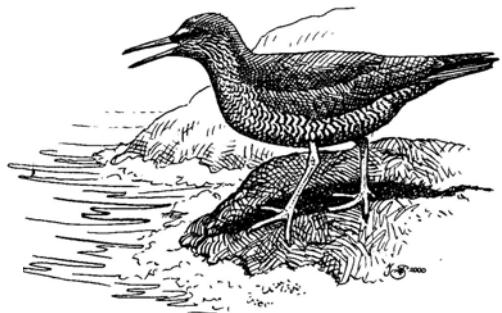


Wandering Tattler

February 2026

Volume 74, Number 5



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

Speaking Up for Nature *Melissa Rapp, President*

Federal environmental protections are being weakened, and funding is being reduced. In this new year, advocacy is more important than ever to ensure the preservation of habitats and biodiversity. Sea and Sage's Conservation Committee works diligently to monitor legislation and engage policymakers. By staying informed about these threats, we can respond quickly and advocate effectively as a unified voice. Together, we can make a difference.

Our Conservation Committee has summarized the challenges facing the environment in 2026. Thank you to Susan, Vic, Scott, Chris, and Heather for their input. Our legacy environmental laws and long-standing policies that protect the environment and birds are under threat. In 2025, the Dept. of the Interior proposed sweeping changes to the Endangered Species Act. The loss of these protections would have a severe impact on vulnerable species. The currently proposed changes to the Clean Water Act would put millions of acres of waterways and entire aquatic ecosystems in peril, including birds that rely on them. The ecological consequences of the proposed sale of public lands would impact the protection of valuable ecosystems, including large portions of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The opening of new gas and oil leases off the California coast will lead to heightened risks to wildlife and habitats. Planned increases in logging and grazing on public lands can lead to habitat loss and declines in bird populations. The planned reduction of funding for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) could eliminate the Bird Banding Laboratory. The loss of the USGS bird banding program would impact long-term data collection, population tracking, and avian disease monitoring. In California, some positive steps were taken to protect birds and wildlife in 2025. Leaders passed the California Bird Protection Act and expanded access to the protection of the California Endangered Species Act to species that lose federal protection. However, some other legislative proposals would weaken environmental laws. The Conservation Committee, along with the Legislation and Advocacy Subcommittee, will continue to monitor state and federal legislative developments and advocate on behalf of birds.

I encourage everyone to stay aware of current conservation threats and watch for opportunities to advocate. By working with Audubon California and our conservation partners, we can protect native ecosystems and species. Staying informed helps us act quickly, advocate effectively, and protect the environment for the future. If you'd like to participate with our advocacy efforts, please get in touch with us at conservation@seaandsage.org.

General Meeting - **Hybrid** Presentation

Friday, February 20th - 7:00 PM

"How Birds Change Lives If We Let Them"

presented by Kiandra Mitchell



Birds have the power to change almost every facet of our lives for the better. From health to friendships, mindfulness to garden design, birds weave their magic through it all. Sometimes birding takes us out of our comfort zones, but the rewards are often awe-inspiring! Explore how birds and birding have reshaped the worlds of local birders and get inspired to say "Yes!" next time a birding opportunity comes your way.

About the Speaker

Kiandra Mitchell has over 27 years of experience teaching, primarily junior high science. In 2014, she entered the world of birding by introducing her students to bird walks. Since 2020, Kiandra has devoted much of her time and energy to studying and teaching about birds as a Saddleback College Emeritus Institute faculty member, Cornell Lab of Ornithology Education Ambassador, and birding trip leader. She is currently one of the **Birds of the World** instructors for Saddleback College Emeritus and enjoys sharing the joys of birding with people of all ages.

Meeting Details

Kiandra specifically wishes to present **in person**, so please join us at the Learning Center at 6:15 PM.

A **Zoom option** is also available — the meeting room will open at 6:30 PM. Join us at 6:45 PM for a Sea and Sage project highlight; the meeting begins at 7:00 PM.

