

A woman with long blonde hair, wearing a grey jacket, is looking through binoculars in a field. The background is a soft-focus landscape with green grass and trees under a bright sky. The image is split into two panels: the left panel shows a woman in a blue and white striped shirt looking up, and the right panel shows the woman with binoculars.

Look Up

2018 Audubon
California Assembly

Photo: Camilla Cerea/Audubon

Welcome!

We are delighted to have you join us in beautiful Long Beach. Our convention theme this year is **Look Up**, designed to encourage us to look up from our smart phones and life's other distractions to see birds and find inspiration in nature. We also see this weekend as an opportunity to draw inspiration and strength from each other and look outside our local programs.

Through workshops, networking events, and listening to some outstanding speakers, we hope you will leave with new skills and knowledge. Please join us on Sunday's field trips to see some birds that thrive in this unique urban setting.

We would like to extend special thanks to our local host chapter, El Dorado Audubon, and its President Mary Parsell. El Dorado Audubon serves the communities of the coastal cities of Long Beach and Seal Beach and surrounding communities along the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers.

El Dorado Audubon began in 1969 and was created by a team of advocates for El Dorado Regional Park and Nature Center. This park, along the San Gabriel River, has matured into an urban oasis for a host of wildlife and over 200 bird species. The Lower Los Angeles River is also a great place to bird; it supports over 175 avian species.

We hope that you will have a wonderful time, leave with new friends and skills, and ready to join us in creating a better future for birds and our environment.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Miller".

Sarah Rose
Executive Director, Audubon California
Vice President, National Audubon Society

Featured Keynote Speaker



Rachael Bay

Assistant Professor, Department of Evolution and Ecology, UC Davis.

The Bird Genoscape Project: *Genetic tools for understanding avian migration and climate change impacts.*

Rachael Bay is an assistant professor in the Department of Evolution and Ecology at UC Davis. She received her PhD from Stanford University and worked at UCLA as a National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow.

Her research uses cutting-edge genetic tools to predict how animals will respond to climate change. In her work with the Bird Genoscape Project, she creates high-resolution maps of migratory routes and climate vulnerability in neotropical migrants, which can be used to inform conservation decisions for vulnerable populations. Her work on Yellow Warblers was recently published in *Science* and highlighted in news outlets including PBS, NPR, and *Scientific American*.

Audubon California Assembly Field Trips

Sunday, November 4, 2018

For all trips bring: Plenty of water and snacks/lunch, good hiking shoes, clothing layers for changeable weather including wet and cold, binoculars and field guides. All walks end by 12 pm.

Note: Daylight savings ends at 2 am Sunday morning.

Bolsa Chica Field Trip

Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve is one of the premier birding locations for waterfowl and shorebirds in southern California. In summer, it serves as one of the largest tern nesting sites in the USA. All year round it is habitat for the endangered Ridgway's Rail. Other residents include the non-migratory Belding's race of Savannah Sparrow. The mesa above Bolsa Chica hosts a small wintering population of Burrowing Owls, and the bay at Bolsa Chica hosts a wintering population of Brant. We expect 75 or 80 species on a good day.



The field trip will begin at the small Harriett Wieder Regional Park atop the mesa at the south end of Bolsa Chica, approximately a 30-minute drive from the Courtyard Marriott. Carpooling to and from the venue will be organized when registrants assemble on Sunday morning. On site parking is limited.

Restrooms are available on site. After birding the park, we will caravan to the parking lot of the Ecological Reserve across Pacific Coast Highway from the entry to Bolsa Chica State Beach. Finally, we will caravan to the mesa north of Bolsa Chica to find Burrowing Owls and other terrestrial species. The trip will conclude no later than 11:00 AM.

