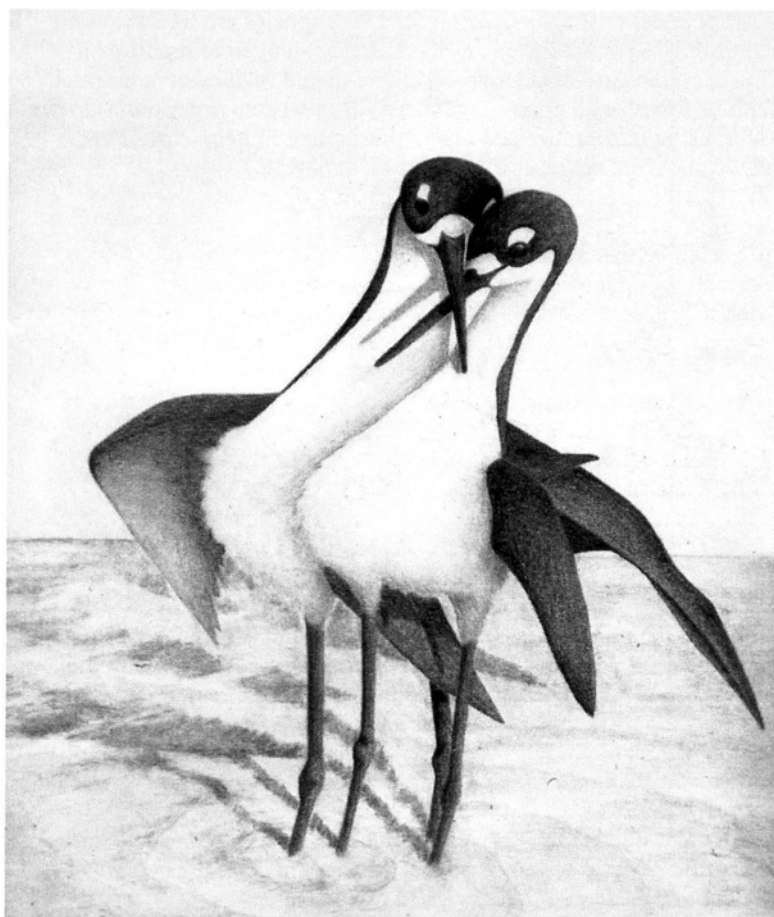


**A Checklist of the Birds of  
San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary**  
Irvine, Orange County, California



**SEA & SAGE AUDUBON SOCIETY**  
5 Riparian View, Irvine, CA 92612  
(949) 261-7963

[www.seaandsageaudubon.org](http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org)

Trails are open daily from sunrise to sunset.  
Audubon House visitor center is open daily 8 AM to 4 PM  
Cover Art "Black-necked Stilt Pair" by Nora Papian

## A Checklist of the Birds of the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary

### WELCOME TO SAN JOAQUIN WILDLIFE SANCTUARY (SJWS)

Owned and operated by the Irvine Ranch Water District, this 300-acre freshwater marsh is a quiet sanctuary for wildlife and people. Over 282 bird species, including 170 regularly-occurring species and another 112 less frequently observed species, have been documented through visitor and staff observations. With year-round resident birds, wintering species, summering species and fall/spring migrants, you are guaranteed good birding no matter when you visit!

Use the abundance graphs to discover which species are likely present and during what time of year. Visitors are encouraged to report their sightings on the Audubon House front porch and to document unusual species or times (with photos, sketches and/or written description) to the Audubon House volunteer on duty. Your input will help expand our knowledge of bird status and distribution at SJWS.

### KEY TO ABUNDANCE CODES

The abundance codes in the graphs are defined as follows:

- Abundant > 50 individuals, seen on nearly all visits
- ≡ Common > 25 individuals, seen on most visits at the right time of year
- Uncommon < 20 individuals, not always seen on every visit
- .... Rare < 5 individuals, not always present, even at the right time of year
- Absent, not expected at that time of year

Less Frequently Observed < 10 accepted records at SJWS

### REPORTING AND DOCUMENTATION

This checklist updates the 1999 checklist compiled by Charles Austin. It is based upon daily and monthly sightings and census data from 1999 to 2010 and includes observations from SJWS and adjacent San Diego Creek. Abundance graphs for regularly-occurring species are based upon observer data at SJWS and county-wide patterns as reported in *The Birds of Orange County California: Status and Distribution* (1996) by Robert Hamilton and Douglas Willick. For additional information about how this checklist was prepared, contact Project Director of Education, Trude Hurd.

