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## Elections to the Board take place at the May General Meeting

Members in good standing who are current in their dues to the chapter are eligible to vote for candidates to fill the elected positions on next year's Board of Directors. The Nominating Committee have solicited the following candidates for each position:

President: Chris Huber

First Vice President: Larry Schmahl

Second Vice President: Linda Oberholtzer

Corresponding Secretary Joan Powell

Recording Secretary: Steve Huber

Treasurer: Elizabeth Huber

We will also take nominations from the floor, if any. You must be a member in good standing to run for office.

## National Monuments Under Attack

From Elizabeth Sorrel, Audubon Works  
President Trump signed an executive order directing Interior Secretary Zinke to review all national monuments designated in the past 20 years, conveniently starting with Grand Staircase Escalante and ending with Bears Ears. He is to then make recommendations for which monument designations should be rescinded or reviewed in an unprecedented and legally untested use of the Antiquities Act. Audubon has been sharing our response to this news on social media. The hashtags used are #KeepItPublic #MonumentsforAll and #BirdsTellUs  
**Also from Audubon President, David Yarnold:**



Blowing up more than 100 years of bipartisan tradition to rob our kids of their natural legacy is shameful and sad.



The White House Just Declared Open Season on Our Public Lands  
Reversing monument designations is a dangerous game.  
audubon.org

"For more than a century, U.S. presidents—both Republican and Democrat—have respected the authority of the presidents before them to protect the nation's most treasured natural and historical places for future generations. No president has ever reversed another president's designation of an American

national monument. Now, however, President Donald Trump is threatening to do just that, blowing up more than 100 years of bipartisan tradition and robbing future generations of their natural legacy."

## In other postings from Audubon:

TheCrowd&TheCloud @CrowdAndCloudTV Apr 27  
"Skilled birders are often as good or better at identifying birds as professional scientists" @audubonsociety #CrowdCloudLIVE



Our chapter has some pretty good birders, too.



# Audubon

We are a chapter of National Audubon

## KIDS SPACE

### Victorian Fair Homestead

**Museum** Last year Larry Schmahl and I dressed up in our 19<sup>th</sup> Century best and participated in the Victorian Fair. This year **Chris Huber** and I got spiffed up and engaged with about 40 kids and their families to promote curiosity about and observations of Nature.

We invited the kids to be Citizen Scientists for the afternoon, gave them a sketchbook and asked them

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to emulate Victorian era explorers and find interesting things to sketch and bring the sketches back to us to describe and discuss. They earned a Citizen Scientist badge for their efforts. We had a great time interacting with the families and hope to have recruited some future birdwatchers. You, too, can participate by sharing observations and pictures at [iNaturalist.org](http://iNaturalist.org)

Our own **Cathy Fricker** has been using Audubon Adventures with her kids in an afterschool Birders Club. Here is some of the art they have produced. Our chapter donated 10 pairs of binoculars for her kids to use and Cathy has created a few future birders.



We've placed Audubon Adventures into several afterschool

programs in Norwalk/LaMirada School District. Some want to continue on during the summer with trips to parks and nature centers. Kudos to our Education Chair, **Letty Brooks** for persisting and recruiting interested teachers! **Want to sponsor a classroom, or provide binoculars? It's not as expensive as you might think.**

## General Meeting for May

**Valerie Sinex**, owner of Wild Birds Unlimited, Yorba Linda, will be speaking about "**Birds in Love**" at the Thursday, May 18 meeting of the Whittier Area Audubon Society general meeting on



Wild Birds Unlimited  
Nature Shop

Thursday,  
May 18, 2017  
at 7:30 p.m.

at the Whittier Community Center, 7630 Washington Ave., Whittier, CA. The program is free. Light refreshments will be served.

### Looking ahead:

June is our final meeting before our Summer hiatus. June's meeting will be a Potluck and photo sharing. Setup 6pm, Eat 6:30 and pictures at 7pm.