Leader: Vic Leipzig, Sea & Sage Audubon Society & Audubon California board member

Assemble: at hotel, 6:30 am; at site, 7:15 am

Los Cerritos Wetlands Field Trip



Greater Yellowlegs: Kevin Rutherford,
Audubon Photography Awards

Los Cerritos Wetlands is a gem in the string of pearls along the coast, part of the Orange Coast Wetlands Important Bird Area, with approximately 136 recorded species. It is located on the border of Los Angeles and Orange County not far from the mouth of the San Gabriel River near the Pacific Ocean. In the winter months it is home to shorebirds, waterfowl, geese, foraging raptors and

songbirds. Year-round residents include herons, egrets and the non-migratory Belding's race of the Savannah Sparrow. We expect 75 species on a good day.

Participants can assemble at the hotel, to drive or carpool to Los Cerritos Wetlands located at 6433 E. Second Street, Long Beach, CA 90803. It is approximately a 20-minute drive from the Courtyard Marriott. Restroom is available on the site. The trip will conclude no later than 11:00 a.m.

Leader: **Mary Parsell**, president, El Dorado Audubon Society

Assemble: at hotel, 7:45 am; at site, 8:30 am

Toxic Tour of Los Angeles + Tour of International Bird Rescue

Join us for a chartered mini bus tour with community members from Communities for a Better Environment as we learn how multiple sources of toxins and pollution impact low income communities of color and the local environment. Tour includes visits to the twin ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, oil refineries, and other sources that are linked to asthma, birth defects and cancer.

The tour will include a pit stop at International Bird Rescue in San Pedro. This rehabilitation center cares for sick, injured, abused and orphaned aquatic birds and is the primary care center for oiled birds from the US-Mexico border to Morro Bay.

This is a chartered bus tour through the cities of Long Beach, Wilmington and San Pedro. The trip will conclude no later than 11:45 am. Attendees will be dropped back at the hotel.

Leader: **Natasha Khanna**, field organizer, Audubon California, **Ashley Hernandez**, Communities for a Better Environment and **Angie Trumbo**, International Bird Rescue

Assemble: at hotel, 7:30 am; depart, 7:45 am



Agenda for 2018 Audubon California Assembly

Friday, November 2, 2018

8:30 am–5:30 pm	Registration Open	Lobby
2:00 pm–3:30 pm	Chapter Congress: Conservation and Policy planning for 2019	Atlantic
3:30 pm–4:00 pm	Coffee Break	Atlantic
4:00 pm–5:30 pm	Peer Networking	Atlantic
5:30 pm–6:30 pm	Reception with cash bar	Pacific C
6:30 pm–9:00 pm	Dinner: Keynote by Rachael Bay	Pacific Ballroom

Saturday, November 3, 2018

7:00 am–5:00 pm	Registration Open	Lobby
7:30 am–9:00 am	Breakfast	Pacific Ballroom
9:30 am–10:30 am	Sessions A & B <i>Spreading the word: Communication strategies for chapters</i>	Atlantic A
	<i>Conservation in So Cal: What tree mortality and fire mean for the rest of the state</i>	Atlantic B
10:45 am– 11:45 am	Sessions C & D <i>Western Water: Emerging Issues for Birds</i>	Atlantic A
	<i>Fundraising Workshop: Gift Planning 101</i>	Atlantic B
12:00 pm–1:00 pm	Lunch	Pacific Ballroom
1:15 pm–2:15 pm	Sessions E & F <i>Conservation for a New Generation</i>	Atlantic A
	<i>Saving birds through policy action</i>	Atlantic B

White-tailed Kite: Alan Peterson/Audubon Photography Awards

Saturday, November 3, 2018 (continued)

2:15 pm–2:45 pm	Coffee Break	
2:45 pm–3:45 pm	Sessions G & H	
	<i>Climate & Energy and Birds in California</i>	Atlantic A
	<i>Coalition building: Advancing conservation priorities with local partners on the ground</i>	Atlantic B
4:00 pm–4:30 pm	Closing Remarks and Bird Fashion Contest	Atlantic A
5:00 pm–7:00 pm	Happy Hour Hosted by the Audubon California Board	
	(Cash bar with 1 complimentary drink ticket)	Pacific C

Sunday, November 4, 2018 - Field Trips

Meet in the hotel lobby. There will be a carpool sign-up sheet at the registration table during the Assembly.

