



Welcome!

Explore Our Native Plant Garden and Wildlife Sanctuary



Welcome to Anstine-Audubon Nature Preserve!

This 11.6-acre preserve is owned and managed by San Diego Bird Alliance (formerly San Diego Audubon) for the benefit of birds, other wildlife and their habitats—and for the enjoyment and education of our human visitors. We're open to the public every **Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

A Short History of the Preserve

In the late 1940s, John and Lois Anstine ("an-steen") purchased this property as their home. Over the next 50 years, they expanded the house, constructed a storage building and planted a small orchard. A 1.5-acre pond was created by the Army Corps of Engineers as a water source for agricultural land.

The Anstines especially loved the birds and other wildlife that were attracted to the property. As part of their estate plan, they transferred the property to the San Diego Audubon Society, ensuring the permanent preservation of the wildlife habitat.

Volunteers Lead the Way

The San Diego Audubon Society began managing the site in 1999 and implemented a major restoration effort—repairing the residence, removing accumulated trash, and clearing out overgrown areas.

A habitat restoration plan was developed in 2006 to revegetate the southern part of the site with native sage and chaparral species and create a network of trails. This restoration work, which involved the planting of more than 2,000 individual plants native to California, was completed in 2011



and accomplished almost entirely by volunteers. In 2013, the pond, which had become overgrown with cattails, was partially dredged to create an area of open water that now attracts a variety of birds as well as aquatic species. Volunteers also built a footbridge that linked the northern and southern halves of the preserve for the first time.

Plants, Birds and Other Wildlife

Today, our preserve contains four distinctive, thriving plant communities: coastal sage scrub (an endangered habitat in Southern California), oak woodland, mixed riparian woodland, and the freshwater pond. The different types of habitat attract a large variety of wildlife species, especially birds—more than 100 bird species have been identified at the preserve.

Numerous mammals also reside in, or visit, the preserve, including raccoons, rabbits, ground squirrels, skunks, coyotes and bobcats. Several species of reptiles and amphibians have been observed, and butterflies are drawn to the native plants.

See the trail map and driving directions on the back.



Black-throated Gray Warbler (above) and Wilson's Warbler (left). Photos by Katie Sweeney



HABITAT GUIDE & HIKING TRAILS

Open to public Saturdays from
9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Our Programs

Anstine's mission is to be an educational resource for the community. We offer periodic classes on native plants and birding, as well as wildlife presentations and family-oriented events. To learn about upcoming programs, join our email list by providing us your email at rangona@sandiegobirdalliance.org.

How You Can Help...

There are lots of ways you can help restore and preserve our environment at Anstine-Audubon and in your own backyard:

Volunteer. We always welcome new volunteers to serve as Saturday hosts, help with habitat restoration and assist with community events.

Donate to support San Diego Bird Alliance and Anstine-Audubon Nature Preserve.

Add Native Plants to Your Own Garden or Landscaping.

Native plants save water, require little maintenance, and attract birds. By planting natives, you help offset the loss of natural habitat due to development. Free handouts on native gardening are available from our volunteers. Just ask!

Native Plant Resources:

Moosa Creek Nursery, Valley Center
www.moosacreenursery.com

Tree of Life Nursery, San Juan Capistrano
www.californianativeplants.com

Las Pilitas Nursery, Escondido
www.laspilitas.com

California Native Plant Society, San Diego
www.cnpsd.org



0 50 100 150 200
SCALE IN FEET - 11.6 ACRES TOTAL

Anstine-Audubon Nature Preserve • 2437 Hutchison Street, Vista, CA 92084

For your safety and the protection of sensitive habitat, stay on marked trails.
Pets and horses are not allowed.



Anstine-Audubon Nature Preserve is one of the main conservation and education programs of San Diego Bird Alliance,
www.sandiegobirdalliance.org.

