

Sketches

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SAN DIEGO AUDUBON



Justice

Justness Joining Journeying



Equity

Environment Educating
Electing Empowering



Diversity

Dialogue Dreaming
Designing Daring Doing



Inclusion

Insight Inspiration Identity

Environmental Justice Is Social Justice; Social Justice Is Environmental Justice

A Cause for *Hope* in Troubling Times

As San Diego Audubon engages in the important work of reenvisioning our future and recalibrating our mission for the challenges ahead, we find that achieving common cause with San Diego's diverse communities is creating new pathways for future success.



Spatial Diversity and Cultural Diversity

by Professor Lisa Chaddock, Vice President, San Diego Audubon

I used to have a pair of macaws, which would lay eggs, but nothing ever hatched. I later found out it was because they were both females. However, they were a bonded pair who loved each other and were inseparable. Birds teach us lessons in how we should act toward each other, accepting families for the love they share and the caring they bring to the flock. As a geographic scientist, I see the world spatially. That means that I see the interactions between things that have a cause and effect. These are overwhelmingly positive in nature, as the diversity and blend of species of plants, reptiles, birds, insects, and mammals create the richness of each ecosystem. The patterns of color and form reach into every niche and make use of every available resource. In a human culture, there is equal variety and richness.

A culture with a diverse mix of peoples creates rich civilizations and resilient societies. By moving toward a more diverse membership, we are inviting the creativity, knowledge, and experiences that enrich the organization. I work with the San Diego City College Audubon Campus Chapter because I see how much the students want to make a difference for the future of our world. They represent the changing demographics of our country, but they are the same in their desire to have a future where they can share birding and conservation with their own children. The climate crisis is upon us, and there is much work to do to save our precious bird species. I can't think of a better way to give strength to San Diego Audubon than to welcome all ages and races, abilities and differently abled, all genders and family structures to join our cause. Together, we create a larger family with a more secure foundation for the future.

A Bilingual Message from the San Diego City College Audubon Club

by Karina Ornelas

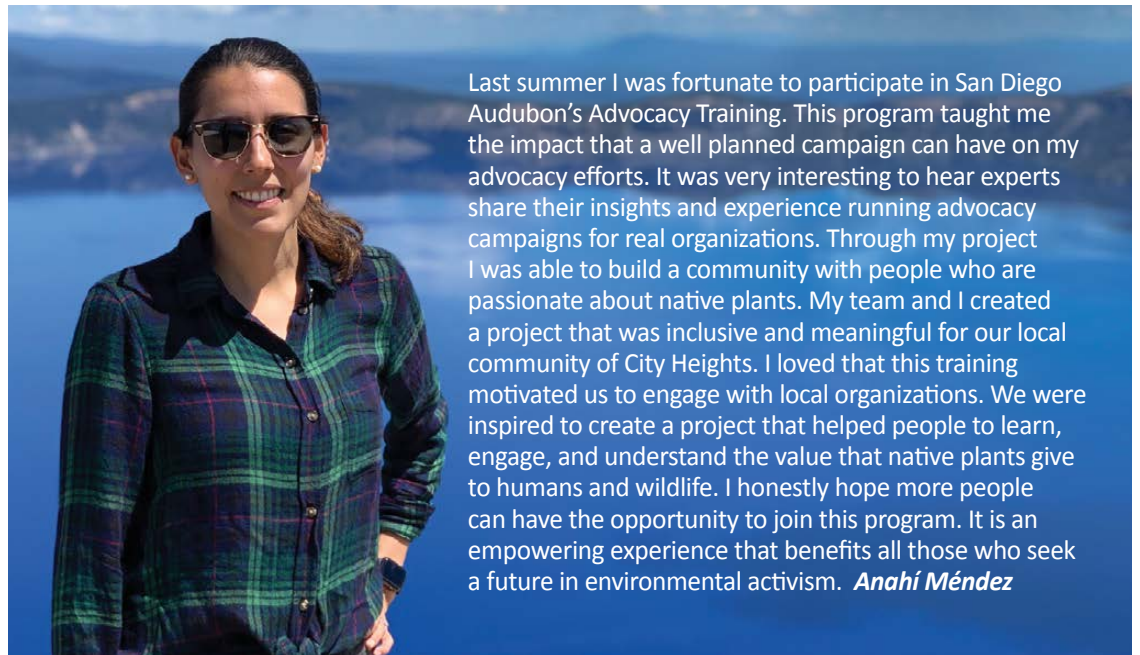
What I like most about the City College Audubon Club and working for San Diego Audubon Society is our work in the outdoors, enjoying and preserving nature. It is a fun job because we are always outdoors removing invasive plants, planting natives, and cleaning the habitat for bird nests, as well as for bird watching. Also, before the COVID-19 lock-down, we hosted our events at Otay Valley Regional Park. At these events, when I spoke to people in Spanish, you could see in their smiles how special it was that there were people like them speaking Spanish who made them feel genuinely welcome. I really enjoy working with SDAS because knowing another language is not a barrier, it is an opportunity to help others and grow. I really love working there because all treat me equally and they are always helping me to grow.

