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Thank you to everyone who helped make our

Conservation Dinner a success. And thank you to all our distinguished guests who helped celebrate Bob Henderson's remarkable career of protecting our wildlands.

Our next community event will be the **Victorian Fair** put on by the **Homestead Museum** folks April 29th and 30th. Yours truly will dress in period costume Saturday and run a booth to recruit young Citizen Scientists in the great tradition of Science Expeditions during the 19th century. The Fair is a fun event featuring period costumes, music with crafts, food trucks and more. Come see what we are doing Saturday. **15415 East Don Julian Road City of Industry**

Audubon Welcomes GOP Climate Resolution: 'This Took Guts'

Audubon's network continues its incredible work to mobilize the public around protecting climate-threatened birds by driving the demand for renewable energy, encouraging communities to grow native plants, and urging people to take advocacy action to save the iconic landscapes that birds need. The good news is that at the federal level, 17 Republican members of Congress have introduced a resolution to create and support climate solutions, to study and address the causes and effects of a changing climate. In response to this resolution, the National Audubon Society issued the following statement:

"These leaders understand that there's a Republican climate solution and that America's birds and people don't have time for more political trench warfare," said David Yarnold ([@david_yarnold](https://twitter.com/david_yarnold)), Audubon's president and CEO.

"We need bipartisan solutions to our changing climate and we need them now. It took guts for these Republicans to step forward today, and we welcome their ideas.

"We know there are several dozen other House members who'd like to join this chorus, and when they come forward, Audubon and its members from all across the political spectrum will be there to welcome their leadership too.

"Climate change threatens the birds we love, the places they and we need and the legacy we'll leave our kids—all values

that lead us to say that conservation doesn't have a party."

Audubon's policy leadership, state offices, and chapters from Florida to Washington applauded this move and delivered their thanks and praise locally..



Audubon

We are a chapter of National Audubon

KIDS SPACE

Victorian Fair Homestead

Museum Last year Larry and Jennifer Schmahl dressed up in their 19th Century best and participated in the Victorian Fair. Jennifer returns this year to encourage youngsters to become Citizen Scientists and learn about nature and the birds around us. April 29. 15415 E. Don Julian Rd. Industry.

General Meeting for April

Our speaker will be Mickey Long who will present "Botany for Birders" at the Whittier Area Audubon general meeting on Thursday, April 20, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. at the Whittier Community Center, 7630 Washington Ave., Whittier, CA. The program is free. Mickey Long is the Field Biologist and former Natural Areas Administrator, L.A. County Parks & Recreation. Light refreshments will be served.

- **Editor's note**
- **Audubon Welcomes GOP attention to Climate Change**
- **Kids Space: Creating Citizen Scientists**
- **General meeting info**
- **Field trip schedule**
- **March Field Trip report**

ELECTIONS:

At April's general meeting we will be considering who is to run for the open offices on our Board.

Elected officers are President, Vice President, Second Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer. We also have various appointed offices that need to be filled. The members at large will select their member of the nominating committee. Let one of the Board members know if you would like to serve in some capacity.

Mailing address:

Whittier Area Audubon
PO Box 548
Whittier, CA 90608-0548

Field Trip Schedule:

8:00am Sycamore Canyon Beginning Bird Walks, meet at the Sycamore Canyon Trailhead. Every second Saturday of the month (except July and August, rain or recent rain 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. **Larry Schmahl leads. Rain cancels but we often go instead to another location chosen by the leader.**



Saturday April 22 Piute Ponds

Jay Oberholtzer leads. Piute Ponds is the largest freshwater marsh in Los Angeles County. The area supports a diversity of flora and fauna. The convergence of two mountain ranges (San Gabriel to the south and Tehachapi to the north), the Mojave Desert, coastal influence, and beneath the Pacific Flyway provides a mixture of diverse migratory birds

Over 250 species of birds have been documented at the Piute Ponds Complex. In 2004 the National Audubon Society designated the Ponds as an "Important Bird Area of California." Piute Ponds is one of a few areas in the state supporting a successful White faced Ibis rookery. Black Crowned Night Herons and Great Blue Herons breed at the ponds regularly. (Photo: Wanda Deal, 2014)

IMPORTANT INFO BELOW:

The Piute Ponds are part of Edwards Air Force Base. To gain access to this otherwise restricted area, we will need the following information for each person who wants to attend. Please get this to me right away. I have no idea how far in advance they really need this. They are accommodating us, so I want to make this as easy for all as possible.

For each person attending, I need the following information:

1. Full legal name
2. Social security number
3. Date of birth
4. Driver's license number and the state it was issued
5. Current city of residence
6. Email
7. Phone number

If anyone is not a US citizen, please let me know right away as they have additional processes they will need to complete.

For each car that enters the Piute Ponds the car must have current registration and proof of insurance.

Please email me, or telephone my office at 562 945 2838 with the information right away. Jay Oberholtzer



Victorian Fair Education Outreach

We have been invited to return to the Homestead Museum's spring event Saturday April 29, 2017. At last year's Fair we helped kids learn about being a Citizen Scientist and offered a chance to make a simple bird feeder. The Fair itself is a fun collection of displays, crafts, music, food and booths to purchase Victorian themed clothing, toys and decorative items

Saturday, March 18, 2017 At Joshua Tree National Park

Our March field trip to Joshua Tree saw us arriving at the Oasis of Mara at the north entrance to the Park. Cactus Wrens and White Winged Doves called from just about every side. The California Fan Palms yielded Phainopepla, Kestrel, Gambel's Quail, Anna's and Costa's Hummingbirds, all in a very short, pleasant stroll. The big hit for that stop occurred when Letty Brooks identified the first of two Greater Roadrunners. We were treated to their duet performance calling back and forth to each other.

After entering the Park, we headed towards what I call the "secret lunch place" vaguely near the Barker Dam area. We drove through the stands of blooming Joshua Trees, marveling at the greenery which surrounded us. While we were sitting down for lunch, Black Throated Sparrows began calling to each other. One posed for us on a nearby Joshua Tree, giving everyone first-rate looks. After leaving the "secret lunch spot", we slowly drove through stands of Joshua trees, looking for Scott's Orioles. Eventually, patience and persistence paid off when Steve Huber first spotted an adult male Scott's Oriole on a Joshua Tree.



We next headed south, across the Park and into its lower elevations. As we descended, the volume of wildflowers increased dramatically. We stopped in several washes, hoping for Thrashers, but without any luck. We managed to find a small flock of White Crowned Sparrows. Caterpillars, thought to be of the Sphinx Moth, seem to be everywhere. Some were crawling

along the sand, while others attached themselves to some vegetation. While we carefully walked through the desert washes, avoiding the caterpillars, we managed to find a Lincoln's Sparrow.

We continued heading to the south, winding up at Cottonwood Springs, near the southern entrance to the Park. The grove of palm trees was impressive, but there was surprisingly little birdlife. Earlier that week I had heard a Long Eared Owl calling from that very same grove. As we were leaving Cottonwood Springs, Turkey Vultures were starting to circle the area, preparing to roost for the evening. As we exited the Park, the wildflowers energetically splashed their brilliant colors across the desert. Good day with a good group. -Jay