jan Wilson.
- School Bus Fund: \$15,355 raised from 40 donors: Anonymous (1), Mark Adamson & Nancy Tschiderer, Georginia Elise Albi, Sonia Appell, Matt & Carolyn Biller, Kathy Blackmarr, Dejoie Blumberg, Dawn Bonker, Armida Brashears, Bev Krassner Bulas (2), Sandra Geiler, Diane Gillespie, Gwen Ginocchio, Kate Grabenstein, Debbie & Rachel Hays, Barbara Hosmer, Holly Joslin, Steve Kaye, Nancy Kenyon, James & Charice King (2), Patricia Knight, Erin & Brent Kraus, Li Larson, Babs Levitan, Robin Maguire, Cynthia Nelson, Carol Paquette (2), Helen Porter, Janice Rhoads, Sharon & Richard Ricciuti, Dev Sellen, Patricia Smith, Sandy Smith, Art Strauss, Stephanie Tanton, Edith & Tom Van Huss, Tammah Watts.
- Taxidermy Donations: Sue Henry sponsored the new Great Blue Heron.
- Camp Scholarships: We awarded 9 scholarships and raised \$1,975 from 7 donors: Kathy Blackmarr, Deborah Brin, Ann Harmer, Mary Joseph, Carolyn Noble, Bev Spring and Mary Ellen Wynn.
- Junior Naturalists: We received \$3,000 from one Anonymous donor to support birding trips for teens.



PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS FOR OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

- Santa Ana: Adams, Advanced Learning Academy, Diamond, Esqueda, Garfield, Harvey, Heninger, Kennedy, Lincoln, Madison, Martin, Roosevelt, Santiago, Thorpe, and Washington
- Other: California from Costa Mesa and Harbor Day from Newport Beach.

NEW STAFF – Education Assistant Mindy Bergen

- We welcome Mindy who was hired in March 2024 to work 2 days a week for Outdoor Adventures and other programs. Mindy has a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry and worked at Irvine Ranch Water District for 19 years as Chemistry Lab Supervisor.



We welcome new volunteers and donations as we share the importance of birds and their habitats with our local community. Ask how you can get involved: SeaAndSageEducation@gmail.com.