

Sketches

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2018 • VOLUME 70 • NUMBER 2

SAN DIEGO AUDUBON

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MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT

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CENTENNIAL

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A

*A 100-year
legacy under
direct threat*

Common Yellowthroat, Semi-palmated Plover and
Great Egret by Karen Straus; Brown Pelican by Ed Henry

MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT

by David Stump, San Diego Audubon President

For 100 years, the United States has committed, with other nations, to protect migratory birds through international treaties and laws. That may end soon if we do not rekindle the passion that first engendered the Act in 1918.

Take a few minutes and look over the list of protected birds – it can be easily viewed on the National Audubon website.

From the Siberian Accentor to the Common Yellowthroat, the alphabetical list extends a full 25 pages, filled with names both well known and unfamiliar, such as the Puerto Rican Lizard Cuckoo or the Plain-capped Starthroat. For a full century, that list (greatly extended as the treaty was expanded to include not only Canada but Mexico, Japan and Russia) has meant life for countless millions of migratory birds.

“How could it be accidental or inadvertent if the science says the birds will die? It’s only an accident when you don’t know what the consequences are.”

Christy Morrissey, Associate Professor of Environment at the University of Saskatchewan

Both symbolically and in vital real-world terms, the list of over 1,000 bird species currently protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, first codified by the U.S. Congress in 1918, embodies the spirit of conservation born out of the decades of wildlife slaughter that followed the American Civil War. It set a benchmark for the conservation movement that has carried it forward to this centennial of the MBTA and Audubon’s 2018 “Year of the Bird.”

But the year meant for the celebration of environmental successes is now overshadowed by the actions of an administration seemingly intent on dismantling the legislative and regulatory protections built with so much effort and commitment. And currently in the crosshairs of this across-the-board destruction is the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Three days before Christmas 2017, the Department of the Interior issued a “reinterpretation” of the landmark law, effective immediately – an action which essentially guts the law as it has been applied for decades by administrations of both parties.

The presented argument states that incidental “take” does not apply – the killing agent or agency must be deliberately intending to cause the birds’ deaths. BP or Exxon, for example, would no longer be held accountable for the millions of seabirds killed by oil spills over the years by simply declaring the birds just coincidentally found themselves in the path of their wayward product.

The intent of the original bill, and the updates that have been made over the years, was something very different. To quote the National Audubon website:

Stated most simply, the MBTA is a law that protects birds from people. Congress passed the MBTA in response to the extinction or near-

extinction of a number of bird species, many of which were hunted either for sport or for their feathers.

The story of the untiring grassroots campaign to protect egrets and other wading birds that were slaughtered for their breeding plumage is familiar to many and, of course, emblematic of the Audubon Society from its earliest days. It fortunately protected far more than egrets – the original 1916 version of the law covered more than 50 species being hunted for plumage, including many songbirds. It was one of the first efforts, and at the time the most comprehensive, to

establish nationwide conservation policies, and lay the foundation for all that followed, including the international agreements that are attempting to protect the oceans and minimize the impacts of climate change.

“The MBTA provides that it is unlawful to pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill, possess, sell, purchase, barter, import, export, or transport any migratory bird, or any part, nest, or egg or

any such bird, unless authorized under a permit issued by the Secretary of the Interior. Some regulatory exceptions apply. Take is defined in regulations as: ‘pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or attempt to pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect.’” USFWS

According to National Audubon, power lines kill up to 64 million birds a year; communications towers up to seven million. Uncovered oil waste pits claim another one-half to one million, with wind turbines killing perhaps one-quarter million. A single large oil spill may kill over a hundred thousand birds, in spite of the exhausting dedication of volunteer rescuers. In total, industry, notably the energy extraction industries, kill vastly more migratory birds than poachers do — as many as 1.1 billion a year, according to Brad Bortner, who was chief of migratory bird management at the Fish and Wildlife Service until December 2017.

The administration’s strategy is consistent with its previous federal-level assaults on environmental laws or policies, which sometimes appear to leave the laws in place while essentially hollowing them out from the inside – something also being attempted with the Endangered Species Act. While such substantive changes would be harder to achieve through congressional action, actions effected through the Department of the Interior and the Environmental Protection agency can be managed with little room for opposition except legal action and public protest.

