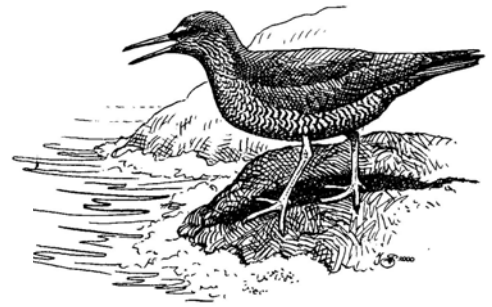


Wandering Tattler

September 2025
Volume 75, Number 1



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

End of Summer Update *Melissa Rapp, President*

It's hard to believe that summer is almost over. Your Board members have been busy this summer. In June, the Board welcomed the returning and new 2025-2026 members. I stepped into the role of president. I am passionate about preserving biodiversity and habitats. Our vice president is Scott Thomas. Scott comes with many years of experience as a Conservation Biologist and Sea and Sage Board member. Mary Harward has stepped into the challenging role of treasurer with ease and grace. Sudha Warriar easily transitioned from director to secretary. We also welcomed two new directors, Mary Naasz and Heather Earnhart, and Pete Gordon took on a vacant director position. Thank you to all of those on the Board who help to make our programming possible.

This summer Marsh Education hosted its wonderful camps that are inspiring the next generation. The bat walks sold out in record time.

In July, Chris Byrd, Sudha Warriar, and I represented Sea and Sage at the Audubon Leadership Conference in Montreal. We came back inspired by remarkable leaders and amazing projects, including several to reduce bird strikes, increase native plant habitat, and protect migration routes. Our annual BBQ was held on a beautiful evening in July; it was led by Gail Richards and a fantastic team of volunteers. Thank you to everyone who made this event possible!

July was also marked by the loss of Carolyn Noble, longtime anchor of the Marsh Education program, Board member, and beloved friend to many of us. She will be greatly missed.

Thank you to all the donors to the chapter. This summer Sea and Sage received a generous, anonymous donation of \$10,000 to Marsh Education in the name of Doreen Johnson. The Floral Park Neighborhood Association donated \$500 after Sea and Sage participated in the Floral Parks Open Garden Day. Roger's Gardens is hosting a Hummingbird Summer Program as I write this message that generates a significant donation to Marsh Education.

As we think of what Audubon is doing globally and then what Sea and Sage is doing locally, we realize that many thousands of people are working to make better shared spaces for birds. Your support and collaboration make us stronger!

Hybrid GENERAL MEETING - Zoom and in person Presentation Friday, September 19th - 7:00 PM

"Monarchs and Milkweeds: What nature-lovers need to know" *presented by Ron Vanderhoff*



Ron Vanderhoff will lead us on an illustrated discussion about the plight of the Western Monarch butterfly and specifically how local individuals can assist their recovery. The program will begin with

an understanding of monarch biology, life cycle, food plants, and migration. Ron will provide an update about current population issues with the western population and finish with specifics about how each of us can play a vital role in monarch recovery.

For forty years Ron Vanderhoff has been a leader in the plant community and for the past twenty+ years at Roger's Gardens in Newport Beach, where he is the General Manager and Vice President. He is a member of several science or advisory committees, including the UCI School of Biological Sciences, the California Invasive Plant Council, Saddleback and Orange Coast College Horticulture Departments, and UC's statewide Integrated Pest Management. He is President and Chairman of the Board of Calflora and an officer and Plant Science leader for the Orange County Chapter of the CA Native Plant Society

For those meeting in-person at the San Joaquin Marsh Learning Center, social time starts at 6:15 pm, speaker starts at 7:00 pm. Light refreshments will be available.

For those attending by Zoom, virtual meeting room opens at 6:30 pm and speaker starts at 7:00 pm.

Link to join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 841 9842 3399

Need help? Email Melissa Rapp at president@seaandsage.org

Conservation News

Susan Sheakley, Conservation Chair



Meetings This Month/Contact Persons:

Conservation Com TU 6:45 Sept 2/Susan Sheakley; Coastal Issues mtg 6:30 Sept 8/Scott Thomas; Tackling Climate & Trash TU 4:00 Sept 16/Sudha Warriar; Bird Collisions W 7:00 Sept 17/Hope Guerra; Legislation & Advocacy SU Sept 28 4:30/Vic Leipzig.

