



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

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

www.whittieraudubon.org

[December Program: Birds and Mammals from the Okeango Delta, 2019](#)

Thursday, January 21, 2021

This will be a virtual event That may be in Google Meet or perhaps Zoom. Go to our website to RSVP and get a link emailed to you.

Retired science teacher, Kurt Wahl, will dazzle us with his bird photography presentation, "Birds of California and other U.S. Hotspots" at the virtual meeting of the Whittier Area Audubon Society on Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Wahl coached the Science Olympiad Team at Troy High School in Fullerton. The Olympiad sometimes has an ornithology event. His youngest son was the State Champion in Ornithology. He taught chemistry, physics and biology at Troy High School.

Many of our hard-fought conservation laws have been under attack by the current administration. We hope that the incoming Biden/Harris administration will be a friendlier place for conservation minded legislation and rule making.

Pay attention to action alerts from National Audubon and Audubon California

He is also a member of the String Picnic group which has played for our Audubon Conservation Dinner.

Suggested Field Trips

Beginning Bird Walk, San Gabriel River Spreading Basins

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

Jan 9, 2021 8:00am

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.

Mailing Address:

Whittier Area Audubon Society
P.O. Box 548
Whittier, CA 90608-0548

- **General Meeting: Virtual Meeting Birds of CA & US Hotspots-Kurt Wahl**
- **Field trips suggestions: San Gabriel River Spreading Basin,**
- **Bolsa Chica**
- **News from the Birding World**

SUGGESTED FIELD TRIP

If we could get together and share a field trip outing this month, we would be going to Bolsa Chica Ecological Preserve in Huntington Beach, across PCH from Bolsa Chica State Park. 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.

If you can safely get out and travel, this winter birding spot is well worth your time.



From Cornell Lab of Ornithology

The Great Backyard Bird Count



We are only four months away from our 23rd annual 4-day global bird count – February 12-15, 2021. This year we've redesigned our webpages to help you quickly find resources to make your count a success! The website is loaded with gorgeous images of birds from around the world along with pictures of people enjoying them.

[CornellBackyardBirdCount](https://www.cornellbackyardbirdcount.org/)



Protect Your Windows and Birds

About a billion birds die from glass collisions each year. You can reduce this threat by fragmenting reflective surfaces with multiple window decals such as those found at [windowalert.com](https://www.windowalert.com/). If window collisions continue to occur, consider installing window netting, films, or ribbons

NEWS FROM AUDUBON CALIFORNIA

Salton Sea Public Health and Environmental Protection Act

Rep. Raúl Ruiz, M.D. (D-Palm Desert) introduced a bill promising restoration efforts and public health measures for the Salton Sea.

The Salton Sea Public Health and Environmental Protection Act of 2020 would codify a 2016 memorandum of understanding between the state of California and the federal government to collaborate on habitat and dust suppression projects at the Salton Sea to avoid and minimize harm to people and wildlife due to the shrinking sea.

It also would require the U.S. Dept. of the Interior to match efforts by California to implement restoration and dust control projects, enhance interagency coordination, expedite permits, and require reports to Congress and the public about public health hazards and progress of mitigation projects.

The bill aligns with the Biden Administration's four priorities of COVID-19, climate change, racial equity, and economic recovery. Vice-president-elect Harris and her office have been briefed on this

NEWS FROM NATIONAL AUDUBON

Unprecedented Rollback of Bird Protections Cemented in Administration's Final Days

Earlier this week the Department of the Interior released its Final Record of Decision which officially strips away critical protections in the [Migratory Bird Treaty Act \(MBTA\)](#), giving industries a free pass to kill birds. The finalized rule change overturns decades of bipartisan precedent and eliminates bird protections at a time when populations are at serious risk from long-term declines and climate change. Now is the time to show your support for the MBTA by calling on the new Congress and Interior Department leadership to reinstate bird protections.