To learn more about Sea and Sage Audubon Society's education and conservation programs, and/or how to become involved, you can talk with the Audubon House volunteer or go to our website at  
[www.seaandsageaudubon.org](http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org)

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The compilers wish to thank Trude Hurd, Nancy Kenyon, Sylvia Gallagher, Doug Willick and most especially Brian Daniels for their long-term observations, input, advice and editing. Special thanks go to Nora Papian for her beautiful artwork.

# A Checklist of the Birds of the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary

## GEESE, DUCKS

- ☐ Canada Goose
- ☐ Wood Duck
- ☐ Gadwall
- ☐ American Wigeon
- ☐ Mallard
- ☐ Blue-winged Teal
- ☐ Cinnamon Teal
- ☐ Northern Shoveler
- ☐ Northern Pintail
- ☐ Green-winged Teal
- ☐ Canvasback
- ☐ Redhead
- ☐ Ring-necked Duck
- ☐ Lesser Scaup
- ☐ Bufflehead
- ☐ Hooded Merganser
- ☐ Ruddy Duck

[illegible]

QUAIL

California Quail

[illegible]

## GREBES

- \_\_\_\_\_ Pied-billed Grebe
- \_\_\_\_\_ Horned Grebe
- \_\_\_\_\_ Eared Grebe
- \_\_\_\_\_ Western Grebe
- \_\_\_\_\_ Clark's Grebe

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## PELICANS, CORMORANTS

\_\_\_\_\_ American White Pelican  
\_\_\_\_\_ Brown Pelican  
\_\_\_\_\_ Double-crested Cormorant

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## BITTERNS, HERONS, EGRETS

- ☐ American Bittern
- ☐ Least Bittern
- ☐ Great Blue Heron
- ☐ Great Egret
- ☐ Snowy Egret
- ☐ Cattle Egret
- ☐ Green Heron
- ☐ Black-crowned Night-Heron
- ☐ White-faced Ibis

## NEW WORLD VULTURES

## Turkey Vulture

[illegible]

## HAWKS, KITES, EAGLES

- ☐ Osprey
- ☐ White-tailed Kite
- ☐ Northern Harrier
- ☐ Sharp-shinned Hawk
- ☐ Cooper's Hawk
- ☐ Red-shouldered Hawk
- ☐ Red-tailed Hawk
- ☐ Golden Eagle

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# A Checklist of the Birds of the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary

## FALCONS

- \_\_\_\_\_ American Kestrel  
\_\_\_\_\_ Merlin  
\_\_\_\_\_ Peregrine Falcon

## RAILS, MOORHENS, COOTS

- \_\_\_\_\_ Virginia Rail  
\_\_\_\_\_ Sora  
\_\_\_\_\_ Common Moorhen  
\_\_\_\_\_ American Coot

## PLOVERS

- \_\_\_\_\_ Black-bellied Plover  
\_\_\_\_\_ Semipalmated Plover  
\_\_\_\_\_ Killdeer

## STILTS, AVOCETS

- \_\_\_\_\_ Black-necked Stilt  
\_\_\_\_\_ American Avocet

## SANDPIPERS, PHALAROPES

- ☐ Greater Yellowlegs
- ☐ Lesser Yellowlegs
- ☐ Solitary Sandpiper
- ☐ Willet
- ☐ Spotted Sandpiper
- ☐ Whimbrel
- ☐ Long-billed Curlew
- ☐ Marbled Godwit
- ☐ Semipalmated Sandpiper
- ☐ Western Sandpiper
- ☐ Least Sandpiper
- ☐ Pectoral Sandpiper
- ☐ Dunlin
- ☐ Short-billed Dowitcher
- ☐ Long-billed Dowitcher
- ☐ Wilson's Snipe
- ☐ Wilson's Phalarope
- ☐ Red-necked Phalarope

## GULLS, TERNS

- ☐ Bonaparte's Gull
- ☐ Ring-billed Gull
- ☐ California Gull
- ☐ Western Gull
- ☐ Least Tern
- ☐ Caspian Tern
- ☐ Black Tern
- ☐ Common Tern
- ☐ Forster's Tern
- ☐ Elegant Tern

## SKIMMERS

- \_\_\_\_\_ Black Skimmer

## PIGEONS, DOVES

- \_\_\_\_\_ Rock Pigeon  
Mourning Dove

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# A Checklist of the Birds of the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary

