



# THE OBSERVER

WHITTIER AREA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

Happy New Year, fellow birders! My husband and son both keep life lists, year lists, state lists, county lists, etc. And of course, they list on eBird.org, a citizen science site sponsored by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. eBird tracks bird sightings worldwide and is lightly curated for misidentifications. It is a very handy tool to keep track of your life list AND help scientists recognize trends in the lives of birds. Give it a try!

- **Editor's note: eBird and GBBC**
- **General Meeting: Trinidad & Tabago**
- **Kids Space**
- **Field trips: Raptors, Salton Sea Overnight**

## GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT coming in February to a feeder near you (literally)

Every February National Audubon, Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the Canadian group, Bird Studies coordinate a huge Citizen Scientist project: the Great Backyard Bird Count.



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.

You are invited to participate! For at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the count, **February 15-18, 2019**, simply tally the numbers and kinds of birds you see. You can count from any location, anywhere in the world, for as long as you wish!

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](#) (<https://secure.birds.cornell.edu/u/cassso/login>) to enter your checklists. If you already have an account, just use the same login name and password. If you have already participated in another Cornell Lab citizen-science project, you can use your existing login information, too.

[Click here for more info on how to get started.](#)

(<http://gbbc.birdcount.org/get-started/>)

In 2018, Great Backyard Bird Count participants in more than 100 countries counted more than 6,400 species of birds on more than 180,000 checklists! During the count, you can explore what others are seeing in your area or around the world. Share your bird photos by entering the photo contest, or enjoy images pouring in from across the globe. You can even

add photos and sounds to your checklist.

Your help is needed every year to make the GBBC successful!



## GENERAL MEETING AND PROGRAM

January 17, 2019 at 7:30 pm

Birding Trinidad & Tobago, from the Asa Wright Nature Centre

Home to 482 species of bird, not forgetting 68 different bats, 45 snakes, 50 spiders, 30 frogs and toads, 120 Dragonflies, 765 butterflies and close to 3,500 moths - the islands really are an introduction to the natural history of South America. Get a great taste of tropical birding in Trinidad's high mountain rain forests, sandy beaches with nesting turtles, and mangroves with Scarlet Ibis evening roosts, as well as on Tobago's seabird nesting islands and huge protected preserves. The Asa Wright Nature Centre is a jumping off spot for most field trips, itself set in 200 acres of forest and home to more than 170 bird species. Renowned for great access to specialties including Bearded Bellbird, Tufted Coquette

and Oilbirds on site, more than 40 species can be observed from the verandah before breakfast! The Centre is a not for profit trust, and eco-tourism funds the conservation and education programmes. For nearly 40 years of the Centre's 50 plus year existence, Caligo Ventures has been the booking agent for North America. Fully committed to the conservation and education mission of the Centre, Caligo is pleased to sponsor Martyn's visit to celebrate and highlight this bucket-list birding destination. Martyn Kenefick Having been an avid birder since early teens, Martyn moved to Trinidad in 1999 and spent the next 15 years working as a bird tour leader for a number of companies, guiding in Trinidad & Tobago and many other countries. In 2007, he became the main author of the Birds of Trinidad & Tobago Field Guide, the 3rd edition of which will be published early in 2019. Martyn joined the Board of Management of the nonprofit Asa Wright Nature Centre in 2015 and is now Chair of the Conservation & Education Committee

Thursday, January 19 at 7:30 p.m. at the Whittier Community Center, 7630 Washington Ave., Whittier, CA, at the corner of Washington Ave.(not to be confused with Washington Blvd.) and Mar Vista St. The event is free and light refreshments will be served.

### KIDS SPACE:

Do you know a teacher or afterschool coordinator that would be interested in having a readymade 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!

## January Field Trips

**Jan 5, 2019 Raptor trip.** An all-day drive around Antelope Valley in search of winter hawks. Expect cold and wind. Carpooling is suggested. Bring water and lunch. We will leave the Community Center at 6:30am or meet at the Carl's Jr at the K Avenue exit from the I4 Freeway. Larry Schmahl leads.

### Beginnng Bird Walk, Sycamore Canyon:

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

#### January 12, 2019 8:00am Sycamore Canyon Beginning Bird Walks

Meet at the Sycamore Canyon Trailhead. The trail is located adjacent to Rose Hills Cemetery gate 17. Rain or recent cancels the Canyon Walk, but we will choose another location. **Leader Steve Huber.**

### Overnight Trip to Salton Sea January 19-20, 2019

We are going to the Salton Sea! This is a great wintering spot for just about every bird there is. Between flooded fields, a huge, foul-smelling body of water, acres of disgusting mud, all surrounded by a desert hell-hole, anyone can see that it is a great place for birds. We will meet, and leave promptly from the Townhouse Inn & Suites 135 Main Street, Brawley, CA 92227 (760-344-5120) (formerly known as the Brawley Motel) at **7:30 a.m. on Saturday morning, January 19.** We will caravan through a bunch of places, stopping for lunch when the time is right. Bring a sack lunch for Saturday and for Sunday. Saturday evening, we will definitely have our traditional

roadside wine and cheese party, so bring something for that. We will try for a spot where we can watch the Sandhill Cranes come in to roost. Sunday, we will leave at the same time and bird our way in the general direction of home.

This area in winter is great for raptors, shore birds and all kinds of migrants. It is just south enough that all kinds of rarities show up. Because the ecology is so varied, we can expect to see a lot of species. Some of the roads will be unpaved, but should be fine for passenger cars with average clearance. It is probably best to leave the Ferrari at home.

This trip is weather sensitive. Many of the roads will be dirt and, if too wet, may not be passable. Please let me know if you are coming. I will send out emails to those who have let me know they are attending, if there are any last minute adjustments/cancellations

<p>Mailing Address: Whittier Area Audubon Society P.O. Box 548 Whittier, CA 90608-0548</p>
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## CONSERVATION AWARD AND DINNER

Due to scheduling conflict with our usual location, Hillcrest Congregational Church, we are changing the date of the Conservation Dinner to **TUESDAY MARCH 19, 2019.**