It should be noted as well that in November of 2017 an amendment to a bill already intending to weaken the MBTA (at the behest of fossil fuel industry lobbyists) was entered in the House of Representatives. It has come to be known as the “bird-killer

amendment”, and would essentially establish as federal law the action taken a month later by the Department of the Interior. Audubon immediately announced that it would respond forcefully to any effort to weaken the Act. Unfortunately, that is now necessary.

The Current Status of the Fight

On January 11, 2018, 17 former leaders from the U.S. Department of the Interior submitted a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke denouncing the agency’s reinterpretation of the MBTA.

The signatories include two former deputy secretaries and three former assistant secretaries of the Interior Department, and five former directors of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It also includes seven former chiefs of migratory bird management, whose service spans nearly half a century, from 1972 to 2017, under every president from Nixon to Obama. The position is currently vacant.

California and seven other states have also filed a lawsuit in the Southern District of New York challenging the Administration’s decision not to enforce key elements of the Act.

On May 24, 2018 a major coalition of national environmental groups, including the National Audubon Society, the American Bird Conservancy, Center for Biological Diversity, Defenders of Wildlife, National Wildlife Federation, and the Natural Resources Defense Council, filed litigation, *National Audubon Society v. Department of the Interior*, in the Southern District of New York. The suit directly challenges the administration’s new interpretation of the bill. The coalition is being represented in the litigation by the public interest law firm of Meyer Glitzenstein & Eubanks LLP.

Audubon is engaging House and Senate representatives to educate them on the Act and its importance, mobilizing our members and supporters to take action with their representatives (*see box below*), holding briefings with the media, asking the state wildlife agencies to weigh in on the importance of the MBTA to their state, and meeting with renewable energy industries to find an acceptable path forward to resolving their conflicts with MBTA liability through best management practices as approved by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

The fight to restore the law is waged on the state level as well. For California’s top officials, the migratory bird directive creates an opening to strengthen state protections, challenging the administration in a way that would be difficult to prevent at the federal level. California’s Department of Fish and Wildlife has long had full authority to prosecute incidental killings of migratory birds, but because of inadequate funding has not had the “teeth” to carry out effective enforcement. This has required them to rely on the more robust resources of the federal Fish and Wildlife Service. Now however, with those resources essentially shut off, the state will need to step up – meaning some serious allocation of money, always a problematic situation.

What You Can Do...

San Diego Audubon is looking to build a stronger advocacy program, bolstered by volunteers to write or call elected representatives, support our causes at public forums and events, and participate in the nuts and bolts of conservation work at the grassroots level. We also need, as always, volunteers for San Diego Audubon’s conservation programs and our growing pool of habitat restorers, TernWatchers, docents, and of course financial supporters. We hope to have in place a new Director of Conservation in the next few weeks, and we are excited about the possibilities of further developing the reach and impact of our programs and projects. The assault on the Migratory Bird Treaty Act – and the many other environmental protections cherished by Audubon – needs to become a motivating force at all levels of the organization. Our staff refers to something like this as an “all hands on deck” situation. We are not powerless, nor are we on the wrong side of history.

Be engaged, become a difference maker, embrace the challenge.

What Conservation Leaders are Saying:

“One of the first conservation laws, the MBTA sparked 100 years of conservation leadership in this country. It defies all facts for the Department of the Interior to suggest that this law is somehow broken when we have a century of evidence that says otherwise.”

Sarah Greenberger, Senior Vice President of Conservation Policy for the National Audubon Society

“The new policy makes it much harder to protect birds from major bird traps—threats like oil pits, wind turbines, and communication towers in bird migration hotspots. Leaving these threats unattended is like leaving manhole covers off along the sidewalk during rush hour – it’s negligent, irresponsible, and guaranteed to cause harm.”

Mike Parr, President of American Bird Conservancy



Long-billed Curlew © Bruno Enrique Struck

“The administration’s rollback of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act is an absolute disaster for America’s birds. Many bird species are already declining from habitat destruction and a host of other threats. This rule will allow the death of even more birds, whether they’re landing on polluted ponds left uncovered by the oil and gas industry or have their nest trees cut down from underneath them. It’s tragic.”