Zoom meeting ID: 841 9842 3399 & **Zoom link** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84198423399> Need help? Contact Melissa Rapp at programs@seaandsage.org

Melissa, Programs Chair

Conservation News

Susan Sheakley, Conservation Chair

Feb Meetings: *Join us!* Cons Com TU Feb 3 6:45; Tackling Climate & Trash TU Feb 17 4:00; Bird Collisions W Feb 18 7:00; Leg & Advocacy SU Feb 22 4:30; '4th Tues' Program Feb 26 7:00. **Contact us** at conservation@seaandsage.org



'4th Tues.' Conservation Lecture

Tuesday, February 24th - 7:00 pm
Zoom doors will open at 6:30 pm

"Looking Out for the California Least Terns and the Western Snowy Plovers at Huntington State Beach"

presented by

Lana Nguyen, Senior Environmental Scientist, and Brittany Poloni, Environmental Scientist

Join Lana and Brittany to learn about two fascinating birds with very different lifestyles that both depend on the coastal environment. We will learn how the volunteer docent program contributes to nesting success and public outreach and how we can become a part of the docent program.

Advance Registration is required for this meeting and will be available through our website under the "Events Calendar" and "Conservation". **Please join us!**



CA LEAST TERN
FEEDING CHICK

PHOTO BY -
BILL HALLADAY

Overview of the California Least Tern and Western Snowy Plover State Parks Docent Program

The docent program at Orange Coast District provides a unique opportunity for volunteers to participate in the protection of the endangered California Least Tern and threatened Western Snowy Plover. Docents are trained to provide public outreach and interpretation, in addition to informing park visitors of rules and guidelines to encourage voluntary compliance. Docents also participate in biological monitoring by collecting data that documents bird behavior, disturbance, and predation events. Docents partake in an informational meeting and field training, followed by signing up for weekly shifts during the breeding season in spring and summer. Docents can choose to participate in either or both programs for the least terns and snowy plovers.

The highest need for docents is during the months of May through August when park visitation is significant and public outreach is critical. Docents get to expand their awareness and appreciation for natural areas and wildlife, be a part of a dedicated conservation community, and spend some great days at the beach!

If interested, please contact:

Lana.Nguyen@parks.ca.gov or

Brittany.Poloni@parks.ca.gov. The docent info meeting will take place in April. Details will be provided prior to the meeting.



SNOWY PLOVER IN FLIGHT
PHOTO BY - BILL HALLADAY

Conservation Bird Collisions Subcommittee Announces Two New Community Science Projects

To learn more about these projects, contact birdcollisions@seaandsage.org

Bird Strikes Database: We invite all members to help with an important community science effort by participating in local bird collision data collection. If you encounter a bird that has collided with a structure, please report it to **dBird** at dbird.org. Once there, you can fill out the reporting form to the best of your knowledge. *The data you submit is vital.* It helps us identify collision hotspots in our area, learn more about the structures birds are colliding with, and select cities for our **Lights Out** campaign. If collisions take place at homes, we can also help suggest practical steps to reduce future collisions. Every report makes a difference in protecting birds and creating safer spaces for them in our community. Thank you for your participation.

UCI Bird Field Survey: You are invited to participate in a new Bird Field Survey, planned to take place in the spring, with routes determined based on the number of volunteers who sign up. Training is expected to begin in February. For more info or to sign up, contact: birdcollisions@seaandsage.org.

Sea & Sage Annual Dinner

Friday, March 20 at Mile Square Park Banquet Center

Our Guest Speaker - Rebecca Heisman

Program - "Wild Stories from the History of Bird Migration Research"

Have you ever wondered about "how we know what we know about bird migration?"

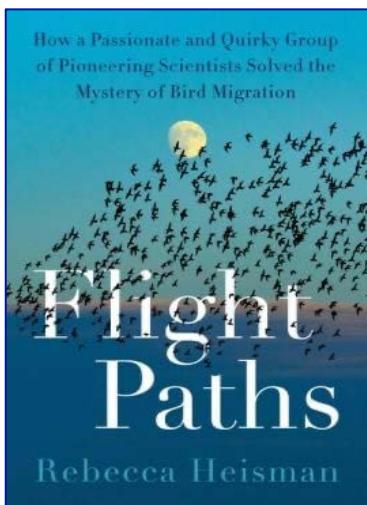
Join us at the Sea & Sage Annual Dinner to learn more from our special guest speaker, Rebecca Heisman. Heisman is an award-winning science writer who focuses on ornithology. Her first book *Flight Paths: How a Passionate and Quirky Group of Pioneering Scientists Solved the Mystery of Bird Migration* was published in 2023. Rebecca has worked with organizations including the Audubon Society, American Bird Conservancy, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and American Ornithological Society. She has also contributed to multiple publications including *Audubon* and *Hakai* magazines.