En Español...

Lo que me gusta del club de San Diego City College Audubon y de trabajar con la Sociedad Audubon de San Diego es que el trabajo que hacemos es que trabajamos para preservar la naturaleza y también disfrutamos del aire libre. Es un trabajo divertido porque siempre estamos al aire libre removiendo plantas invasoras, plantando nativas, limpiando el hábitat para los nidos de aves, y para observar. Antes del cierre de COVID-19, organizamos eventos en el Parque Regional del Valle de Otay y en estos eventos, cuando hablaba con personas en español, se podía ver en sus caras lo especial que era para ellos que hubiera personas como ellos hablando su lengua, español lo cual ellos se sentían bienvenidos. Realmente disfruto trabajar con SDAS porque conocer otro idioma no es una barrera, es una oportunidad para ayudar a otros y crecer. Me encanta trabajar allí porque todos me tratan por igual y siempre me ayudan a crecer y ser mejor.



One of our amazing success stories is the Advocate Program, which has provided the tools for effective conservation advocacy to dozens of dedicated environmentalists from throughout San Diego. Here is a sampling of their testimonies:



Last summer I was fortunate to participate in San Diego Audubon's Advocacy Training. This program taught me the impact that a well planned campaign can have on my advocacy efforts. It was very interesting to hear experts share their insights and experience running advocacy campaigns for real organizations. Through my project I was able to build a community with people who are passionate about native plants. My team and I created a project that was inclusive and meaningful for our local community of City Heights. I loved that this training motivated us to engage with local organizations. We were inspired to create a project that helped people to learn, engage, and understand the value that native plants give to humans and wildlife. I honestly hope more people can have the opportunity to join this program. It is an empowering experience that benefits all those who seek a future in environmental activism. **Anahí Méndez**

The time I spent as part of an Audubon Advocacy team with San Diego Audubon Society was an inspiring, but also daunting effort to advance Assembly Bill 3030 into law. Although the bill ultimately failed to advance to Governor Newsom's desk, our voices through SDAS proved fruitful, as the Governor took executive action on the 3030 initiative. We set out to make ripples, but we made waves. As of February 2021, 50 nations have pledged to preserve 30% of the planet's land and water by 2030. Fighting the effects of climate change is a generational issue, with poor, indigenous, and communities of color continuing to bear an undue burden of these effects. This initiative has taught me the importance of climate equity and the processes through which achieving such monumental efforts are implemented. The next decade of conservation has work to be done as we prioritize our advocacy to maximize and preserve the most biodiverse county in all of the U.S.: San Diego County. **Austin Portenause**



When I joined the Audubon Advocate training, I had no idea what opportunities it would offer. Partnering with Megan, Andrew, and everyone else from SDAS has offered me an entirely new perspective on conservation work. When my fellow team members and I decided to advocate for the protection of Golden Eagles in the Ramona Grasslands, we had only a surface level understanding of these majestic raptors. We learned quickly though, thanks to countless helpful and informative meetings with experts from Wildlife Research Institute, California Fish and Wildlife, National Audubon, and more. The most important lesson I'm taking away is that anyone can do advocacy work. Starting small shouldn't deter someone because reaching out to and learning from community members is their most valuable asset. When people who are passionate about a certain issue work together, they'll be surprised with how much they accomplish. **Noelle Perinet**