Noah Greenwald, Endangered Species Director at the Center for Biological Diversity

AUDUBON CONTACTS FOR GETTING INVOLVED:

San Diego Audubon Society:

Conservation Staff, (858) 273-7800
conservation@sandiegoaudubon.org

California Audubon Society:

Garrison Frost, Director of Advocacy and Communication, (415) 644-4604, gfrost@audubon.org
Andrea Jones, Director of Bird Conservation, (415) 388-2524 ext. 113, ajones@audubon.org

National Audubon Society:

Lisa Hardaway, (212) 979-3000, lhardaway@audubon.org
Anne Singer, asinger@audubon.org, 202-271-4679

Conservation In Action

Help Lead the Charge: San Diego Audubon's Conservation Team Leader Program Kicks Off in January 2019

By Megan Flaherty, Restoration Program Manager

Late winter and spring is crunch time for the California Least Tern restoration season, with work parties taking place nearly every weekend. Volunteers remove thousands of pounds of invasive vegetation from nesting sites during this time, and this level of involvement is only possible because of the



California Least Tern by Ed Henry

assistance of dedicated volunteer supervisors, our Conservation Team Leaders (CTLs). These hardworking volunteers receive a thorough training of in-the-field skills, assisting our weekend helpers in distinguishing between native and non-native dune plants, and providing invaluable

support to our Conservation staff. The CTL program is a great way to learn more about coastal ecosystems and local species, while gaining restoration and volunteer coordination experience. We encourage anyone with a passion for hands-on restoration work and local conservation efforts to apply.



Find out more by contacting our Conservation staff at conservation@sandiegoaudubon.org. Applications are due by mid-January, and the training session will take place on Saturday, January 26th, from 10 am to 4 pm.

Education SDAS

Building Homes for Wildlife at Anstine-Audubon

By Marisa Flores, Anstine Committee member



A nest box designed for small songbirds secured by Richard Griebel and Marisa Flores. Photo by Tracey Lawrence.

at the preserve between April and June 2018. Nest box monitors observed and documented wildlife activity at the nest boxes each week to determine whether nests were being used, nesting activity, and when young have fledged.

By the end of the project, a Bewick's Wren took up residence in one of the five nest boxes and was observed bringing food to the nest. A nest was also built in one of the other boxes, however no birds took up residence during the monitoring period. In addition, there were other previously built nest boxes at the preserve, including two boxes which resulted in successful fledging of Western Bluebirds and Bewick's Wrens, House Finches on the ledge box outside of the Anstine garage, and an owl box that housed Barn Owls with two owlets this year. We look forward to continuing to monitor the nest boxes in the upcoming year and hope to have many more successful fledglings in the future.

In January 2018, visitors to the Anstine-Audubon Preserve gathered to build nest boxes for wildlife. As part of the SDAS **Nature Discovery Workshop Series**, ten participants joined workshop leader, Richard Griebel, for a fun-filled day learning about local and migratory nesting birds, as well as building nest boxes that were installed at the preserve. Richard has led workshops and monitored nest boxes within the Otay River Valley Regional Park and Mission Trails Regional Park, and we welcomed his expertise on how to encourage new nesting birds to settle at our preserve.

Nest boxes are primarily used by cavity-nesting birds, such as bluebirds, wrens, and wood ducks, but they can also be used as shelters by mice, rats, bats, and insects. Volunteers built, decorated, and hung five nest boxes and placed them at various locations throughout the preserve.

