Sea and Sage Audubon Society

Birds of Southern California
An Introductory Birding Skills Workshop
presented by Sylvia 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. (Because of COVID-19, this year the classroom sessions will be presented remotely via Zoom.) 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:
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.
7,8. Birds of the streamside woodland (in 2 parts).

Each person will attend ten weekly meetings via Zoom. For these, you’ll need a computer and good internet access. Each person must have his/her own computer. You will choose one of these three sections to attend:
- Wed. evenings: 7:00 - 10:00 p.m., Oct. 7 - Dec. 16, except Nov. 25.
- Thurs. mornings: 9:00 a.m. - noon, Oct. 8 - Dec. 17, except Nov. 26.
- Thurs. evenings: 7:00 - 10:00 p.m., Oct. 8 - Dec. 17, except Nov. 26.

Four half-day field trips to Orange County locations will be scheduled, and you may choose Saturdays or Mondays. See dates and places below. Participants will be divided into small groups of 7-10 people with an experienced leader. See enrollment form (below) and indicate your preferences.

The maximum enrollment for each section is 17. If any section does not have at least 12 people enrolled by Sept. 28, it will be canceled. Reserve early though, because some sections may fill quickly and the maximum enrollment will be smaller this year than usual. A donation of $100.00 (or more) per person is requested, if you can afford it. Enclose at least half of it with your reservation. Installment plan possible for those who can’t afford it right now.

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. Since Sea and Sage’s Audubon House bookstore is closed due to COVID, you will need to purchase these books from an on-line book seller (not Sea and Sage) or in some other fashion.

Send your reservation for this workshop, postmarked no earlier than Sept. 8 (2-day penalty for early reservations), to Introductory Workshop, Sylvia Gallagher, 21562 Kaneohe Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92646. Make check payable to: Sea and Sage Audubon. 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 Sept. 29, including preliminary information.

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 the document entitled “Read first,” the last one in the list, 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 – Introductory Birding Skills Workshop (Fall 2020)

Names of all participants: ________________________________________________

Address(es): ___________________________________________________________

City ___________________________ ZIP ________ Phone(s) ____________________

E-mail: ____________________________________________________________________

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

WED. p.m. _______ THURS. a.m. _______ THURS. p.m. _______ SASE enclosed? _______

For placement in field trip group, please assess your birding experience. Total beginner _________ Have been birding casually or only in a specialized habitat for some time _________

Remarks: ____________________________________________________________________

Choose your date for each field trip. Check or rank both if you can. (You will not be scheduled for both days.)

2. Upper Newport Bay & possibly Crescent Bay Point. Sat., Nov. 7 _______ Mon., Nov. 9 _______ Not going ______
3. Irvine Regional Park. Sat., Nov. 21 _______ Mon., Nov. 23 _______ Not going. _________

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