



# THE OBSERVER

WHITTIER AREA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Visit our website [www.whittieraudubon.org](http://www.whittieraudubon.org)

As we head off for summer birding adventures, take a moment to appreciate the wild and semi-wild areas that support bird life. Whether it's a huge preserve or a small patch of habitat, our bird friends make do as best they can with the remains of the wilderness that used to be. Please do everything you can to support the preservation of birds and their habitat through voting, calling, donating or even just discussing the value of wilderness with your family and neighbors. Remember: There is no Planet B!

- **Editor's note: Happy Summer Birding**
- **New Board Members**
- **Audubon and the MBTA**
- **June Meeting: Photo Share**
- **Kids Space: Binoculars**
- **Field trip schedules**

## New Board Members

Thank you for your future service:

President: Larry Schmah

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Cathy Fricker

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Linda Oberholtzer

Treasurer: Liz Huber

Recording Secretary: Steve Huber

Corresponding Secretary: Joan Powell

## Audubon Lawsuit Seeks to Restore Protections for Migratory Birds

A coalition of national environmental groups, including the National Audubon Society filed litigation, *National Audubon Society v. Department of the Interior*, in the Southern District of New York challenging the Trump Administration's move to eliminate longstanding protections for waterfowl, raptors, and songbirds under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA).

The Act's prohibition on the killing or "taking" of migratory birds has long been understood to extend to incidental take from industrial activities—meaning unintentional but predictable and avoidable killing. Under the Trump administration's revised interpretation, the MBTA's protections will apply only to activities that purposefully kill birds.

Any "incidental" take—no matter how inevitable or devastating the impact on birds—is now immune from enforcement under the law.

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## KIDS SPACE:

Thanks to the generosity of our Conservation Dinner guests, we have funds to grant several school programs a subscription to Audubon Adventures AND one school will be getting kid-friendly binoculars to use with them!

Our own Cathy Fricker (1<sup>st</sup> VP) has been using Audubon Adventures with her students for several years, most recently with an after school bird club. Her kids enjoyed using their binoculars so much that we are offering a set to another afterschool program.

Do you know a teacher or afterschool coordinator that would be interested in having a ready made curriculum for their students? All our proceeds from the Conservation Dinner go towards educational outreach. We'd love to introduce the world of birds to more kids!



**Audubon**  
We are a chapter of National Audubon

## General Meeting June 21, 2018, 6:00pm

We end our year with the traditional potluck and photo share night. Bring a dish to share, your own plate, utensils and cup and your photos on a thumb drive.

**Note the earlier time!!!**

The Whittier Area Audubon Society will meet this month only at 6 pm, General Meetings take place on the third Thursday of each month from September through June at the Whittier Community Center. Location: 7630 Washington Avenue, Whittier, California.

**WE WILL SEE YOU BACK IN SEPTEMBER!**

## Beginning Bird Walk, Sycamore Canyon: Final walk for this season, we return in September

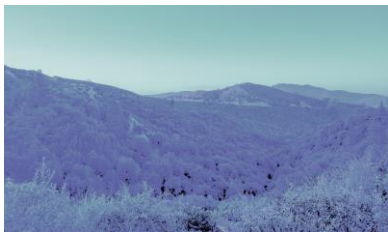
Every second Saturday of the month (except July and August,)

**June 9, 2018 7:00am Sycamore Canyon Beginning Bird Walks**

Meet at the Sycamore Canyon Trailhead. The trail is located adjacent to Rose Hills Cemetery gate 17. **DO NOT BE LATE.** The gate opens and locks punctually. Expect to park on the street. Please check our website for updates.

Rain or recent rain cancels the Canyon walk, but we will choose another location) **Leader TBD.**

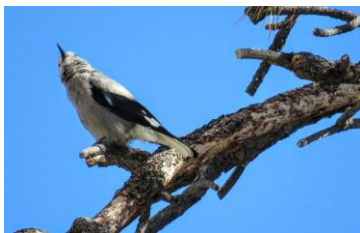
## Mountain Birding, Grassy Hollow to Blue Ridge and Guffy, June 23, 2018



### Leader Steve Huber

We will leave the Whittier Community Center by 6:30 am in order to reach Grassy Hollow Visitor Center by 8:00am. You can meet us there if you prefer. **Remember that you will need an Adventure Pass if you are parking at any NFS/NPS facility.**

We will be looking for our summer mountain residents/visitors and see who is enjoying our San Gabriel Mountains. We will proceed down Angeles Crest Highway and take the turnoff for Blue Ridge and Guffy campgrounds. The road is dirt, but accessible by regular passenger car. The campgrounds have pit toilets, but no water, so bring plenty. Mountain weather can be anything from cold and drizzly to blazing hot, so watch the weather reports and be prepared.



### MBTA

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“For 100 years, the United States has committed with other nations to protect migratory birds through international treaties and laws. The Trump administration’s meddling with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act

threatens to reverse decades of progress to conserve birds that are essential to ecosystems, economies and our enjoyment of nature. On the centennial of this important law, we will do everything we can to protect migratory birds that are defenseless against the reckless actions taken by this administration.”

The risk of liability under the MBTA has long provided the oil and gas industry, wind energy development companies, and power transmission line operators with an incentive to work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to minimize bird deaths. For example, in an effort to protect migratory birds and bats and avoid potential MBTA liability, the wind industry, conservation groups, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service worked to develop comprehensive guidelines aimed to ensure best practices for siting and developing wind farms. The Trump administration’s new policy eliminates this incentive for industries and individuals to minimize and mitigate foreseeable impacts of their activities on migratory birds, putting already-declining populations of our nation’s songbirds and other migratory birds at risk.

The MBTA also protects birds from fossil fuel development. Oil pits kill hundreds of thousands of birds – if incidental take liability is eliminated, industry need no longer take measures to protect birds from these hazards. In addition, when the 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon disaster spilled more than 210 million gallons of oil in the Gulf of Mexico more than 1 million birds were killed in the four years following the blowout. BP paid \$100 million-dollars in fines under the MBTA that supported wetland and migratory bird conservation. The new interpretation would bar the federal government from seeking

such mitigation under the MBTA for devastating oil spills in the future. “We cannot let Secretary Zinke add one of the oldest and most important laws for birds to his list of anti-environmental giveaways, especially when birds are in critical need of protection. Drastically slashing the reach of the MBTA and removing accountability for preventable bird deaths is unacceptable.” – **Katie Umekubo, Natural Resources Defense Council, Senior Attorney, Nature Program.**  
**Take Action: Audubon Action Center**

### Pelagic Birding

While not an official Whittier Audubon field trip, Larry Schmah will be taking Island Packer’s boat to Prisoner’s Harbor and back on August 18, 2018, leaving Ventura 9:00am and returning 3:30pm. This is the Saturday after the third Thursday, which would be the usual week for a field trip. Each participant needs to contact Island Packers and make a reservation for the Prisoners Harbor day trip. Expect to see the Island Scrub Jay and the always friendly Island Kit Fox. Bring lunch and water. Adults \$59, Seniors \$54  
805-642-1393  
[www.IslandPackers.com](http://www.IslandPackers.com)

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