President’s Message  
*by Doug Lithgow*

Dear Sea and Sage Audubon Members,

Our chapter has recently made several difficult decisions in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and keep our volunteers and members safe. Our first concern is everyone’s health and safety. With this in mind, we have canceled most of our monthly activities and meetings.

We have cancelled or closed:

- Annual Dinner at Mile Square Park.
- April General Meeting on 4/17.
- 4th Tuesday Conservation Lecture on 4/28.
- The Audubon House until further notice.
- All Sea and Sage field trips
- Marsh Education Project programs through the month of March and April.

Irvine Ranch Water District, the owners of the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary, has made the decision to close the Duck Club and the Learning Center to the public through the end of April. Sea and Sage Audubon is still examining other chapter functions for further consideration and we will keep you posted.

In the meantime, get out in nature to the extent allowed under the shelter in place rules. The San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary remains open to the public and is still full of wonderful birds with spring migration well underway. It is an enchanting place to bird, hike, photograph nature, or just sit and listen to the sounds of nature. Our Bird Board at the Audubon House is still up; however, birders will need to use their own pen. The Orange County Spring Count begins on April 1st and goes through May 31st. Go birding anywhere in Orange County, list your birds in eBird and share them with [sea_sage_aud](http://www.ssaudubon.org/). It’s easy, fun, and you will be contributing to citizen science. In closing, please stay safe and stay healthy!

Respectfully,

*Doug Lithgow* 
President, Sea and Sage Audubon

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Education Project News  
*by Trude Hurd*

Since 1992, Sea and Sage Audubon Society has been dedicated to sharing high-quality environmental education programs at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary as part of our partnership with the Irvine Ranch Water District. Because we want everyone to discover nature in a safe environment, we have been carefully monitoring the coronavirus situation. To safeguard program participants, wildlife sanctuary visitors and our volunteer Audubon Naturalists, **Sea and Sage Audubon has temporarily cancelled the following Marsh Education Project programs:**

- Outdoor Adventures science programs
- Monthly Nature Walk
- Teenage Junior Naturalists activities
- Community Tours
- Nature Discovery Kits
- Summer Bat Walks

At the end of April, we will re-evaluate the situation. We are determined to do the best we can to (1) limit the spread of this disease and (2) to reduce risk of infection of our naturalists and program participants.

We are saddened to cancel so much of our community outreach, but this is an exceptional year featuring a pandemic. We appreciate our partnership with the Irvine Ranch Water District and the ability to share nature with people through our friendly, interpretive programs at the marsh. Once coronavirus settles down, the Audubon naturalists and I will be back doing what we love best! In the meantime, we encourage you to visit the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary to enjoy its peaceful tranquility, but please remember no dogs, no bikes, and daylight hours only.

On the positive side, we can still enjoy nature, watch birds, take walks, garden, read, sing, dance, write poetry, play, share stories, and learn more about nature. If you are housebound, check out the live web cams for owls at Starr Ranch ([http://starranch.org/blog/](http://starranch.org/blog/)), eagles on Catalina Island ([http://www.iws.org/livecams.html](http://www.iws.org/livecams.html)), and albatrosses and ospreys through Cornell Lab of Ornithology ([https://www.allaboutbirds.org/cams/all-cams/](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/cams/all-cams/)).

See you out on nature’s trails, but at a safe distance!

*Trude Hurd* 
Project Director of Education
Conservation News
Susan Sheakley, Conservation Chair

We have cancelled the April Conservation Committee meeting and the April ‘4th Tuesday’ Conservation Lecture. We will resume these meetings as soon as we can in future months.

Climate Challenge: protect birds, people and the planet by holding global warming to 1.5 ºC!

To respond to National Audubon’s wake-up call, and help protect the birds we all love, Sea and Sage has taken these initial steps:

**Formed a Climate Change Team (CCT)** to focus on the climate crisis and explore what each of us can do to limit greenhouse gases and protect birds and people.

**Instituted the Climate Corner** to share tips and information. The Climate Corner may turn up in our newsletter, on our website or Facebook, or even make a brief appearance at a ‘4th Tues.’ or other chapter meeting.