'4th Tuesday' Conservation Lecture

Tuesday, Sept. 23 -7:00 pm
Zoom Doors will open at 6:30 pm



"The Orange County Agricultural Commissioner's Office and the State of Agriculture in Orange County"

*presented by Emily Hesselgrave,
Senior Agricultural Inspector,
Agricultural Services Programs Supervisor*

The Orange County Agricultural Commissioner and Sealer of Weights and Measures Office (OCAWM) serves the public of Orange County by intercepting and managing harmful agricultural pests, ensuring the safe use of pesticides, and upholding consumer fairness through accurate weights and measures enforcement.



This talk will provide a deep dive into the various programs and services offered by OCAWM with an emphasis on agricultural services and environmental protection programs that support our local ecosystems and agribusinesses.

Advance registration is required for this event and will be available through the website under 'What's New' and 'Conservation.'

Bird Collisions by Hope Guerra & Kira Blick

According to a Smithsonian study as many as **1 billion birds** die in North America each year after colliding with buildings and glass surfaces. These tragic and preventable deaths are one of the largest sources of human-caused bird mortality. But change is possible.

With the right information and community support we can make significant improvements to help protect birds. That's why we formed the **Bird Collisions Committee**: to spread awareness, advocate for bird-friendly practices, and build a future where birds can safely share our skies and cities.

We're approaching the issue from several angles:

- Helping individuals make their **homes bird-safe**
- Promoting **bird-friendly design** in new development
- Supporting efforts to **retrofit existing buildings**
- **Lobbying local governments** to adopt bird-friendly ordinances and policies

As part of our growing efforts, one of our committee members, Kira Blick, has taken the lead on an exciting new initiative that puts these goals into action at the local level. To promote the reduction of light pollution and protect migrating birds, Kira has led our committee in lobbying for the Lights Out program, a National Audubon initiative, to local governments across Orange County. The program encourages buildings to dim or turn off non-essential lighting during spring and fall migration seasons, helping to prevent birds from becoming disoriented by artificial lights and colliding with hazardous structures. On July 8th, Kira advocated before the City Council of Mission Viejo to urge the implementation of Lights Out measures. Her leadership in these initial actions has built significant momentum for our committee's campaign, and we are working to expand the program to more cities across the county.

This is a community-wide effort, and **we need your voice**. If you're passionate about protecting birds, we encourage you to join our committee. We meet via Zoom on the **third Wednesday of each month**, and all are welcome—whether you're a seasoned advocate or just curious to learn more. Email Hope at birdcollisions@seaandsage.org to join!

Education News This Autumn

Trude Hurd, Project Director of Education

New Naturalist Training Class Begins in Fall

Would you like to share nature with children, make new friends, and spend time in a beautiful wetland? We are now accepting applications for Outdoor Adventures Naturalist training program which begins in early September. Training consists of 4 classes and 9 practice sessions on Tuesday and/or Thursday mornings from 9 AM to 12:30 PM with make-up dates available. Lots of hands-on opportunities make it fun!

After graduation, volunteers lead small groups of 4-5th grade Santa Ana students through a science program with binoculars, microscopes, and taxidermy bird specimens at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine. You don't need to be a bird expert, just kind with children. Retired teachers a plus. Commitment is 2 mornings per month and you choose your dates!

To get the Fall Training Schedule and talk with our Project Director, contact Trude Hurd by email: SeaAndSageEducation@gmail.com.



Update on Funding Santa Ana School Buses

Our Education Team is happy to report that eleven Sea and Sage members responded to our plea in the June Wandering Tattler for additional school bus donations. As a result, all Spring 2025 school buses were **fully funded** to bring Santa Ana school children to the marsh for a fantastic science program.

Many thanks to Sonia Appell, Mary Converse, Mary Cupp & Thomas Makar in memory of Amy Newsum, Holly Joslin, Ce & Chuck Leavell, Babs Levitan, Michele Meyer, Kurt Noble & Kate Haug in memory of Carolyn Noble, Debra Sorensen, and Emma Willsey. Each of you has helped to make a positive impact on the lives of Santa Ana school children!

We are always searching for new donors for Outdoor Adventures, so we were excited to hear about a local couple who support education for disadvantaged children.



The result? We are extremely grateful to the **Stanley W. Ekstrom Foundation** for donating \$10,000 to pay for Fall 2025-Spring 2026 school bus transportation and other necessary tour materials! This gift enables fifty classes of 4-5th graders from the Santa Ana School District to do classroom studies about urban runoff and wetland birds, and then come to the marsh where they use binoculars and microscopes to make personal discoveries about birds and aquatic invertebrate animals. Kind-hearted donors like the Stanley W. Ekstrom Foundation are making science come alive for local school children that have had limited opportunities for field trips. Thank you!