## ROADRUNNERS

\_\_\_ Greater Roadrunner

## OWLS

\_\_\_ Great Horned Owl

\_\_\_ Barn Owl

## NIGHTHAWKS, SWIFTS

\_\_\_ Lesser Nighthawk

\_\_\_ Vaux's Swift

\_\_\_ White-throated Swift

## HUMMINGBIRDS

\_\_\_ Black-chinned Hummingbird

\_\_\_ Anna's Hummingbird

\_\_\_ Costa's Hummingbird

\_\_\_ Allen's Hummingbird

## KINGFISHERS

\_\_\_ Belted Kingfisher

## WOODPECKERS

\_\_\_ Nuttall's Woodpecker

\_\_\_ Downy Woodpecker

\_\_\_ Northern Flicker #

## FLYCATCHERS

\_\_\_ Olive-sided Flycatcher

\_\_\_ Western Wood-Pewee

\_\_\_ Willow Flycatcher

\_\_\_ Pacific-slope Flycatcher

\_\_\_ Black Phoebe

\_\_\_ Say's Phoebe

\_\_\_ Ash-throated Flycatcher

\_\_\_ Cassin's Kingbird

\_\_\_ Western Kingbird

## VIREOS

\_\_\_ Bell's Vireo

\_\_\_ Hutton's Vireo

\_\_\_ Warbling Vireo

## CROWS, RAVENS

\_\_\_ American Crow

\_\_\_ Common Raven

## SWALLOWS

\_\_\_ Tree Swallow

\_\_\_ Violet-green Swallow

\_\_\_ N. Rough-winged Swallow

\_\_\_ Bank Swallow

\_\_\_ Cliff Swallow

\_\_\_ Barn Swallow

## BUSHTITS, WRENS

\_\_\_ Bushtit

\_\_\_ Bewick's Wren

\_\_\_ House Wren

\_\_\_ Marsh Wren

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# - red-shafted form of Northern Flicker

# A Checklist of the Birds of the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary

## KINGLETS, GNATCATCHERS

- \_\_\_ Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- \_\_\_ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

## BLUEBIRDS, THRUSHES

- \_\_\_ Western Bluebird
- \_\_\_ Swainson's Thrush
- \_\_\_ Hermit Thrush
- \_\_\_ American Robin

## MOCKINGBIRDS, THRASHERS

- \_\_\_ Northern Mockingbird
- \_\_\_ California Thrasher

## STARLINGS, PIPITS, WAXWINGS

- \_\_\_ European Starling
- \_\_\_ American Pipit
- \_\_\_ Cedar Waxwing

## WARBLERS, CHATS

- \_\_\_ Orange-crowned Warbler
- \_\_\_ Nashville Warbler
- \_\_\_ Yellow Warbler
- \_\_\_ Yellow-rumped Warbler\*
- \_\_\_ Black-throated Gray Warbler
- \_\_\_ Townsend's Warbler
- \_\_\_ Hermit Warbler
- \_\_\_ MacGillivray's Warbler
- \_\_\_ Common Yellowthroat
- \_\_\_ Wilson's Warbler
- \_\_\_ Yellow-breasted Chat

## TANAGERS

- \_\_\_ Western Tanager

## TOWHEES, SPARROWS

- \_\_\_ Spotted Towhee
- \_\_\_ California Towhee
- \_\_\_ Savannah Sparrow
- \_\_\_ Fox Sparrow
- \_\_\_ Song Sparrow
- \_\_\_ Lincoln's Sparrow
- \_\_\_ White-crowned Sparrow
- \_\_\_ Golden-crowned Sparrow

## GROSBEAKS, BUNTINGS

- \_\_\_ Black-headed Grosbeak
- \_\_\_ Blue Grosbeak
- \_\_\_ Lazuli Bunting

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\* - Audubon's race of Yellow-rumped Warbler

# A Checklist of the Birds of the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary

## BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES

- \_\_\_ Red-winged Blackbird
- \_\_\_ Western Meadowlark
- \_\_\_ Brewer's Blackbird
- \_\_\_ Great-tailed Grackle
- \_\_\_ Brown-headed Cowbird
- \_\_\_ Hooded Oriole
- \_\_\_ Bullock's Oriole

## FINCHES

- \_\_\_ House Finch
- \_\_\_ Lesser Goldfinch
- \_\_\_ American Goldfinch

## OLD WORLD SPARROWS

- \_\_\_ House Sparrow

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## LESS FREQUENTLY OBSERVED SPECIES

