Volunteers are needed!

Gail Richards, President

Spring is almost here and Sea and Sage Audubon is opening back up! However, volunteers are needed! Over the past two years of our COVID shutdown, many of our former volunteers have notified us that they will not be returning, due to a whole range of reasons. Our most immediate needs for volunteer include:

Audubon House has always been able to be open to the public 8 hours a day, 7 days a week, except on major holidays. Audubon House is our headquarters and the face of Sea and Sage to our community. In 2019, pre-COVID, we greeted 3300 visitors from all over the nation and even the world. Volunteers greet visitors, make sales, answer phones, distribute trail maps and other literature, and answer general questions about the wetland. To fill all of our shifts and keep the house open to visitors, we need a few more volunteers who can work a 4-hour shift, once a week or month, or occasionally throughout the year. Please contact Doug Lithgow, dmlithgow@aol.com.

Outdoor Adventures is our education program for 5th grade students coming from 67 Santa Ana schools. Trude Hurd, our Marsh Education Project Director, said, "Our Audubon Naturalists share nature with people in a way that is thoughtful and fun. We are currently looking for enthusiastic, gentle people for Outdoor Adventures science discovery program." There is a particular need for volunteers who would enjoy taking children on a guided bird walk, as part of the total Outdoor Education program. Contact Trude Hurd: seaandsage@sbcglobal.net.

During the summer, the Marsh Education program will be needing volunteers for Nature Day Camps and Summer Bat Walks. You may contact Trude if you are interested in helping with one of these programs.

Ongoing needs for volunteers include:

- Fairview Park Bird Surveys - redtail1@cox.net
- Sea and Sage Exhibits throughout the year - mary.stg.joseph@gmail.com
- Tree Swallow Nest Box Monitoring - clmukai13@gmail.com
- Least Tern Monitoring - LeastTernshb@gmail.com
- Snowy Plover Monitoring - ocsnplsurvey@gmail.com
- UCI Census-White-tailed Kites - redtail1@cox.net
- Bird Seasons Phenology Study - bettinae24@gmail.com

General Meeting - Online Presentation

Friday, April 15th - 7:00 PM
Via Zoom

“Diversity and Conservation of Southern California’s Native Bees”
presented by Dr. James Hung,
University of Oklahoma and UC San Diego

When you hear "save the bees", what comes to mind? For many, it comes as a surprise that "the bees" include some 20,000 species around the world, with roughly 1,600 species found in California. Bees are among the most important insects in our ecosystem, but like many other organisms, they are under threat from a variety of human impacts. Join Dr. James Hung as we explore the fascinating natural history of California's diverse native bees, examine the threats they face in our local ecosystems, and discuss ways in which we can all lend a hand in their conservation.

James Hung is a Canadian ecologist currently serving as an assistant professor at the University of Oklahoma, where he heads the native pollinator laboratory at the Oklahoma Biological Survey. Before that, he pursued his PhD studies at UC San Diego, where he was a grateful recipient of a Sea and Sage Audubon Bloom-Hays grant, which supported his research on native pollinators in the fragmented coastal sage scrub ecosystem of coastal San Diego County. In his spare time, James enjoys being outdoors with his kids, making food with his wife, growing vegetables, photographing wildlife, and playing the violin in his church band. James's favorite insects are bees, of course! His favorite non-bee insect is the mole cricket.

Please join us for this fun filled program. Meeting room opens at 6:30 PM, join us for some virtual games (e.g. bird trivia, bird ID) prior to the 7:00 PM meeting. Here is the link you will need to join the meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89763470155

See you there (virtually),
(If this link isn't working for you, try Meeting ID: 897 6347 0155)

Need Help? email Jonathan Aguayo at: jonathan.aguayo@psomas.com

Jonathan Aguayo, Programs Chair
Conservation News
Susan Sheakley, Conservation Chair

Our next ‘4th Tuesday’ Conservation Lecture, by Zoom, is planned for Tuesday April 26th. Please join us!