How do Birds Beat the Heat?

Autumn brings some of Orange County's hottest weather. We can retreat to air-conditioned buildings, but how do birds cope with extreme heat? And is there anything we can do to help? Birds cannot sweat, so instead they pant. Have you seen a bird holding its beak open and vibrating its throat? This behavior is called **gular flutter** where the bird passes air rapidly into its air sacs to help them lose heat through evaporation. But panting uses up water so birds need a clean source of water for drinking. We can help by putting clean water in shallow bowls and bird baths or providing a recirculating fountain. Birds can also use this water to cool down by bathing!



Birds also avoid the heat of the day by retreating to shade. We can plant a variety of native trees, shrubs and ground cover where birds can rest. These plants also offer seeds, berries, fruit, and attract insects which give birds watery food in times of scarcity.

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

The tail-end of spring migration is typically when we see many of our most exciting and outrageous vagrants: hopelessly lost wanderers pitching down wherever they can find a little patch of habitat on their way north. This year proved to be an exception, with very few out-of-the-ordinary species observed in May and June. Hopefully fall migration fares better, though the slow start to shorebird migration does not bode well. Nevertheless, let's all be vigilant in checking our patches in hopes for some cool birds in August and September.

At least two **Black Swifts** were seen at Quail Hill Preserve on May 14; potentially the same birds were at San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary the following day. At least four **Calliope Hummingbirds** passed through the county in May: two at Irvine Regional park, May 1-5, one at Black Star Canyon, and one in Laguna Niguel, both on May 6.

The long-staying Dana Point **American Oystercatcher** was last seen July 15. Undoubtedly the highlight for this period was a long-overdue first county **Red-necked Stint**, a one-day wonder at



Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, June 23. A fruitless search for this vagrant unearthed a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at the same location on

June 24. Other than these two species, the 2025 shorebird season has been off to a very slow start, the only other species of note being a slightly early **Solitary Sandpiper**, July 28.

The May 3 Sea and Sage pelagic trip produced a remarkable 165 **Sabine's Gulls** at various points offshore, which may be a record count for the county. Two **Franklin's Gulls** were seen flying over Huntington Beach, May 7, while a **Laughing Gull** was seen at Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, July 20. Bolsa Chica's run of remarkable observations continued with a **Sooty Tern**, July 21, the first in the county since 2014. Bolsa Chica also hosted several **Common Terns** through much of July, including two on July 15. **Pigeon Guillemots** were seen off Newport Pier, June 5, and offshore, June 27. Two

Craveri's Murrelets were the highlights of an otherwise unremarkable summer Sea and Sage pelagic trip.

A late inland **Common Loon** at Walnut Canyon Reservoir was last seen, May 7. The invasion of **Neotropic Cormorants** into the county continues unabated, with a high count of 16 at the Upper Santa Ana River, July 27. Four **Western Cattle-Egrets** were at San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary, July 5, with one continuing through July 16; an additional bird was at Anaheim Coves Park, July 13. An **American Bittern** at San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary, May 19-June 17 was a recently reported summer record.

Loggerhead Shrikes have become near-nonexistent in the county during the summer months, so individuals at Talbert Regional Park, July 21-28, the Santa Ana River Mouth, July 29, and Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, July 30 were welcome records. While they may have been holdovers from last winter's flight year, the late timing and proximate timing suggest a possible post-breeding dispersal. A **Red-eyed Vireo** was at Huntington Central Park, May 29-June 2, while a **Townsend's Solitaire** at Mile Square Regional Park, May 3, was exceptionally late. 2024-2025 was a poor winter for **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, which makes it even more remarkable that a pair appeared to have summered at Clark Regional Park, at least through July 13. There are fewer than five recent summer records for the county.

A **Brewer's Sparrow** at Laguna Coast Wilderness Park, May 10, was a fairly late spring migrant, as was a **Green-tailed Towhee** at Huntington Central Park, May 31-June 1. **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were observed throughout much of the county from May to July. Exceptionally few spring vagrant warblers were present in the county this year: a presumably continuing **American Redstart** at Huntington Central Park, May 5, and **Tennessee Warbler** at Carbon Canyon Regional Park, May 18. A **Northern Parula** at Gilman Park, July 6-13, may have summered in the area. A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was at Huntington Central Park, May 22-24; potentially a different individual was seen June 14. An **Indigo Bunting** was at Canyon Park, May 31-July 1.

