A Time to Fly... and a Time to Defend





SAN DIEGO AUDUBON ANNUAL REPORT JUNE 1, 2019 / MAY 31, 2020





Message from the Executive Director

Wildfires, worldwide pandemic, social unrest, political dysfunction, record unemployment, and economic volatility —our stress responses are in overdrive! Like many during these uncertain and anxious times, we at San Diego Audubon have found comfort, healing, and clarity in nature. We've supported one another and defended the cause in these tumultuous times. It has become apparent that our role is indeed twofold—to provide the education to

help our hearts and imaginations soar in open flight and to catalyze our shared love of nature to defend every remaining wild space and creature as if our own lives depend on it. Because, ultimately, they do.

We must turn our attention to the natural world and tirelessly work to restore and protect what remains. While the San Diego Audubon Society has been in this struggle since our inception, our work has only intensified over this past year of unimaginable change. We are proud of what we have accomplished and are delighted to share the highlights from the year with you in this year's annual report.

Throughout my first year as Executive Director, it was apparent from day one that *you* are the reason we're ready for the challenges of our times...

...Our volunteers who monitor the newly hatched least terns, help us tackle social injustice, and share their love for our mission with those new to our cause.

...Our donors who give in times when so many are in need, announce a legacy gift because our work is critical to what they cherish, and support our beautiful sanctuaries.

...Our Board of Directors who offer their wisdom, talent, and dedication to help us weather numerous storms and set a vision for an exciting future.

It is together, with you, that we are ready to take flight and fight to make San Diego more just, increasingly climate resilient, and birdier than ever before.

Travis Kemnitz, San Diego Audubon Executive Director

Cactus Wren and Sanderling by Tammy Kokjohn. Group photo taken by Karina Ornelas.











Preparing cuttings for habitat restoration, by Joseph Hoang.

CONSERVATION

San Diego Audubon Society's Conservation Program is a leader in protecting and advocating for endangered species and the places they rely on. Here are some of the successes from this past fiscal year:

• ReWild Mission Bay's "Wildest" plan moves closer to reality as our coalition grows to 47 strong, and public officials and state priorities are responding.

• Mission Bay recovery projects continue to provide critical help to California Least Tern populations, with 76 fledglings produced vs. 40 in 2019.

• Audubon Advocates continues to train and empower a new generation of environmental advocates, who executed many critical conservation projects, such as

— sharing free native plant seeds with neighbors of our City canyons,

— advocating for habitat in the City's Climate Action Plan,

— improving the County's management of Golden Eagle nesting habitat, and guiding a visionary conservation bill through the state legislature, as well as

— submitting 41 letters written by the Conservation Committee addressing habitat protection, sprawl, clean air and water, federal and state regulations and legislation, endangered species listing, pesticides, and wildlife corridors.

EDUCATION

San Diego Audubon Society's Education Program was able to provide 2,109 students active field trips and engaging hands-on nature experiences prior to school closures caused by the pandemic. Here are just two more of the many successes from this past fiscal year:



• 90 educational signs were created

to inform the public of the actions they can take to protect the California Least Terns, Ridgway's Rails, Western Snowy Plovers, and many other shore and wetland birds.

• 237 native plants were installed in the Kendall-Frost Reserve and other vulnerable



California Least Tern by Bruno Enrique Struck.

wetlands through our Habitat Helpers, Sharing Our Shores, and Anstine Adventures programs.





Volunteers are an invaluable asset for California Least Tern habitat restoration, an annual program.

(Below) Restoration Program Manager Megan Flaherty points out bird nesting spots as part of the Share Our Shores program.

OUR SANCTUARIES

San Diego Audubon Society's sanctuaries continue to provide critical habitat to wildlife and offer unique outdoor experiences for visitors, students, researchers, and volunteers. Collectively, here are some of the successes from this past fiscal year:

• 2,319 visitors enjoyed the pristine habitat, hundreds of species of birds and wildlife, and 6.5 miles of well-kept hiking trails at these hidden gems.

• 922 volunteer hours were donated.

Anstine-Audubon Nature Preserve

At the Anstine-Audubon Nature Preserve, the 11.6 acre property provides an array of native, drought-tolerant species that attract local and migratory birds and other wildlife to the preserve. Our efforts this past fiscal year ensure the following:



• We are prepared for another drought year by planting and caring for a wide variety of

native plants that are capable of surviving through the toughest of environmental conditions, all while providing a beautiful landscape and the essential food and habitat for wildlife.

- Guests can enjoy the restored landscape, which includes four unique habitats: oak woodland, coastal sage scrub, mixed riparian, and a 1.5 acre pond.
- Our coastal sage scrub habitat, considered an endangered ecosystem in California, is protected for plants, wildlife, and visitors to enjoy.





Silverwood Wildlife Sanctuary

To maintain a pristine chaparral habitat for wildlife and a unique opportunity for visitors to hike trails while surrounded by stands of entirely native plants, it takes passionate and knowledgable staff and volunteers, as well as generous supporters. Their tireless efforts have resulted in great successes over the past fiscal year, including:

• The dramatic decrease in the abundance, density, and distribution of invasive, non-native grasses, which allows space for native annuals to flourish, including new species such as the Common Chaffweed (*Anagallis minima*), not previously recorded at Silverwood

• The observation of 74 of the 130 bird species that have been recorded at Silverwood over the past 60 years, and adding the Bald Eagle and the Red-breasted Sapsucker



• Educating more than 400 students about the cultural and natural resources of Silverwood through hands-on activities and exploration





OUR COMMUNITY

San Diego Audubon Society's community, made up of our Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and supporters experienced a year unlike any in the past. Despite the numerous challenges, we persevered, adapted, and delivered for birds, other wildlife, and

their habitats. Here are some of the notable milestones from this past fiscal year:

• We have been able to build on the invaluable legacy of Chris Redfern, our former Executive Director.

• Travis Kemnitz was hired as the new Executive Director, as well as Chelsea Felbeck as Volunteer and Operations Coordinator, and Jen Hajj as Events and Membership Coordinator.

• More than 1,300 volunteers contributed 9,245 hours to support our mission, a fiscal equivalent of \$291,310 and a real-world impact of "priceless." Thank you to our

committee members, TernWatchers, Conservation Team Leaders, Advocates, Board of Directors, hosts, office volunteers, field trip leaders, and so many more.

• San Diego City College Audubon Club's impact grew through presentations (in four languages) to hundreds via "how to" videos on native plant gardens to attract songbirds and butterflies, bird nesting boxes, bird feeders, and restoring critical habitat.

Planting season at Mesa College Native Plant Garden



#SanDiegoRefuge



FINANCIALS (FYE MAY 31, 2020)

Revenues (Dollar Amounts)

Contributions & Memberships	387,535
Grants	336,096
Program Fee Income	190,235
Investment Interest/Div/Gain/(Loss)	308,976
Other	1,454

Expenses

Conservation, Education,	
Sanctuary	706,114
Management	77,235
Fundraising	80,854

Net Assets

Beginning of FYE (6/1/19)	5,716,001
End of FYE (5/31/20)	6,076,094
Change	360,093

Greater Yellowlegs by Craig Chaddock



Where Money Comes From (Revenues)

- Grants: 27%
- Contributions & Memberships: 32%
- Investment Income: 25%
- Program Fees: 16%
- Other: 2%

Where Money Goes (Expenses)

- Conservation, Sanctuary and Education Programs: 82%
- Management: 9%

Fundraising: 9%

Note: Percentages may total to more than 100% due to rounding up.

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Gifts received from June 1, 2019 through May 31, 2020

Thank you! Your generous contributions power the work of San Diego Audubon.

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