- |                                 |                            |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| ___ Tundra Swan                 | ___ Red Knot               |
| ___ Greater White-fronted Goose | ___ Sanderling             |
| ___ Snow Goose                  | ___ Little Stint           |
| ___ Ross's Goose                | ___ Baird's Sandpiper      |
| ___ Brant                       | ___ White-rumped Sandpiper |
| ___ Cackling Goose              | ___ Sharp-tailed Sandpiper |
| ___ Eurasian Wigeon             | ___ Stilt Sandpiper        |
| ___ Garganey                    | ___ Ruff                   |
| ___ Greater Scaup               | ___ Red Phalarope          |
| ___ Surf Scoter                 | ___ Long-tailed Jaeger     |
| ___ Common Goldeneye            | ___ Sabine's Gull          |
| ___ Common Merganser            | ___ Franklin's Gull        |
| ___ Red-breasted Merganser      | ___ Mew Gull               |
| ___ Red-throated Loon           | ___ Herring Gull           |
| ___ Little Blue Heron           | ___ Glaucous-winged Gull   |
| ___ Tricolored Heron            | ___ Gull-billed Tern       |
| ___ Reddish Egret               | ___ Arctic Tern            |
| ___ Wood Stork                  | ___ Eurasian Collared-Dove |
| ___ Bald Eagle                  | ___ Spotted Dove           |
| ___ Broad-winged Hawk           | ___ White-winged Dove      |
| ___ Swainson's Hawk             | ___ Common Ground-Dove     |
| ___ Zone-tailed Hawk            | ___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo   |
| ___ Ferruginous Hawk            | ___ Burrowing Owl          |
| ___ Rough-legged Hawk           | ___ Short-eared Owl        |
| ___ Prairie Falcon              | ___ Black Swift            |
| ___ Clapper Rail                | ___ Calliope Hummingbird   |
| ___ American Golden-Plover      | ___ Rufous Hummingbird     |
| ___ Pacific Golden-Plover       | ___ Acorn Woodpecker       |
| ___ Snowy Plover                | ___ Red-naped Sapsucker    |
| ___ Ruddy Turnstone             | ___ Gray Flycatcher        |

A Checklist of the Birds of the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary

**LESS FREQUENTLY OBSERVED SPECIES (continued)**

___ Hammond's Flycatcher	___ Blackpoll Warbler
___ Eastern Phoebe	___ Black-and-white Warbler
___ Vermilion Flycatcher	___ American Redstart
___ Tropical Kingbird	___ Northern Waterthrush
___ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	___ Hooded Warbler
___ Loggerhead Shrike	___ Canada Warbler
___ Plumbeous Vireo	___ Summer Tanager
___ Cassin's Vireo	___ Green-tailed Towhee
___ Philadelphia Vireo	___ Chipping Sparrow
___ Western Scrub-Jay	___ Clay-colored Sparrow
___ Horned Lark	___ Brewer's Sparrow
___ Purple Martin	___ Vesper Sparrow
___ Cactus Wren	___ Lark Sparrow
___ Rock Wren	___ Black-throated Sparrow
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet	___ Grasshopper Sparrow
___ California Gnatcatcher	___ Large-billed Savannah Sparrow
___ Mountain Bluebird	___ Swamp Sparrow
___ Varied Thrush	___ White-throated Sparrow
___ Wrentit	___ Harris's Sparrow
___ Sage Thrasher	___ Dark-eyed Junco
___ Eastern Yellow Wagtail	___ Chestnut-collared Longspur
___ Red-throated Pipit	___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak
___ Phainopepla	___ Indigo Bunting
___ Virginia's Warbler	___ Bobolink
___ Lucy's Warbler	___ Tricolored Blackbird
___ Northern Parula	___ Yellow-headed Blackbird
___ Chestnut-sided Warbler	___ Orchard Oriole
___ Magnolia Warbler	___ Baltimore Oriole
___ Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler	___ Red Crossbill
___ Prairie Warbler	___ Pine Siskin
___ Palm Warbler	___ Lawrence's Goldfinch

**EXOTIC SPECIES**

Mute Swan  
Egyptian Goose  
Mandarin Duck  
Budgerigar  
Nutmeg Mannakin  
Orange Bishop

Compiled by Greg and Bruce Aird, January, 2011

Completed as an Eagle Scout project with Boy Scout Troop 604 by Greg Aird