Chapter News & Announcements



For more information about Sea & Sage activities, check the CALENDARS on our chapter webpage at seaandsageaudubon.org



Audubon House Volunteers

We would like to thank the following people for helping to staff Audubon House in June, July, August, and Sept:

Kathy Blackmarr, Leslie El-

Sayad, Greg Figge, Bridget Gardner, Jade Goodman, John Hargrove, Ann Harmer, Mary Harward, Sue Henry, Dawn Hubbard, Sarah Jayne, Braedon Kamm, Mary Meister, Paula Monroe, Kelly Morgan, Dagmar Muthamia, Steve Muthamia, Michelle Olson, Barbara Reber, Jennifer Reed, Sofia Russell, Brenda Sabin, Paul Saiki, Dev Sellin, Nicole Servi-McKeever, Hsini Shyu, Iyla Soumbasakis, Catherine Steinberg, Art Strauss, 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 Dev Sellin, 714-943-3682, or Paula Monroe, 480-299-9885.

Birds Are on the Move - How Can You Help?

September is a wonderful time to welcome birds into our yards. Many species are migrating and searching for safe places to rest and refuel along the way. In his inspiring new book, *How Can I Help?* Doug Tallamy shows us exactly how to support them. Whether it's planting a single container of California natives like buckwheat, coyote mint, and yarrow—or going bigger by replacing the lawn with native plants—every effort makes a difference. Add a simple birdbath, and your yard becomes a valuable stopover for birds on the move.

Looking for more ideas? **The Nature Store** offers a wonderful selection of books on native plants and gardening for birds. Stop by and explore resources to help you create a beautiful, bird-friendly space this fall.

Our Summer Barbecue in July

If you missed this year's Summer BBQ, you missed a good one! Gail Richards did a great job organizing the event and it ran like clock-work. The food was delicious, the BBQ volunteers did a great job, the event ran on schedule, and the weather was pleasant! I'd like to thank all the volunteers who helped out with this event: parking helpers, set up and take down the tables & easy-ups helpers, musicians, kitchen helpers, cake cut & plate helpers, BBQ chefs and their assistants, those who picked up & delivered food, drink table helpers, watermelon preparers, all the Junior Naturalists who served their the food and did a number of other tasks as well, scrape & rinse station helpers, meal ticket helpers, bird walk leaders, book sale helpers, welcome table helpers, program helpers, all the dinner cleanup helpers, and any helpers group I missed. Next year's Summer Barbecue will be on July 25; we hope you to see you there!

Coastal Cleanup Day in OC Sat, Sept. 20: 9 - Noon



To participate in Coastal Cleanup Day sponsored by the CA Coastal Commission, check for details on their webpage at coastal.ca.gov Detailed Information on organized cleaning sites for our coastal beaches and inland waterways are now posted on their webpage.

Adopt a Beach

Commit to care for your favorite beach through our [year-round, statewide beach cleanup program](http://year-round.statewidebeachcleanupprogram.org). Any group, public or private, can volunteer to clean any of our adoptable beaches. The OC beaches in this program are: Huntington State Beach, Bolsa Chica State Beach, San Clemente State Beach, Santa Ana Delhi Channel.

Reading Group: Tues, Sept. 16 – 1 to 2:30

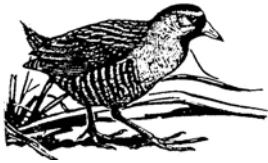
Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed by Jared Diamond. Check our chapter website and look under the heading of Calendars for the Reading Group calendar Zoom link for these meetings.

Help Santa Ana Children Increase Their Literacy

One important aspect of Outdoor Adventures program is that we assist children with reading and science literacy. Before their field trip to the marsh, we give each Santa Ana student our 28-page *Birds of SJWS* field guide. For many, this is their first book to own, and they keep it for many years.

We also provide each Santa Ana student with 3 issues of *Audubon Adventures*, National Audubon's nature newsletters for 3-5th graders. These issues introduce basic scientific principles through class activities, non-fiction reading, games, and stories about how children are caring for our planet. Learn more at their website: <https://audubonadventures.org/>.

