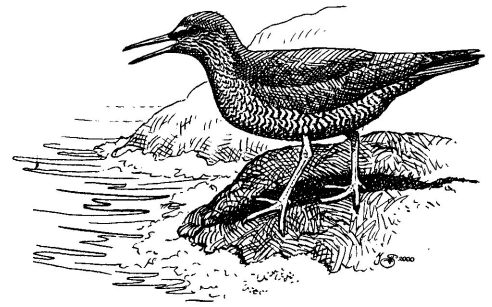


Wandering Tattler

November 2025
Volume 75, Number 3



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

Annual Appeal

Melissa Rapp, President

November makes me think of pumpkin pie and cranberries but also about thanks and giving. As part of this giving, I invite you to support our Sea and Sage Audubon Annual Appeal. Your generosity will ensure that we can continue our many valuable programs and projects.

Our Marsh Education Project supports Santa Ana students, for many of whom this is their first experience with nature. Teens participate in our Junior Naturalist programs, and a significant number of them go on to pursue conservation and ornithology careers. Our bird surveys and support of the California Atlas project contribute to research and to everyone's knowledge of birds. Our adult education programs provide great opportunities to learn birding basics and advanced skills. Numerous dedicated guides lead field trips all over Orange County and even on the ocean. We also help to support local sanctuaries like Starr Ranch. We actively advocate for the welfare of birds and their habitats. Our hard-working Board of Directors is constantly planning new opportunities for highlighting conservation and preserving biodiversity.

Please watch for our Annual Appeal mailing shortly after Thanksgiving. This is the only time in the year that we solicit financial support from our membership, and each donation, large or small, contributes to making a difference. Thank you for all your support with your time, money, and energy. This past year has reminded us how fragile the protections of our natural world are and how important it is that we work together. We can be the voice for all the birds facing the mounting challenges of loss of protections and habitats. Responding to our Annual Appeal reflects our shared commitment to today's challenges and tomorrow's opportunities for conservation.

*With gratitude,
Melissa Rapp*

General Meeting – Hybrid Presentation Friday, November 21st – 7:00 PM

**“Post-release Survival of
Rehabilitated CA Brown Pelicans”**
presented by Dr. Rebecca Duer



Rebecca Duerr is the Director of Research and Veterinary Science at International Bird Rescue's two wildlife clinics in California. She will share the encouraging information that rehabilitated Brown Pelicans, after international bird intervention, return to normal life. Brown Pelicans face challenges of pollution and oil spills and are at risk for malnutrition. Dr. Duerr will share her exciting work demonstrating the resilience of the Brown Pelicans.

Dr. Rebecca Duerr earned a BS in Marine Biology and Limnology from San Francisco State University, then completed her DVM, MPVM, and PhD degrees at UC Davis. She was the lead editor and an author of the 2nd edition of *Hand-Rearing Birds* (2020) and contributed “Seabird Medicine and Orphan Care” chapters to *Medical Management of Wildlife Species: A Guide for Practitioners* (2019). She has served on the Board of Directors of the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association since 2014 and serves on the Oiled Wildlife Care Network's Scientific Advisory Committee.

Dr. Duerr specifically wants to present in person, so please come join us in person at the Learning Center, which will open at 6:15 pm. The Zoom option is also available, and the Zoom meeting room will open at 6:30 pm. We apologize for sound issues with the September Zoom. Thank you for your patience while we are working on the sound.

Join us at 6:45 pm for a Sea and Sage project highlight; the meeting starts at 7:00.

Zoom meeting ID: 841 9842 3399 and Zoom link

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

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

Conservation News

Susan Sheakley, Conservation Chair



Meetings this Month/Contact Persons:

Coastal Com Issues **MO 6:30 Nov 3/** S Thomas; Cons Com **TU 6:45 Nov 4/** S Sheakley; Tackling Climate & Trash **TU 4:00 Nov 18/** S Warrior; Bird Collisions **WE 7:00 Nov 19/** H Guerra; Leg & Advocacy **SU 4:30/** V Leipzig

'4th Tuesday'

Conservation Lecture

Tuesday, November 25 – 7:00 pm

Zoom Doors will open at 6:30 pm

Join us for two brief presentations:

“Determining the Presence of a Potential Novel Pathogen in Coast Live Oak, a Keystone Species in California”



presented by

**Sea and Sage Audubon Society
Bloom-Hays Grant Recipient 2025**

**Vince Rivas, Research Assistant,
Dept. of Biology, San Diego State
University**

Coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) supports lifecycles and biotic interactions for thousands of other species and provides environmental services, such as carbon sequestration, erosion control, and the promotion of groundwater infiltration. Recently, nonviable, black acorns have appeared in coast live oak populations in parts of San Diego County. The literature does not describe these abnormal acorns, potentially indicating the presence of a new disease. This research hopes to reveal if a new disease has infected the coast live oak. The study goals are: determine the spatial



distribution of symptomatic, black acorns throughout the County; describe and compare the microbial community assemblage between acorns in symptomatic and asymptomatic trees; and determine if pathogens from acorns can be transmitted to seedlings through soil.

