

Marsh Education Project's Annual Report 2025

"Many of my students don't get to be outside in nature in their daily lives. My students left that day excited about nature, excited about birds, energized to protect them, excited to use binoculars and microscopes again, excited to hear about more outdoor spaces they could visit." Adams Elementary School teacher, Santa Ana.

Imagine this...Excited chatter of school children using microscopes for the first time to see small aquatic animals. Young campers watching Tree Swallows enter and exit the wooden nest boxes. Teenagers eagerly comparing notes during an outing to the Salton Sea. Caring adults learning how to protect birds in their backyard. Because of your support in 2025, Sea and Sage Audubon's education naturalists accomplished these experiences and much more for over 8,600 guests in the community (read below). Perhaps you will join us in 2026? Email Trude Hurd, Project Director of Education: EducationDirector@seaandsage.org.



WE TAUGHT SCIENCE WITH SCHOOL CHILDREN AND THEIR TEACHERS

- Outdoor Adventures: 1,300 students in 46 Santa Ana classes + 2 other classes (Title 1).
- Naturalists: 33 experienced volunteers and 7 in training.
- *Quote: "Science field trips like this provide meaningful, real-world learning experiences that cannot be replicated in the classroom. They deepen student understanding, increase curiosity, and inspire students to care about their environment by seeing firsthand how their actions affect local ecosystems." Taft teacher.*

WE SHOWED CAMPERS THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF BIRDS AND THEIR HABITATS

- Total 80 children and teens enrolled in 4 camps:
- Fledgling Camp for 7-8 year olds – 21 children
- Marsh Camp for 9-10 year olds – 24 children
- Coastal Camp for 11-12 year olds – 20 children
- Advanced Camp–Sparrows for 13-16 year olds – 15 teens
- *Quote: "Well run, beautiful location, inclusive." Parent 2025*
- *Quote: "This camp gets them connected to nature in a unique way." Parent 2025*



WE SHARED NATURE WITH ALL AGES

- Bat Walks – 10 summer night walks with 164 people and 2 community outreach tables & talks about bats with 112 people.
- Junior Naturalists – 24 teens built friendships on monthly trips and Christmas Bird Counts.
- Nature Discovery Kits – 15 loans reached 200.
- Taxidermy Specimens – 37 loans and displays in Audubon House and at community events reached 6,444 people.
- Children's Library at Audubon House (NEW).

EDUCATION AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEES PARTNERED TO BE A NATURE-RESOURCE TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

- Two-table display about backyard birds at Amy Tan's lecture at UCI's Barkley Theater.
- Five-table display about hazards to birds and how we can help them during SJWS Earth Day.
- Two-table display about hummingbirds during 5 summer weekends at Roger's Gardens.
- Two-table display about owls, bats, and corvids at Sherman Garden's Creatures Features.

AUDUBON NATURALISTS. These volunteers donated **nearly 4,800 hours** and are vital to our programs.

- **Adults (60) and Trainees (7):** Darrel Airhart, Phyllis Anderson, Ann Barbour, Mindy Bergen, Michael Binder, Claire Bischoff, Kathy Blackmarr, Dejoie Blumberg, Dawn Bonker, Deborah Brin, Teresa Cullen, Linda Daily, Christine Dickey, Bettina Eastman, Bobby Figarotta, Deb Gala, Amanda Gaskin, Sandra Geiler, Ellie Gonzales, Kate Grabenstein, Roberta Hall, Mary Harward, Sue Henry, Chris Holland, Judi Houlihan, Star Howard, Teri Jones-White, Jasmine Kay, Julia Kim, Susan Kramer, Babs Levitan, Doug Lithgow, Elsa Lizarzaburu, Lori Mayeda, Christine McCormick, Michele Meyer, Alison Mizera, Paula Monroe, Mary Naasz, Maia Nguyen, Laura Osteen, Paige Press, Carmen Prieto, Brenda Sabin, Jean Savage, Dev Sellen, Ellyn Siskind, Sandy Smith, Debbie Spurr, Stephanie Tanton, Astrid Taen, Emma Trammell, Dan Trinidad, Pat Vranicar, Barbara Wasbin, Larry Wasbin, Amy Wisneskie, Ray Wong, Irene Wotta, and Mary Ellen Wynn plus Outdoor Adventures trainees Leslie Slevin, Kristeen Stolo, Hsini Shyu, Miriam Perry, Sergio Tellez, Jessica Vazquez and Jasmine Kay.
- **Youth (8):** Nina Arnold, Kira Blick, Jude Flores, Javier Greenway, Annabel Meng, Maria Neemuchwala, Solana Wang, and Jake Xia.