Our CCT (Climate Change Team) wants to hear from you. Please share your ideas or information about climate-related legislation or policy on one of the six suggested Audubon Actions listed below; a Sea and Sage project; or a ‘what you can do’. Use a Climate Corner card or “Contact Us” Att: CCT through our website: www.seaandsageaudubon.org. Include your name and contact information.

**Climate Corner Tip #1:** Talk to your public officials and let them know that taking action to fight climate change is important to you.

**Audubon Actions:** National Audubon advises that if we are to stop emitting greenhouse gases by 2050, we must take action to address the root causes of climate change and adopt legislation and policies for:

- Economy-wide, large-scale, emission-reduction, such as pricing and carbon caps;
- Energy-efficiency standards to reduce demands on electricity;
- Clean-energy expansion, such as wind, solar, etc.
- Reductions in tailpipe emissions with fuel economy, electric vehicles, and public transport;
- Landscape preservation and restoration to sequester carbon;
- Technology development and use to transition to clean energy, such as battery storage and carbon capture.

Let’s find opportunities to control climate change.

California Least Tern Watch

Help the endangered California Least Terns 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 Least Tern Natural Preserve at beautiful Huntington State Beach at the Santa Ana River mouth.

Returning and new volunteers who are interested in taking part in this project, please email the Least Tern Volunteer Coordinator leastternshb@gmail.com who will send you the paperwork and instructions along with any further information as it becomes relevant.

All volunteers will receive a beach parking pass for the State Beaches in the Orange Coast District for 2020.

Additional information about the program can be found on our chapter webpage: http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org/Conservation/LeastTerns/LETE.htm

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. This year the OCSC is again being expanded to try to capture more of the birds that migrate through the county. Sea and Sage is encouraging birders to participate anytime during the months of April and May.

**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 very simple to participate. See our webpage for full instructions. http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org/BirdInfo/BirdCounts/OCSC/OCSpringCount.html

R.L. Kenyon

Bruce Odou

Birds Connect Our World
Although most of the rarities being reported during the last month were continuing birds found earlier in the winter, a few new discoveries were made during this time as well. We’ll start off this month by reviewing some of the more notable of these new finds.

A White-winged Dove in Huntington Beach backyard, Feb. 11, was a surprise. Although this species was not likely migrating at this date, wintering White-wings often seem to cover a lot of ground. With Black-legged Kittiwakes appearing in good numbers in Southern California waters over the last month or two, it wasn’t too surprising that one was found at the mouth of San Juan Creek, Feb. 9. Exceptional for both location and date was a Red-billed Tropicbird photographed during a whale-watching excursion, 18 Feb., less than 1.5 mile off Dana Point; the vast majority of records of this species in SoCal waters occur during the fall months. Another Brown Booby was encountered during a Feb. 17 whale watching trip. A Bald Eagle was seen at the Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve (UNBER) on Feb. 23. A Sage Thrasher at the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve (BCER), Feb. 28-Mar. 1, was likely a spring migrant; some early migrants of this species can occur as early as late January. A Red-breasted Nuthatch at Rush Park (in Rossmoor), Feb. 27, had presumably been wintering locally. Several other newly discovered rarities during the last month had also likely been wintering in the area, but had avoided detection until recently. These included a Green-tailed Towhee at Riley Wilderness Park, Feb. 19; a Clay-colored Sparrow once again at the Santa Ana Cemetery, Feb. 10-25; a White-throated Sparrow in San Clemente, Feb. 12; a Black-and-white Warbler at Serrano Community Park (SCP), Feb. 14-24; and a Lucy’s Warbler at Huntington Central Park (HCP), Feb. 23-Mar. 2.

