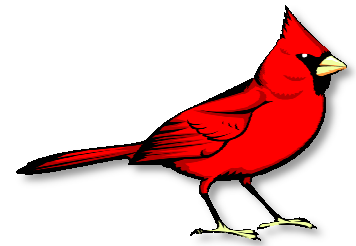


# THE OBSERVER



## Calendar

**June 13.** Beginner bird walk at Sycamore Canyon. Meet at the Sycamore Canyon trailhead at **7:00 AM**. 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 LeRoy and Al Moreno lead. Rain or recent rain cancels.

**June 18.** Monthly meeting and program. Our annual potluck and photo sharing evening. Meeting starts at 6:00 PM at the Whittier Community Center. Details on page 3.

**June 20.** Field trip to San Gabriel Mountains. See page 3 for details.



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## END OF THE PAPER NEWSLETTER

**THIS IS IT — THE FINAL PAPER OBSERVER.** If you really wish to continue receiving a paper copy of the newsletter you will need to specifically request one. See the form on the back of this issue for instructions if you wish to continue receiving a paper Observer. Given our goal of being a conservation organization it is unconscionable for us to send out hundreds of paper newsletters each month. You can find the newsletter on our website at <http://whittieraudubon.org/newsletter/>. Note that we'll also save a bunch of money on printing and mailing, money that can be put to better use by the chapter.

## IDENTIFYING WARBLER SONGS

This is a highly abridged version of an article that appears on the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's web site. Please go to the site and read the whole thing as it's very informative! As background, you may often here a warbler sing, a critical clue in identifying the bird. But when you're in the field your job is to observe and record. You may not be able to identify the bird right then and there, but if you record some details of its song you may be able to ID it when you get home. Rather than simply trying to remember what it sounded like, it helps to have a system that categorizes the song. So ask yourself these three questions when you hear a warbler (or any bird, really) sing:

### **Question 1: What is the Sound Quality of the Song?**

We use a few simple terms to describe sound quality in a song: Buzzy, Clear, and Trilled.

- **Buzzy** Like a bee – a good example would be Black-throated Blue Warbler song.
- **Clear** Something you could whistle. Cardinals have a Clear song, as do Yellow Warblers.
- **Trilled** A lot of sounds in a row that are too fast to count (technically, more than 11 sounds per second). Screech-owls sing a trill, which some birders imitate when pishing for birds. Worm-eating Warbler song is also a trill.

One small twist: sometimes a bird can sing more than one quality in a song. For example, a series of Clear elements followed by a Buzz: we'd call that Partly Buzzy.

### **Question 2: What Is the Pitch Trend of the Song?**

Is the overall pitch of the song Rising, Falling, Steady, or does it move up and down (Variable)? Note that here we're looking for the overall trend of the song, so if there's a slight fall in pitch but otherwise the song is mostly rising, then it would still be considered a Rising song.

### **Question 3: How Many Sections Does the Song Have?**

We break songs down into parts called Sections. A Section begins whenever there is a dramatic change in pitch or speed. Counting the number of Sections in a song can be one of the most effective ways to identify it.

That's it! With those three questions, you can describe and separate most warbler songs. When you get home or when the bird has flown and you're looking at your field guide, you'll be able to describe the song and compare it to descriptions of vocalizations in your guide.

## GLOBAL BIG DAY ON MAY 9

There were many birding activities held on May 9th, celebrated as a “global big day” of birding. Locally we had a special trip to Sycamore Canyon. Here are some pictures from that outing as taken by Bruce Seelt.



Hooded Oriole perched in a eucalyptus.



Red-tailed Hawk pair.



Black-headed Grosbeak male.



Western Bluebird exploring the holes in an Acorn Woodpecker granary.

## ANNUAL POTLUCK AND PICTURE SHARING

We invite you to our digital photography sharing night and potluck on Thursday, June 18th at 6:00 p.m. at the Whittier Community Center, 7630 Washington Ave. Whittier, Ca. The Community Center is located at the corner of Mar Vista St. and Washington Ave., across the street from the Whittier Public Library and next to a softball field.

