

Wandering Tattler

November 2026
Volume 76, Number 3



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

Support Our Annual Appeal: Make a Lasting Difference for Birds, Wildlife, and People

November is a time for giving and gratitude., I thank you for your continued support, volunteer service, and commitment to protecting birds and wildlife. Together, we have connected people with nature, advanced scientific research, and protected wildlife habitats. As we look toward 2027, your donations are even more important than ever as wildlife protections face growing challenges and research funding declines.

Protecting Birds and Their Habitats: Funding to monitor and protect Western Snowy Plovers and California Least Terns is at risk as U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) grants expire. Encouragingly, 2025 surveys by USFWS, Audubon volunteers, and other conservation organizations found that the Western Snowy Plover population exceeded 3,000 for the first time since the species was listed as threatened in 1993. Recovery requires a stable population of at least 3,000 birds for 10 consecutive years. As federal funding ends, Sea & Sage's financial support is increasingly critical to sustaining monitoring and protection. California Least Terns remain endangered and require continued monitoring, predator management, and public education. Our volunteers and donors are vital to protecting these vulnerable species and preserving biodiversity.

Connecting People with Nature: Our education and outreach programs introduce people of all ages to nature through Outdoor Adventures, field trips, community outreach, and digital education. This year, more than 1,400 elementary students from Santa Ana visited the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary, many experiencing wetlands, binoculars, and wild birds for the first time.

Advancing Science and Research: A generous gift in honor of Doreen Johnson helped fund a Motus wildlife tracking tower at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. In partnership with Irvine Ranch Water District, Pasadena Audubon Society, and Southern Sierra Research, Sea & Sage established this resource, connecting our sanctuary to a global network tracking birds, bats, and insects. The data help scientists understand migration, identify critical habitats, and guide conservation throughout Southern California and beyond. As the first inland Orange County Motus tower, it marks an important milestone. With additional funding, Sea & Sage hopes to install two more towers to expand regional coverage and improve our understanding of wildlife movements.

Looking Ahead: These accomplishments are possible because of you—our members, volunteers, and donors. As we prepare for 2027, I ask you to contribute to Sea & Sage's Annual Appeal. Your donation will help protect vulnerable species and habitats, advance conservation advocacy, expand outreach, provide hands-on educational experiences for children, and support citizen science and research.

Thank you for being part of our conservation community. Your commitment makes a lasting difference. Together, we can build a healthier future for birds, wildlife, and the communities that depend on them.

Please donate online today by visiting SeaAndSageAudubon.org and clicking "Donate," or make your gift when you receive our Annual Appeal in the mail. Every contribution helps Sea & Sage Audubon protect birds, wildlife, and their habitats. Thank you for your support!

*With gratitude, Melissa Rapp President,
Sea & Sage Audubon Society*

INFO ABOUT OUR GENERAL MEETING IS ON PAGE 4.

Conservation News

Susan Sheakley, Conservation Chair



November Meetings/Contact Persons: Leg & Advocacy **SU 4:30 TBA/** V Leipzig; Cons Com **TU 6:45 Nov 3/** S Sheakley; Tackling Climate & Trash **TU 4:00 Nov 17/** S Warrior; Bird Collisions **WE 7:00 Nov 18/** H Ludwig; Coastal Issues **TBA/** S Thomas. **For more info, clarification of dates, etc., Contact us at conservation@seaandsage.org**

'4th Tues.'

Conservation Lecture

Tuesday, November 24th - 7:00 pm

Zoom Doors will open at 6:30 pm

"Puente-Chino Hills Christmas Bird Count: Five-Year Results & Other Observations of a New CBC Area"

*presented by Samuel Bressler,
Count Compiler*



The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is the longest-running citizen science project in the western hemisphere and is one of the most

valuable long-term datasets available for avian biology and conservation. Five years ago, the Puente-Chino Hills CBC circle was established.

Covering northern Orange County and bits of adjacent Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties, including birding hotspots like Carbon Canyon Regional Park, the upper Santa Ana River, and Chino Hills



State Park, the Puente-Chino Hills CBC circle filled a large gap in CBC coverage in the

region. After five years of growth in coverage, data collection, and regional knowledge, it is time for a report back.