The nest boxes were monitored by volunteers

Silverwood Scene

The Songs of Silverwood – It's More than Birds

By Phillip Lambert, Silverwood Resident Manager

During each fall, after the first early rains arrive here at Silverwood, Pacific Tree Frogs (*Pseudacris regilla*) begin to emerge from their moist, cool retreats where they were dormant over the dry summer months. Their bodies taut from inactivity, the frogs begin to exercise their vocal sac like an opera singer exercising the diaphragm in preparation for the big show. The sounds of short, raspy, crackling songs begin to fill the air. More rains arrive, and the streams begin to flow. In the new pools of water the stage is now set for the nightly choruses to begin. The performance begins with an advertisement call. It is produced by a male to attract females of his own species. The male produces two different kinds of advertisement calls: a two-part, or diphasic call, typically described as “rib-it”, or “krek-ek”, with the last syllable rising in inflection, and a one-part, or monophasic call, also called the enhanced mate attraction call. What follows is like an opera. It begins with a solo performer but soon the chorus joins in. Just like human performers, every member of the frog ensemble must know the routine and be able to be part of a team. One frog breaks the silence, and then others quickly join in until the chorus rises in volume. The sounds of a large chorus of frogs joining together can be heard as far as the ear can hear and continue for more than ten minutes before fading in volume. Occasionally heard mingled in with a chorus is the trilled encounter call with a short raspy trilled sound. It is an aggressive signal aimed at other males and is used to establish spacing between them at the calling site during a breeding chorus. The encounter call is typically heard when a male intrudes on the territory of another male, either physically or with very loud calling, that can create an occasional confrontational motif within a chorus.



Pacific Tree Frogs come in both green and brown. Photo by Greg Schecter.

With your libretto now in hand you too can sit back, relax, and enjoy a well-rehearsed opera being performed at an outdoor theater near you.

Over the holidays and New Year, we here at Silverwood again recognize and celebrate the many generous volunteers, members, donors, and partners as the programs and services we offer are only made possible through your support. It's nothing new to say that many of us are drawn to the Silverwood Wildlife Sanctuary for its stunning beauty and boundless recreational, intellectual and cultural activities. Thankfully, it seems that for every cause there is an organization full of dedicated people to help make a difference.

Birds can't vote. But you can.

We know how much you care for birds. Take Audubon's *Vote For The Birds* pledge and join bird lovers all across the country. In addition to congressional races, countless state and local elections happening around the country will have a big impact on our communities and our birds. **The best way to protect birds and the places they need is to make sure that you vote on November 6.**

CA SB 100 SIGNED INTO LAW

With the federal government now ignoring its responsibility to address climate change, California continues to show leadership on this important issue. The governor has signed into law a bill which sets a goal of 100% renewable energy by 2045, making our air cleaner, and providing much needed leadership, both nationally and globally, in the hard work of containing the worst impacts of climate change.

This may seem like an ambitious goal, but California is already well on the way toward it. Just recently, the California Energy Commission announced that the state is a *full four years ahead of its goals* to reduce carbon emissions. We're getting more than 30% percent of our electric retail sales coming from renewable sources such as wind, solar, geothermal, and small hydroelectric – and that percentage is growing fast.

Reducing our dependence on fossil fuels is not only critical for helping communities in the grip of persistent air pollution, it's also essential for protecting the birds we care about. One hundred and seventy California bird species – including the Long-billed Curlew, California Least Tern and Light-footed Ridgway's Rail so familiar to San Diego birders – will face serious threats due to climate change in the coming decades.

Silverwood Calendar for November 2018

November 4, 11 and 18 Sunday. Open visitation and guided nature hikes at 10:00am and 1:30pm.

November 7, 14, 21 and 28, Wednesday – Open visitation 8am to 12 noon.

November 25, Sunday – Open visitation, Special Topic *Fall Migrant Birds* guided nature hikes at 10:00am and 1:30pm.

Silverwood Calendar for December 2018

Sundays, December 2, 9, 16 and 30 – Open visitation and guided nature walks at 10:00 am and 1:30 pm.

December 23, Sunday – Special theme hikes at 10:00am and 1:30pm. Hike the high ridge trails to see the backcountry winter scenic views.

December 5, 12, 19 and 26 – Wednesday visitation 9am to 12 noon.

Call 619-443-2998 for information. Silverwood is located at 13003 Wildcat Canyon Road in Lakeside. Watch closely on right for Silverwood entrance sign.

Silverwood Wish List

If you've visited Silverwood on a Sunday, you've probably been greeted by one of our hosts and noticed that it's a very easy and pleasant job. Hosts greet and provide information for visitors as they arrive and help in the observation area, if needed. Your presence frees up the Resident Manager to give guided trail walks. Give it a try sometime, there's no obligation, and no better way to spend a few hours in the nicest of environments. Even hosting just two or three times a year would make Ann Sixtus, our Sunday hosts coordinator, very happy. She'd love to hear from you, just give Ann a call at 619-448-8707.

