



# THE OBSERVER

WHITTIER AREA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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There are many attempts to encroach upon our Wilderness Areas recently. Congress is trying to open up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling. The Interior Secretary Zinke is considering removing millions of acres from some National Monuments, particularly one of the newest, Bears Ears. Zinke is also considering removing protections for the Greater Sage Grouse (see article below) None of these calamities have yet to happen. We can do our part by remaining engaged and active. Writing and calling in to our Congressional Representatives remains an effective tool to influence events. Public opinion still matters, but numbers matter more. Take the time to talk to the politicians and remind them that they serve us, not Big Oil. *Jennifer Schmahl*

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## From National Audubon: Please Ask Your Members to Ensure the Survival of the Greater Sage-Grouse:

The Bureau of Land Management has opened a formal comment period to review the collaborative Greater Sage-Grouse management plans that were adopted in 2015 after years of work from nonprofit organization, state governments, federal agencies, and stakeholders such as ranchers. The comment period is part of a process that could weaken or eliminate the plans. Please share this [action alert](#) urging Secretary Zinke not to dismantle Sage-Grouse Conservation Plans with your members and supporters by including it in your newsletter and on your website. The deadline to comment is November 27. (Links work only online)



### KIDS SPACE

This time of year means holiday breaks and kids at home looking for thing to do. How about creating a bird and pollinator friendly garden? There are lots of resources online to help you pick the best plants to help hummingbirds, butterflies and bees.

National Audubon has links to local nurseries that stock native plants. Natives also have the benefit of being drought and heat tolerant. So plant a garden. Fall/Winter is the prime planting time in So Cal.

Remember, what's good for birds is also good for people. Here are some possible impacts of your native plant garden:

**532:** Varieties of butterflies and moths supported by native oak trees, as compared to only 5 butterfly and moth species supported by non-native ginkgo trees.

**96:** Percentage of land birds that rely on insects to feed chicks.

**1,200:** Number of crops that depend on pollinators to grow.

**40 million:** Acres of lawn in the U.S. currently.

**80 million:** Pounds of pesticides applied to lawns in the U.S. annually. Native plants, on the other hand, support a balance of predator and prey and thrive without pesticides.

**800 million:** Gallons of gas used annually by lawn mowers. This produces significant amounts of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases driving climate change.

## General Meeting for November 16

"California Conservation" will be the topic discussed at the Whittier Area Audubon meeting on Thursday,

November 16 at 7:30 p.m. at the Whittier Community Center, 7630 Washington Ave., (not to be confused with Washington Blvd.) in Whittier. The Community Center is located on the corner of Mar Vista St. and Washington Ave., across the street from the Whittier Public Library. The program is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

The speaker is Natasha Khanna, Natasha is Audubon California's new field organizer for Southern California. While she serves as the liaison to Southern California chapters, Natasha helps to build local advocacy on a variety of issues, with climate at the top of the list.

In the past, Natasha has volunteered in the Los Nogales nursery and interned with the Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society's YES program. She comes Audubon from Special Service for Groups Alliance, where she served as case manager, connecting clients to mental health services. She was also a program coordinator and outreach consultant for the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council in Los Angeles. In her free time, Natasha likes to play soccer and practice yoga and mindfulness.

Because of the importance of California to birds, Audubon has had a strong presence here for more than 100 years – represented by the

National Audubon Society, local chapters, and many thousands of members and supporters. Audubon California, acting as a field program of the National Audubon Society since 1996, has a long list of accomplishments on behalf of birds and nature. Recent examples include legislation to remove toxic lead from ammunition, an agreement to safeguard habitat for birds at Owens Lake, establishment of protected areas for marine birds along the coast, and an introduction to nature for thousands of children at our centers and sanctuaries.

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### Field Trip Schedule:

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

**November 11, 2017 8:00am Sycamore Canyon Beginning Bird Walks, (Note the time change)** 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) **Jeff Allison leads.**

### Saturday November 18, 2017 Birding San Jacinto

#### Leader TBD

This is, perhaps, the best place to see just about every kind of raptor there is for Southern California. Previously a juvenile gyrfalcon had been seen making an early morning appearance starting in early January. Rough-legged Hawks, Kestrels, Harriers and Red-tails are everywhere. It seems like there is usually at least one of each duck and a fair bit of peeps. There will be plenty of birds. We will probably spend our whole time at the San Jacinto wildlife refuge. We will be doing some

driving and stopping. The little 22 Channel radios are very handy to have. If you plan to meet us at the refuge, and don't have a radio, be sure and ask me. I will try to bring a few extras. There are no picnic tables or the like, anywhere in the refuge. There are plenty of places to pull over. I recommend that everybody bring some folding chairs. As long as the weather cooperates, a clear sunny day is about all that is required. A sandwich, Coke and a folding chair are about as close to heaven as one gets in the Inland Empire.

Bring your birding stuff, junk food and a lunch. Folding chairs will bring a touch of civilization. Hope to see you there.

Rain Cancels. We will leave the Community Center parking lot at 7:00 am. We should be back in Whittier between 2:00 and 3:00.

ducks, including Ring Necked Ducks and Green Winged and Cinnamon Teal, four species of Grebe, including Clark's with some fuzzy immatures, Great, Snowy, Green, Great Blue and Black crowned Night Herons. Lark, Vesper, Lincoln's, Song, Savannah and White Crowned Sparrows, California Towhees. We watched a Peregrine Falcon having breakfast, watched by a dozen Turkey Vultures waiting their turn. Red-tailed and Red-Shouldered Hawks flew about along with a Northern Harrier and American Kestrel. Although Steve saw a Sora on his scouting trip, we were only able to hear them. We lunched among the Terrifying Geese (including the Greater White Fronted Goose that bit Kathleen last year). Although many groups make use of Prado, we were well able to move from place to place to see around 66 species. A beautiful day all around.

### FIELD TRIP REPORT



Saturday, October 21 the chapter visited Prado Regional Park in Chino. Led by Steve Huber, we started the morning dodging Disc Golfers and checking out the water birds at the southern end of the park.



Among our usual park birds we saw Common Gallinules, Belted Kingfishers, White-faced Ibis, Vermillion Flycatchers, seven species of