Rebecca will chronicle the history of migratory bird research and share the amazing advances in bird banding, tracking birds, and genetic research.

The evening's program will also include the presentation of our chapter's Fern Zimmerman Conservation Award and Letters of Commendation. Of note, there will be **NO SILENT AUCTION** this year.

The Mile Square Park Banquet Center is located at the south end of Mile Square Park, at the intersection of Warner and Ward in Fountain Valley. Free parking is available. Below is the schedule for the evening:



No Host Bar: 6:00 pm – Social Hour, Book Sale & Signing

Dinner: 6:40 pm

Program: 7:40 pm

Location: Mile Square Park Banquet Center

Tickets: \$65

Entrees: Slow Roasted Prime Rib, Macadamia nut crusted Mahi Mahi, and Portobello (Mushroom) Steak with Bell Pepper Coulis. (All dinners will include a salad, fresh vegetables, freshly baked rolls, iced tea, coffee & decaf, and carrot cake for dessert.)

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY. Reservations will open on January 15th: Here is the link to make your reservations: [Annual-Dinner-tickets](#)

Seating will be assigned in the order in which the reservations are received. If you wish to sit with friends, be sure they make their reservations on the same day you do. All reservations will be made through Eventbrite, not by check. You will receive a confirmation email after your reservation has been made. **ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED by 12:00 A.M. on Thursday, MARCH 12th**. For reservation questions, contact Nancy Kenyon (949-892-9212; info@seaandsage.org). If you need a special order, such as no salt or seasoning or no dairy products, be sure to report that information to Nancy as well.

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 January and February: Julie Byers, Nicole Cervi-McKeever, Leslie El Sayad, Bettina Eastman, Greg Figge, Jade Goodman, Dawn

Hubbard, Ann Harmer, John Hargrove, Sue Henry, Sarah Jayne, Kelly Morgan, Steve Munzinger, Dagmar Muthamia, Mary Meister, Barbara Reber, Jen Reed, Art Strauss, Paul Saiki, Brenda Sabin, Dev Sellin, Susan Sheakley, Hsini Shyu, Pat Wells, Barb Wasbin, Phil Weston 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 Barb Wasbin at 949-433-3889.

Nature magazines are needed!

More birding magazines are needed at Audubon House. Please deliver them to the AH volunteer inside Audubon House. Thanks!

2026 Student Research Grants

Pete Bloom, Loren Hays, and Richard Zembal are all well-known in the chapter for their passion to protect birds and open spaces. The Weir Canyon Fund (championed by Pete Bloom), the Loren Hays Memorial Fund, and funding from Mr. Zembal provide funding to further ecological research. The objective of the Bloom-Hays Ecological Research Grant is to advance ecological research, particularly research related to avian species and natural communities, by providing funds or supplies to support research activities benefitting native species and habitats in Southern California. 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. Graduate and undergraduate students are invited to apply for both of these grants with grant awards varying from \$500 to \$5,000. The 2026 application instructions are posted on the Sea and Sage website under Student Research Grants. Application packages must be received by email no later than February 20, 2026.

Reading Group

Tues, Feb. 17 – 1:00 to 2:30 pm

The Light Eaters – by Zoe Schlanger

Email Info@seaandsage.org for info on the next book

Nature Store News

February is a beautiful time to fall in love with nature all over again. Birdsong is in the air as new bonds begin to form and courtship unfolds. Every walk brings the promise of a new surprise—something lovely to notice, and even lovelier to share. If you're looking for a simple way to share that feeling with a loved one, we invite you to stop by the Nature Store. We have thoughtful gifts for the nature lover in your life; beautiful bird themed items, books, and little keepsakes that help bring the spirit of nature home. Sharing a love of nature is one of the best gifts there is, and we'd be happy to help you find something special. We hope to see you soon.

National Audubon's Reorganization of "membership" and its impact on Sea and Sage Audubon

In October 2025, the National Audubon Society notified all chapters across the country that it is in the process of reorganizing its membership rosters and changing the way members are assigned to home chapters. These changes have created several challenges for Sea and Sage Membership. Here's what this means **for an individual member**.

- **Your chapter is now tied to your ZIP code.**

Members who live outside our "Service Area" but who requested a Preferred Chapter of Sea and Sage may automatically be reassigned to a different Audubon chapter. All members are now being assigned to chapters based on their home ZIP code. This also affects members who move out of our ZIP code area.