6:00 am–8:00 am	Coffee available in Atlantic B	
6:30 am–11:00 am	Bolsa Chica Field Trip, Hosted by Sea & Sage Audubon Society	
7:30 am–11:45 am	Toxic Tour of Los Angeles + Tour of International Bird Rescue	
7:45 am–11:00 am	Los Cerritos Wetland, Hosted by El Dorado Audubon Society	

White-tailed Kite: Alan Peterson/Audubon Photography Awards

Workshops

Friday, November 2

2:00 pm–3:30 pm

Room: Atlantic

Chapter Congress:

Conservation and Policy planning for 2019

Andrea Jones, director of bird conservation and Mike Lynes, policy director & chapter leaders

This session is particularly designed for chapter board members, especially conservation chairs. Andrea Jones and Mike Lynes will provide a brief overview of Audubon CA's conservation and policy priorities for 2019 and then we will break into groups by chapter council. Each group will develop a list of regional conservation concerns, priority bird species, and policy agendas that they consider a priority for their region. We will then reconvene and have a report back/discussion from each council region about how regional conservation concerns fit into the broader context of Audubon's work at the state and national scale, and develop a plan on ways to partner together to achieve shared conservation goals.

4:00 pm–5:30 pm

Room: Atlantic

Peer Networking

Audubon California chapter board representatives

Chapter leaders will be able to network with other leaders who hold the same position on their boards and discuss common challenges and share solutions.

6:30 pm–9:00 pm

Room:

Pacific Ballroom

Dinner

Welcome by Audubon California executive director Sarah Rose and Keynote by Rachael Bay

Saturday, November 3

Note: concurrent sessions!

9:30 am–10:30 am

Session A

Room: Atlantic A

Spreading the word: Communication strategies for chapters

David Ringer, chief network officer and Nick Gonzalez, media relations manager

This session will offer tactics you can easily use to improve internal and external communication within the Audubon network and beyond. Topics covered will include:

1. How to tailor communications outreach based on target audiences;
2. How to pitch stories and build relationships with reporters;
3. How to shine a light on your chapter's successes and events;
4. How to prioritize all of these communications efforts.

9:30 am–10:30 am

Session B

Room: Atlantic B

Conservation in So Cal: What tree mortality and fire mean for the rest of the state

Presenters: Sandy DeSimone, director of research and education at Audubon Starr Ranch Sanctuary and Marcos Trinidad, Debs Park center director

Experts: Dave Erickson, wildland resource planner with the Orange County Fire Authority; Kevin Turner, CAL FIRE, chair of the CA Forest Pest Council, Southern CA Committee; Scott Thomas, Conservation and wildlife research, Sea and Sage Audubon

The session will begin with an overview of the most serious threats to Southern California bird habitat and human populations: tree dieback from drought and tree pests and diseases and also repeated, extensive fire. There will be a discussion of legislation related to tree pests and fire.

10:45 am–11:45 am

Session C

Room: Atlantic A

Western Water: Emerging Issues for Birds

Meghan Hertel, director of land and water conservation and Samantha Arthur, conservation project director

Ongoing declines in and disputes over water quantity, quality and timing risk the environmental and economic health of America's West—putting communities and birds at risk. In this session, we will discuss the intersection of birds and major water issues in California and along the Pacific Flyway. We will learn how Audubon is engaging to protect and where possible improve bird habitat by working on Western water issues.

We will explore the new statewide groundwater regulation, the 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, and the potential opportunities or risks to bird habitat from this law. Workshop participants will learn what this law entails, how it may affect bird habitat, what it means for their region, and how to get involved to protect birds locally.

10:45 am–11:45 am

Session D

Room: Atlantic B

Fundraising Workshop—Gift Planning 101

Shari Kolding, director of gift planning and
Janine Kraus, director of development

Audubon has received more than \$250 million from 3,000+ bequests and other legacy gifts since the inception of our gift planning program in the mid-1980s. The average bequest size is approximately \$68,000 from individuals who leave Audubon a percent of their residual estate. Audubon's excellent results in gift planning are the direct result of a long-term commitment to promoting these types of gifts.