Join count compiler Samuel Bressler as he shares some CBC results, including trends in local species abundance, the most

surprising species encountered, the triumphs and challenges of establishing a new circle, and why you should take part in a CBC, whether that be the Puente-Chino Hills CBC, the three other Orange County CBC run by Sea and Sage, or any of the other CBCs taking place across the region.

Advance Registration is required for this event.

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/jYYWmrOYTCiZEBJbD_prA





SHOP FOR THE BIRDS!

Sunday Nov 29th

Celebrate the season by supporting birds and wildlife in our community!

Holiday Shopping
Treats & Drinks
Photo Booth
Crafts
Gift Wrapping

Shopping: 9am - 4pm
Event Time: 9am - 2pm



Audubon House & Duck Club
5 Riparian View
Irvine, CA 92616

All proceeds benefit Sea & Sage projects right here in our community!

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 all of our Audubon House volunteers who staff Audubon House and keep it open to the public.

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 contact our Audubon House Volunteer Coordinators at ahvolcoor@seaandsage.org.

Reading Group: Tues, 17 - 1:00 – 2:30

Flight Path – by Rebecca Heisman
info@seaandsage.org

Artzy Birders – Friday, Nov. 6

Time: 6-8 PM

(Doors open at 5:40 pm)

The Learning Center - 6-8 pm

San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary

5 Riparian View, Irvine CA 92612

Topic: FALL MIGRATION

Samuel Bressler will discuss Fall Migration.

Join Sea & Sage for a fun, innovative crafting and learning experience!

Our craft will be creating Artzy Birders signage to use in our classes and outreach. **RSVP** using the link provided or find us on the website calendar.

We look forward to crafting with you!

<https://seaandsageaudubon.org/events/artzy-birder-2/>

Upcoming Artzy Events:

Dec. 4, 2026: Owls & Holiday Card Making

PLAN AHEAD for Next Month's CBCs

Northeastern CBC – Sun, Dec. 20

Puente-Chino Hills CBC – Sat, Dec. 26

Capistrano CBC – Sun, Dec. 27

Coastal CBC – Sun, Jan. 3

See page 6 for more CBC information.

General Meeting - Hybrid Presentation

Friday, November 20th - 7:00 PM

Cavity-Nesting Birds: Western Bluebirds and How You Can Help

Presented by Norm and Judi Franz

Come attend the **HYBRID** November General meeting and learn about cavity-nesting birds, with a special focus on Western Bluebirds, and discover how you can create valuable habitat for them. Cavity-nesting birds face significant challenges finding suitable nesting cavities. Habitat loss and competition have all contributed to population declines.

Representatives from the **Southern California Bluebird Club**, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation and protection of Western Bluebirds and other cavity-nesting birds, will discuss local species and the challenges they face. They will also share how nest boxes, regular monitoring, habitat protection, and other conservation efforts are helping bluebirds thrive. Learn how to select, install, monitor, and maintain a nest box, including how to safely elevate and service boxes using a **Purvis lifter and pole**. Nest boxes will be available for purchase for a small donation, giving you the opportunity to provide a safe nesting site for bluebirds in your own yard.

Norm and Judi Franz have been monitoring nestboxes for 25 years and are active members of the Southern California Bluebird Club. Norm is also the primary trainer for new monitors in South Orange County. Norm's dad, Bob Franz, co-founded the SCBC.

Meeting is Hybrid

In Person: Learning Center at San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. Doors open at 6:00 pm.

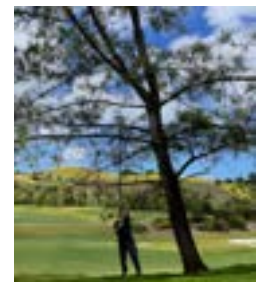
Zoom: Doors open at 6:30 pm

Zoom meeting ID: 841 9842 3399

Zoom link:

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

Join us at 6:45 pm for a Sea & Sage project highlight. .
Need help? Email Melissa Rapp, programs chair at programs@seaandsage.org





Hummingbird Garden

Join us for a friendly look into the lives of hummingbirds that visit the places where we live. Learn about the different kinds of hummingbirds in Orange County, their unique behaviors, which California native plants attract them, how to keep them safe from harm, and more. Experienced naturalists will happily answer your questions. We love hummingbirds!