By working with San Diego Audubon, I've gained experience in real-world conservation advocacy. I was already familiar with more hands-on volunteering while working with Friends of Rose Canyon, but the Audubon Advocacy program gave me a glimpse into the intricacies of environmental legislation, and the structural components of advocacy campaigns. Audubon's program also emphasized the importance of environmental justice for all conservation efforts. Eager to begin my project, I quickly became overwhelmed with how complicated a seemingly simple issue like stormwater infrastructure can become. My failure to outline specific goals prevented me from making concrete progress—however good my intentions. Though an unfortunate lesson, it proved to be timely as I prepare to go off to college. I recognize now that my voice in the vast environmental movement needs to have specific demands to maximize my impact on a multifaceted issue requiring interdisciplinary efforts. **Gaurav Bharti**



San Diego Audubon has been an outlet for me to focus on environmental issues that I care about. Growing up in a community where the environment was not a priority has only taught me that if I want to see things change, then I am the one who has to do it. The combination of participating in Audubon Advocates and the California Least Tern (CLT) program has shown me the different ways that I can get involved in environmental issues. Advocacy encompasses so many aspects that success can come in a variety of forms. For me, success means getting to see AB-3030 flourish in its own unique way. The bill did not pass but leaders like California Governor Newsom and President Biden adopting this policy show that setbacks do not equate to failure. Advocacy is an ongoing effort and as long as new voices are heard, there will always be success no matter how big or small. **Deanna Roldan**

Tips for Allies: Welcoming Birders of All Identities

by Shari Dorantes Hatch

Like our nation, our organization has become increasingly sensitive to differences among us, and we seek ways to become more inclusive and welcoming to all who share our love of wildlife and our wish to protect it. Over time, San Diego Audubon has increasingly welcomed birders whose identities are as diverse as the birds we love. Unfortunately, birders who are Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC) are not always welcomed in all locations where we look for birds. You may already know of the May 2020 incident in which New York City Audubon board member Christian Cooper was threatened by a white woman in a park; please see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9TXkh9jihUU>

Recognizing that many birders have been marginalized or harassed, San Diego Audubon seeks to reach out to a more diverse array of birders, offering support as allies. As we try to engage more birding enthusiasts, we seek ways to ensure that all birders feel safe and welcome in all our neighborhoods and parks. Some tips I have found helpful:

- 1. Warmly welcome all birders.** Welcome them with your body language, intonations, words, and deeds, just as you would welcome someone to your home or workplace.
- 2. When you see a BIPOC birder** being aggressively confronted by a white person, intervene safely if possible. If it's not safe to intervene, seek help (e.g., by phoning for helpers), or at least document the incident, using your cellphone camera. Do so conspicuously if it's safe to do so, or inconspicuously if it's not. As soon as you have taken the image, transmit it digitally, to preserve it.
- 3. When you hear racially insensitive,** ignorant, or blatantly racist comments, especially if in the presence of a BIPOC birder, speak up! Challenge the comments, and state why you disagree. Don't leave it to BIPOC birders to be the only ones to respond to such comments. If you have misunderstood the comments, the speaker can clarify. If the speaker didn't realize the implications of the comments, this can be an opportunity to educate the speaker. If the speaker chooses not to be educated, you can still make your own views abundantly clear.
- 4. BIPOC birders are not always welcome** in every neighborhood or park, so don't assume that it is safe for them to visit all locations. If you hear of a rare bird sighting in such a place, invite a BIPOC birder to accompany you. If a resident questions your presence there, respond that you are there together, to watch birds.
- 5. Include BIPOC birders** in prominent roles in the organizations to which you belong.
- 6. Think about ways in which the locations** where you enjoy birding might be made more accessible to birders who face physical or sensory challenges. Share your ideas with others who might help in making those locations more accessible.

To learn how the National Audubon Society responded to the Christian Cooper incident, see www.audubon.org/news/black-birders-week-promotes-diversity-and-takes-racism-outdoors

A Greeting from Our New Southern California Audubon Chapter Council Representative, Tammah Watts



Many members of the Southern California Council herald Audubon's imperative that "Audubon is for Everyone" and that we're committed to exemplifying this in all that we do. The process requires actions that are deliberate, well-informed, and adaptable to ensure we achieve long-term benefits.

It's my view that nature offers us important guidance about how best to live with and care for all inhabitants. It confirms that we respectfully acknowledge and recognize our

differences as welcomed strengths, understand that diversity begets stability, and that conscientious communities foster equal access.

Concerted efforts are underway to implement Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (ED&I) principles throughout all aspects of the Council's 15 chapters from their bylaws and legislative policies to programming, advocacy, and membership. We are participating in National ED&I trainings and actively implementing next steps with the formation of ED&I task forces, committees, and representatives.