FINANCIAL AND IN-KIND SUPPORT

- **Partnership:** We greatly appreciate our extraordinary partnership with the Irvine Ranch Water District for the past 33 years at the beautiful San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine. Your staff are so helpful!
- **Grants:** Very special thanks to a long-time Anonymous Foundation for their very generous \$50,000 grant for Outdoor Adventures. We also thank new donor Stanley W. Ekstrom Foundation for their kind \$10,000 grant for bus transportation for Outdoor Adventures 2025-26.
- **General Education Fund:** \$54,718 raised from 26 donors: Anonymous, Mark Adamson & Nancy Tschiderer, Kelsi Black, AnnMarie Breuer, Carol Getz, Tom Getz, Gordon Generation Foundation, Sharon Hansen, Lena Hayashi, Barbara Hosmer, Melissa Jacobson, Betty Kanne, Patricia Knight, Tracey Maquire, Shelly & Gordon Mandel, Maya & Gary Matkin, Karen McKinley, Rita Phillips, Kirk Radmore, Ann Sakai, Kurt Speidel, Christine Swan, Sudha Warriar, Mary Weaver, Linda & Tod White Charitable Fund, and Wickramasinghe Family Fund in memory of Sophie Wickramasinghe.
- **Outdoor Adventures School Bus Fund:** \$14,790 raised from 23 donors: Anonymous, Anaheim United Methodist Church's Circle of Hope, Sonia Appell, Mary Converse, Mary & Thomas Cupp in memory of Amy Newsum, Judith Frantz, Kate Grabenstein, Holly Joslin, Paul Klahr, Patricia Knight, Ce & Chuck Leavell, Babs Levitan, Michele Meyer, Nancy Moore, Kurt Noble & Kate Haug in memory of Carolyn Noble, Helen Porter, Barbara Reber, Debra Sorensen, Stephanie Tanton, Edith & Tom Van Huss, Joel & Gloria Weintraub, Philip Westin, and Emma Willsey.
- **Outdoor Adventures Literacy:** \$800 raised from 5 donors: Lauren Andrews, Li Larson, Cynthia Nelson, Carol Paquette, and Mary Weaver.
- **Junior Naturalists:** \$3,873 raised from 3 donors: Anonymous, Brenda Sabin, and Stephanie Tanton.
- **Camp Scholarships:** \$1,353 raised from 7 donors: Anonymous, Kathy Blackmarr, Deborah Brin, Annie Jelnick, Mary Joseph, Ying Law, and Bev Spring.
- **Taxidermy Donations:** \$17,000 raised from 3 donors: Thomas Harward, Shelly & Gordon Mandel, and Carol Smith.
- **In Memory of Ralph Sugg for Taxidermy of Great Horned Owl:** \$3,560 raised from 28 donors: Brent Bowling, Edward Boyes, Roxann Brunner, Eva Burdett, Curry Trust, Edress Davis, Peggy & Steve Grindrod, Sandra Hibbert, Renee Hollandsworth, Jerry Johnson, Mary Joseph, Jami Josifek, Carmen Jurado, Kent & Karen Lang, Diann Lutche, Kathleen Malley, Teresa McClaskey, Don & Cheryl Ogden, Britta Palanjian, Joseph Proctor, Sylvia Ré, Eric & Kimberly Roeland, Dr. & Mrs. Lawrence Seidman, Justin & Alison Smith, Sandy Smith, Anne & Ned Strong, Dennis & Marcella Valentine, and Mary Anne & Claude Weatherwax.