In 2025-6, we expect to spend \$4,000 on the *Birds of SJWS* field guide and \$2,500 for three issues of *Audubon Adventures*. Would you consider donating \$50, \$100, or more to help Santa Ana school children learn to care about the natural world? If yes, please send your check payable to *Sea and Sage Audubon* and send to Literacy, Sea and Sage Audubon, 5 Riparian View, Irvine, CA 92612. Your donation makes an impact on children. Thank you!



Sea and Sage Audubon Society 2025
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 most likely disorganized. 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. mornings: 9:00 a.m. – ca. noon, Sept. 30 – Dec. 9 except Nov. 25
Wed. evenings: 7:00 – ca.10:00 pm, Oct 1 – Dec. 10 except Nov. 26
Thurs. evenings: 7:00 – ca.10:00 pm, Oct. 2 – Dec. 11 except Nov. 27

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. 18, 20), Crescent Bay Point & Upper Newport Bay (Nov. 1, 3), Irvine Regional Park (Nov. 15,17), and Yorba Regional Park (Dec. 6, 8), all Orange County locations. Except for FT #2, which depends on the tides, the trips will run from 8:00 AM till around noon. The workshop is presented remotely using Zoom to accommodate people who don't live close by and also meet popular demand.

Mail your reservation (see form below) for this workshop, **postmarked no earlier than Sept. 3** (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, (check, cashier's check, or money order) made out to Sea and Sage Audubon Society. **Confirmations will be mailed Sept. 22**, including further information. The donation may be paid in 2 installments, half with your reservation and the other half by Nov.1.

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

The required book for the workshop is the **7th edition** (no other!) of the *National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America* by Dunn and Alderfer. Recommended, but not required, is *Birds of Southern California* by Garrett, Dunn, and Small. These books are available in the book section of the Sea and Sage Audubon House Nature Store, open daily from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

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 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.*

Enrollment Form for Workshop

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

Enrollment Form – Introductory Birding Skills Workshop (FALL, 2025)

Names of all participants _____

Address(es) _____

City _____ ZIP _____ Phone(s) _____

E-mail(s) _____

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

TUES. am _____ WED. pm _____ THURS. pm _____



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

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

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

MAIL TO: Introductory Workshop, Sylvia Gallagher, 21562 Kaneohe Ln, Huntington Beach CA 92646

Saying Good-bye to Carolyn Noble

by Gail Richards



Sea and Sage Audubon Society has lost a very beloved friend in Carolyn Noble. She lost her hard fought battle with pancreatic cancer after 2 ½ years.

Carolyn was my best friend for 40 years.

During all of those years, I experienced 4 themes of her life:

1. Her dedicated love of service to children
2. Her love of birds and everything birding
3. She loved adventure of any kind
4. And most of all, her life was centered upon her enduring love of her husband Charlie, her 2 sons Eric and Kurt, and her 3 amazing grandsons Moss, Owen and Clark.

She did meet her newborn grandson, Niki.

As a Board member for Sea and Sage, Carolyn developed amazing friendships with all of us. Her playful, adventurous spirit, her kindness and constant concern for others' needs was unsurpassed. She donated her time and money with love.

She served as Chairman of the Education Committee and partnered with Project Director Trude Hurd to provide the Outdoor Adventures science discovery program for underprivileged 4th-5th graders from Santa Ana. Her love of education drove her to chair a summer camp committee that sponsored 4 weeks of summer camps for 7-16 year olds every summer. She also planned a camp reunion every January so the campers did not lose touch with each other.

Eleven years ago, Carolyn partnered with me to lead the Jr. Naturalist program for 13 to 18 year olds. We had a blast taking "our kids" on field trips once each month.

Carolyn was my sunshine. I looked forward to every minute we had to spend together. She was the essence of caring for others and she glowed with an ever-present positive attitude. There will never be another Carolyn. Her sunshine is gone, but her memories will be with each of us forever and inspire us to be our better selves.

Chapter News & Announcements



For more information about Sea & Sage activities, check the CALENDARS on our webpage:
seaandsageaudubon.org

2025 Bloom-Hays Ecological Research Grant and Zembal Wetland Research Grant:

Sea & Sage Audubon increased the amount of funding available in 2025, increased our outreach, and received almost triple the amount of applications compared to previous years! Applicants requested a total of \$117,380 of funding in 2025. Six excellent student proposals were selected for funding by the Sea and Sage Student Grants Committee.

The objective of the Bloom-Hays Ecological Research Grant is to advance ecological research, particularly research related to avian species and the natural communities upon which they depend, by providing funds or supplies to support research activities benefitting native species and habitats in Southern California.