I am very excited and feel encouraged by the earnest dedication to this necessary work. Such investments bode well for a more inclusive future that all of us can share and better champion for the birds we cherish and for the habitats that they need. **Tammah Watts**

A Report on the 2020 Christmas Bird Count

by Justyn Stahl, San Diego CBC Coordinator

On December 19th, more than 110 local birders took part in the 121st Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC) in San Diego, the 68th year for our local CBC.

Despite the challenges of COVID-19, we managed to record 220 species! This total count is our second highest to date, with the record from 1969 (222 species) still intact. Also, it was achieved despite not having access to the San Diego Zoo or the Otay Landfill, two locations that often produce one or two species otherwise unseen.

Most sorely missing this year was the mid-day lunch and compilation. This is always a good time to see one another, swap stories, and count down the day's total as a group. However, the silver lining to canceling the in-person compilation was more time spent in the field, which multiple observers credited for their increased species totals.

The list of notable species is long, but a few stood out as especially important additions: Two White-winged Scoters were seen in the San Diego Bay, a returning Lesser Black-backed Gull near the Hotel del Coronado was a critical find, a long-staying Red-footed Booby on the bait barge in San Diego Bay was a first for our local count (and now all five species of booby known to occur in San Diego have been recorded in our CBC), a Dusky-capped Flycatcher was seen in Balboa Park, a Swamp Sparrow in National City was an unexpected discovery, a Pine Warbler at the San Diego Country Club was a rare sighting, and an adult Black-headed Grosbeak in Encanto was a surprise, especially away from a feeder.

Thanks to all who participated while following safety protocols, and congratulations on the great count despite the obstacles they presented.

Since our first OutdoorExplore! education program was offered in 2007, San Diego Audubon has strived to reach diverse audiences throughout the County. Over the years, we have expanded our programs and made nature accessible to youths from South Bay, Chula Vista, Lakeside, Vista, San Diego, and the Salton Sea. The K-8 students enrolled in these programs come from some of the most economically disadvantaged households in the region. Most of our education programs are provided to communities with predominantly African American, Latinx, and other non-white populations. Additionally, our programs are offered free of charge to families based on need, and we encourage our families to continue their connection to nature by introducing them to free and accessible natural spaces within their community. By instilling a sense of respect and pride in local nature, we hope to make all participants feel they are welcome and important contributors to the health of their community's natural spaces.

Biodiversity Can Be a Pathway to Human Tolerance

by Hayley Heiner, SDAS Education Manager

At San Diego Audubon, we recognize that users of the nature spaces across the county are not always fully representative of our diverse population. When parks and beaches closed back in March of 2020, many of us felt the sting of being denied access to our favorite places and activities. As our county saw the growing importance of nature for mental health, many of these spaces reopened and we all felt a collective sigh of relief. But it's important for us to move forward remembering that barriers to the outdoors existed long before the pandemic and will continue to be the reality afterward if we do not act intentionally to change the situation.

Our actions begin by understanding barriers. Although the city is filled with green space, many San Diegans have limited use due to inadequate public transportation, entrance fees, safety and accessibility issues, and long-held feelings of discrimination and

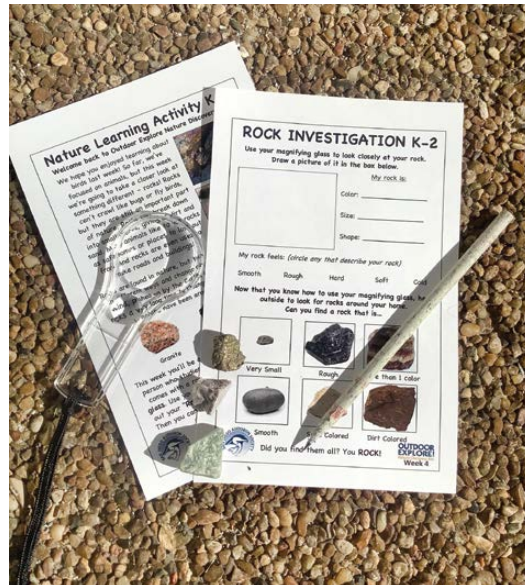
exclusion. Our best solutions will come when we understand these challenges; for us in the Education Program, we start with our students. How do we get them outdoors? How do we help them examine the world with scientific minds? And how do we create with them a generation of young people wanting to protect nature, not out of obligation, but out of feeling connected, and a sense of agency?

