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## Editor's note:

Our chapter is looking for birding families that want a way to share the love of Nature and fascination with birds. Our beginning bird walks are a great way to see Nature right here in Whittier. Sycamore Canyon Bird Walks are every second Saturday of the month and we encourage new birders to join us and get familiar with our local avifauna. We love helping new birders see what's flying.

*Jennifer Schmahl*

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Image Nilfanion, Flickr

## Obama Announces the Atlantic's

### First Marine Monument, Protecting a Vital Underwater Ecosystem

*(From National Audubon) Located off the coast of Cape Cod, the area will be called the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument and is home to a variety of oceanic wildlife, including overwintering Atlantic Puffins.*

The monument will cover 4,913 square miles of ocean habitat, located about 130 miles southeast of Cape Cod. From the surface, it doesn't look like much, but beneath the waves is an underwater mountain range teeming with life, with canyons as deep as the Grand Canyon and underwater mountains (called seamounts) that reach nearly to the ocean's surface. As currents weave through and around the slopes, they stir up nutrients from the deep sea and carry them to the surface, where they feed a rich diversity of life, including microscopic plankton, schools of big fish, cold-water corals, whales, sea turtles, and overwintering puffins. While the area is huge and filled with life, very little has been known about it until recently. In fact, it was only last year that Audubon scientists discovered that Atlantic Puffins spend their winters feeding some 200 miles off the coast of Cape Cod (cont page 2)

## KIDS SPACE

### Getting kids tools to understand Nature:

Our chapter offers interested teachers Audubon Adventure kits, geared towards classrooms Grades 3 to 5. Do you know any teachers interested in using Audubon Adventures? We'd love to sponsor more classrooms.

**Audubon Adventures** introduces young people to the world of nature and wildlife through colorful magazines, online features and interactive games and puzzles, plus activities, guidance, and resources for educators. Designed for classrooms and other educational settings as well as for enjoyment at home, Audubon Adventures opens children's hearts and minds to the wonders of birds, other wildlife, and the fascinating and complex natural world that is Planet Earth.

Developed by professional educators and scientists, Audubon Adventures is designed to be integrated easily into any curriculum area: science, mathematics, language arts, social studies, and the creative arts. It has been used in classrooms, home-school settings, after-school programs, camp programs, ESL classes, and more. Since its inception in 1984, more than 7 million students have participated in the program.

#### What are Audubon Adventures classrooms learning this year?

This year *Audubon Adventures* puts the spotlight on the amazing variety within the world of birds, on all kinds of owls, and on long-legged wading birds like cranes, egrets, herons, and storks. For young people, learning about birds means learning about how all living things are connected to and affected by the other organisms—other animals, plants, and human beings—they share their habitat with.

### Audubon California Supports Los Angeles County Measure A

Protecting habitat for birds and connecting people with nature – those are two things that we at Audubon California can get behind. And that's why Audubon California supports Measure A on the November 8 ballot in Los Angeles County. Called the Safe, Clean Neighborhood Parks Measure of 2016, the measure will raise nearly \$95 million annual for parks throughout Los Angeles County. In short, Measure A will:

- Greatly benefit birds and habitat in Los Angeles County.
- Improve safe access to parks and the outdoors for Los Angeles County residents.
- Promote water conservation throughout Los Angeles County.

For more info visit:

<http://yesonaforlaparks.com/>



Photo: Chris Huber

We are a chapter of National Audubon



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## Atlantic Marine Monument

(from page 1). For 43 years, Steve Kress, Audubon's vice president of bird conservation, has watched over Atlantic Puffins on Eastern Egg Rock, a small slab of stone off the coast of Maine. "For the first 42 years of that we didn't know where they went in the winter," he says. To find out, Audubon scientists tracked 19 puffins with geolocators and followed them as they migrated south to feast on small fish and krill that thrive in the nutrient bath near the new monument. After the discovery of the puffin's wintering grounds, Audubon joined a coalition of environmental groups and other stakeholders in urging President Obama to protect the region. "I'm so pleased that the puffins are part of the story of the creation of this new monument, the first marine monument in the Atlantic," Kress says. Now it's not only their breeding islands that are protected, but also their wintertime habitat. "You can't just protect them where they nest," he says. "For puffins, you have to protect them throughout the year."