• **Aiyana Reissman - University of San Diego (MS), \$5,000.** *Exploring the Use of an Endangered Flagship Species as an Ecological Indicator and Icon in Southern California Wetlands.* Aiyana is also developing a curriculum for the "Teachers on the Estuary" program and organizing a community workshop for the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve that will include the release of captive-bred rails to bring together community members and land managers to unite them under this flagship species to help habitat recovery and protection.

• **Mary Tucker - University of California, Riverside (PhD), \$5,000.** *Following the Flowers: Migration and Movement Patterns in Costa's Hummingbird Through Advanced Tracking Technology.* Mary will use new ultralight tracking technology to track the movements of Costa's hummingbirds to understand their annual cycle, include their migration and local movements within Deep Canyon and eventually across their entire range (detection at MOTUS towers).

• **Jill Carpenter - University of California, Los Angeles (PhD), \$4,100.** *Is Prey Availability a Factor in the Decline of a Bat Species in Southern California that is Synanthropic in the Rest of its Range?* Jill's researching whether prey availability is a factor in the decline of big brown bats in Southern California. Her study explores the diet of big brown bats roosting at the urban-wildland interface in Southern California using DNA metabarcoding of guano.

• **George Vetushko, University of California, Los Angeles (MS), \$2,175.** *Nitrate Remediation Potential of Anaerobic Methane Oxidation in a Southern Californian Coastal Wetland.* Anthropogenic activity, including agricultural runoff, may feed high concentrations of nitrate into wetlands and spark harmful eutrophication events, leading to potentially toxic algal blooms. George is exploring nitrogen pathways, specifically, anaerobic oxidation of methane by wetland soil microbes.

• **Vince Rivas, San Diego State University (MS), \$2,175.** *Determining the Presence of a Potential Novel Pathogen in Coast Live Oak (Quercus agrifolia).* Vince is researching a new pathogen discovered in coast live oak acorns. His research would determine the spatial distribution of symptomatic acorns; whether the black acorns are associated with a specific fungal or bacterial species in symptomatic individuals; how the acorn microbiomes differ between symptomatic and asymptomatic trees; whether the pathogen is transmitted horizontally through the soil; and the effects on seedling germination. Vince's research seeks to understand how this pathogen is affecting coast live oak, a keystone plant species.

The objective of the Zembal Wetland Research Grant is to advance ecological research related to coastal wetland habitats of Southern California, including habitats that support shorebirds and seabirds.

• **Nicole Vanelli, California State University, Long Beach (MS), \$3,600.** *Testing Vegetation Effects on Sedimentation as a Measure of Resilience to Sea-Level Rise.* Nicole is researching how the percent cover of vegetation, elevation within the marsh, and sediment supply in the estuary affect sedimentation rate, which influences overall marsh resilience to sea level rise.

She has a beautifully designed experiment to manipulatively test relationships between sedimentation rate and vegetation assemblages (clumped or sparse vegetation of the same percent cover) at two levels of tidal inundation (high and low ends of the middle marsh elevation) in differing sediment regimes (high vs. low sediment supply). Her work is occurring at the Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge and at the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve. She will incorporate the experimentally determined relationship between vegetation and sedimentation into monitoring frameworks that land managers use to estimate resilience to sea level rise and to prioritize restoration measures.

Field Trip Schedule for 2025-2026

For detailed information and registration requirements for these trips, go to our website seaandsageaudubon.org and select Birding / Field Trips. For questions regarding field trips and reservations, email fieldtrips@seaandsageaudubon.org

SEPTEMBER 2025

Sun 14 Bird Walk at the SJWS
Wed 17 UNB by pontoon boat (\$)
Thurs 18 Bolsa Chica Bird Walk
Sun 21 Carbon Canyon Bird Walk
Wed 24 Irvine Regional Park Bird Walk
Fri 26 Accessible Birding at Irvine Reg Park
Sun 28 Monthly Bird Walk at UNB

OCTOBER 2025

Sat 04 Fall Pelagic Trip out of Dana Point (\$)
Tues 07 Quail Hill Open Space Preserve Walk
Sun 12 Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS
Wed 15 UNB by pontoon boat
Thurs 16 Dana Point Harbor Bird Walk (P)
Sun 19 Bi-monthly Anaheim Coves Bird Walk
Sun 26 Monthly Bird Walk at UNB