‘4th Tues.’ Conservation Lecture
Tues. April 26th – 7:00 pm
On-line presentation
Zoom doors open at 6:30 pm
“Fixing the Climate Crisis and Saving Ecosystems in OC”
Alexis Hernandez, Climate Action Campaign

Alexis (Lexi) Hernandez will share surprising insights on how the climate crisis is harming OC and how you can help to solve the problem. Lexi says:

“Climate change is a massive global emergency that’s harming our local ecosystems and all creatures who live in it, particularly marginalized communities. We know that greenhouse gases (GHG) cause climate change, and according to the United Nations, most GHGs come from cities. Good news though! We have already begun reducing emissions in OC, and your city can help slash emissions at the scale of the climate crisis and protect human health through key policies. You can help make this happen!”

Lexi is a passionate Environmental Justice advocate and eco-communicator focused on creating a just and sustainable future for both people and the planet. She is pursuing a Bachelors of Science in Environmental Science and Policy, and a Bachelors of Arts in Sociology from Chapman College.

California Least Tern Watch

Help the endangered California Least Tern by keeping your eyes on their active nesting colony. Volunteers watch for breeding behavior, eggs, chicks, fledglings, and predators and record observations, as well as watch for Western Snowy Plovers. Location? The Huntington State Beach Least Tern Preserve at the Santa Ana River mouth.

Season Kick-off & Volunteer Training: April 21, 2022, from 6 - 8 PM via zoom. New and returning volunteers are encouraged to attend the Season Kick-off & Volunteer Training, featuring a slide show of the Breeding Biology of the Least Tern and Snowy Plover.

Field Orientation: is required for new volunteers and will be held at the Least Tern Preserve at Huntington State Beach, 8 – 10 AM, Saturday, May 7, or Sunday, May 15. Parking is free for field training. Enter at Magnolia entrance. All new volunteers will become members of the Volunteers in Parks Program for California State Parks, sign up details to follow Season Kick-off. All returning and new volunteers who have completed their paperwork and are actively volunteering will receive a beach parking pass. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Volunteer Coordinator at: leastternshb@gmail.com to get your Zoom invitation. More info is on our chapter webpage: http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org/Conservation/LeastTerns/LETE.htm

ATTENTION! SAVE THE DATE - MAY 15!
WRITE IT ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

Our ‘4th Tues.’ Conservation Lecture in May will take place on Sunday, May 15, at 3:30 in the afternoon! We changed the day and time because our speaker protested at starting a “live” Zoom meeting at 10:00 PM, his local time. We have a great program and speaker lined up, “Homegrown National Park”, presented by Doug Tallamy, so please don’t miss it!

Helping Change Climate Policy in Orange County

Ayn Craciun, left, and Lexi Hernandez, right
Chang, TimesOC, Staff Photographer

Please join us on April 26. Advance registration is required for this meeting and will open on April 1st through our website: www.seaandsageaudubon.org
Look for ‘4th Tues’ Conservation Lecture under What’s New or Conservation on the homepage.

Holly Fuhrer
Almost all of the unusual species found in the county this past February were overwintering species in our parks and wetlands. Most of these birds were found earlier in the winter, with a few minor — and one major — exception. It won’t be long before the warm rush of spring will bring a fresh flush of migrants. Already the earliest swallows and hummingbirds are beginning to trickle in, and keen birders should keep a close eye on their patches for wayward visitors.

The tame Mexican Duck continued at Carr Park for much of the month; it was last seen February 20. A Long-tailed Duck was found off Newport Pier on February 28. Presumably this is a continuing individual occasionally reported earlier in the year. After a winter hiatus, Neotropic Cormorants were observed at two locations: San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary on February 23 and 26, and at Laguna Niguel Regional Park on February 26. Two Short-billed Gulls were at Mile Square Regional Park on February 17th. The long-staying Tricolored Heron and Little Blue Heron continued at Upper Newport Bay and Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, respectively, through the end of the month, meanwhile Yellow-crowned Night Herons were observed at various sites throughout the month, including Dana Point Harbor, Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, and Upper Newport Bay. These days it might be rarer not to find this subtropical heron species roosting at either of the former two hotspots.