### Mailing address:

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

### Field Trip Schedule:

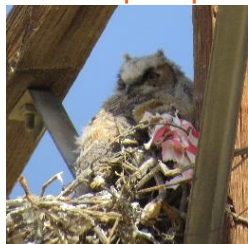
**7:00am Sycamore Canyon Beginning Bird Walks**, meet at the Sycamore Canyon Trailhead. Every second Saturday of the month (except July and August, rain or recent rain cancels). The trail is located adjacent to Rose Hills Cemetery gate 17, but note that the trail is not in the cemetery! The entrance to Sycamore Canyon is a driveway just southwest of the entrance to the cemetery. **Steve and Chris Huber lead. Rain cancels but we often go instead to another location chosen by the leader.**

### Saturday May 22 Big Morongo

**Larry Schmahl leads.** Our May field trip will be to Big Morongo Canyon Preserve, which is located north of Palm Springs. We will convene in the parking lot of the Whittier Community Center and carpool/caravan, leaving at 6:00 AM sharp. It's close to a 2-hour drive, so we must leave promptly at 6:00. If you would rather meet us at Big Morongo, plan to rendezvous in the parking lot there at 8:00. Big Morongo is a great place for migrant flycatchers and warblers as well as interesting local residents. It can get hot, so be prepared for warm weather. Bring water, a lunch, a hat, and sunscreen. We will bird Big Morongo and Covington Park and have lunch in the park. We should be back in Whittier between 3:00 and 4:00.



### Field Trip Report: Saturday, April 22, 2017 Piute Ponds, Edwards Air Force Base, Rosamund



Because our April field trip was to a military installation, the vetting process was more complicated than our usual outings, but well worth the effort (and big thanks to Dear Leader, Jay Oberholtzer and his staff for coordinating the info collection). Worth the effort because now those of us who went now have permission to return until December 31, 2017!

Piute Ponds is a tertiary outflow from a wastewater treatment plant in Antelope Valley. Because the water levels are generally stable year round, a thriving aquaculture has developed and has attracted an interesting collection of birds. On the road into the area, Car 2's eagle eyes found a Great Horned Owl's nest tucked into the crossbars of a power pole, with nestling. And appropriately an American Flag tucked into the nesting material. Car 2 also

spotted a Burrowing Owl further down the road. Also seen was a California Thrasher. At the parking area we spotted Great Tailed Grackles, Hermit and Wilson's Warbler, a Common Yellowthroat, with the ubiquitous Yellow Rumped Warbler.

There is a roadway on top of the berms containing the wastewater that you can drive around. We saddled up and went out along the berms. The first pond area was inundated by Black Crowned Night Herons scooping up frogs from the shallow water, some flying off with their catch, although we never saw the rookery area. The Herons shared space with Northern Shovelers, Ruddy Ducks, Eared Grebes, Ring-billed Gull, Great Blue Heron and Double Crested Cormorants and enough Coots for a Cootenany, Wading birds included Whimbrels, American Avocets in breeding plumage, Black Necked Stilts, Long Billed Dowitcher, Marbled Godwit, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpipers, Western Sandpipers, Spotted Sandpipers, and Semi Palmated Plovers, and a tail-less Raccoon swimming about.

Jay's \$20 birds were a Yellow Headed Blackbird and a Prairie Falcon. The Falcon was a no show, but Larry spotted the Blackbirds fly catching with their Red Winged cousins in a stand of willows at the far end of the pond. Sharing space was a Loggerhead Shrike. White Faced Ibis flew in and out of view. Floating in the water were Gadwall, Cinnamon Teal, Green Winged Teal, and Redheads,

We stopped for lunch at the only shade tree in sight, a Fremont Cottonwood (thank you Mickey Long) and displaced a Tree Swallow trying to use the tree. Our shady spot overlooked another pond that sported a Song Sparrow, Clark's and Western Grebes. Personally, I dozed off, so there might have been more.

Back in the cars, we continued on to a further pond where Car 2 spotted a Sora wandering about out in the open. (Are we sensing a theme here?) Finally jumping back into the game, Car 1 got a good look at its own Sora and several more. We rounded out our day with a Red-tailed Hawk, a Northern Harrier, Marsh Wren, Cactus Wren and a Green-tailed Towhee that sprang up into sight for us. As Jay said "I want to thank all of you for a great trip. Three soras and a green tailed towhee! Who would have thought. See you next month."