It is said we protect what we love, and we want our students to love nature. This can be sparked through small, repeated experiences in the outdoors. We can draw easily on the excitement of beautiful

plants and captivating birds, but we must be mindful of doing so through welcoming language by educators who model inclusion, curiosity, and safety. Thanks to the generous funding of our long-term partners, we've been able to continue our efforts throughout this challenging school year. With funding from the Port of San Diego, we continue into year four of a five-year initiative to bring our OutdoorExplore! program to elementary students in Chula Vista surrounding the Otay River Valley Regional Park, considered an underserved and park-impooverished community. This year, students will be getting close to nature in virtual labs participating in owl pellet dissections, seed ball creation, and water-filtration assembly. We're also grateful to SDG&E for allowing us to continue our

commitment with San Diego Unified schools elsewhere in the county along our urban canyon system. Students here will be engaging in science-based activities with the help of guided nature kits and videos featuring deep looks at our diverse partners.

So maybe 2021 is not the year our students will log their longest hikes or get their hands the dirtiest in restoring habitats, but it's still a year to continue breaking down barriers that keep students from enjoying the outdoors. We extend our deep appreciation to our funders, partners, and educators who help us reach students all across the county—you help empower all of our students to develop a love of nature.



Upcoming Friends Webinars

Join us for our Friends Webinars, a special monthly meeting for members (and non-members) of San Diego Audubon Society. Each month we'll have guests who will speak on a variety of topics: breaking news, ongoing SDAS programs, conservation issues, or understanding the birds around us. Programs are about one hour long and will feature one or more invited speakers.

Here's what's coming up:

San Diego Bird Festival Keynote Speaker
Rosemary Mosco
 Feb 17, 2021 at 5:30 pm

Watching Hawks in Borrego Valley
 March 11, 2021 at 6:00 pm

Bird Feeding: What to Feed Them and When

with Jerry Martin,
Wild Birds Unlimited
 May 13, 2021 at 6:00 pm

California's Watchable Wildlife
 with Barbara Steinberg
 June 10, 2021 at 6:00 pm

Spotlight on Sanctuaries:
Anstine-Audubon Nature Preserve

Date to be determined



Anna's Hummingbird by Gerry Tietje

You must RSVP in order to attend. You can register on the SDAS website. Go to the calendar, find the event you want to attend, and click on it. Then click "register" to let us know you are joining. We'll send you reminders and links prior to the program.

Silverwood Scene

Our Living Kumeyaay Legacy

by Phillip Lambert, Silverwood Resident Manager

The Barona Band of Mission Indians and Silverwood Wildlife Sanctuary have been neighbors since Silverwood's establishment more than 55 years ago, and we have worked over the years to develop a relationship based on mutual respect. We have a long history of working together on projects that have benefited us both. This *Silverwood Scene* is dedicated to remembering and honoring this relationship and the depth of understanding it has brought to the rich heritage we continue to explore together.

For many years, erosion control and drainage infrastructure projects along the access roads leading through the Barona Reservation to the Silversprings land parcel was assisted by Tribal Elder Boxie Phoenix. Following the 2003 Cedar Fire, when all Silverwood structures were completely destroyed, he generously provided construction assistance, and served as an unpaid consultant throughout Silverwood's reconstruction. Other Barona members, including Willie Cruz, his wife Tina, and daughter Tristan continue to volunteer help with downed oak tree removal to reduce fire fuel loads at Silverwood.

Silverwood's education efforts have also benefited from the relationship. Starting in 2007, Barona Recreation's after-school program began visiting Silverwood for educational outings. From that point on, they have visited Silverwood at least once a year and often more frequently.

In 2008, Barona Indian Charter School (BICS) began regular Silverwood trips. The Silverwood staff and volunteers, in coordination with BICS, developed a program to complement the school's science curriculum. Although BICS piloted this outdoor education initiative, it has been broadly incorporated into nature education programs by home school, charter, public schools, and



Silverwood's 2017 Acorn Festival brought many appreciative visitors. The cultural history of the indigenous Kumeyaay is central to our mission. By Phil Lambert

even college/university-level events throughout the region. If it were not for the partnership of BICS and Silverwood, untold numbers of children might have missed out on the opportunity to learn about and grow to appreciate our local flora and fauna.