Come out to Silverwood one of these Sundays, and enjoy one of the best half-day vacations you can find anywhere – and it's free!

iNaturalist The New Guidebook, via App

by Jade de la Rosa

Earlier this year, my husband suggested I try out a new app called iNaturalist.

"An app?," I asked. "You know how I feel about apps." He knew, all right. My general philosophy about apps is the less the better.

"You'll like it, I promise," he replied. "Plus, you won't have to carry so many guide books." As an amateur birder, I was growing weary of carrying my Sibley's field guide on every birding trip. The next time we headed to La Jolla Cove for an afternoon of birding, I simply brought my phone. The verdict?

I hate to say it, but I like it—I really do.

Although I'm still new to iNaturalist, the app has been around for over 10 years. Beginning as a final project by a group of students at UC Berkeley, iNaturalist has now amassed more than 13,600,000 observations by iNaturalist users. While iNaturalist detects and logs birds—everything from Least Sandpipers to Hooded Orioles—the app also detects mammals, reptiles, fish, mollusks, amphibians, arachnids, insects, fungi, and plants. Users simply make an account, record what was seen, where it was seen, when it was seen, and evidence of the sighting—either as a photo or sound—so that the iNaturalist community, made up of other users, can help confirm the observation. While users don't have to record all of this information when making an observation, doing so can create research quality observations to better understand our environment.

The app is available in more than 25 languages and used worldwide, which means that users can watch in real time as exciting observations are made locally, nationally, and globally. In the last month, for example, iNaturalist users have observed a Black-Breasted Snake Eagle carrying a Cape Cobra in South Africa, a Violet Sea Apple—a vibrant species of sea cucumber—in Taiwan, and the first recording of the invasive Box Tree Moth in Ontario,

Canada. While iNaturalist helps scientists by generating "scientifically valuable biodiversity data from personal encounters," as the iNaturalist website states, the primary goal of the app is to connect people to nature.

While iNaturalist is most readily used on smartphone devices, those with computers can also take advantage of the platform by recording observations

and getting help from the community in identifying an organism. Additionally, iNaturalist is a great option for teachers looking to engage students in hands-on learning via a form many children are familiar with—technology. Meanwhile, scientists interested in iNaturalist data can use the online export tool to help with research.

Need another reason to try it out? Recording data is a way to contribute to citizen science while also better learning the plants, mammals, and other organisms in your area, but there are other ways to engage with the app, too. When logged into the app, choose to "explore" by zooming in or out on a global map to see the observations that have been made near you. A quick look at my neighborhood shows hundreds of dots that represent all birds, trees, and mammals near me. What's near you?

To start using iNaturalist, download for free from your app store.



There's More to Birds and Bees: Gardening for Pollinators

November 3rd at the Anstine-Audubon Nature Preserve with committee member Patti Langden. Discover gardening techniques that attract native pollinators and bring home your very own plant.

FAMILY FRIENDLY!

Bird ID for Beginners: How to Become a Bird Watcher

February 2, 2019 at Tijuana Estuary Visitor Center, and February 9th in the field with Dr. Matthew Binns. Join us for this highly popular workshop geared towards the beginning bird watcher.

The Dirt on Silverwood: A Walk Through Geological History – March 23, 2019

Photographing Nature in the Field – April 13, 2019

Drawing Birds as Living Animals – May 4 and 11, 2019

For more information, or to register, go to our website at www.sandiegoaudubon.org/events/workshops.



INTRODUCING SAN DIEGO AUDUBON'S NEW SHARING OUR SHORES: SOUTH BAY COORDINATOR

San Diego Audubon is pleased to welcome Hayley Heiner as our new *Sharing our Shores: South Bay* Coordinator. As our partnership through US Fish and Wildlife's SoCal Urban Refuge Project has been growing, so has our reach in bringing students from Imperial Beach to South

Bay through our *Sharing our Shores* program. Hayley, a current SDAS Naturalist, has been promoted to assist in the administrative duties and teaching of the in-class and field based lessons for this program. Welcome, Hayley, to your new role as *Sharing our Shores: South Bay's* Coordinator.