Although there are exceptions, most wintering species in Orange County will typically stay through March or April; hence, it was no surprise that many rarities found earlier in the winter were still being seen well into February. The following is an update, then, on some of the more noteworthy of the county’s wintering birds. Single Eurasian Wigeons continued at Pearson Park, HCP, and near the mouth of the Santa Ana River (SAR) through at least mid-Feb., while up to three Common Goldeneyes were still being seen in Yorba Regional Park (and the adjacent SAR), through at least Feb. 18. As many as three Pacific Golden-Plovers remained at the Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station through Feb. 21, while the Mountain Plover wintering at BCER was last known to be present Mar. 1. The Laughing Gull at North Lake in Irvine was last reported around Feb. 4. Continuing heron rarities included the Tricolored Heron at UNBER, through Feb. 20, and several Yellow-crowned Night-Herons through late Feb. (including up to four at the Dana Point Harbor, and up to two at BCER). An adult Zone-tailed Hawk at El Toro Memorial Park, Feb. 5, and at nearby SCP, Feb. 16, was likely one known to be wintering in this general area of the county. A Lewis’s Woodpecker was still at Caspers’s Wilderness Park, Feb. 25, while a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker remained in Mason Regional Park (East) through Feb. 26.

Single Gray Flycatchers, known to be wintering at Quail Hill and Irvine Regional Park, continued through mid-Feb., while a Pacific-slope Flycatcher at SCP was still present Feb. 24. Vermilion Flycatchers continued into Feb. at SBWNS and Greer Park, while one in Dana Point, Feb. 9-17, was a new find. A Cassin’s Vireo was refound in Feb. at Rush Park, while a Plumbeous Vireo continued at Eucalyptus Park through at least Feb. 16. A Pacific Wren at HCP, Feb. 19-22, was undoubtedly the same bird first found here in mid-Nov. The well-known Brown Thrasher wintering at Aurora Park continued through at least Feb. 29. A Green-tailed Towhee at Harriet Weider Regional Park was last reported Feb. 8. A Vesper Sparrow at SBWNS, and a Swamp Sparrow at Bart Spendlove Park, were both last reported during the first week of February.

The Ovenbird, back for its second winter at Golden West College, was present through at least Feb. 19. A Black-and-white Warbler at Aurora Park, since early Dec., continued through Feb. 24. At Gilman Park, an American Redstart was refound on Mar. 1, and at the Good Shepherd Cemetery the Pine Warbler was present through at least Feb. 23.
**Annual Dinner Business:**

**Bylaws Vote and Slate of Nominees**

To see the bylaws changes, go to - [http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org/Chapter/ProposedChangesToS&SBylaws.pdf](http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org/Chapter/ProposedChangesToS&SBylaws.pdf)

For updates on closures & chapter activities, go to - [http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org/Chapter/ScheduleChapterActivities.pdf](http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org/Chapter/ScheduleChapterActivities.pdf)

As indicated in the President’s message on the first page, the Board of Directors cancelled the March 20th Annual Dinner and the April General Meeting in order to limit the spread of the coronavirus. A critical item on the Annual Dinner’s agenda was the vote by the membership on the proposed amendments to our bylaws as described in our February Tattler and available on our website at the url shown above.

**Bylaws Vote:** Due to the pandemic, we do not know when our next General Meeting will be held, so we are asking you to vote on the bylaws either electronically or by U.S. mail. Thank you for your time and energy in helping our organization in this important way! Please cast your bylaws vote no later than April 21.

To vote electronically, if Membership already has your email in our membership database, you can either respond to the email message you received from the president of Sea and Sage or by simply using the button on our website at [www.seaandsageaudubon.org](http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org)

To vote by U.S. mail, cut-out and complete the form at the bottom of this page and mail it in an envelope by first class postage to:

Sea and Sage Audubon - Bylaws  
PO Box 5447  
Irvine CA 92616

**Next order of business from the Annual Dinner:**

Another important item on the Annual Dinner agenda was the presentation of the Slate of Nominees by the Nominating Committee and the call for any nominations from the floor. So, we (1) present here the Slate of Nominees that would have been presented if the Annual Dinner meeting had taken place and the changes to the bylaws had been approved.

**Slate of Nominees**

President - Gail Richards  
Vice President - Jonathan Aguayo  
Secretary - Ann Harmer  
Treasurer - Tom Van Huss  
Director 2023 - Martin Fee  
Director 2023 - Devon Bradley

And (2) ask for any nominations that would have been made from the floor; if any, inform Doug Lithgow by April 15th.

The vote on officers and directors usually takes place at Sea and Sage’s May General Meeting, but in light of the present situation, watch for further notice from Sea and Sage for directions on that.

