



# THE OBSERVER

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## Whittier Area Audubon Society

We are a chapter of National Audubon Society



# Audubon

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

### HYBRID IN PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING AND PROGRAM

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

October Program:  
Rosemary Mosco  
presents!

(Hybrid meeting: Virtual or In-Person)

Thursday, October 21, 2021

7:30 PM 9:00 PM

Science writer, artist and creator of the webcomic Bird and Moon, Rosemary Mosco, will present virtually at our monthly meeting. Join Rosemary and learn how to blend nature and art while observing the natural world around you - from phainopeplas to pigeons!

Happy Halloween  
FROM THE BIRDS



[birdandmoon.com](http://birdandmoon.com)

National Audubon is allowing in person outdoor activities, in line with local county and state restrictions, therefore our regular field trips can resume. Please come masked to outings. Thanks for hanging in with us during the pandemic.

Check our website for updates

Your preference: Join in person or online.

In person: the meeting will take place at the Whittier Community Center, located at the corner of Washington Ave. and Mar Vista. 7630 Washington Ave. Whittier.

Online: [please RSVP here](https://forms.gle/ErVbRQQ3Vzpmotcj8) (https://forms.gle/ErVbRQQ3Vzpmotcj8 ) and we will send you a link to the meeting.

### Field Trips

#### Beginning Bird Walk, Sycamore Canyon

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

September 9, 2021 7:00am

We are back in Sycamore Canyon for our Beginning Bird Walks! The entrance is on Workman Mill Rd. just south of Rose Hills Gate 17. Be prompt as we are required to lock the gate behind us.

### FIELD TRIP

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2021



Jim McNamara will lead our field trip to San Joaquin Marsh.

Meet at Whittier's Community Center parking lot at 7:00 am. 7630 Washington Ave (not Washington Blvd.)

- **General Meeting: Hybrid with Rosemary Mosco**
- **Bird Walk: Sycamore Canyon**
- **Field trips San Joaquin Marsh**
- **Birdcast**
- **Items of Concern: Ongoing conservation issues in our community**
- **Field Trip Report: LA River**

Bring a lunch and water and be prepared for hot and sunny weather.

### Fall Migration is under way.

The White Crowned Sparrows are back in the yard and the Hooded Orioles have left for the winter. Soon we will have the ducks back in the spreading basins. Keep an eye out for wandering Warblers! If you are interested in where birds are moving at night, Cornell Lab of Ornithology maintains a nightly BirdCast, using radar to track the nighttime migrations of our summer friends as they head back to Central/South America for the winter.

<https://birdcast.info/migration-tools/live-migration-maps/>

Mailing Address:

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### CHAPTER ACTION ITEMS

There are several ongoing situations in the Whittier Area that we feel require citizen



awareness and perhaps citizen action.

We plan to keep a close eye on these projects and we will be keeping our members informed.

**Our most important current concern is the Dam Repair at Whittier Narrows.**

The US Army, Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District (Corps) is undertaking a major construction project at Whittier Narrows, known as the Dam Modification Plan (DMP). During the environmental documentation process, the Corps prepared, submitted, and finalized the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This included consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Carlsbad Field Office (CFO), under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA or Act) of 1973, Section 7 (a)(1) for the

Federal Endangered least Bell's vireo and the Federal Threatened California gnatcatcher and its designated critical habitat. The Corps did determine that the DMP project is likely to adversely affect the federally endangered least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*; LBVI or vireo), the federally threatened coastal California gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila californica californica*; CAGN or gnatcatcher), and designated critical habitat for the gnatcatcher.

Our Chapter has been given the opportunity to submit written comments to the Corps before the chapter meeting this month. The Board, and especially our Conservation Chair, Kathleen Berry, has been reviewing the DMP and the environmental requirements to see if there are areas we feel are not addressed adequately. We will give the membership an update at the general meeting.

**Homeless Encampments In The Narrows**

Whittier Area Audubon is deeply concerned with the fire hazard and impact to the natural resources (specifically federal listed endangered and threatened bird species) posed by homeless encampments. It's a huge undertaking to address the issue of homelessness, as there is no single cause and the reasons are varied and complex. Unfortunately, with increasing encampments, the growth and frequency of wildfires in the area will also increase leading to ecological degradation, decreased biological diversity and habitat loss for many resident and migratory bird species, as well as loss of nature education opportunities for area schools and all visitors.



**Field Trip Report – September 2021**

September's trip was along the Los Angeles River, beginning at Golden Shores, Long Beach and wending our way up the river to Willow Ave. and finally at DeForest Park. At Golden Shores we saw the usuals including a Black Bellied Plover, various Terns, a Belted Kingfisher. Next we traveled up to the Willow Ave. crossing. There we saw Avocets, Stilts, Western Gulls,

Green Herons, Gadwall, Teal, Shoveler and assorted peeps. The Red Neck Phalaropes were floating down the central channel from the pipe bridge down to the concrete breakers and flying back upstream again to float back down. Over and over.

We finished at DeForest Park and Wetland which is in need of a regular water source. But while next to the Tennis Courts we found ourselves in a feeding flock and found a immature female Chestnut Sided Warbler. Wow.