At least one immature Bald Eagle continued to visit various sites in coastal Orange County. Reports from the first half of the month came from Upper Newport Bay before moving northwest to Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve and Huntington Central Park. The pattern of observations suggests this is a single wide-ranging individual, though this has not been established yet. A Zone-tailed Hawk was observed in the Rancho Santa Margarita area on February 16 and 25, throughout the month. At least four Hammond’s Flycatcher wintered in south county, likely a high count for recent years. These included a continuing wintering individual at the Jeffrey Open Space Trail, and new finds at Pinecrest Park from February 6 through the end of the month, the Oso Creek Trail from February 11-22, and Jeronimo Open Space Park February 12-25. The only other overwintering empids found in February were a couple of Pacific-slope Flycatchers at Irvine High School on February 11 and Laguna Niguel Regional Park on February 16. The Chisanta Drive Brown-crested Flycatcher continued to be seen and heard reliably in its usual haunts. Also continuing was a Tropical Kingbird in the back area of Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve on February 11; note that this area is off limits to birders.

The overwintering Brown Creeper at Huntington Central Park was last observed on February 22, with others farther inland at Irvine Regional Park through February 13, the Tustin Channel in Santa Ana on February 14, and at Yorba Regional Park on February 26.

The two overwintering thrushes previously known in the county continued: a Mountain Bluebird at Quail Hill Preserve and a Varied Thrush at Irvine Regional Park. A Clay-colored Sparrow at Clark Regional Park also continued to overwinter, as did a Vesper Sparrow along the Arroyo Trabuco near O’Neill Regional Park. On the other hand, a Harris’s Sparrow, the first in the county since 2013, was found at Tustin Legacy Park on February 20. This bird was hands-down the best new find for February, and one of the most notable of the entire winter. At least four White-throated Sparrows were observed at various parks including continuing birds at Vintage Park, Aurora Park, and at Cook Park in San Juan Capistrano.

An adult Black-and-white Warbler continued overwintering at Aurora Park through the end of the month, while an immature bird at the same park was seen through February 25. The only other unusual warblers observed in the county in February were an American Redstart in Irvine and a MacGillivray’s Warbler at the Environmental Nature Center in Newport Beach, both on February 20.
Chapter News & Announcements

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.

Audubon House Volunteers

We would like to thank the following people for helping to staff Audubon House in March and April: Susie Burgess, Emmett Carlson, Jim Fiedler, Gregg Figge, Carol Garrett, John Garrett, Carol Getz, John Hargrove, Sue Henry, Sarah Jayne, David Kramer, Lauretta Kyle, Doug Lithgow, Mary Meister, Bobbie Miller, Paula Monroe, JoAnn Nothelfer, Roberta Ray, Barbara Reber, Jennifer Reed, Linda Reed, Paul Saiki, Dev Sellin, Susan Sheakley, Monte Taylor, Pat Wells, Phil Westin.

Our Volunteers greet visitors, answer the phone, sell merchandise, answer questions about birds, etc. If you are interested in helping at Audubon House, please call one of our Audubon House Volunteer Coordinators: Paula Monroe (480-299-9885) or Dev Sellin (714-943-3682). We welcome new volunteers!

Color of Tattlers

You may be wondering why the Tattler newsletter changed color. The printer informed me last month that the company which supplies the paper for our Tattler is unable to get our usual color at the present time, so we had a choice between lemon yellow and white, and I chose white.

Donors continued from the March Issue. Thank you so much!