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**Ballot**

Cast your vote! Voter must be a current member of Sea and Sage Audubon for vote to be valid.

Thank you for your time and energy in helping our organization in this important way!

**Provide all information requested.**

Member’s Name (first and last): __________________________________________________

Signature: ___________________________________________________________________

Street: ______________________________________________________________________

City & State: __________________________________________________________________

Zip Code: ____________________________________________

Mark the appropriate box.

I approve the changes to the bylaws of Sea and Sage Audubon.

_____ Yes  
_____ No

Bylaws changes available at - [http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org/Chapter/ProposedChangesToS&SBylaws.pdf](http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org/Chapter/ProposedChangesToS&SBylaws.pdf)
Donors, continued from February
Thank You So Much!


Neal Anderson

Neal Anderson passed away in February of this year at the age of 82. He was an active member of Sea and Sage for many years, serving as a Director, Vice President, President, and Treasurer. He wrote excellent President’s Messages which explained to the membership how our chapter was run, what its goals were, and how much the board supported his efforts. He was very capable and yet very humble about his accomplishments with Sea & Sage. Neal was instrumental in setting up a 5 year plan for the chapter and investigating membership distribution which involved contacting members in a similar zip code to draw them in and encourage them to become more involved.

He loved the outdoors and got interested in birds through the Boy Scouts. Later, as an adult after graduating from the Univ. of Wisconsin with a major in Geology and serving 3 years in the Army, he got married, moved to Southern CA, and joined Audubon in the 1990’s. He went on many field trips where he met other people interested in birding and also took a couple of classes from Sylvia Gallagher. In 1999, he was asked to be a Director, then a Vice President, then President, and then took over the job as Treasurer.

In his final President’s Message, Neal wrote: “What does it take to get someone to take that giant step from thinking about participation to actually doing it? Like many of you I am shy and had to be asked. It has been a rewarding although daunting experience so far. And the people that I have met, birded with, and worked with, have been fantastic. Over the next few months, I will be asking many of you to get involved, if only in a minor way, and get hooked too. I hope you will.” -NK

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](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](http://tinyurl.com/zjbs5tt)

Name ________________________________________________________________

Address ________________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip __________________________________________________________

Phone ______________________________ ______________________________________

E-mail __________________________________________________________________

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C15
The Coastal CBC covers the coastal areas of Orange County and is divided into the following sections:

Westminster Memorial Park & Corner of the Seal Beach NWR; HB Pier, Beach Areas, HCP west, Wintersburg Channel outside Bolsa Chica; Bolsa Chica, Beach Areas, Wintersburg Channel inside Bolsa Chica; Mile Square Park; SA River Mouth, 19th St. Willows, Canyon Park, SA Golf Course; HB Wetlands, Talbert Present, Banning Ranch; Older Areas within Santa Ana; Centennial Reg. Park & former MCAS Blimp Base; West Side of Upper Newport Bay; East Side of Upper Newport Bay; San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary & UCI Marsh; Mason Reg. Park, UCI Foothills, Corona del Mar; Newport Harbor & Beaches; and Pelagic Areas along the coast. The count was coordinated and compiled by Bettina Eastman. Full information on this count will soon be posted on our chapter webpage. (http://tinyurl.com/25hctax)

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<td>Spotted Towhee</td>
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Special thanks to the 162 CBC birders who did such a great job helping us with this count. The names of all this count’s participants will soon be posted on our chapter webpage with the complete report of this count.
Are You a Birdnapper?

You found a baby bird on the ground... Now what?
The information below is from Songbird Care & Education. Both Songbird Care & Education and the Wetlands & Wildlife Care Center care for birds in trouble.

Parent birds will feed their babies after you have touched them. Birds have a poor sense of smell and the parents won’t know that you have touched their babies. They will even be foster parents for an abandoned baby of the same species and age as their own young. Additionally, there is no danger to you from picking up a baby bird and returning it to the nest, and no need to be afraid to do this.

Parent birds will search for their babies even after 24-48 hours of absence. Most birds have their own territories. Even if the nest and babies are gone, the parents remain in their home territory, waiting to welcome their babies home. Once you have returned the babies to their nest, or created a new nest for them and replaced the babies, the parents will start right back in caring for them where they left off before disaster struck, such as nest blown down in the wind.