The monumental designation will ban commercial fishing, mining, and drilling within the monument's boundaries. Recreational fishing will be allowed. By banning commercial fishing, the monument will protect the juvenile fish Atlantic Puffins rely on to rear their chicks in Maine. Because the seafloor lining the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument is too deep and too far offshore for most fishermen to reach, healthy populations of large, old fish live there—large, old fish that produce many of the young that seed the region's fish populations. Every year, countless millions of inch-long juvenile fish migrate hundreds of miles from the canyons to warm coastal estuaries to feast on plankton, and it's there that they meet the beaks of Atlantic Puffins, Roseate Terns, Razorbills, and other seabird parents. and night for a total of roughly 12 hours each day. Link:

<http://www.audubon.org/news/obama-announces-atlantics-first-marine-monument-protecting-vital-underwater>

## General Meeting for October

*Birding in Belize* will be the topic presented by Larry and Jennifer Schmahl at the meeting of the Whittier Area Audubon Society on Thursday, October 20, 2016 at 7:30 pm at the Whittier Community Center, 7630 Washington Ave., Whittier, CA. 90602. Larry and Jennifer had a brief birding visit during a shore excursion on a cruise and were determined to return to Belize and spend some time birding different habitats. They will share the sights and stories of their 10 day trip to the savannah and highlands of Belize. See birds, Mayan ruins, and beautiful sunsets along with some of the natural and cultural history of this Central American nation.

**Admission is free and light refreshments will be served**

## Field Trip Schedule:

**7:00am Sycamore Canyon Beginning Bird Walks**, meet at the Sycamore Canyon Trailhead. Every second Saturday of the month (except July and August, rain or recent cancels). The trail is located adjacent to Rose Hills Cemetery gate 17, but note that the trail is not in the cemetery! The entrance to Sycamore Canyon is a driveway just southwest of the entrance to the cemetery. **Linda Oberholtzer leads.**

Saturday, October 22  
Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens is a lovely, leisurely stroll through the botanical gardens in Claremont. This huge garden specializes in native plants. We will leave the Whittier Civic Center parking lot at 8:00 am. The flora at the Botanical Gardens offers opportunities for Fall migrants and vagrants. Bring your bird watching stuff and enough snacks and water to see you through the morning. Bring a sack lunch as well. This is a great, relaxing way to spend an Autumn

morning. There is an entry fee. \$8 Adults, \$6 Students w/ valid ID \$6 Seniors (age 65 and older) \$4 children (age 3-12) (Free for Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden Members) (<http://www.rsabg.org/visit-us>)

Led by Larry Schmahl

On Saturday, September 17, Steve and Chris Huber Whittier Area Audubon members on a trip to the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve. The day started out great: The first bird spotted in the water near the parking lot was a beautiful Reddish Egret. We also got a nice clear look at an endangered Ridgeway's Rail walking right under the bridge we were standing on! Along the path we spotted the usual wading birds: Long-billed Curlew, Marbled Godwit, Willet, Whimbrel, Black-necked Stilt, as well as Sanderling, Black-bellied Plover and Ruddy Turnstone. Although it was early migration we saw Northern Shoveler, Blue-winged Teal and American Widgeon. In the water, we watched Double-crested Cormorants fishing and even saw some rays and a small shark. Most of the possible members of the heron family were present: Great and Snowy Egrets, Great Blue, Black-Crowned and Green Heron. After quite a long walk along the river to the end of the lagoon we were rewarded with a great view of a juvenile Yellow-crowned Night Heron, making the effort more than worthwhile. Our group included Linda Leroy and Al Moreno, Rebecca and Edwin Menendez, Cathy Fricker, Bruce Seelt, Joan Powell, Letty Brooks, Caralie Scott and her husband Larry and Taurino Tadeo. All in all, it was a very nice morning with a great group of birders that yielded 53 species.