Vince will share details of this study, which involves assessing twelve sites throughout the County for symptomatic acorns; collecting black acorns from various sites for DNA and other extractions for further testing and pathogen identification at the genetic level; and growing germinants inoculated with symptomatic or asymptomatic acorn samples to check for pathogen presence.

Legislation & Advocacy Subcommittee Annual Report

In addition, Vic Leipzig and the Legislation & Advocacy Subcommittee will report on its activities over the 2025 state legislative session, which has just concluded.

This year the subcommittee submitted several comment letters supporting (or opposing) various bills on issues such as endangered species, groundwater for wetlands, and vegetation clearing for fire suppression. In addition, they held meetings with legislators at both state and federal levels, introducing Sea and Sage Audubon Society, as well as advocating for environmental protection.

The team will wrap up its presentation with a plea for more volunteers to join them in this critical work.

Advance registration is required for this Nov. '4th Tues.' event and will be available through the website under 'What's New' and 'Conservation.'

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

September proved productive for many of our fall migrants, particularly shorebirds and warblers. A summary of the rarity highlights is presented below.

White-winged Doves were at Huntington Central Park on Sept. 2, at San Juan Capistrano on Sept. 14 and at Fairview Park on Sept. 15. The south coast **American Oystercatcher** was last seen in Laguna Beach on Sept. 1. The Santa Ana River **Ruff** was last seen on Sept. 9, while two more individuals, both juveniles, were at the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve on Sept. 3 and the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary on Sept. 5-6. This fall was a good year for **Stilt Sandpipers**, with one at the SJWS on January 5-7, and possibly a second bird present on Sept. 16. Two birds were also present at Los Alamitos Retarding Basin with one continuing through the nineteenth. It was an even better year for **Pectoral Sandpipers**, with a high steady passage of migrants through San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary throughout the month (peaking at a total of six on September 23); additional records included two along the Upper Santa Ana River September 1-10, up to two at Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve September 24-28, and one at Irvine Lake September 21-28. Up to four



White-winged Dove

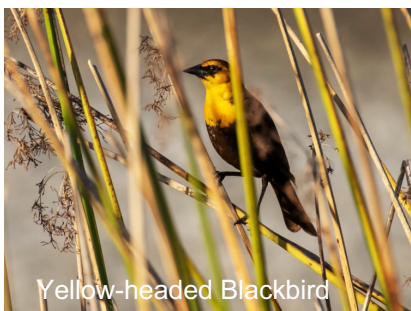
Baird's Sandpipers were at Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve September 1-10, while two were at Irvine Lake September 7, and one was along the Upper Santa Ana River September 1.

A **Sabine's Gull** seen off Newport Pier September 19 was the only one seen in the county in September. An **Arctic Tern** was seen offshore September 28, while a **Black Tern** was observed at Doheny State Beach September 20. A high count of seven **Neotropic Cormorants** were observed along the Santa Ana River last month, a decline from earlier in the summer. The **Little Blue Heron** at Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve continued through the end of the month, while a **Tricolored Heron** was at Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge September 22. A **Western Cattle Egret** continued at San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary through the end of the month, while a second bird was seen at Mile Square Regional Park September 12.



Sabine's Gull

Zone-tailed Hawks rarely but regularly pass through the foothills of the county, but one at Mt. Olive Memorial Park in Costa Mesa, September 20, was unusually coastal. A **Dusky Flycatcher** that was found at Veeh Ranch Park September 19, and continued through the end of the month, may be returning for its second winter. **Tropical Kingbirds** were at Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge September 19, residential Laguna Beach September 6-10, and Huntington Central Park September 29 through the end of the month. At least four **Plumbeous Vireos** were present at various locations throughout the county, while two considerably rare **Yellow-green Vireos** were at Huntington Central Park September 20-25 and Veeh Ranch Park September 21-29. **Purple Martins** were observed at Harriett Wieder Regional Park September 18 and Irvine Lake September 14-28. **Bank Swallows** were observed at four locations throughout the county in September.



Yellow-headed Blackbird

Clay-colored Sparrows were observed at Veeh Ranch Park September 23-26 and Russell Cook Park September 24-25, while **Brewer's Sparrows** were observed at four locations across the county. **Green-tailed Towhees** were observed at Overlook Park September 14 and Harriett Wieder Regional Park September 24. **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** persisted along the Santa Ana River through September 19; a separate individual was found at Irvine Lake on Sept. 13.