Lifetime (Grinnell) memberships are no longer provided.

- Members who previously had a Grinnell Membership have been assigned expiration dates in 2026 by NAS and must make a donation to NAS each year to remain members. New lifetime memberships of this type will not be offered.

- **If your membership lapses, there is no Grace • Period.** National Audubon will no longer provide a grace period before ending membership. Sea and Sage will still offer a grace period locally, but during that time you won't be considered a National Audubon member until you renew.

- **How your pay may change.**

Previously, members have been able to send a check to NAS through Sea and Sage. This way of joining NAS may be discontinued. NAS does send envelopes with their renewal notices. You may send a check directly to them, if you do not want to renew online at seaandsageaudubon.org.



*Sea and Sage
Audubon Society*

NATURE DAY CAMPS 2026

at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine

On-line Registration on Eventbrite opens February 1.

Go to our website: <https://seaandsageaudubon.org/nature-day-camps/>



Enroll your child in our week-long camps to discover the joys of nature and bird-watching with Orange County's birding experts! Each camp includes daily walks, keeping a nature journal, nature art, and important bird topics taught by Audubon Naturalists. A different camp shirt for each camp is included. Confidential scholarships available upon request.



Fledgling Camp for ages 7-8 from June 15-19

Camp meets 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM. Campers will learn all about the wonderful life of common birds at the marsh and gain experience in beginning bird-watching techniques.

Fee is \$250 regular / \$225 Audubon members (use promo code MEMBER).



Marsh Camp for ages 9-10 from June 22-26

Camp meets 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM. Campers will learn about more bird types, bird anatomy, bird life cycles, pond life, and more.

Fee is \$275 regular / \$250 Audubon members (use promo code MEMBER).



Coastal Camp for ages 11-12 from July 6-10

Camp meets 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM. Campers will focus on identification and biology of shorebirds of local freshwater and saltwater marshes plus how to prevent pollution that threatens them. Campers will also enjoy one off-site trip to a coastal location (parents provide transportation).

Fee is \$275 regular / \$250 Audubon members (promo code MEMBER).

Advanced Camp TBA

Questions?

- Camp coordinator Deborah Brin at deborah@brin.net
- Project Director Trude Hurd at SeaAndSageEducation@gmail.com

Visit our website <https://seaandsageaudubon.org/nature-day-camps/>



Sea and Sage Audubon Society
More Land Birds of Coastal Southern CA
An Intermediate-Advanced Visual Workshop
presented by Sylvia R. Gallagher

Starting March 23-26, 2026, Sylvia Gallagher will present a continuation of her annual fall series, BIRDS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. In this Zoom workshop, we'll study additional land birds (mainly Passerines) in nearly all of the families covered in that intro. workshop plus a few new ones. Most are birds that are fairly common, but for which there just wasn't enough time in the introductory workshop. A few are Endangered, Threatened, or Special-Concern species that you need to be aware of. We'll also deal with additional plumages of a few species from the fall workshop, such as female and immature orioles.

The prerequisite to this workshop is BIRDS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA--and you will be referring to your worksheets regularly. If you have not done that workshop, but have visual familiarity with the birds in it, you may enroll in this one.

Four sections of this workshop will be offered, each meeting via Zoom once a week including holidays. The workshop will end when the material has been covered. I do not want to rush through this material. Let's say ten to twenty weeks. The material is modular, so missing a group now and then will probably not be too much of a handicap to learning other groups. The starting dates and times are:

Mon. mornings, 9:00 am - ca. 12:00 noon, March 23.

Tues. mornings, 9:00 am - ca. 12:00 noon, March 24.

Wed. evenings, 7:00 - ca. 10:00 pm, March 25.

Thurs. evenings, 7:00 - 10:00pm, March 26.



There will also be a large number of field trips. The schedule will be announced later.

The maximum enrollment for each section is 21. If any section does not have at least 12 people enrolled (reservation received) by March 13, it will be canceled. Late reservations will be accepted until the remaining sections are filled. Reserve early though, because some sections may fill rapidly. A donation of \$200.00 or more is requested, if you can afford it.

The recommended books are:

Dunn and Alderfer. *National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America*, 7th ed.

Sibley. *The Sibley Guide to Birds*, 2nd ed.

Specialty books on various types of birds are nice, too.

