



THE OBSERVER

WHITTIER AREA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Visit our website www.whittieraudubon.org

Elections for the Board are coming up. We will be saying Good bye and Thank you to our outgoing President Chris Huber. He stepped into the office with trepidation for being our youngest officer, but he has represented our chapter well. The Nominating Committee is looking for our next president. Is there a member that can be the next face of the chapter? Is it you? Linda LeRoy, Becky Menendez and I are hoping to persuade you to step up and step out by serving on our Board. Elections take place in May.
Jennifer Schmahl

Are Oil Spills Back in California's Future?:

Most of us remember the oil covered beaches from the Santa Barbara oil spill that occurred in January and February 1969 in the Santa Barbara Channel, near the city of Santa Barbara in Southern California. (Or again in 2017) It was the largest oil spill in United States waters at the time, and now ranks third after the 2010 Deepwater Horizon and 1989 Exxon Valdez spills. It remains the largest oil spill to have occurred in the waters off California.

The current administration wants to open our coastal waters to oil drilling again. Once again, we must work together to keep our coasts safe.

Contact your legislators and the Department of the Interior

[Comment through National Audubon](#)
(Ctrl-Click to follow link)

KIDS SPACE

Our annual fundraiser is coming up, the Conservation Award and Dinner. Proceeds fund our general meeting speaker program and placement of Audubon Adventures into classrooms and afterschool STEM programs. This past year, we funded placing a set of binoculars into one of these programs, and they have been a great hit with the kids. Would you like to sponsor AA in a classroom for \$40 or binoculars for \$100? We are looking for community partners to spread conservation education to our youth. We welcome your participation.



Mailing address:

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General Meeting for February 15, 2018

Julie Skoglund, Program Operations Manager of International Bird Rescue (IBR) will be presenting "The Plight of the Pelican" at the Whittier Area Audubon general meeting on Thursday, February 15, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. at the Whittier Community Center. 7630 Washington Ave., Whittier, CA. 90602. The Community Center is located on the corner of Mar Vista St. and Washington Ave. (not to be confused with Washington Blvd.) next to a softball field and across the street from the Whittier Public Library. The program is free and light refreshments will be served. IBR receives hundreds of Brown Pelicans for rehabilitation at their two centers in California in San Pedro and San Francisco. The majority of these birds are young, having just fledged in late spring on the Channel Islands. From there, they move along the coast with the adult pelicans to search for food. They encounter natural obstacles

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and man-made ones, such as fish oiling from fish cleaning stations, fishing tackle and hook entanglements and a myriad of other human-generated challenges. IBR is not content to simply release these birds after being rehabbed. They want to know what happens to them.



That is why they started the Blue Banded Pelican project, putting larger, blue plastic bands on the Brown Pelican's legs for easy identification. This project is designed to help IBR increase the number of sightings of the Brown Pelicans that have been rehabbed and released in order to expand knowledge of the active life of their former patients. Local birders who observe one of the blue banded pelicans are encouraged to report the sighting on IBR's website. In return, the birder will receive a history of the pelican's care and activity post-release. Program Operations Manager, Julie Skoglund, came to IBR in 2003 as a volunteer to gain experience handling and working with birds while finishing her Bachelor of

Science degree in biology. She began working for IBR in 2004 as a rehab tech and worked her way up to being Operations manager in 2013. She has worked on multiple spills including the Ventura Oiled Bird Incidents, Point Mugu Oiled Bird Incident, Santa Cruz Mystery Spill, Cosco Busan and the Deepwater Horizon spill in the Gulf in 2010.

Field Trip Schedule:

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

February 10, 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) **Leader TBD.**

Saturday February 17, 2018 Silverwood Lake SRA

Leader TBD

Silverwood Lake State Recreation Area is located via Highway 138, 11 miles east of I-15; or 20 miles north of San Bernardino via Highways 18 & 138. The area offers a chance to see mountain/winter birding, as well as chances to see Bald Eagles from their Eagle Barge. From the park's website:

Eagle Barge Tours are an interpretive program on the water of Silverwood Lake. Tours are held at 9:00am most Saturdays from January-March. Visitors will ride on a State Parks Pontoon Barge and get to tour the lake. This is an excellent opportunity to possibly view Bald Eagles in the wild. Barge Tours start at the Silverwood Lake Marina parking lot near the Boat Launch. Please arrive at least 15 minutes early for your tour. A tour will not be held if there are no reservations or pending inclement weather. For reservations call (760) 389-2281, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 8:00am-4:00pm. When making a reservation, you must speak with a State Park

representative, voice messages will not be accepted.

Please call the park and make your own reservation. Bring your birding stuff, junk food and a lunch. Hope to see you there.

Only SERIOUS Rain Cancels. If you want to carpool, we will leave the Community Center parking lot at 7:00 am. We should be back in Whittier between 3:00 and 4:00.

FIELD TRIP REPORT

Our January field trip to Bolsa Chica Ecological Preserve gave us beautiful sunshine and some seriously chilly winds. Beginning at the parking area, early arrivals witnessed a White Pelican feeding frenzy around the boardwalk. The group saw several Reddish Egrets around the lagoon, including adjacent to the boardwalk. And a Sora was lurking in the reeds with Marbled Godwits, Willits and Black-bellied Plovers. Floating around the lagoon were Northern Pintails, Lesser Scaup, Shovelers, Buffleheads, Hooded Mergansers, Surf Scoters, , Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe and a Red-throated Loon. Canada Geese and Brandt were hanging out across the river outlet.



Backyard Bird Count

Get your binoculars ready! Scientists need help from people like you in order to make the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) a success. The GBBC is an annual citizen-science project that asks novice bird watchers and lifelong bird enthusiasts alike to collect data that scientists will use to create a "real-time snapshot" of the locations of birds around the world. Scientists use this information to understand how populations of birds are changing from year to year.

This year's count will take place from Friday, February 16th through Monday the 19th.

Launched in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, the Great Backyard Bird Count was the first online citizen-science project to collect data on wild birds and to display results in near real-time.

Now, more than 160,000 people of all ages and walks of life worldwide join the four-day count each February to create an annual snapshot of the distribution and abundance of birds.

If you're new to the count, or have not participated since before the 2013 merger with eBird, you must [create a free online account](#) to enter your checklists. If you already have an account, just use the same login name and password..

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

_____ will be attending

_____ tickets @ \$35 each

Total enclosed _____

Send to:

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