Continued on page 4

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 Oct. and November: Kathy Blackmarr, Julie Byers, Nicole Cervi-McKeever, Leslie El-Sayad, Greg Figge, Bridget Gardner, Jade Goodman, John Hargrove, Ann Harmer, Sue Henry, Sarah Jayne, Mary Meister, Kelly Morgan, Steve Munzinger, Dagmar Muthamia, Barbara Reber, Jennifer Reed, Brenda Sabin, Paul Saiki, Dev Sellin, Susan Sheakley, Hsini Shyu, 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 at 714-943-3682, or Paula Monroe at 480-299-9885.

Reading Group:

Tues Nov. 18 - 1:00 to 2:30 pm

The Story of More - by Hope Jahren

Email Info@seaandsage.org for link.

Flyways — from PBS Nature on youtube

Wonderful photos of migrating birds

<https://youtu.be/aywVS2njinVE>

November in the Nature Store

The holidays are just around the corner and the Nature Store is brimming with nature-inspired treasures perfect for gift-giving! Discover bird and nature-themed socks, beautiful boxed holiday cards, and a delightful array of ornaments, earrings, hats, and T-shirts, perfect for nature lovers of all ages. You'll also find puzzles, games, children's books, and toys, plus a wonderful selection of birding guides and books celebrating birds, wildlife, and the beauty of nature — thoughtful gifts that inspire wonder all year long.

So come on in, say hello to our incredible volunteers, and let the holiday spirit take flight!

Proceeds benefit Sea & Sage Audubon.

-- Catherine Steinberg

OC Rarities – continued from page 3

September was a good month for rare warblers. Highlights included a presumably over-summering **Northern Parula** at Gilman Park that was last seen September 14; a second bird was at Huntington Central Park September 13-14. A **Chestnut-sided Warbler** found at Centennial Regional Park



Chestnut-sided Warbler

September 25 was last seen on the 28th, while a **Blackpoll Warbler** was at Huntington Central Park Sept. 17-22. A **Lucy's Warbler**, staying in Mile Square Regional

Park since August, was last seen on September 14, while a **Palm Warbler** was at Laguna Niguel Regional Park September 27. It was a good month for **Virginia's**

Warblers with at least five observed across the county; other, more "common" vagrants included four



Virginia's Warbler

Black-and-white Warblers, four **Tennessee Warblers**, three **American Redstarts**. A **Dickcissel** was at Harriett Wieder Regional Park September 18, while **Painted Redstarts** were at Huntington Central Park September 2-6 and Veeh Ranch Park September 23.

Two **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were present in September: one at Mason Regional Park September 14 and one at Huntington Central Park September 26 through the end of the month.

Quilt Viewing, Author Talk & Book Signing Launch Party

Have you heard the news?

After seven years in the making Sylvia's Gallagher's memoir is now available for purchase. This is a very limited first printing of her life story in full color and beautifully illustrated with over 573 images. Within the covers of this book Sylvia shares the story of her life with details found nowhere else. It is an intimate and heart-warming tale of Sylvia's passion for life, travel, teaching, and the beautiful love she shared with her husband Jim.

Sunday, November 23, 2025

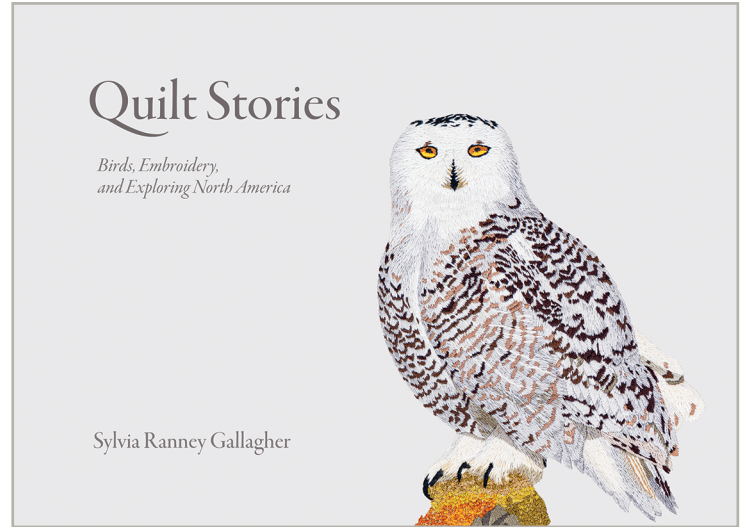
10:00 am—12:00 pm

OR

1:00 pm—3:00 pm

**San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary
Learning Center**
5 Riparian View, Irvine, CA 92616

All proceeds from the sale of the book
will go to Sea and Sage Audubon



Highlights of the event:

- Her three magnificent hand-embroidered quilts will be on display—true works of art
- Sylvia will give a brief talk at 11:00 am and 2:00pm, sharing her adventures & fun in combining birding, needlework, and travel
- Books will be available for sale at Audubon House, as well as during the event
- Purchase price of the book is \$89.00
- Light refreshments will be available; free parking

For all those who have been asking for the last 7 years...Sylvia Gallagher's book is finally here!