Send your reservation for this workshop, **postmarked no earlier than March 2** (2-day penalty for early reservations), To LMCLB Workshop, Sylvia Gallagher, 21562 Kaneohe Ln, Huntington Beach CA 92646. Placement in sections will be based on postmark date. **Enclose a long (4" x 9.5") self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE).** Confirmations will be mailed March 16, including preliminary information and assignments to do before the first class session. For further information, contact Sylvia at sjrgallagher@yahoo.com (preferred) or (714) 962-8990.

Enrollment Form – Learning More California Land Birds (2026)

Names of all participants _____

Address(es) _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone(s) _____ SASE enclosed? _____

E-mail(s) _____

Rank (check only if your preferences are strong) at least two choices of section:

Mon. am ____ Tues. am ____ Wed. pm ____ Thurs. pm ____



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

And so another year ends. As with every winter before, we scan our fields for rare sparrows, scour parks and greenbelts for overwintering warblers and flycatchers, and search for rare waterbirds amongst the rafts of more common species. May 2026 be a great year for common and rare birds alike!

A **Surf Scoter** at San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary (SJWS), November 3, was unusually far inland, while a **Black Scoter** was found in Sunset Aquatic Marina, December 10. Also present in the marina was a **Red-necked Grebe**, December 7-19. A **White-winged Dove** in Santa Ana, November 29, was unusually late. **Manx Shearwater** occurrences continue to increase off Orange County waters; during this period two were observed: one off Newport Pier, November 2, and two near Lasuen Seamount, November 30. At least three **Little Blue Herons** and a **Tricolored Heron** continued at Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve (BCER) throughout the period. A **Western Cattle-Egret** at SJWS was last seen, December 2, while a second individual was at BCER, November 16-December 31. **Common Loons** at Anaheim Coves Park, November 3, and Walnut Canyon Reservoir, November 23, were unusually far inland.

Zone-tailed Hawks were at Irvine Regional Park, December 15-27, in the Lake Forest area, November 2-December 22, and in the Mission Viejo area, December 8-28. A **Short-eared Owl** was at BCER on December 3. **Prairie Falcons** were at Quail Hill Preserve, November 28-30, and Irvine Regional Park, November 28. A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** at Olinda Ranch Neighborhood Park, December 14-28, was back for its second winter.

At least eight **Western Flycatchers** were in the county during this period, while **Hammond's Flycatchers** were a Reservoir Road in Tustin, November 16, Huntington Central Park (HCP), November 27-December 4, and the Richman Knoll Trail in Fullerton and Hurless Barton Park in Yorba Linda on December 27 (both PCH-CBC). By far the most remarkable flycatcher this season however was a **Willow Flycatcher** at the SJWS, November 12-28; this represents only the second November record for the county. A **Western Kingbird** at HCP, December 7, was unusually late, while **Tropical Kingbirds** continued at HCP, November 2, and at BCER through the end of the year. An **Eastern Phoebe** found at Harriett Wieder Regional Park also continued through the end of the year. At least fourteen **Plumbeous Vireos** were present throughout the county, while a much rarer overwintering **Bell's Vireo** was at the Fullerton Arboretum, December 7. A **Brown Creeper** at Gilman Park continued through December 18, while additional birds were at Bluebird Park in Laguna Beach, November 23, and at Aldrich Park, December 16, through the end of the year. A **Townsend's Solitaire** was seen at El Toro Memorial Park, November 27, while two were at West Coyote Hills Tree Park in Fullerton, December 27-29, (PCH-CBC). A bird seen later that same day at nearby Robert E. Ward Nature Preserve may have been one of these two individuals, or a third bird. The only **Mountain Bluebird** observed in the county during this period was along Trabuco Creek Road, November 1-2. The **Olive-backed Pipit** first found in October continued through November 5.

Vesper Sparrows were at Quail Hill Preserve, November 28, Irvine Lake, November 2 through the end of the year, and Brea Sports Park, December 28. **Grasshopper Sparrows** are very difficult to find in Orange County in winter, so two at Quail Hill Preserve, November 29-December 15, Limestone Canyon, December 14 (Inland CBC), and Irvine Regional Park, December 14 (Inland CBC), were notable. The only **Clay-colored Sparrow** wintered in Buena Park, December 24-28. Eight **White-throated Sparrows** were found across the county in November and December. A **Baltimore Oriole** was at Emery Park in Fullerton, December 11-22.