Brian Van Wanseele, a member of the Barona Band, has served as the Director of the Recreation Department at Barona for 14



Richard Bugbee and Jane Dumas celebrate the opening of Silverwood's Ethnobotany Trail in 2015.

years. He is also the president of the nonprofit Intertribal Sports, which provides enrichment to the families of 19 different tribes in Southern California. He believes in teaching that the tribes are stewards of the natural world, and that stewardship should remain central to their culture. Recognizing his efforts, the Silverwood Committee unanimously voted to give Brian a Silverwood Committee membership in April of 2015. Though Brian has since stepped down as an active member, he remains a valued consultant for the Silverwood Committee. On December 6, 2014, the Barona Recreation Department, Barona Cultural Center and Museum, Intertribal Sports, and Silverwood Wildlife Sanctuary welcomed nearly 100 Native youths and their chaperones, locally and from all over the country, to a cultural exchange event at Silverwood, in conjunction with the Native Wellness Institute's (NWI) Youth Leadership Training. It was a day of sharing culture, hospitality, encouragement, and inspiration to the future leaders of many tribal nations.

San Diego Audubon awarded the 2015 Partner Award to the Barona Band of Mission Indians in gratitude for their help in sharing maintenance responsibilities of access roads, unpaid consulting during reconstruction after the Cedar Fire, volunteer work in reduction of the fire fuel load, and participation in the development and implementation of Silverwood's nature education programs and ethnobotany program.

In January of 2012, Silverwood Committee member Bron Anders and I began attending the Kumeyaay Ethnobotany class at the Sycuan Kumeyaay College. The class was taught by Jane Dumas and Richard Bugbee, who offered invaluable support for our Ethnobotany Trail. Their deep and ongoing influence at Silverwood began with a simple luncheon arranged by Bron Anders.

Richard Bugbee is a *Luiseno* language mentor. The *Luiseno* are a Native American people who, prior to the movement of Spanish colonizers into the region, inhabited much of the coastal areas of Southern California. (The *Luiseno* people call themselves *Payomkowišum*, also spelled *Payomkawichum*, meaning "People of the West.") Richard was the Associate Director and Curator of the American Indian Culture Center & Museum in San Diego as

well as the Director and Curator of the Kumeyaay Culture Center. He is a highly active presence in all Native American revitalization efforts in Southern California, teaching classes, running programs, and publishing a daily email newsletter, in addition to other accomplishments. He is a respected ethnobotanist and often taught alongside Jane Dumas. Jane, a member of the Kumeyaay Jamul tribe, taught the traditional uses of native sage and chaparral plants at

Silverwood Calendar for March and April, 2021

Silverwood Wildlife Sanctuary is free and open to the public from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sundays only. Registration is required due to our need to limit attendance for proper distancing of our visitors. *Please note that COVID-19 rules are in place during your visit and should be followed at all times.*

To sign up for a visit, please log on to:

www.sandiegoaudubon.org, select “Our work”, “Silverwood”

For further information, contact Phillip Lambert, Silverwood Resident Manager, by phone or email:

(619) 443-2998 • philscottlambert@yahoo.com

We're at 13003 Wildcat Canyon Road, Lakeside, CA 92040

schools, organizations, and conferences. With Kumeyaay as her first language, she was one of the last remaining fluent speakers of the Kumeyaay language. The Ethnobotany Trail dedication ceremony was held in Jane and Richard's honor on May 10, 2015. The trail is today one of Silverwood's most popular walks, and its instructional signs, placed within a living landscape, continue to inform our many visitors about our sanctuary's cultural roots and the ancient relationship of the land with its original inhabitants. I, for one, was greatly honored to have gained from the knowledge they shared.

The Cedar Fire burned off all Silverwood's scrub and chaparral, leaving many historical and archeological sites and individual artifacts exposed for the first time. It has been my responsibility and joy to document and record these glimpses into the past, to protect and maintain them, and to help document the significance of each site. These include spear points traced to the San Dieguito Man III Culture (dating back 10,000 to 8,000 years), a recently discovered Kumeyaay tribal priest site (*kuseyaay*), a rarely seen female puberty ritual site, seasonal acorn harvesting sites with grinding holes, and charred pieces of clay pots (*ollas*). The long history of native tribes occupying the land we now call Silverwood has been brought back to life. The journey, and the friendship, will continue.