NOVEMBER 2025

Sat 01 OC Bird of Prey Center (S)
Sun 09 Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS
Wed 19 UNB by pontoon boat (\$)
Thurs 20 Bolsa Chica Bird Walk
Sun 30 Monthly Bird Walk at UNB

DECEMBER 2025

Tue 09 Quail Hill Open Space Preserve Bird Walk
Sun 14 Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS
Wed 17 UNB by pontoon boat (\$)
Sun 21 Northeastern (Inland) CBC
Sat 27 Chino Puente-Hills CBC
Sun 28 Monthly Bird Walk at UNB

JANUARY 2026

Thurs 01 San Juan Capistrano CBC
Sun 04 Coastal CBC
Sun 11 Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS
Thurs 15 Bolsa Chica Bird Walk
Sun 18 Bi-Monthly Carbon Canyon Bird Walk
Wed 21 UNB by pontoon boat (\$)
Sat 24 Winter Pelagic Trip out of Dana Point (\$)
Sa-Su 24/25 Salton Sea Weekend Trip (\$)
Sun 25 Monthly Bird Walk at UNB

FEBRUARY 2026

Sat 07 Caspers Wilderness Park
Sun 08 Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS
Tues 10 Quail Hill Open Space Preserve Bird Walk
Sun 15 San Jacinto Wildlife Area Bird Walk
Sun 15 Bi-Monthly Anaheim Coves Bird Walk
Wed 18 UNB by pontoon boat (\$)
Sun 22 Monthly Bird Walk at UNB

MARCH 2026

Sun 08 Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS
Sun 15 Bi-Monthly Carbon Canyon Bird Walk
Wed 18 UNB by pontoon boat (\$)
Thurs 19 Bolsa Chica Bird Walk
Sun 29 Monthly Bird Walk at UNB

APRIL 2026

Sa-Su 4-5 Eastern Sierra Weekend Trip (\$)
Sun 12 Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS
Tues 14 Quail Hill Open Space Preserve Bird Walk
Wed 15 UNB by pontoon boat (\$)
Sun 19 Bi-Monthly Anaheim Coves Park Bird Walk
Sat 25 James Dilley Preserve (Laguna Beach)
Sun 26 Monthly Bird Walk at UNB

MAY 2026

Sat 02 Spring Pelagic Trip out of Dana Point (\$)
Sun 10 Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS
Sun 17 Bi-Monthly Carbon Canyon Bird Walk
Wed 20 UNB by pontoon boat (\$)
Thurs 21 Bolsa Chica Bird Walk
Sun 31 Monthly Bird Walk at UNB

JUNE 2026

Tues 09 Quail Hill Open Space Preserve Bird Walk
Sun 14 Least Tern Natural Preserve®
Sun 14 Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS
Sun 21 Bi-Monthly Anaheim Coves Park Bird Walk
Sun 28 Monthly Bird Walk at UNB

JULY 2026

Sun 12 Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS
Thurs 16 Bolsa Chica Bird Walk
Sat 18 Summer Pelagic Trip out of Dana Point (\$)
Sun 19 Bi-Monthly Carbon Canyon Bird Walk
Sun 26 Monthly Bird Walk at UNB

AUGUST 2026

Sun 09 Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS
Sat 15 Big Bear Valley (\$)
Sun 16 Anaheim Coves Park Bird Walk
Wed tba UNB by pontoon boat (\$)
Sun 30 Monthly Bird Walk at UNB

(P) - Parking spaces have meters
(R) - Space limited; reservations necessary
See field trips webpage
(\$)- Pay in advance – see webpage writeup for event

Chapter Announcements

Save the Date!
Volunteer Appreciation
Saturday, 10/25/25
10 am to 1 pm

We are celebrating our
incredible volunteers. More
details to come-mark your
calendars!



Accessible Birding and Brunch at Irvine Regional Park Friday, September 6 at 9:00 am

The first accessible birding event of the season will be on Friday, Sept. 26th at 9:00 am at our traditional location, Irvine Regional Park. This event is designed for anyone who likes a slow-paced, easy walk. Attendees can either bird from our picnic tables or their own portable chairs, or join the guided walk on the paved, flat path around the lake. After birding we will enjoy a bring-your-own brunch. Irvine Park is always a popular destination as it has some of the county's oldest coast live oak and California sycamore trees. There are handicapped parking spaces and handicapped restrooms near our location. Use your OC Park card or pay the \$3 park entrance fee. Email Sharon Rockwell at srockwell@writeme.com to register and she will return your email with specific directions for where we will meet.