The standout warbler of the winter thus far was a **Grace's Warbler**, Orange County's fifth record, found at Memorial Garden Cemetery in Brea on the Puente-Chino Hills CBC, December 27, and which continued through the end of the month. Other notable species included **Bay-breasted Warblers** at Tustin Legacy Park November 21, and at HCP, November 27-December 1, a **Canada Warbler** at HCP, November 12-28, and a **Pine Warbler** at Good Shepherd Cemetery in Huntington Beach, November 14. Four **Palm Warblers**, three **Northern Parulas**, six **Tennessee Warblers**, six **Black-and-white Warblers**, and one **American Redstart** round out the more "expected" unexpected warblers. A **Black-headed Grosbeak** at Sea Canyon Park near Dana Point, December 8, was not subsequently refound.

Northeastern (Inland) CBC Report - 12/14/25

The Northeastern CBC covers the inland areas of Orange County and was divided into the following sections: Irvine Reg. Park; Irvine Lake & vicinity; Silverado Canyon; Upper & Lower Black Star Canyon; Mountain Areas, Modjeska & Harding Canyons; O'Neill Reg. Park & Plano Trabuco; Lion Country & Areas south of the 405 (The area between Lake Forest & El Toro from Trabuco Rd. to Glen Ranch Rd, excluding Oso Reservoir); Mission Viejo-Lake Forest-El Toro & foothills; former El Toro Marine Base & foothill areas; Rattlesnake & Siphon Reservoirs; Peters Canyon Reg. Park & Lemon Heights.

The Total Species for this count was 136. The number of participants was 103

The count was coordinated and compiled by Doug Lithgow.

SPECIES	Total	SPECIES	Total	SPECIES	Total	SPECIES	Total
Canada Goose	373	Western Grebe	96	Common Raven	483	Golden-crowned Sparrow	50
Cinnamon Teal	45	Clark's Grebe	4	Mountain Chickadee	60	Bell's Sparrow	1
Northern Shoveler	114	Double-crested Cormorant	624	Oak Titmouse	168	Vesper Sparrow	1
Gadwall	74	White-faced Ibis	102	Tree Swallow	3	Savannah Sparrow	62
American Wigeon	122	Black-crowned Night-Heron	8	Violet-green Swallow	1	Grasshopper Sparrow	2
Mallard	370	Snowy Egret	25	N. Rough-winged Swallow	3	Song Sparrow	282
Green-winged Teal	25	Great Egret	27	Barn Swallow	33	Lincoln's Sparrow	22
Canvasback	5	Great Blue Heron	11	Bushtit	944	California Towhee	388
Ring-necked Duck	24	Amer. White Pelican	137	Wrentit	244	Rufous-crowned Sparrow	20
Lesser Scaup	7	Turkey Vulture	254	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	350	Spotted Towhee	153
Bufflehead	8	Osprey	1	White-breasted Nuthatch	50	Western Meadowlark	139
Hooded Merganser	4	White-tailed Kite	1	Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	Bullock's Oriole	2
Ruddy Duck	306	Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	35	Red-winged Blackbird	95
Mountain Quail	2	Cooper's Hawk	22	California Gnatcatcher	11	Great-tailed Grackle	13
California Quail	104	Northern Harrier	6	Rock Wren	2	Orange-crowned Warbler	99
Rock Pigeon	26	Bald Eagle	4	Canyon Wren	2	Common Yellowthroat	109
Band-tailed Pigeon	7	Red-shouldered Hawk	45	No. House Wren	38	Yellow-rumped Warbler	2802
Eurasian-collared Dove	23	Red-tailed Hawk	140	Marsh Wren	1	Townsend's Warbler	20
Mourning Dove	213	Barn Owl	2	Bewick's Wren	110	Western Tanager	1
Greater Roadrunner	5	West. Screech-Owl	3	Cactus Wren	11	Red-crown.x Lilac Crown Hybrid	
White-throated Swift	476	Great Horned Owl	30	European Starling	422		
Anna's Hummingbird	334	Belted Kingfisher	6	California Thrasher	94	EXOTIC SPECIES:	
Costa's Hummingbird	5	Red-breasted Sapsucker	2	Northern Mockingbird	71	Egyptian Goose	41
Allen's Hummingbird	213	Acorn Woodpecker	397	Western Bluebird	199	Mandarin Duck	3
Sora	1	Downy Woodpecker	12	Hermit Thrush	79	Indian Peafowl	7
Common Gallinule	3	Nuttall's Woodpecker	144	American Robin	135	Swinhoe's White-eye	304
American Coot	548	Northern Flicker	65	Cedar Waxwing	918	Scaly-breasted Munia	67
Black-necked Stilt	7	American Kestrel	31	Phainopepla	10	Pin-tailed Whydah	2
Killdeer	29	Merlin	2	House Sparrow	29		
Long-billed Dowitcher	34	Peregrine Falcon	3	American Pipit	103		
Wilson's Snipe	5	Red-crown. Amazon Parrot	20	House Finch	924		
Spotted Sandpiper	13	Black Phoebe	282	Purple Finch	14		
Greater Yellowlegs	5	Say's Phoebe	63	Lesser Goldfinch	448		
Least Sandpiper	52	Cassin's Kingbird	118	American Goldfinch	41		
Ring-billed Gull	94	Hutton's Vireo	10	Chipping Sparrow	20		
American Herring Gull	7	Plumbeous Vireo	1	Lark Sparrow	15		
California Gull	1	Loggerhead Shrike	2	Fox Sparrow	20		
Pied-billed Grebe	21	California Scrub-Jay	232	Dark-eyed Junco	339		
Eared Grebe	13	American Crow	741	White-crowned Sparrow	1261		

