



# THE OBSERVER

WHITTIER AREA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

Let's say goodbye to 2017. It was a chaotic mixture of resistance and affirmation. The majority of Americans find they prefer clean skies and water, and wilderness left for wildlife. Our continuing task is to make our political leaders acknowledge our preferences and enact policies that affirm them. The health of the world depends on our ceaseless efforts to make our politicians and policy makers listen and act for the future, not the financial now. *Jennifer Schmahl*

PS. You are correct, there was no December newsletter. Life got away from me. Here's January instead.

- **Editor's note: Be politically aware and active**
- **How much can a vagrant add to a local economy?**
- **Kids Space: Any motivated educators out there?**
- **General meeting info**
- **Field trip schedules**
- **Field Trip Report**
- **Conservation Dinner**

## How much money can a rare vagrant add to a local economy?:

Scientists had the opportunity to test this very question this past spring as a Black Backed Oriole, normally a Mexican species, made its home in a Pennsylvania backyard for 67 days this previous spring. The hosts of our foreign guest kept a visitor's log book and a group of students from New South Wales did some statistical analyses and computed that \$223, 851 was added to the local and surrounding economy. A combination of local accommodations, food purchases, travel expenses, etc. the single bird generated quite a bonus for Berks County.

Do a Google search for economic impact of birdwatching and you will find tons of studies that support the idea that birdwatchers have and spend money on their passion. Perhaps cold hard cash can change the minds of supporters of extractive industries.

## KIDS SPACE

Audubon Adventures is a wonderful way to introduce young children to the birds around us. Our chapter is looking for interested educators that could make use of the materials National Audubon has developed to help children with science based enrichment activities. Are you or do you know someone that would welcome a gift of Audubon Adventures into their classroom, afterschool or out of school programs? Let us know. Or do you know an educator or someone involved in education that can network with local teachers and promote Audubon Adventures for us? Our chapter is eager to sponsor the program wherever it is welcome.



Long Wattled Umbrella Bird Jennifer Schmahl

## General Meeting for January 18, 2018

Larry and Jennifer Schmahl will be sharing their experience "Birding Southern Ecuador" at the Whittier Area Audubon meeting on Thursday, January 18, 2018 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.

Larry and Jennifer are long time members of our chapter. They recently traveled with a nature tour group to southern Ecuador, staying at various eco-lodges and learning some of the fascinating geology, biology and ornithology of the region.



Cathy Fricker



# Audubon

We are a chapter of National Audubon

## Mailing address:

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



Selasphorus (m) Sycamore Canyon Jennifer Schmahl

**Field Trip Schedule:**

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

**January 13, 2018 8:00am 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) **Larry Schmahl leads.**

**BONUS HAWK WATCH**

**Saturday January 6, 2018 Birding Antelope Valley**

As is the custom, Larry Schmahl will lead an early January field trip to Antelope Valley to search out Winter desert visitors such as Ferruginous and Red-tailed Hawks. We generally get good looks at mountain plovers, blackbirds and assorted agricultural field residents. **Caution:** Cold and windy with possible mud.



We will convene in the parking lot of the Whittier Community Center and

carpool/caravan, leaving at **6:30 AM sharp.** If you would rather, meet us at the Carl's Jr parking lot at Hwy 14 and Ave. K at 8:00am. Bring a lunch and water. We should return to Whittier by 3:00pm.

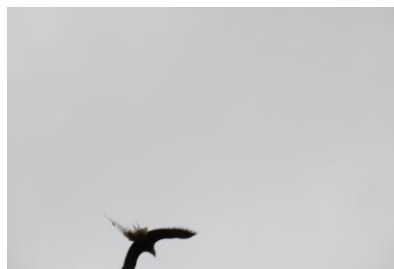
**Saturday January 20, 2018 Birding Bolsa Chica**

**Leader Chris Huber**

Our regular January field trip will be to Bolsa Chica, in Huntington Beach. We will convene in the parking lot of the Whittier Community Center and carpool/caravan, leaving at **7:00 AM sharp.** If you would rather meet at Bolsa Chica, plan to rendezvous in the PCH parking lot at 8:00. Bolsa Chica is one of the great local birding spots. Ducks, shorebirds, and waders can be found in abundance. Gulls, terns, and pelicans are regular, as are raptors that nest on the bluffs. Bring water, a lunch, a hat, and sunscreen. We will bird Bolsa Chica and have lunch at nearby Harriett Wieder Park.

Bring your birding stuff, junk food and a lunch. Hope to see you there. Only **SERIOUS** 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.

**FIELD TRIP REPORT**



I don't usually include a report about what was seen on our Sycamore Canyon walks, but on December 9 walk, participants were delighted and amazed to watch an adult Bald Eagle soar over them and up the canyon. Jealous? Then you should get out of bed for the next Bird Walk. You might get to see something equally exciting.

Our December field trip was the Bulmer Memorial Bird Walk at

Whittier Narrows. With lovely weather and the usual suspects, a good time was had by all. Many thanks to Colleen and her staff at the Narrows Nature Center for their welcome.

**COMING SOON: Annual Conservation Award Dinner** Thursday, March 15, 2018

Our Annual Conservation Dinner is fast upon us. Save the date: Thursday, March 15, 2018. We will be honoring a local conservation hero for his or her contribution to saving the environment and/or promoting environmental awareness. Tickets will be on sale through Paypal on our website or through the mail.

**Whittier Area Audubon Society  
2018 Conservation Dinner**

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will be attending \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ tickets @ \$35 each

Total enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Send to:

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