Birds only need to be rescued if they are: injured, cat caught, icy cold, naked, orphaned or abandoned. Determining that a baby is orphaned can be tricky, and many people step in to rescue what they believe to be an orphaned bird when in fact it is not. People often believe the parents are not feeding a baby when it is simply a matter of them not seeing the parent coming in to feed, as this is usually done very quickly, since a parent bird does not want to attract the attention of a predator to the location of the nest. They will quickly fly in, poke the food down the baby’s throat and fly back out in a matter of seconds. Watch for the parents: observe the baby bird continuously for 60-90 minutes from a distance of 50 feet. Watch carefully; the parents fly in and out quickly. If the babies aren’t crying, you can assume they are being fed. NOTE: even if one parent bird has been killed, there is no need to rescue the babies, since the other parent will take over feeding the babies.

SYMPTOMS OF AN INJURY OR ILLNESS
• Falling over on side
• Wing tweaked upward
• Unable to flutter wings
• Wings drooping
• Weak or shivering
• Feathers fluffed
• Attacked by a dog or cat
• Bleeding

If you have the bird in a box, check the feces
• Clear with white poop (or green bile) indicates a baby bird is not being fed, and is likely abandoned.
• Color in the poop indicates that the parents are feeding the baby, and the bird should be put back where found.

FALLEN BABIES. Naked and pin-feathered birds should be kept warm while trying to locate the nest. The babies will get chilled quickly.

RE-NESTING: An entire nest of birds can be placed in a small tissue-filled wicker basket or butter tub with drainage holes in the bottom. Nail back near the original location.

One single nestling must be returned to the original nest with his siblings. The parents will only sit on and feed the babies in one nest. If the nestling cannot be returned, call Vicki Anderson (714-964-0666).

FLEDGLINGS: These birds have feathers and short tails, and can perch, hop or walk. They are learning to fly, a process that may take two weeks. They should be left alone to practice hopping and fluttering from low shrub branches to the ground. The parents are close by, and continue to feed the babies until they learn to fly and eat on their own. Parents will guide the fledglings into the bushes at night to hide from predators.

SAFE RETURN OF THE FLEDGLING
• Keep pets and children indoors so that the parents will return to the baby.
• If a bird can perch on your finger, place him on a branch in a bush near the area you found him.
• If you found him in a high traffic area, move him to a safe area under the cover of bushes.
• Parents communicate with their young by a series of voice calls. They are able to locate their babies and move them where they wish.
• At a distance - indoors is best - watch continuously for 1 hour for the parents to return. They fly in and out very quickly. If the parents don't return, call a wildlife rehabilitater.

HUMMINGBIRD TIPS
• The young birds secure themselves to the nest by weaving
• If you find an injured or orphaned hummingbird on the ground, scoop up what he is sitting on with him and place him on crumpled tissue paper in a shoe box with holes in the lid. Always use tissue or paper towels, NOT cloth; his feet may become entangled in the cloth.
• Call a wildlife rehabilitater. Hummingbirds will die within 4 hrs. if not fed. Babies that are fed sugar water or hummingbird nectar for more than 24 hours may develop crippling deformities.

TEMPORARY CARE INSTRUCTIONS FOR ALL BIRDS
• NO food or water.
• Keep the bird warm. Tissue-filled shoe box or other small box with holes in lid. Place on a heating pad on LOW.
• Keep bird in a dark, quiet place.
• Leave the bird alone; don't handle or bother it.
• Keep children and pets away.
• Call a wildlife rehabilitater.

RAISING AN ORPHANED BIRD
Keeping a native wild bird in the State of California is against the law if you don't have a permit, even if you plan to release the bird.

Songbird Care and Education
Vicki Andersen: (714) 222-6814
www.songbirdcareandeducation.org

Wetlands & Wildlife Care Center
(714) 374-5587
www.wwccoc.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.wwccoc.org/

Call Songbird Care & Education Center for injured or sick native songbirds. 714-222-6814. www.songbirdcareandeducation.org

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If you have questions, please contact Membership Chair, Jim Kissinger, at membership@seaandsageaudubon.org

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