Thank you for including San Diego Audubon in your end-of-year giving!

You protect wildlife, restore habitats in San Diego County and get kids outside in nature with your gift. Help us meet our end of year goal of \$95,000. Keep an eye on your mailbox and make your gift by December 31st, or you can go to www.sandiegoaudubon.org/donations at any time before the new year.

Happy Holidays, and thank you for your support!



Include us in your estate plans and become a member of our distinguished Golden Eagle Legacy Club. If you have already included San Diego Audubon in your estate plans, be sure to let us know. Please contact Chris Redfern, SD Audubon Executive Director, at (858) 273-7800 Ext.102.



birding trips

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2018

As *Sketches* is now a bi-monthly publication, we won't be able to provide a full description for each trip, especially for those later in the calendar. Please regularly check our website at sandiegoaudubon.org for information as it becomes available. All trips are subject to change.

SAN DIEGO AUDUBON BIRDING TRIPS are open to all. Please remember that these birding trips are very popular, and most fill up quickly.

1: Follow our listings at sandiegoaudubon.org (*Birding, Local Bird Trips*). Trips shown in *Sketches* are posted first online, generally around the latter part of the month prior to issue date. Starting dates for registration will be indicated on the website.

2: Online registration is required for all field trips. Attendance for trips is now capped at specific numbers, and all trips are filled in order of registration. A few trips will require a registration fee. Even if a trip is full, you can register for a potential opening.

3: For directions, go to website (look for Birding, then Local Bird Trips). Google Maps info is provided for each trip. Trip descriptions are provided.

Call Peter Thomas with questions at 858-571-5076, or email your queries to: prthomas1@yahoo.com. And always remember, "Cherish Nature."

NOVEMBER 2018

Saturday, November 3, 2018, 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM

South San Diego Bay Salt Works – San Diego National Wildlife Refuge

Leaders: John Bruin, 505-401-3022, Teri Hurst, Rich and Susan Breisch, Chris Smith. **Capped at 30 participants. Directions on website.**

Friday, November 9, 2018, 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Beginning Birders at Santee Lakes

Leaders: Terry Hurst, 619 318 7717, and Chris Smith

Capped at 15 participants. Directions on website.

Sunday, November 11, 2018, 10:30 AM – Noon

Introduction to Falconry

Location and directions provided after formal registration

Instructors: Kirk and Denise of Sky Falconry, Alpine, California

Capped registration. Fee required.

Two registration steps: 1.) Indicate interest by contacting prthomas1@yahoo.com and then 2.) Call Sky Falconry, 619 722 0092, or e-mail, info@skyfalconry.com to formally register and get details. You will be asked for your Name(s), e-mail address, and cell phone. Be sure to mention that you are a member of San Diego Audubon to get into this group and get the SDAS discount. After registration you will receive more details, directions, and the gate code.

Sunday, November 18, 2018, 8:00 – 11:30 AM (or so)

San Jacinto Wildlife Area

Leaders: Peter Thomas, 858 571 5076, John Bruin, and others

Capped at 25 participants. Directions on website.

Saturday, November 24, 2018, 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Tecolote Canyon Natural Park

Leaders: Anitra Kaye, 619 517 1168, John Walters, and Jack Friery

Capped at 15 participants. Directions on website.

DECEMBER 2018

Sunday, December 2, 2018, 7:30 AM – 10:30 AM

La Jolla Sea Watch and Rocky Shores

Leaders: Stan Walens, 858-450-0258, and Peter Thomas

Capped at 25 participants. Directions on website.

Saturday, December 8, 2018, 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Whelan Lake Sanctuary – Inland Freshwater

Leaders: John Haddock, 760-941-7824, and Denise Riddle

Capped at 25 participants. Directions on website.

Saturday, December 22, 2018, 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Tecolote Canyon Natural Park

Leaders: Anitra Kaye, 619-517-1168, John Walters, and Jack Friery

Capped at 25 participants. Directions on website.

2018 SAN DIEGO COUNTY

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT CIRCLES

Volunteers of all levels of experience are encouraged to assist in this annual citizen science project. To sign up, or for more details, contact the compilers for each circle by email provided.

