



THE OBSERVER

Volume 80, Issue 10, June 2022

Whittier Area Audubon Society

The Observer will be taking our usual short summer hiatus and will return September 2022 with Volume 81. Happy summer birding travels. See you in time for Fall Migration.

FYI

Arroyo Pescadero trail naming in honor of Bob Henderson

June 4th, 10:00am

- **General Meeting: Potluck/PhotoShare**
- **Bird Walk:: Sycamore Canyon**
- **Field trip: Frazier Park**

Visit our website
www.whittieraudubon.org

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS:

President: Jay Oberholtzer
1st Vice Pres: Steve Huber
2nd Vice Pres: Linda Oberholtzer
Treasurer: Liz Huber
Recording Sec'r'ty: Jim McNamara
Corresp Sec'r'ty: Larry Schmahl

Thank you for your commitment to serve.

GENERAL MEETING

www.whittieraudubon.org

June Program: Potluck and Photo Share

Thursday, June 16, 2022

6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

We are a chapter of National Audubon Society



To cap off our Chapter year, join us at the Community Center to share food and photos.

Bring a dish to share and your favorite photos from this year. Your photos can be shared with a thumb drive.

Whittier Community Center, located at 7630 Washington Ave. Whittier. Wearing a mask is optional. The program is free and open to the public.

Field Trips

Beginning Bird Walk, Sycamore Canyon

Every second Saturday of the month (except July and August,)
June 11, 2022, 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.

FRAZIER PARK

Saturday, June 18, 2022.

7:00am to 5:00pm

Mt. Pinos is a great place for mountain species. Green tailed Towhees, White Headed Woodpeckers, Creepers, Nuthatches, Chickadees, Stellar's Jays and Mountain

Quail are to be expected. California Condors are always a possibility.



We will leave from the Whittier Community Center at 7:00 a.m. for the drive to Frazier Park. We will bird a couple of spots near Frazier Park. We will stop at a few spots outside of Frazier Park on the way to the old Condor Viewing spot. (It used to be called "The Sign.") We will look for raptors and pray for Condors. We will then turn around and head up to Mt. Pinos for more birds and lunch.



Bring a sack lunch, sufficient junk food to last the trip, your usual birdwatching stuff and a car with gas. Scopes will come in handy at a couple of stops. It is about an hours drive from Whittier to Frazier Park.

Mailing Address:

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



From National Audubon When You Should—and Should Not—Rescue Baby Birds

It's not uncommon to find young birds away from their nests during spring and summer. But should you help them? That depends.

Is the bird a nestling or fledgling? When you come across a rogue baby, first determine its age. And there's one obvious sign: feathers. While fledglings are larger and covered almost completely in down and feathers, nestlings are small and typically naked—or with just a few fluffs. In other words, one looks like an awkward young bird, and the other kind of looks like a pink little alien. You can also distinguish age by movement: fledglings can hop, whereas nestlings might simply drag themselves on the ground by their bare wings. If you've found a *healthy* fledgling: walk away from the bird. Rescuing healthy fledglings is not only unnecessary, but it can be detrimental to their development. When raised by hand, babies might confuse humans as their parents (not unlike the geese in the movie *Fly Away Home*). If that happens, they don't know how to be a bird.

Is the bird sick, wounded, or at risk?

Whether you come across a fledgling or nestling, it's important to assess whether the bird needs medical help or is in danger. Often, it's clear when the bird is in need of urgent care—if the cat dragged it in, that's a sure sign. Other times the signals are more subtle: Though it's a fledgling, it can't stand or hop normally. The feathers might be wet though it's

not raining, indicating discharge or an illness that inhibits the production of preening oils. Or maybe it's surrounded by flies, which might signal an open wound.

During hot summer months, dehydration is also common. Their belly is like a prune, wrinkled, shriveled and sunk in. And even if your parental instincts kick in, don't feed the baby bird.

If you think you've found a sick or wounded fledgling or nestling, call a rehabber, state wildlife agency, or veterinarian immediately. If it's after hours, take the baby to a safe and warm location, Furr says, such as a closed box with air holes and a heating pad beneath it. And even if your parental instincts kick in, don't feed the baby. People have good intentions and think the baby bird is going to starve. But a lot of times it ends up doing more harm than good.

At Atlanta Wild Animal Rescue Effort, they see babies with food in their lungs from improper feeding. But if the chick is just kept in a dark place, its metabolism will slow down, she says, leaving plenty of time for professional rehabbers to swoop in for a rescue.

You might also come across a fledgling or nestling that's not injured, but at risk—such as from a prowling cat or human feet. Here's an easy fix: Put it in a bush. In other words, hide the chick or put it in a place that's out of reach or out of the way. And after all this, if you're still not sure if the bird needs help or what to do, before doing anything, call your local [wildlife rehabilitation center](#). Helping animals—and preventing fledgling kidnappings—is what they do.

MAY FIELD TRIP REPORT

Claremont Hills Wilderness Park/ Azusa Wilderness Park/Encanto Park, Duarte

The May field trip was a little different. It was held in the afternoon and we visited three different locations.

Our first stop was Claremont Wilderness Park at the north end of Mills Ave in Claremont.

The walk started in a beautiful oak and sycamore canyon. The canyon held more **Phainopeplas** than most of us had seen in quite awhile at one location. Other birds included good looks at **Black-chinned Hummingbirds, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Wrentit**, and even an audio response from a **Western Screech Owl** that responded to a vocal imitation to its bouncing ball song. We next traveled west on the 210 Freeway and went north up Azusa Ave to the Azusa Wilderness Park. A short walk on the dirt road above the San Gabriel River yielded **White-throated Swift, a Yellow Warbler, Hooded Orioles**, more **Phainopeplas** and couple of out of place **Great Egrets**.

At this point, the plan was to head over to Encanto Park in Duarte to search for Lesser Nighthawks and bats, But with the weather getting cooler and a thick marine layer moving in, we decided to head up stream to the San Gabriel Reservoir and look for the **Bald Eagles**.

There was one adult eagle and two juveniles perched in the Big Cone Douglas Firs near the dam. Everyone had great looks through the scope. We also saw **three Common Mergansers, a Great Blue Heron** and some heard the descending song of a **Canyon Wren**.

The group agreed that it was a great trip. I guess you don't have to get up at 5 AM to go birding.