Please note that the time is earlier — 6:00 p.m. for the potluck. The photo sharing will begin around 7:00 p.m. Bring a main dish, side dish, salad or dessert to share. Bring your own drinks and plate, utensils, etc.

The meeting is open to the public and free.

Please bring your photos on a flash drive or CD in jpeg format.

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## OBSERVER SCHEDULE

As usual the Observer will take two months off, resuming publication with the September issue. And as always I will call for volunteers to take over the position of editor. I have been doing this since 1999 and a new voice as editor would doubtless be welcomed. Let me or Jennifer Schmahl know if you are interested.

- Jeff Allison (editor)

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## JUNE FIELD TRIP

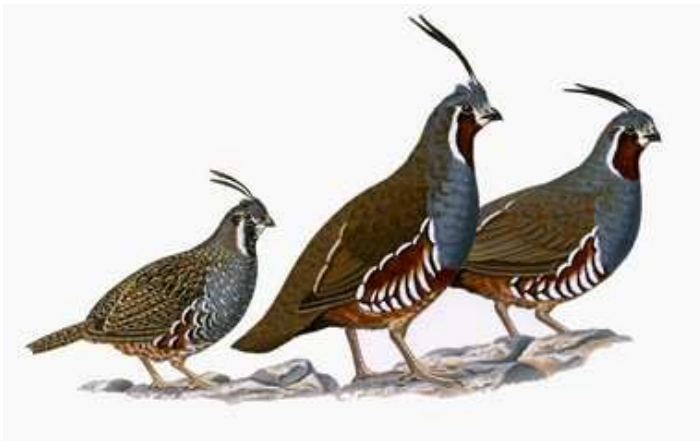
The June Field Trip will be to the local San Gabriel Mountains on June 20th.

Please meet at the Whittier Community center for a 6:30 AM departure. Carpooling is always encouraged.

Bring water and a lunch.

Expected birds are Mountain Quail, usually heard only, White-headed Woodpecker, Dusky Flycatcher, Violet-green Swallows, Fox Sparrow, Green-tailed Towhee, Lawrence's Goldfinch and perhaps some mountain breeding warblers. This field trip will last most of the day, returning to Whittier at about 4 PM.

Larry Schmahl leads



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## JOIN WHITTIER AREA AUDUBON SOCIETY!

EVERY MEMBERSHIP SUPPORTS AUDUBON'S VITAL EFFORTS to protect birds, wildlife, and natural habitats. For \$30 per year you can support Whittier Area Audubon, receive 10 issues of our chapter newsletter, *The Observer*, and support our local projects and events.

To join our **local** chapter, make your check payable to Whittier Area Audubon and send it to Whittier Area Audubon, P.O. Box 548, Whittier, CA 90608-0548.

You can find your membership expiration date on the mailing label on your *Observer*.

## PLEASE CHECK OUT OUR NEW AND IMPROVED WEBSITE! WHITTIERAUDUBON.ORG

We are moving away from a dead trees newsletter with the launch of an electronic newsletter and a fresh, new website. The most recent newsletter will be placed on our website whittieraudubon.org every month, with previous newsletters saved and archived for your enjoyment. If you wish, we will email you a copy of the newsletter directly to you. Simply go to our website and click GIVE AND JOIN and select Email List.

Printing and mailing costs have steadily risen over the years, and as advocates for wise stewardship of our natural resources, we cannot in good conscience continue to send out paper newsletters.

IF YOU WISH TO CONTINUE RECEIVING A PAPER NEWSLETTER IN THE MAIL YOU WILL HAVE TO REQUEST IT WITH THIS FORM. Detach and mail to Whittier Audubon, PO Box 548, Whittier, CA 90608-0548.

YES, Please continue sending me a paper newsletter through the mail.

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Beginning in June 2015 we will no longer send out paper newsletters unless you opt in by mail.