



THE OBSERVER

WHITTIER AREA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Visit our website www.whittieraudubon.org

Don't Sell Out the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to Oil Companies

National Audubon is asking its members to contact their congressional representatives and express their opposition to allowing extractive industries access to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. It has been the work of decades to protect this pristine part of our national heritage.

FROM NATIONAL AUDUBON:

“The future of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge hangs in the balance. The Bureau of Land Management has announced a plan to sell out the heart of the Arctic Refuge to oil companies. If finalized, it will pave the way for drilling on the coastal plain of the Refuge—the nesting ground for vast numbers of birds such as Tundra Swans, and one of the wildest places we have left.

The Bureau of Land Management is taking public comments on this plan right now. **Submit a public comment opposing the disastrous proposal to sell out the heart of the Arctic Refuge.**”

National Audubon has a letter to the Bureau of Land Management on its website.



Audubon

We are a chapter of National Audubon

GENERAL MEETING AND PROGRAM

February 21, 2019 at 7:30 pm

Larry and Jennifer Schmahl share photos and stories from their nature trip to Central Colombia last June.

Colombia is famous for being the most bird-rich county on Earth. While that's impressive, so, too, is its overall biodiversity which is eclipsed only by that of Brazil.....which has the advantage of being seven times larger. The unique topography of the country - Pacific and Caribbean coasts, three Andean ranges, Amazonian rainforest, and llanos - supports a great number of bird species, including over 85 endemics and 100 near endemics. They visited some of Central Colombia's most diverse locations.

Thursday, February 21 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!

- **Contact Your Congresscritters**
- **General Meeting: Birding Colombia**
- **Kids Space**
- **Field trips: Sycamore Canyon and Malibu Lagoon**
- **Conservation Dinner info**

February Field Trips

Beginning Bird Walk, Sycamore Canyon:

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

February 9, 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 Linda Oberholtzer.**

Malibu State Park & Lagoon

February 23, 2019

Meet 6:30 a.m. on Saturday morning at the Community Center. Check our website or come to the General Meeting to get details on locations and expected species. Steve Huber leads.

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. (cont to pg 2)**

We will be honoring Michael Hughes, Vice Chairman of the Board and Hacienda Heights representative for the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority.

Michael Hughes was appointed in 2017 by Supervisor Hahn to represent the community of Hacienda Heights. He previously was appointed by Supervisor Don Knabe from 2010 to 2016. Prior to his appointment as Director he served on the Habitat Authority's Citizens Technical Advisory Committee for 11 years, as well as 11 years as an Alternate Director. He has served 13 years on the Board of Directors of the Hacienda Heights Improvement Association, 8 of those years as its President. Michael has served on the San Gabriel Council of Governments, and is currently on the Board of the Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority and Hills For Everyone.

Trip Report: Antelope Valley

Larry put Bubba back in service to take us up to the Antelope Valley in search of Hawks, Falcons and assorted winter visitors. We spent a good amount of our morning at Apollo Park where we saw Snow Geese hanging with the barnyard fowl. Several Hooded Merganser pairs were spotted. No luck on the Eastern Phoebe, but we found a Barn Owl AND a pair of Long-eared Owls. Around Nebukker Farm we got very thorough looks at Ferruginous Hawks, and watched a Peregrine Falcon flyby. In another field we found Mountain Plover with Mountain Bluebirds. At one corner of the field we saw a Prairie Falcon on a power pole. In the California Aqueduct we found a pair of Golden Eye and a Common Loon.

OVERNIGHT TO SALTON SEA

Led by Generalfeldmarschall Oberholtzer we traversed Imperial County in search of Winter migrants. Places we visited were Fig Lagoon, Sheldon Reservoir, various agricultural fields, Sonny Bono Wildlife Refuge, more Ag fields, Cattle Call Park, more Ag fields, SB Unit 1, We had the Kestral Kounters Booze on the

Berm overlooking Lilac Drain on Carey Rd. Some of our most interesting birds were Burrowing Owls, Sandhill Cranes, Snow and Ross' Geese, Mountain Plover, Horned Larks, a Grey Ghost, Peregrine & Prairie Falcons, Common Goldeneye, Common Loon, Marsh Wren. If you are a member of eBird, you can check Larry Schmahl's checklists for details.



Mailing Address:
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P.O. Box 548
Whittier, CA 90608-0548

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CONSERVATION AWARD DINNER, TUESDAY MARCH 19, 2019 HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH. 2000 West Road, La Habra Heights, CA 90631

DINNER \$35 PER PERSON. SEND PAYMENT TO WHITTIER AREA AUDUBON SOCIETY P.O. BOX 548 WHITTIER, CA 90608-0548

OR USE PAYPAL ON OUR WEBSITE: WHITTIERAUDUBON.ORG

PLEASE RESERVE _____ (#) DINNERS AT \$35/EACH TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

FOR: _____ (NAME)