



# THE OBSERVER

WHITTIER AREA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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We are a chapter of National Audubon Society



# Audubon

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

National Audubon has issued guidance regarding activities and meetings during the Covid19 pandemic. Whittier Audubon will NOT be leading field trips or having in-person meetings or gatherings of any kind during the pandemic.

## VIRTUAL MEETING AND PROGRAM

### Whittier Area Audubon

Virtual Meeting and Program

October 15, 2020



Whittier – During this period, the Whittier

Area Audubon will support social distancing practices. The Whittier Area Audubon will feature their monthly program and meeting on a virtual platform. Join them on October 15, 2020 at 7:30 pm. [www.whittieraudubon.org](http://www.whittieraudubon.org) to receive a link to the virtual program.

"On the Road: A "Dirtbag" Big Year" will be presented virtually by Taylor Paez. She will talk about how she

Check out an opportunity to help phone bank to push for environmentally friendly laws that will help birds! See Auk the Vote below.



traversed the lower 48 States looking for birds while

living out of her 2002 Ford Ranger. Taylor birded 44 states, drove over 50,000 miles and saw 643 species in 2017. Taylor is the Treasurer of the Pasadena Audubon Society. Taylor will share photos of her most special birds and stories of her life on the road.

Check out their website for recommendations for great fall migration birding spots within the community.

[www.whittieraudubon.org](http://www.whittieraudubon.org)

- **General Meeting: Virtual Meeting Dirtbag Big Year-Taylor Paez**
- **Field trips suggestions: Sycamore Canyon, San Jacinto (or location TBD)**

### Auk the Vote!

Phone bank for birds and the environment with special guests:



Saturdays	10/10	Jennifer Ackerman
3 to 5:15 p.m.	10/17	Jonathan Franzen
Pacific time	10/24	Nate Swick
	10/31	Caleb Crain

**Details & sign-up: [aukthevote.org](http://aukthevote.org)**

Sponsored by Auk the Vote, Flip the West, & environmental allies

## 2020 Good News from Audubon California

### Executive Order: Protect 30% of California's Lands and Waters by 2030

October 7, Governor Newsom issued an [executive order](#) with the goal of protecting 30% of California's lands and waters by 2030.

With this decision, California takes the lead as the first state in the United States to make this commitment, joining 38 countries around the world. The governor directed state agencies to develop nature-based climate solutions which will reduce carbon in our atmosphere, protect biodiversity of animals and plants, and protect wildlife habitat.

These goals will benefit all Californians, especially those living in disadvantaged communities who have been deprived of regular availability of fresh water, clear air, and access to nature.

### Auk the Vote!

Phone bank for birds and the environment with special guest **Jennifer Ackerman.**



Saturday, Oct. 10  
3 to 5:15 p.m.  
Pacific Time

Jennifer Ackerman is the NYT-bestselling author of *The Genius of Birds* and *The Bird Way*.

**Details & sign-up: [aukthevote.org](http://aukthevote.org)**

Fledgling phone bankers welcome: no experience necessary! Sponsored by Auk the Vote, Flip the West, & environmental allies

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The executive order also ensures that people of color and communities who have been traditionally excluded from the conservation movement will be included, welcomed, and listened to as key stakeholders.

This victory builds on the exceptional leadership of Assemblymember Ash Kalra (D-San Jose), who authored Assembly Bill 3030 (AB3030) this year, and was made possible by the outpouring of support from our Audubon advocates, including the 20,000 letters you sent to support AB3030.

The work to protect California's lands and waters and create equal access for our communities is not done. But we celebrate this historic step. We look forward to working with you, the administration, and the state legislature to advance these goals into statute next year.

## Suggested Field Trips

### Beginning Bird Walk, San Gabriel River Spreading Basins

Every second Saturday of the month (except July and August,) **Oct 10, 2020 7:00am National Audubon is still asking local chapters to refrain from leading field trips or having any gatherings.** Therefore we are simply suggesting interesting places to go birding on your own that are appropriate for the season. Our suggested location is the San Gabriel River Spreading Grounds. A great location to park and begin your morning is at the eastern terminus of Mines on the west side of the spreading basin.

Please check our website for further details.

## SUGGESTED FIELD TRIP

### October Birding

Recommendation: San Jacinto Wildlife Area Saturday Oct 17, 2020 7:00am

This is, perhaps, the best place to see just about every kind of raptor there is for Southern California. This is the final weekend before hunting season begins.

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. 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.

Suggested departure from the Whittier Civic Center at 7:00 a.m.



Mark your calendars for **October Big Day—17 October 2020!** Big Days are a 24 hour opportunity to celebrate the birds both near you and around the world.

In addition, this year's October Big Day 2020 is happening during the first <https://globalbirding.org/>. The goal of Global Bird Weekend is to make October 17-18 the biggest ever birding weekend and support BirdLife International's appeal to

end illegal bird trade. One of Global Bird Weekend's aims is to have more than 25,000 people submit eBird checklists on 17 October—will you be one of them?

We recognize that COVID-19 continues to impact our communities. Even if your local conditions have improved, we always encourage everyone to put safety first, follow local health guidelines, and [bird mindfully](#). You can bird from home and still participate in October Big Day!

### How to participate

**Get an eBird account:** eBird is a worldwide bird checklist program used by millions of birders. It's what allows us to compile everyone's sightings into a single massive October Big Day list—while at the same time collecting the data for scientists to use to better understand birds. [Sign up here](#). It's 100% free.

**Watch birds on 17 October.** It's that simple! October Big Day runs from midnight to midnight in your local time zone. You don't need to be a bird expert, or go out all day long. You can report birds from anywhere in the world—even 10 minutes in your backyard will help.

**Enter what you see and hear on eBird:** You can enter your sightings [via our website](#) or—even easier—download the [free eBird Mobile app](#). The app allows you to keep and submit lists while you're still out birding, explore nearby Hotspots, and will even track of how far you've walked so you can focus on watching birds. Please submit your eBird checklists before 21 October to be included in our initial results announcement.

**Watch the sightings roll in:** During the day, keep an eye on how the lists are growing in different parts of the world. Follow along with reports from more than 150 countries. Stats will be updated in real-time on our [October Big Day page](#)