Participants will learn some basic and essential steps to getting started, hear about best practices and pitfalls to avoid, and ask questions from Audubon fundraising professionals. We can also answer “what next” questions for chapters with some experience.

1:15 pm–2:15 pm

Session E

Room: Atlantic A

Conservation for a New Generation

Natasha Khanna, field organizer and Estefania Palacio,
communications and development associate

Join us for a curated discussion on integrating youth stewardship, accessibility, and environmental justice into our work across Audubon. Listen to three experts on the ground discuss their challenges and successes around equity, diversity, and inclusion. Speakers include Clayton Anderson from Golden Gate Audubon Society, Duyen Tran from The Wilderness Society, and Casey Arndt from Richardson Bay Audubon Center & Sanctuary.

1:15 pm–2:15 pm

Session F

Room: Atlantic B

Saving Birds Through Policy Action

Mike Lynes, policy director and Juan Altamirano, associate director of public policy

With the rollback of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and other federal environmental protections, Californians have new challenges and opportunities in protecting birds. We'll discuss efforts in California to respond to the Trump Administration and how chapters can engage with a new governor and state legislature in 2019 to advance regional and statewide bird conservation. Our goal is for every participant to leave the session with new ideas and some concrete next steps for engaging on their priorities.

2:45 pm–3:45 pm

Session G

Room: Atlantic A

Climate & Energy and Birds in California

Garry George, renewable energy director

Garry George updates us on how we can have both renewable energy and birds, and on the fast growth of offshore wind in California. Participants will learn how we can protect birds while transitioning to 100% carbon-free energy by 2045 through policies and planning for siting of solar, geothermal and land-based and off-shore wind projects that avoid, minimize, and—as a last resort—mitigate effectively for impacts on our birds.

2:45 pm–3:45 pm

Session H

Room: Atlantic B

Coalition building: Advancing conservation priorities with local partners on the ground

Rebecca Schwartz Lesberg, director of San Francisco Bay program and Frank Ruiz, Salton Sea program director

How do you engage local partners on grassroots campaigns to achieve conservation? In this session, you will hear about two different campaigns in San Diego and the Salton Sea and then develop plans to work on your own local conservation challenge. Participants will receive feedback and be prepared to implement their plans after the Assembly.

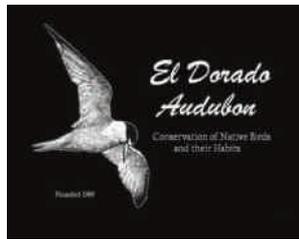


Brown Pelican: Linda Conroy/Audubon Photography Awards

Thank you to our sponsors for helping make this Assembly possible!



A special thank you to El Dorado Audubon for helping host us and lead a field trip!



And thank you, Chapters, for everything you do!

Altacal Audubon Society, Antelope Valley Audubon Society, Buena Vista Audubon Society, Central Sierra Audubon Society, Conejo Valley Audubon Society, Eastern Sierra Audubon Society, El Dorado Audubon Society, Fresno Audubon Society, Golden Gate Audubon Society, Kern Audubon Society, Kerncrest Audubon Society, La Purisima Audubon Society, Los Angeles Audubon Society, Madrone Audubon Society, Marin Audubon Society, Mendocino Coast Audubon Society, Monterey Audubon Society, Morro Coast Audubon Society, Mt. Diablo Audubon Society, Mt. Shasta Area Audubon Society, Napa-Solano Audubon Society, Ohlone Audubon Society, Palomar Audubon Society Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society, Pasadena Audubon Society, Peregrine Audubon Society, Plumas Audubon Society, Pomona Valley Audubon Society, Redbud Audubon Society, Redwood Region Audubon Society, Sacramento Audubon Society, San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society, San Diego Audubon Society, San Fernando Valley Audubon Society, San Joaquin Audubon Society, Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society, Sea & Sage Audubon Society, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, Sequoia Audubon Society, Sierra Foothills Audubon Society, Stanislaus Audubon Society, Tulare County Audubon Society, Whittier Audubon Society, Ventura Audubon Society, Wintu Audubon Society, Yolo Audubon Society, Yosemite Area Audubon Society