Snowy Plover with chicks by Bruce Aird

Snowy Plover & Least Tern Survey Sat, Sept. 13 – Sun, Sept. 21

Contact ocsnplsurvey@gmail.com if you want to participate in the Sept. survey. Info on the beaches to survey is on our webpage at www.seaandsageaudubon.org under the heading of BIRDING, Bird Surveys, Conservation, Western Snowy Plover Surveys, Beach Assignments and Maps. Those people who want to join a current volunteer, may contact ocsnplsurvey@gmail.com for a 2 hour online volunteer training session.

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 advocacy.



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, 2968 Ceylon Dr, Costa Mesa CA 92626-3600

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 newsletter.editor@seaandsage.org 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 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 Audubon Membership Payment

The fastest and easiest way to join Audubon is with a donation of at least \$20 using a credit card. When you join National Audubon, you are also joining Sea & Sage. Go online to <http://www.audubon.org/membership>. Write in at least \$20 in the box that shows \$0.00. If you want to donate an additional amount to Sea & Sage, you'll need to make an electronic donation on our website or mail a separate check to our Sea & Sage address below. Another way to join or renew your membership is to print and mail the form below with your \$20 check (payable to NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY) to: Membership, Sea & Sage Audubon, PO Box 5447, Irvine CA 92616.

Temporarily Away or Moving?

Please notify Gail Richards of your new address if you are moving from your current address; or, let her know if you don't want to continue to receive the Tattler. This will save us postage. Gail Richards, Membership Chair at membership@seaandsage.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: Go online to <http://www.audubon.org/membership> and pay by credit card. On the payment page, write in \$20 in the box which says \$0.00. Be sure to include your email address so that we can contact you when necessary. (Our chapter code is C15.) If you have difficulties paying online, fill out the form below and then make your check payable to – NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY – and mail it to: Membership, Sea & Sage Audubon, PO Box 5447, Irvine CA 92616.

To renew your membership with a credit card, go online to: <http://act.audubon.org/a/renew>

On the Renew Your Membership page, you will see several options for your Annual Gift. Your Annual Gift automatically renews your annual membership to Sea and Sage Audubon Society. You can renew your membership for \$20 each year.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____



C15

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September 20, 2025

BOARD MEMBERS

Executive Committee:

President	Melissa Rapp	949-351-2539
Vice President	Scott Thomas	949-293-2915
Secretary	Sudha Warriar	908-917-7835
Treasurer	Mary Harward	714-270-7640
Director 2026	Maia Nguyen	714-333-5734
Director 2026	Heather Earnhardt	773-983-6316
Director 2027	Barbara Wasbin	949-433-3889
Director 2027	Irene Wotta	949-413-4566
Director 2028	Pete Gordon	949-598-0794
Director 2028	Mary Naasz	949-212-0491

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		
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) - Parking spaces have meters

(R) - Space limited; reservations necessary – see webpage

(\$) - Pay in advance – see webpage writeup for event

September 2025:

02	Tues	Enrollment for Sylvia's Birding Skills Workshop opens	
02	Tues	Conservation Com. Mtg via Zoom	6:45 pm
14	Sun	Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS	8:00 am
17	Wed	UNB by pontoon boat (\$)	8:15 am
18	Thurs	Bolsa Chica Bird Walk	8:00 am
19	Fri	GENERAL MEETING via Zoom	7:00 pm
20	Sat	CA Coastal Cleanup Day	9:00 am
21	Sun	Carbon Canyon Bird Walk	8:00 am
23	Tues	4 th Tues Conservation Lecture	7:00 pm
24	Wed	Irvine Regional Bird Walk	7:30 am
26	Fri	Accessible Birding & Brunch at Irvine Reg. Park	9:00 am
28	Sun	Monthly Bird Walk at UNB	8:00 am

October 2025:

04	Sat	Fall Pelagic Trip out of Dana Point (\$)	6:30 am
07	Tues	Quail Hill Open Space Preserve Bird Walk	7:00 am
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 via Zoom	7:00 pm
15	Wed	UNB by pontoon boat (\$)	8:15 am
16	Thurs	Dana Point Harbor Bird Walk (P)	
17	Fri	GENERAL MEETING via Zoom	7:00 pm
19	Sun	Anaheim Coves Bird Walk	8:00 am
25	Sat	Volunteer Appreciation @	10 am – 1 pm
26	Sun	Monthly Bird Wal at UNB	8:00 am
28	Tues	4 th Tues Conservation Lecture	7:00 pm