Puente-Chino Hills CBC Report - 12/27/25

The Puente Chino-Hills CBC covers inland areas of Los Angeles County, Orange County, San Bernardino County, and was divided into the following sections: Carbon Canyon Wilderness Park, Craig Regional Park, Yorba Regional Park, Santiago Oaks Regional Park, Upper Santa Ana River from the 241 to Orangewood Ave, Gilman Park, Laguna Lake & Anaheim Coves Park, West Coyote Hills, Villa Park Flood Control Basin, Most of Chino Hills State Park, and miscellaneous areas.

The Total Species for this count was 163.

The count was coordinated and compiled by Samuel Bressler.

SPECIES	Total	SPECIES	Total	SPECIES	Total	SPECIES	Total
Snow Goose	2	Eared Grebe	6	Say's Phoebe	56	Lark Sparrow	22
Cackling Goose	4	Western Grebe	46	Vermilion Flycatcher	6	Fox Sparrow	12
Canada Goose	1185	Clark's Grebe	4	Cassin's Kingbird	178	Dark-eyed Junco	392
Blue-winged Teal	6	Double-crested Cormorant	397	Hutton's Vireo	44	White-crowned Sparrow	116
Cinnamon Teal	15	Neotropic Cormorant	3	Plumbeous Vireo	3	Golden-crown. Sparrow	23
Northern Shoveler	131	White-faced Ibis	4	Loggerhead Shrike	1	Savannah Sparrow	21
Gadwall	137	Black-crowned Night-Heron	16	California Scrub-Jay	128	Song Sparrow	511
American Wigeon	398	Snowy Egret	46	American Crow	101	Lincoln's Sparrow	18
Mallard	991	Great Egret	55	Common Raven	327	Swamp Sparrow	1
Northern Pintail	18	Great Blue Heron	26	Mountain Chickadee	7	California Towhee	498
Green-winged Teal	34	American White Pelican	219	Oak Titmouse	32	Rufous-crowned. Sparrow	5
Ring-necked Duck	132	Turkey Vulture	127	Tree Swallow	3	Spotted Towhee	92
Lesser Scaup	17	Osprey	12	N. Rough-winged Swallow	2	Western Meadowlark	51
Bufflehead	91	White-tailed Kite	1	Barn Swallow	8	Hooded Oriole	1
Ruddy Duck	318	Sharp-shinned Hawk	9	Bushtit	959	Bullock's Oriole	2
California Quail	66	Cooper's Hawk	35	Wrentit	97	Red-winged Blackbird	178
Rock Pigeon	362	Northern Harrier	5	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	339	Brown-headed Cowbird	5
Band-tailed Pigeon	61	Red-shouldered Hawk	80	White-breasted Nuthatch	3	Brewer's Blackbird	41
Eurasian Collared-Dove	63	Zone-tailed Hawk	1	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	43	Great-tailed Grackle	18
Mourning Dove	552	Red-tailed Hawk	153	California Gnatcatcher	20	Tennessee Warbler	1
Greater Roadrunner	6	Ferruginous Hawk	2	Rock Wren	2	Orange-crowned Warbler	153
White-throated Swift	168	American Barn Owl	1	No. House Wren	21	Nashville Warbler	1
Anna's Hummingbird	346	Western Screech-Owl	1	Bewick's Wren	283	Common Yellowthroat	80
Allen's Hummingbird	483	Great Horned Owl	7	Cactus Wren	20	Northern Parula	1
Virginia Rail	1	Belted Kingfisher	14	European Starling	419	Palm Warbler	1
Common Gallinule	2	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	California Thrasher	89	Yellow-rumped Warbler	302
American Coot	592	Red-naped Sapsucker	3	Northern Mockingbird	204	Grace's Warbler	1
Black-necked Stilt	19	Red-breasted Sapsucker	4	Western Bluebird	477	Black-throat. Gray Warbler	5
American Avocet	5	Acorn Woodpecker	83	Townsend's Solitaire	3	Townsend's Warbler	43
Killdeer	45	Downy Woodpecker	6	Hermit Thrush	76	Wilson's Warbler	1
Spotted Sandpiper	30	Nuttall's Woodpecker	147	American Robin	235	Summer Tanager	2
Lesser Yellowlegs	3	Northern Flicker	59	Cedar Waxwing	991	Western Tanager	1
Greater Yellowlegs	130	American Kestrel	34	Phainopepla	5		
Least Sandpiper	117	Merlin	4	Scaly-breasted Munia	193	EXOTIC SPECIES	
Western Sandpiper	2	Peregrine Falcon	11	House Sparrow	235	Egyptian Goose	96
Ring-billed Gull	175	Yellow-chevroned Parakeet	1	American Pipit	202	Red-whiskered Bulbul	1
Western Gull	3	Red-crowned Amazon	189	House Finch	2325	Swinhoe's White-eye	664
Amer. Herring Gull	1	Mitred Parakeet	39	Purple Finch	1	Pin-tailed Whydah	30
California Gull	269	Hammond's Flycatcher	2	Lesser Goldfinch	735		
Caspian Tern	5	Western Flycatcher	1	American Goldfinch	137	EXOTIC ESCAPEE	
Pied-billed Grebe	14	Black Phoebe	454	Chipping Sparrow	39	Graylag Goose	1