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RSVP's required for this free event. Go to the EventBrite [link](#), or <https://seaandsage-caudubon.org/events/> or point your camera at this QR code, and click on the link that appears.



Sea and Sage
Audubon Society

GRANDPARENTS - COME SHARE A SPECIAL DAY IN NATURE

Join us at the San Joaquin Marsh for a fun-filled morning enjoying crafts, live bird of prey demonstrations, serene ponds, and delightful bird watching with your grandchildren between the ages of 5-7.

Saturday, January 17, 2026
9-11:30am



Required Registration For
This Free Event Opens
December 1



www.seaandsageaudubon.org



education@seaandsage.org



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, PO Box 5447, Irvine CA 92616

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 take the 1st right turn 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 <https://act.audubon.org/a/chapter-membership?chapter=C15> 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 no longer want to receive the Tattler. This will save us postage. Gail Richard, 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.)

The fastest and easiest way to join or renew your membership is with a donation of at least \$20 using a credit card; use the links below. When you join National Audubon, you are also joining Sea & Sage.

To **Join**: <https://act.audubon.org/a/chapter-membership?chapter=C15>

To **Renew**: <https://act.audubon.org/a/renew>

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.

If you want to donate an additional amount to Sea & Sage, you'll need to make an electronic donation on the Sea and Sage website or mail a separate check to our Sea & Sage address below.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

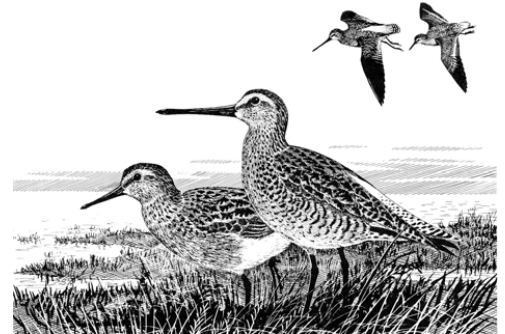
E-mail _____



C15

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Director 2026... director1@seaandsage.org
Director 2026... director2@seaandsage.org
Director 2027... director3@seaandsage.org
Director 2027... director4@seaandsage.org
Director 2028... director5@seaandsage.org
Director 2028... director6@seaandsage.org

Committee Chairpersons:

Accessible Birding... accessible.birding@seaandsage.org
Archives & Records... archives.records@seaandsage.org
Audubon House... audubonhouse@seaandsage.org
Audubon House Vol Coord... ahvolcoor@seaandsage.org
Bird Information... birdinformation@seaandsage.org
Bird Surveys... bird.surveys@seaandsage.org
By Laws & Related Documents... by.laws@seaandsage.org
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Webmaster... webmaster@seaandsage.org
Webpage: www.seaandsageaudubon.org

STAFF

AUDUBON HOUSE **949-261-7963**

Marsh Education Project Director... educationdirector@seaandsage.org
Education Assistant... education.assistant@seaandsage.org
Nature Store... naturestore@seaandsage.org
Administrative Aide... admin.aide@seaandsage.org

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

(R) – Space limited; reservations necessary – see webpage
(\$) – Pay in advance – see webpage writeup for event

November 2025:

01 Sat OC Bird of Prey Center (\$) 1:00 pm
04 Tues Conservation Com. Mtg via Zoom 6:45 pm
09 Sun Monthly Bird Walk at the SJWS ® 8:00 am
11 Tues Board Meeting via Zoom 7:00 pm
16 Sun Carbon Canyon Bird Walk 8:00 am
19 Wed UNB by pontoon boat ® 8:15 am
20 Thurs Bolsa Chica Bird Walk 8:00 am
21 Fri GENERAL MEETING via Zoom 7:00 pm
23 Sun Sylvia's Quilt Stories Book Signing event ®.. 10 or 1
25 Tues 4th Tues Conservation Lecture 7:00 pm
30 Sun Upper Newport Bay Monthly Bird Walk 8:00 am

December 2025:

02 Tues Conservation Com. Mtg via Zoom 6:45 pm
09 Tues Quail Hill Open Space Bird Walk 7:00 am
09 Tues Board Meeting via Zoom 7:00 pm
14 Sun Northeastern (Inland) CBC tba
14 Sun SJWS Bird Walk 8:00 am
17 Wed UNB by pontoon boat ® 8:15 am
21 Sun San Juan Capistrano (South County) CBC tba
27 Sat Chino Puente-Hills CBC tba
28 Sun Upper Newport Bay Monthly Bird Walk 8:00 am

January 2026:

04 Sun Coastal CBC. tba