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. 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. A second ten-week workshop on Bird Sounds and Their Meaning will immediately follow this one.

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.

Each person will attend ten weekly meetings via Zoom. For these, you'll need a computer and good internet access. Each person should have his/her own computer. You will choose one of these three sections to attend:

- Wed. evenings: 7:00 - 10:00 p.m., Oct. 6 - Dec. 15, except Nov. 24
- Thurs. mornings: 9:00 a.m. - noon, Oct. 7 - Dec. 16 except Nov. 25
- Thurs. evenings: 7:00 - 10:00 p.m., Oct. 7 - Dec. 16 except Nov. 25

Four half-day field trips to Orange County locations will be scheduled, and you may choose Saturdays or Mondays. The trips will be on Saturday or Monday mornings (your choice) following the third, fifth, seventh, and ninth weeks of class. More information will come later.

To be on the safe side and to accommodate people who don’t live close-by, this year’s workshops will once again be presented remotely with Zoom. We expect to have back in-person classes next year with probably no Zoom.

The maximum enrollment for each section is 22. If any section does not have at least 12 people enrolled by Sept. 27 it will be canceled. Reserve early though, because some sections may fill quickly. A donation of $120 (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 may still be closed due to COVID, you might need to purchase these books from an on-line book seller (not Sea and Sage) or in some other fashion. As workshop time approaches, call Audubon House, (949) 261-7963, to see if they are open and stocked with the books. If so, the price will no doubt be quite competitive.

Send your reservation for this workshop, postmarked no earlier than Sept. 7 (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). 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 2021)

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:

WED. p.m.______ THURS. a.m. ______THURS. p.m.______

SASE enclosed?____

~ MAIL THIS RESERVATION FORM (SASE) to Sylvia Gallagher ~