Saturday, November 7

10 am – 12:30 pm

**San Joaquin Wildlife
Sanctuary in Irvine**

(entrance near Campus Drive and University)

Family-friendly.

Free. Donations welcome.

Cancelled if rain.



Activities for all ages include:

- Hummingbird behavior talk at 11:30 am
 - Walk through the Pollinators Garden
 - Garden Search with prizes
- Information about California native plants
- Hummingbird art projects for children and adults

Parking is limited. Please RSVP your name and how many in your group to Trude Hurd at email EducationDirector@seaandsage.org

Orange County Rarities

by Braxton Landsman



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 brings the first bit of fall, and while it doesn't exactly feel like such in Orange County, the birds seem to notice! This month is an incredibly diverse time for birding in Southern California, with migrating waterfowl, shorebirds, seabirds, raptors, warblers, and more. Orange County also gets an excellent share of rarities; many staying only briefly as they fuel up to continue on their migration routes.

A **Snow Goose** was along the Upper Santa Ana River on Sept. 13, and at Carbon Canyon Regional Park all month. A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was also along the Upper Santa Ana River late this month. **White-winged Doves** were at Huntington Central Park and Cordova Park on Sept. 20. The famous **Purple Gallinule** continued at San Joaquin Marsh through September 3. A **Pacific Golden-Plover** was at Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve on September 30. The ancient **Ruff** was along the Upper Santa Ana River on Sept. 1. **Baird's Sandpipers** were at Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve as well as Irvine Lake in the first half of the month. **Pectoral Sandpipers** were at the same sites, as well as the Upper Santa Ana River. A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was in the Coyote & Brea Creek Confluence on September 11. **Black Terns** were at Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, IRWD San Joaquin Marsh, and Newport Harbor this month. An adult **Little Blue Heron** was at Bolsa Chica throughout the month. A **Western Cattle-Egret** was at IRWD San Joaquin Marsh on Sept. 15.

A **Least Flycatcher** was at Gibbs Park in Huntington Beach on September 28. A **Tropical Kingbird** was at Huntington Central Park on the 18. Two **Cassin's Vireos** were at Huntington Central Park mid-month. **Plumbeous Vireos** were at Estancia Park on Sept. 19, Gilman Park on the 20th and Huntington Central Park on the 22. A probable **BLUE-HEADED VIREO** was at Huntington Central Park from Sept. 21-23. A **Yellow-green Vireo** was also at Huntington Central Park from Sept. 19-26. Extremely rare in the county, **CLARK'S NUTCRACKERS** were seen at Munhall Saddle in the Santa Ana Mountains on Sept. 23 and 26, part of a massive irruption for the species across the state this fall. **Bank Swallows** were at Bolsa Chica on Sept. 20, and Arbor Park in Seal Beach. A **Purple Martin** flew over Canyon Park in CM on Sept. 12.

Sage Thrashers were at Huntington Central Park on Sept. 23, as well as the southern Santa Ana Mountains on the 30th. A **Townsend's Solitaire** was also observed there that day. Several **EVENING GROSBEAKS** were seen from Munhall Saddle in the Santa Ana Mountains late in the month, also part of a huge montane irruption. A **CASSIN'S FINCH** was also at Munhall Saddle on Sept. 29. Five **Brewer's Sparrows** were in the county this month, as well as four **Vesper Sparrows**. A **Black-throated Sparrow** was at Mason Regional Park on Sept. 1 and 2. A **Green-tailed Towhee** was at Randall Preserve on Sept. 27, and Huntington Central Park on Sept. 29. **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were at Bolsa Chica and the Upper Santa Ana River. A **Baltimore Oriole** was at Upper Newport Bay on Sept 27.