Thank you so much!

Sea and Sage depends on your financial contributions to support our conservation and education programs. Your donations help make us a strong chapter. The following is a list of Annual Direct Mail Appeal and Education Donors whose donations were received prior to December 31, 2025. (The rest of the list will be in the March Tattler.)

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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.



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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

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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

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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

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We invite you to become a member of the National Audubon Society and the Sea and Sage Audubon chapter.

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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.wwccoc.org/>

February 2026:

01 Sun Camp registration opens today.....
03 Tues Conservation Com Mtg..... 6:45 pm
08 Sun SJWS bird walk..... 8:00 am
10 Tues Quail Hill bird walk..... 7:00 am
10 Tues Board Meeting via Zoom..... 7:00 pm
13 - 16 Great Backyard Bird Count.....
15 Sun Anaheim Coves Park bird walk..... 8:00 am
15 Sun San Jacinto Wildlife Area ® (\$)..... 8:00 am
18 Wed UNB by pontoon boat ® (\$)..... 8:15 am
20 Fri GENERAL MEETING - Hybrd & Zoom..... 7:00 pm
22 Sun Upper Newport Bay bird walk..... 8:00 am
24 Tues '4th Tues' Conservation Lecture via Zoom..... 7:00 pm

March 2026:

02 Mon Enrollment opens for More CA Land Birds ® (\$).....
03 Tues Conservation Com Mtg..... 6:45 pm
08 Sun SJWS bird walk..... 8:00 am
10 Tues Board Meeting via Zoom..... 7:00 pm
12 Thurs Deadline for any Annual Dinner reservations.....
15 Sun Carbon Canyon bird walk..... 8:00 am
18 Wed UNB by pontoon boat ® (\$)..... 8:15 am
19 Thurs Bolsa Chica bird walk..... 8:00 am
20 Fri ANNUAL DINNER ® (\$)..... 6:00 pm
23 - 26 Learning More CA Land Birds workshop starts.....
24 Tues '4th Tues' Conservation Lecture via Zoom..... 7:00 pm
28 Sat Caspers Wilderness Park bird walk (P)..... 8:00 am
28 Sat Seal Beach accessible birding FT ®..... 8:30 am
29 Sun Upper Newport Bay bird walk..... 8:00 am