



# THE OBSERVER

Volume 81, Issue 1, Sept/Oct 2022

## Whittier Area Audubon Society

Apologies from the Editor. Due to travel challenges and a family medical emergency, I was unable to send out a newsletter for September.

We are a chapter of National Audubon Society



# Audubon

### Field Trips

#### Beginning Bird Walk, Sycamore Canyon

Every second Saturday of the month (except July and August,) **October 8, 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.

#### SANTA FE DAM REC AREA

**Saturday, October 22, 2022. 7:00am to 5:00pm**  
[Santa Fe Dam Field Trip](#)

Santa Fe Dam can produce interesting vagrants during the autumn months, including atypical water and shore birds and unusual warblers. We will leave from the Whittier Community Center at 7:00 a.m. Bring a sack lunch, sufficient junk food to last the trip, and your usual birdwatching stuff. Steve Huber leads.

The Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter and Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society announce our upcoming 3-hour symposium on dark skies and bird-safe building design: **Light at Night: A Glowing Hazard.**

The symposium will be held on Zoom on Wednesday, November 16, 2022, at 1:00 pm PT.

The use of LED technology and energy-saving lighting fixtures bring with them a pervasive and harmful effect: the over-lighting of our nights. The symposium will focus on the biological and physical effects of lighting up the night and provide solutions that guard both our health and the environment while providing safe and practical lighting solutions.

The speakers include global experts on artificial light at night and light pollution:

They will send an invitation with Zoom registration information by Friday, September 30, 2022.

**See our website for the RSVP link and sign up by October 7, 2022**

#### Mailing Address:

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

#### Follow Up from Sept

From our September Speaker Amanda Penn regarding her Poo Poo Partner Project:  
Thank you so much for having me as a speaker last night! I wanted to follow up about local areas that may be in need of Poo-Poo Screens. I have attached a list of areas that have partnered with us. Please take a look at the areas listed under California. If you have local areas that aren't listed or just notice any unscreened vault toilets, please let me know. Feel free to share my email with the group. Also, here is some information on the Sponsor- A -Screen prog <https://tetonraptorcenter.org/sponsor-a-screen/ram> . I would be happy to send a pack of Poo-Poo stickers to you.

- **General Meeting: TBA**
- **Bird Walk:: Sycamore Canyon 10/8, 7am**
- **Field trip: Santa Fe Dam**

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

### GENERAL MEETING

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

#### October Program: To be Announced

**Thursday, October 21, 2022  
7:30 PM to 9:00 PM**

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



### From National Audubon A Global Antenna Network Is the Next Frontier of Migration Science

*Motus stations across the landscape pick up 'pings' from any radio-tagged birds that fly past. The data, open to everyone, are painting a fuller picture of the journeys the creatures make.*

There is still much we don't know about the birds' movements and biology—or what has driven bird populations to decline by about half since the 1960s.

Scientists are remotely monitoring hundreds of species with the Motus Wildlife Tracking System, which went online in 2015. Named after the Latin word for movement, Motus uses arrays of automated radio receiver stations to detect tagged animals over vast distances. Today some 1,500 receiving stations are active around the globe. Scientists have affixed tags to more than 34,000 animals, from birds and bats to butterflies and bumblebees.

The Motus network is overseen by a team at the nonprofit Birds Canada including longtime migration scientist Stu Mackenzie, who helped pioneer the system with Acadia University researchers in the early 2010s. While scientists have used radio telemetry to track animals since the 1960s, recent technological advances have ushered in miniature tags weighing as little as a coffee bean. These tags can be attached to songbirds as small as Canada Warblers or Gray-cheeked Thrushes—and even tinier insects. In addition to studying their movements,

scientists can analyze tag data to glean details like when a bird is active, when it's sleeping, and when it takes flight.

In the past scientists had to track radio-tagged animals with cumbersome handheld antennas, stalking them across the landscape to get within signal range. Now with Motus, a vast community of collaborators have assembled a global network of stationary, inexpensive radio receivers that can passively pick up signals from any tagged animals nearby.



“You can put a Motus station on just about anything,” Mackenzie says. Many are stand-alone towers. But they've also been attached to telephone poles, weather stations, ships, lighthouses, high school roofs, and, near Tucson, Arizona, an inactive windmill. One thing these locations all have in common: a clear view of the sky, to best pick up signals. When a bird passes by a receiving station, a computer records and stores the unique radio ID from its tag. Many stations upload these data directly to the Motus database housed at Birds Canada's National Data Centre in Ontario. This centralized database is the final innovation underlying Motus's success. It connects all antennas from around the world and makes the information freely available to researchers and the public at [motus.org](http://motus.org).

### ALSO FROM AUDUBON

Fall migration is in full swing, yet our migratory birds face growing threats. North America's bird populations have declined by 3 billion birds since 1970, and most of the losses are from migratory species. To succeed in protecting these species, we need to invest in conservation projects across their ranges, from their wintering grounds to their summer breeding habitat.

Thankfully, new and bipartisan legislation has been introduced—the Migratory Birds of the Americas Conservation Enhancements Act (S.4187)—which would significantly increase hemispheric funding for these beloved and declining birds.

**YOUR U.S. Senator is a key member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, which must take up this priority legislation. [Urge your Senator to cosponsor the bipartisan bill to strengthen conservation for migratory birds.](#)**

More than half of our nation's bird species migrate to Latin America and the Caribbean for wintering habitats, including orioles, warblers, shorebirds, and more. These neotropical migrants face a complex range of threats, including development pressures, invasive species, and climate change.

This legislation would increase authorized funding for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act, which supports bird conservation projects across the Western Hemisphere. The bill will also reduce barriers to participation in the program and give the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service adequate resources to implement it successfully. Our migratory bird populations urgently need further support.