CBC – San Diego Circle

Saturday, December 15, 2018

Justyn Stahl: justyn.stahl@gmail.com

CBC – Anza-Borrego Circle

Sunday, December 16, 2018

Robert Theriault: rtheriau@uci.edu

CBC – Lake Henshaw Circle

Monday, December 17, 2018

Gretchen Cummings: Gretchen.bc@sbcglobal.net

CBC – Rancho Santa Fe Circle

Saturday, December 22, 2018

Robert Patton: rpatton@san.rr.com

CBC – Oceanside Circle

Saturday, December 29, 2018

Jane Mygatt: janemygatt@me.com

CBC – Escondido Circle

Saturday, January 5, 2019

Ken Weaver: gmatcatcher@sbcglobal.net

The CBC is an excellent way to combine your interest in birding with a long-term international project that provides invaluable real-world data that helps protect birds. Make a difference!

Above left: Pinyon Jay by Teasdale. Above: Great Egret by Ed Henry.



San Diego Bird Festival 2019

Where Every Day is a Big Day

From February 27 to March 3, 2019
Marina Village Conference Center

Each spring is a busy time for birds and birders alike. It's also time for the biggest party San Diego Audubon Society can muster. It's time for the San Diego Bird Festival! Taking place at **Marina Village Conference Center**, located in the very birdy Mission Bay at 1936 Quivira Way, all of our activities will originate there, including pick-ups and drop-offs for our many field trips. Parking is plentiful and free.

Registration is now open – and you can do it all online. Go to www.sandiegoaudubon.org/events/bird-festival and fill out the online form, select the activities you would like to join, and pay with your credit card. The system will even send you reminders as the festival approaches. There is a \$20 per person registration fee which covers the costs of breakfasts, refreshments and shuttle service for our hotel guests (our festival hotel is the Dana Resort).

Contact Jen Hajj, our Festival Coordinator by emailing hajj@sandiegoaudubon.org for more information on volunteering, exhibiting, or donating silent auction items.



San Diego Audubon Society
4010 Morena Blvd. Ste. 100
San Diego, CA 92117

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Mark Your Calendars...



Volunteer Appreciation and Holiday Celebration Event

De Anza Cove in Mission Bay Park
(At the Picnic Gazebo)

Saturday, December 8th from 12 noon - 3pm

RSVP to Jill Cooper: cooper@sandiegoaudubon.org

Our annual **Volunteer Appreciation and Holiday Celebration Event** is an outdoor affair this year held on Mission Bay – the epicenter of so much of our on-going volunteer work and a critical IBA (Important Bird Area). We'll have use of the spacious gazebo plus our own canopies. You may want to bring along folding lawn chairs or beach towels. Come enjoy the food, fun, and laughter and share in a truly festive afternoon. Awards will be presented, memories offered, and deep appreciation expressed for the hundreds of volunteers who carry out so much of the work of San Diego Audubon.



See You All There!

Sketches SAN DIEGO AUDUBON

SKETCHES is published bi-monthly, in odd-numbered months.

For details on submissions and deadlines, please contact
Kelsey Wadman at wadman@sandiegoaudubon.org

SDAS OFFICE 4010 Morena Blvd. Ste. 100, San Diego,
CA 92117. Our reception desk is staffed by volunteers, and time
slots may go unfilled. Please call ahead before planning your visit
to ensure someone will be there to assist you. Messages can be left
at any time on the office answering machine at 858-273-7800 or
email sdaudubon@sandiegoaudubon.org.

San Diego Audubon Office: 858-273-7800

California Audubon Society: www.ca.audubon.org

National Audubon Society: www.audubon.org

National Audubon Activist Hotline: 800-659-2622

National Audubon Customer Service: 800-274-4201

*San Diego Audubon Society is a chapter
of the National Audubon Society*



For online resources, including our
Events Calendar, please see our website:
www.sandiegoaudubon.org

Like us on Facebook:
facebook.com/sdaudubon



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Follow us on Instagram:
[#sandiegoaudubonsociety](https://www.instagram.com/sandiegoaudubonsociety)



*...Fostering the protection and appreciation
of birds, other wildlife and their habitats...*