Anonymous
Debbie Calvy
Daniel & Anahid Crecelius
Christine Dickey
Cindy Haq
Timothy Hopkins
Elia Jimenez
Kathryn & Amin Khalifa
Jennifer Meyer
Barbara Stocker
Peer Swan
Debby Thyssen

Orange County Spring Count
April & May 2022

What is the OCSC?
The OCSC (Orange County Spring Count) is part of a nationwide migration count, similar to a Christmas Bird Count, but timed to the opposite half of the migration cycle. Sea & Sage is encouraging birders to participate any time during the months of April and May. This will allow us to see and count more of the species that migrate through the county to focus on the best areas for birds, since comprehensive coverage of the entire county is not a realistic goal.

How you can participate:
One of the objectives of Environment for the Americas (the sponsor of the hemisphere wide count) is to enter all of the data into eBird. This means that it is simple to participate. Many of you already use eBird. You can enter your Spring Count data directly into eBird for any birding that you do during April and May. All that is needed is to share the eBird checklist with the Sea and Sage Audubon eBird account. The eBird user name is sea_sage_aud
For more information, please check the OCSC webpage.

Our Next Birdability Event – Accessible Birding and a Picnic at Yorba Regional Park - April 22

Our next accessible bird outing is on Friday, April 22, at Yorba Regional Park. This event is open to all and is especially suited for those who want to bird at a slower pace. There will be experienced birders to help with bird identification. The event will run from 9:00 to 12 noon; birding will be followed by a picnic lunch. Bring your lunch, binoculars, and a portable chair if desired. There is a $3 fee to get into the park if you do not have an OC Parks pass. Yorba Park is one of the eBird Hot Spots in Orange County. Contact Sharon Rockwell if you have questions about this event. srockwell@writeme.com
Advanced reservations are required; contact nancykenyon@cox.net to sign up & receive trip info.
NATURE DAY CAMPS 2022
at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine

Do you know a young person who loves birds? Enroll them in our week-long camp programs and they will discover the joy of bird-watching with Orange County’s birding experts! During each camp, children take daily walks, keep a nature journal, create nature art, and learn important bird topics taught by enthusiastic, caring Audubon Naturalists. Confidential partial scholarships are available upon request.

**Beginning Bird Camp** for ages 7-9 from July 5 to 8 (no camp on July 4th). Camp meets 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Campers will learn the basics of birding, the types of birds, and birds of freshwater marshes. Fee is $125 Audubon members/ $140 regular.

**Coastal Bird Camp** for ages 10-12 from July 11 to 15. Camp meets 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Campers will study shorebirds of freshwater and saltwater marshes and enjoy one off-site trip at Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve. Fee is $150 Audubon members / $170 regular.

**Advanced Bird Camp I - Coastal Sage Scrub** for ages 13-15 from July 18 to 22. Camp meets 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM. Campers will focus on Orange County’s coastal sage scrub habitat and enjoy one off-site trip at Crystal Cove State Park. Fee is $170 Audubon members / $190 regular.

**Advanced Bird Camp II - Oak Woodlands** for ages 13-15 from July 25 to 29. Camp meets 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM. Campers will focus on oak woodland habitat and enjoy one off-site trip to Santiago Oaks Regional Park. Fee is $170 Audubon members / $190 regular.

**Questions? Contact our Camp co-coordinators:**
- For Beginning Bird Camp or Coastal Bird Camp, contact Deborah Brin at deborah@brin.net.
- For Advanced Bird Camp I and II, contact Carolyn Noble at nobility@cox.net.

**Enrollment opens May 1, 2022.**

For link to Eventbrite registration, see our website [www.seaandsageaudubon.org](http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org) or email Education Project Director Trude Hurd at seaandsage@sbcglobal.net

Special Note: All CDC guidelines will be carefully adhered to by campers and naturalists. All naturalists will be fully Covid-vaccinated. Since guidelines change with time, we will inform you of masking and/or vaccination requirements before camp.
Coastal CBC Report – Jan. 2, 2022

The Total Species for this count was 189. There were 14 exotic species. Number of Participants was 143.
Full information on this count will soon be posted on our Sea & Sage webpage.

