



## Whittier Area Audubon Society

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

we are required to lock the gate behind us.

- **General Meeting: California Gnatcatcher**
- **Bird Walk:: Sycamore Canyon**
- **Field trip: Madrona Marsh**

The coastal California Gnatcatcher is a small, insect-eating bird that ranges from Southern California to northwestern Baja California, Mexico. Coastal California Gnatcatchers occur in or near sage scrub at elevations of less than 2,500 feet. On March 30, 1993, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the species as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority has restored over 300 acres of habitat across the Puente Hills Preserve. The majority of the restored habitat has been coastal sage scrub specifically to benefit Coastal California Gnatcatchers as mitigation for offsite impacts to this species' habitat elsewhere in the region.

### [Madrona Marsh](#)

### [Field Trip](#)

**Saturday, February 19, 2022, 7:30 AM**

The Madrona Marsh Preserve is a mix of several micro-habitats including back dune, coastal prairie, alkali margin, vernal pool and vernal marsh area and is situated within the greater El Segundo Sand Dune System. The fine sand particles of this ancient dune system have been carried from the coastal dunes by winds for thousands of years. Each of the Preserve's habitats houses its own specifically adapted native plant species.

The Preserve provides a valuable habitat for birds, insects, spiders, frogs, reptiles and small mammals. It is one of the last vestiges of the extensive marshland that once covered the Southern California Coastal Plain.

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.

#### **Mailing Address:**

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

We are a chapter of National Audubon Society



# Audubon

## GENERAL MEETING

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

### February Program: California Gnatcatchers

Thursday, February 17,  
2022 VIRTUAL MEETING

7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

"Habitat Restoration for the Coastal California Gnatcatcher" will be the topic presented by Michelle Mariscal, MS, Ecologist for the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority on

February 17, 2022

at the **VIRTUAL** meeting of the Whittier Area Audubon Society at 7:30 p.m. Please RSVP at [web@whittieraudubon.org](mailto:web@whittieraudubon.org).

Once considered locally common, coastal California Gnatcatchers populations declined significantly by 1960 because of widespread destruction and fragmentation of its habitat.

In her presentation, Michelle will describe the restoration process and highlight the success of these efforts on the Preserve for this special species."

**The program is open to the public and is free. Please visit our website to get a link to the virtual meeting.**

### Field Trips

#### Beginning Bird Walk, Sycamore Canyon

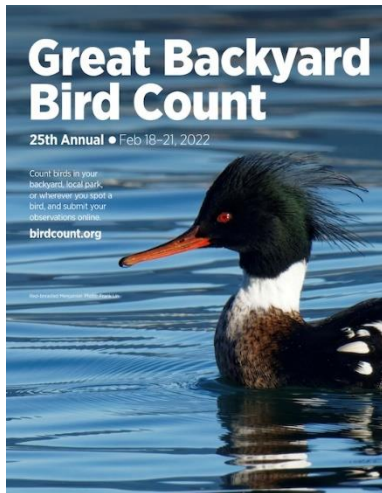
Every second Saturday of the month (except July and August,)

**February 12, 2022, 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

# The Great Backyard Bird Count

**Only One Month  
Away! Join us  
February 18-21.**



## January Field Trip

There was a good turnout for the January field trip to Bolsa Chica. About eleven people were present and they were treated to a good variety of birds, numbering about sixty species. Our visit coincided with the incoming tide which helped our effort. Many birds were flying, moving from one feeding area to another as the tide rose and slowing covered the mudflats.

We had great views of White-faced Ibis, Ruddy Turnstones, Long-billed Curlew, Common Golden-eye, Eurasian Wigeon, Yellow-crowned Night Heron and hundreds of Brant. However most of us missed the Reddish Egret and immature Little Blue Heron.

There was also a cycle of life moment as a Great Egret caught, killed, washed off and swallowed whole a 10 inch fish.

Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve is a treasure along the Southern California coast line. We own a great debt to the people who fought to save it during the 1970's. We look forward to our next visit.

## HUMANS AND FEEDING BIRDS

Many folks have taking up birdwatching during lockdowns. Birds can provide endless entertainment and joy. So the perennial debate about feeding wild birds has risen anew. Does Human supplemental feeding affect wild birds?

Yes and No. Wild birds will not starve if supplemental feeding stops. They will simply revert to their natural feeding habits. HOWEVER if you choose to provide food in feeders you must be vigilant and keep the feeders clean. Wash and disinfect the feeders at the minimum every few weeks, depending on weather. If you notice any birds with conjunctivitis, remove your feeders for at least two weeks and after you no longer see infected birds.

## from Audubon



Greater Sage-Grouse populations are in steep decline. Much of the remaining sage-grouse are found on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Proper management and protection of the sagebrush ecosystem on these public lands is critical to the species' long-term survival and

would benefit 350+ other plant and animal species.

To address increasing wildfires and other climate-related threats, the Bureau of Land Management has begun a formal review of sagebrush management plans and is requesting public input. The area being considered encompasses 67 million acres of public lands across 10 western states. Go to [www.Audubon.org](http://www.Audubon.org) and check out their Take Action tab.

## CHAPTER ACTION ITEMS

### Homeless Encampments In The Narrows

**UPDATE: We have been informed by the Corps that they have met with LA County Parks and Rec, but have not shared any information about what was discussed or resolved.**

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:

**The Army Corp of Engineers has yet to respond to our comments. We have sent further communications requesting a timely response.**

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.