Anstine Ambles *Colonization's Longstanding Impact on California Flora* by Walker Wilson, Anstine-Audubon Assistant



Arundo donax, Giant Reed

Recent reports of species loss from conservation organizations such as the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the National Audubon Society have noted the massive decline in both numbers and diversity of birds and other wildlife. Globally, wildlife populations have dropped 60% between 1970 and 2014, and that decline has continued to worsen.

While recent reports using data points beginning in 1970 may frame species loss as a contemporary issue, it is rooted in the history of colonization and the lack of different perspectives present in conservation efforts.

In California, Spanish colonizers gave little thought to preserving the culture of Native peoples. The colonists often enslaved the Indigenous residents, coercing them to work at their missions. The colonists paid even less attention to the plants and animals essential to the Indigenous cultures and the local environment. Instead, because the colonies were modeled after Spain, colonists imported familiar plants from the mother country. Giant Reed (*Arundo donax*), a tall bamboo-like reed, was brought from the Mediterranean to create thatched roofs for adobe buildings. Though the roofs might last only a year or two, *Arundo* grows so quickly in local streams that the colonists could frequently, cheaply, and easily replace the roofs. This fast-growth habit led the reed to monopolize hundreds of thousands of acres of wetland and riparian habitat, from which it is still being removed today, at great cost and effort.

The colonists also deliberately introduced Black Mustard (*Brassica nigra*), another ever-present invasive plant. By 1827, it had already become a problem, noted by Auguste Bernard Duhaut-Cilly; “We encountered more than one forest of mustard, whose tall stalks were above the rider's heads, and made, as it were, two thick walls on the two sides of the way. This plant is become, for some years, a terrible scourge for part of California.” The spreading of humble mustard seed must have seemed harmless at the time, but this plant has done

untold damage, filling in fields and ravines, leaving only a mustard monoculture in areas where dozens or more species had once flourished, creating a food desert for wildlife, in comparison with native habitat.

Even our ideas of natural beauty have been shaped by a European aesthetic. The topiary-laced gardens of Versailles set a manicured standard of beauty for gardens since 1661. Similar styles have prevailed in America ever since. California native plants are criticized for looking dry and dead in the summer, when they lose leaves or go dormant due to lack of water. However, in places with harsher winters, few question the seasonal changes that cause it to go completely dormant until spring. Also, most landscapes filled with ornamental plants provide little food or habitat value for wildlife. San Diego County has the most endangered species of any county in the continental United States, so it is particularly important for us to rethink our land use, to include the voices of Indigenous peoples, and to enhance our local biodiversity.

Anstine is open to the public on Saturdays, 9 a.m.–12 p.m.

Preregistration is required. Please visit our website for more details at:
www.sandiegoaudubon.org/what-we-do/anstine.html



Black Mustard blankets thousands of acres throughout California



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BIRDATHON

1981 - 2021

We're celebrating the 40th anniversary of Birdathon and hope you'll join to help make it a successful event.

It is possible that our Birdathon in 1981 was the very first by a California chapter—quite a feather in our cap. It was championed by just one team: **The Wandering Totalers**, with only two team members (Phil Pryde and Cindy Frederick), who tallied 92 species while traveling no farther east than Silverwood!

Birdathon is a friendly bird-watching competition held by San Diego Audubon each year during the month of April to raise important funds to support our many programs. Birders of all levels are invited to form or join teams and choose a day to bird together. These teams identify as many bird species as possible in a 24-hour period within San Diego County. Each team decides its own strategy—where to go to see different bird species, what time of day to visit, how long to stay at each location and how many locations to squeeze into a very long day. Birdathon teams compete to record the most species possible, as well as to raise the most funds for San Diego Audubon.

Despite the 2020 challenges, the **Wandering Totalers**, 40 years after their first win, came in on top with 132 species counted. Also joining the competition were the **Too-Tired Birders**, **U-Terns** (SDAS Staff), and two new teams, **Elder Birders** and the **Online Chats**.

Please follow our Birdathon webpage for recommendations and pandemic guidelines.



Lark Sparrow by Gerry Tietje

Sketches SAN DIEGO AUDUBON

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The office is closed to all but a minimum staff. If you wish to visit, please email or call to learn more.
4010 Morena Blvd. Ste. 100, San Diego, CA 92117

Messages can be left at any time by email:
sdaudubon@sandiegoaudubon.org
(Please send emails rather than call)

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



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