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**Exotic Species:**

Eurasian Wigeon, Cackling Goose, Eurasian-Collared Dove, Black-necked Stilt, Semi-palmated Plover, Killdeer.
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.

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, 32 Almond Tree Ln, Irvine CA 92612

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 nancykenyon@cox.net 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 immediately turn right onto Riparian View which will enter the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. The entrance road is marked by a green 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
949-261-7963

Sea & Sage Reading Group

Please join us for one of our upcoming monthly Sea & Sage Reading Group sessions where we’ll be discussing the following:

• April 19th – Richard Powers’ Bewilderment (Fiction)
• May 17th – Robin Wall Kimmerer’s Braiding Sweetgrass (Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants)

The group meets via Zoom on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 1:00 pm and we love and welcome new comers. Please join us for what should be a lively discussion. For more information, visit the Reading Group page on the Sea & Sage website: https://www.seaandsageaudubon.org/Chapter/ReadingGroup.html

Temporarily Away or Moving?

Please notify Jim Kissinger of your new address if you are temporarily, or permanently, moving from your current address; or, let him know if you do not want to continue to receive the Tattler. This will save us postage.

Jim Kissinger, Membership Chair

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.)

To join: Complete the form below & mail it along with your payment to: Sea and Sage Audubon, PO Box 5447, Irvine CA 92616

Make your check payable to: NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY. Please pay by check only; do not send cash.

Or, go online to: http://tinyurl.com/hyeaw67 (Our chapter code is C15)

To renew membership: renew directly with National Audubon by direct mail or online: (Renewals are $20 per year.)
http://tinyurl.com/zjbs5tt

Name ________________________________
Address _________________________________________________________________
City, State, Zip ________________________________
Phone _______________________________________
E-mail _______________________________________

C15

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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.wwccoc.org/

SCHEDULE of CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

April 2022:

All Month Orange County Spring Count........ Time is up to you
02 Sat Nature Walk at the SJWS ©......................... 9:00 am
02 Sat Eastern Sierra weekend trip © (Full)............ 7:00 am
05 Tues Conservation Committee Mtg. via Zoom .... 6:45 pm
10 Sun Bird Walk at the SJWS © (Full) ................. 8:00 am
12 Tues Board Meeting via Zoom ....................... 7:00 pm
15 Fri GENERAL MEETING via Zoom ................... 7:00 pm
17 Sun Anaheim Coves Park Bird Walk © ............ 8:00 am
19 Tues Sea & Sage Reading Group .................. 1:00 pm
21 Thurs CA Least Tern Season Kick-off Meeting .... 6:00 pm
22 Fri Birdability Trip at Yorba Regional Park © .... 9:00 am
24 Sun Big Morongo Preserve © (Full) ............... 8:00 am
24 Sun Upper Newport Bay Bird Walk © ............ 8:00 am
26 Tues ‘4th Tues’ Conservation Lecture via Zoom .... 7:00 pm

May 2022:

All Month Orange County Spring Count........ Time is up to you
01 Sun Spring Pelagic Trip © (Full) ....................... 6:30 am
03 Tues Conservation Committee Mtg. via Zoom .... 6:45 pm
07 Sat Nature Walk at the SJWS ©......................... 9:00 am
07 Sat Field Orientation for New LETE volunteers .. 8:00 am
08 Sun Bird Walk at the SJWS © ......................... 8:00 am
15 Sun Carbon Canyon bird walk © ..................... 8:00 am
15 Sun Field Orientation for New LETE volunteers .. 8:00 am
15 Sun ‘4th Tues’ Conservation Lecture via Zoom .... 3:30 pm
17 Tues Sea & Sage Reading Group .................. 1:00 pm
19 Thurs Bolsa Chica bird walk © ..................... 8:00 am
20 Fri GENERAL MEETING via Zoom ................... 7:00 pm
29 Sun Upper Newport Bay bird Walk © ............ 8:00 am