An **Ovenbird** was in Huntington Beach on Sept. 10, and Huntington Central Park on the 26 and 27. **Northern Waterthrushes** were at the Bonita Creek Trail, Bartlett Park, Huntington Central Park, and Gilman Park this month. Only three **Black-and-White Warblers** were seen in Sept. A **Prothonotary Warbler** was at Huntington Central Park from Sept. 26-29. Six **Tennessee Warblers** were found this month, while just one **Lucy's Warbler** was at Huntington Central Park on Sept. 4. **Virginia's Warblers** were at Mile Square Regional Park, Gilman Park, and residential Irvine this month. At least five **American Redstarts** were throughout the county in Sept., as well as three **Northern Parulas**. **Blackburnian Warblers** were at Eucalyptus Park on Sept. 19, and Canyon Park from Sept. 26-28. **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were at Huntington Central Park and Aldrich Park late in the month. **Blackpoll Warblers** were at Mile Square Regional Park and Huntington Central Park, while a **Palm Warbler** was at Eastbluff Park on Sept. 26 and 28. A **GRACE'S WARBLER** was in residential Tustin on Sept. 22. Two **Painted Buntings** were at Huntington Central Park this month.

PLAN AHEAD for Next Month's CBCs

— **12/20/26 - Doug Lithgow** (doug.lithgow@seaandsage.org) The **Inland circle** covers areas from Irvine Reg. Park SE to Rancho Santa Margarita

— **12/26/26 - Samuel Bressler** (samuel.bressler@seaandsage.org) The **Puente-Hills circle** covers areas Santiago Oaks Reg. Park NW to Rowland Heights

— **12/27/26 - Darrell Wilson** (darrell.wilson@seaandsage.org) The **San Juan Capistrano circle** covers areas South Laguna to San Clemente and inland to Riley Wilderness Park and Caspers Wilderness Park.

— **1/3/27 - Bettina Eastman** (bettina.eastman@seaandsage.org) The **Coastal circle** covers the area from Seal Beach south to Newport Bay and inland to areas of Santa Ana and Garden Grove.

Most people start early and stay until lunch time or later. If you are interested in participating in one or more CBC events this year, please send your information to the compilers for the areas that you are interested in. Include your contact information, email and phone number plus an indication of your experience. The compiler or area leaders will reach out to you with specific locations and times to meet.

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)

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 AM to 4 PM. The restrooms, trails, and parking lots are open daily from dawn until dusk. Call 949-261-7963 for information.

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

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.

Audubon Membership

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 or renew your membership, do so with a donation of at least \$20 using a credit card; follow the links below. (When you join National Audubon, you will also be joining Sea & Sage.)

To join: <http://act.audubon.org/a/chapter-membership?chapter=C15>

To renew: <http://act.audubon.org/a/renew> . Once you pay the \$20, it takes National Audubon about 30 days to update our database, as they only update once a month.

If you need assistance with completing this membership process, please contact an Audubon House Volunteer at 949 261-7963. Leave your phone number so Gail Richards, our membership chair, can contact you.



C15

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Nature Store... naturestore@seaandsage.org
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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/>

November 2026:

03	Tues	Conservation Com Mtg via Zoom..	6:45 pm
06	Fri	Artzy Birders ®	6:00 pm
07	Sat	Hummingbird Garden.....	10:00 am
08	Sun	SJWS bird walk ®	8:00 am
10	Tues	Board Meeting via Zoom	7:00 pm
15	Sun	Carbon Canyon bird walk.....	8:00 am
17	Tues	Reading Group	1:00 pm
18	Wed	UNB by pontoon boat (\$)	8:15 am
19	Thurs	Bolsa Chica bird walk.....	8:00 am
20	Fri	GENERAL MEETING Hybrid.....	7:00 pm
24	Tues	4 th Tues Conservation Lecture.....	7:00 pm
29	Sun	Upper Newport Bay bird walk ®.....	8:00 am
29	Sun	Holiday Boutique.....	9:00 am

December 2026:

01	Tues	Conservation Com Mtg via Zoom..	6:45 pm
04	Fri	Artzy Birders ®	6:00 pm
08	Tues	Quail Hill Open Space Preserve bird walk.....	7:00 am
08	Tues	Board Meeting via Zoom	7:00 pm
13	Sun	SJWS bird walk ®	8:00 am
16	Wed	UNB by pontoon boat (\$)	8:15 am
20	Sun	Northeastern (Inland) CBC	tba
26	Sat	Puente-Chino Hills CBC	tba
27	Sun	San Juan Capistrano CBC.....	tba

January 2027:

03	Sun	Coastal CBC ...	tba
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