



Whittier Area Audubon Society



We are a chapter of National Audubon Society

Visit our website
www.whittieraudubon.org

We have some opportunities for action to protect our local environment. See Page 2 for Chapter Action Items. Check our website for updates

- **General Meeting: Hybrid Photo Share**
- **Bird Walk:: Sycamore Canyon**
- **Field trip: Bolsa Chica**

GENERAL MEETING

www.whittieraudubon.org

December Program: Photo Share

Thursday, January 20, 2022
HYBRID MEETING

7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

For many birders, the pandemic has provided an opportunity to get out there and see more and different birds. Do you have any photos you want to share with the Chapter? Get a link to the Google Meet and let us know you want to participate.

This is a hybrid meeting, so you can also bring a thumb drive to share in person.

The program is open to the public and is free.

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

PLEASE WEAR A MASK

Field Trips

Beginning Bird Walk, Sycamore Canyon

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

January 8, 2022, 2021 8:00am

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: Bolsa Chica
SATURDAY, January 22, 2022, 8:00 A.M.



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. Bring water, a lunch, a hat, and sunscreen. We will bird Bolsa Chica and possibly nearby spots like Central Park or Harriett Wieder Park.

We will convene in the parking lot of the Whittier Community Center and carpool/caravan, leaving at 7:00 AM sharp. If you would rather meet at Bolsa Chica, plan to rendezvous in the PCH parking lot at 8:00.

Meet at the Community Center at 6:30

Antelope Valley Hawk Watch Field Trip,

We will meet at the Community Center parking lot at 6:00 AM and carpool to Lancaster. Our first stop will be the Carl's Junior at the Ave. K off ramp from the 14 Freeway. If you wish, you may meet us there at 8:00 AM. This will be a coffee and rest room stop.

The areas we bird should offer Mountain Plover, Mountain Bluebird, Ferruginous Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Great Horned Owl, five species of Sparrow and, if we are lucky, Snow Goose, Long-billed Curlew, Roadrunner and perhaps an early Sage Thrasher.

Bring a lunch and be prepared for cold and windy weather. However, it may warm up nicely in the afternoon.

Larry Schmahl leads.



Mailing Address:

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



December Field Trip

A small group of Whittier Audubon birders joined Steve Huber for the annual Bulmer Bird Walk, our last event for 2021. We met at the parking lot at Legg Lake, We started out at the north lake and found Canada Goose, American Coot, Common Gallinule, Pied-billed Grebe Ruddy Duck and Black-crowned Night Heron. A look up at the high-intensity power line towers found two Peregrine Falcons. At the south lake, we picked up Black Phoebe, Nuttall's Woodpecker and Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped Warbler. The south lake had the ducks: American Wigeon, Northern Pintail, Ring-necked Duck and Green-winged Teal. Snowy and Great Egrets were perched on the island along with several Double-crested Cormorants. A female Belted Kingfisher flew out and perched over the lake. Walking between the south and middle lakes yielded White-crowned, Song and Lincoln's Sparrow as well as the exotic Red-whiskered Bulbul. A Green Heron was spotted on the shore of the middle lake. We circled around to the east end of the north lake and found Ring-billed and California gull. An American White Pelican flew in as a Spotted Sandpiper worked the shoreline. It was an excellent day with plenty of birds, good friends and a great way to end the year. We encourage you to join us on any of the birding adventures that we have scheduled for 2022. Please check out our website for details!

News from National Audubon

On Oneida Wetlands, Bird Surveys Affirm Tribal Conservation Success

A recent collaboration between Wisconsin birders and the Oneida Nation demonstrates how the tribe's decades-long habitat restoration paid off.

A conversation between Kuchma, Northeastern Wisconsin Audubon, and

Audubon Great Lakes led to the launch a collaborative yearlong bird survey. Since May, 26 volunteers from local and college-campus Audubon chapters fanned out in teams across 29 restored grassland and marshland sites on the reservation.

Their results reveal a smashing success: volunteers spotted Virginia Rails and rarer Wilson's Phalaropes likely breeding on wetland restored in 2020.

Bobolinks and Eastern Meadowlarks used grasslands in good numbers and Henslow's and Grasshopper Sparrows turned up.

Also from Audubon

This year, more than 170,000 Audubon members like YOU made over 1,085,000 contacts with decision-makers, supporting good conservation initiatives and fighting back against environmental threats. In the last month alone, we've enjoyed sending out "good news updates" about the House passing the Build Back Better Act, the EPA reinstating its veto of the destructive Yazoo Pumps, and new protections for the forage fish that Pacific Coast seabirds rely on. Thank you for your continued efforts on behalf of our birds and the places they need. We look forward to working with you in 2022!

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.

Homeless Encampments In The Narrows

Update: It is our understanding that the ACE is arranging a meeting with LA County Parks and Recreation to discuss future plans for the Whittier Narrows Nature Center property and the County's obligations as lessee.

We are also waiting for the ACE to respond to our comments on their plans for habitat restoration around the Whittier Dam.

The WAAS Board of Directors has sent a letter to various agencies about the continuous fire danger the homeless encampments pose to any attempts at restoration/ mitigation of bird habitats.

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

UPDATE:

WAAS Board of Directors have sent a comment letter to the Corps, naming our biggest concerns with the Dam Safety Modification Plan and its Habitat Restoration Plan. A copy of the letter will be posted on our website.

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). In the mandated consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife under the federal Endangered Species Act for the 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 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.