



# THE OBSERVER

Volume 81, Issue 4, January 2023

## Whittier Area Audubon Society

Visit our Facebook page Whittier Area Audubon Society

We are a chapter of National Audubon Society



# Audubon

- **General Meeting: Colorado Lagoon with Robb Hamilton**
- **Bird Walk: Sycamore Canyon 1/14, 8am**
- **Field trip Salton Sea Overnighter**

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



### GENERAL MEETING

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

### January Program: Birds of the Colorado Lagoon

**Thursday, January 19, 2023  
7:30 PM to 9:00 PM**

Local biologist, Robb Hamilton, will present *Birds of the Colorado Lagoon*.

Hamilton has great photos of the lagoon and its birds and other wildlife. He is a recognized authority on the status, distribution and identification of birds in California.

The Colorado Lagoon is a birding area in Long Beach, CA. The e-bird list has risen from 191 to 230 species in the last three years. The past three

years have seen approval of the project to re-create an open channel between the lagoon and Alamitos Bay that was covered up with fill back in the 1950s when the idea was to create the 22 Freeway through Long Beach.

Fortunately, that never happened and the Port of Long Beach is now funding a project to remove the fill and put the open channel back in--starting this fall. This will make the lagoon an even more attractive and interesting place for birders.

As is our recent practice, this will be a Hybrid Program online and in person at the Whittier Community Center, located at 7630 Washington Ave. Whittier. Wearing a mask is optional. The program is free and open to the public.

### January Field Trips

#### ANTELOPE VALLEY FIELD TRIP

**JANUARY 7, 2023**

We will be departing from the Whittier Community Center at 6AM. The Community Center is at the corner of Mar Vista and Washington Ave. across from the library. If you prefer, you can meet us at the McDonald's at 7:30.

Our first stop will be the McDonald's at 8507 Pearblossom Highway in Littlerock for a restroom stop and coffee or a quick bite.

The trip will begin along the California Aqueduct and then move

northerly. Target birds include Rock Wren, Bell's Sparrow, Black-throated Sparrow, goldeneyes, Mountain Bluebird, Mountain Plover, Ferruginous hawk, Prairie Falcon and other winter desert specialties.



Bring binoculars, a scope if you have one, a lunch, water, warm clothes but dress in layers. Provided it is not too windy or we have a storm, the early morning will be cold but it will warm up some in the afternoon.

Please contact Larry Schmahl at 562-714-1843 or [larschmahl@aol.com](mailto:larschmahl@aol.com) if you plan to attend or meet us at the McDonald's.

#### Beginning Bird Walk, Sycamore Canyon

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

**January 14, 2023, 8:00am**



Join us 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.

**Leader: Steve Huber.**

**Mailing Address:**



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



**SALTON SEA OVERNIGHT  
Saturday, January 21,  
2023 to Sunday January  
22, 2023.**

The January Field Trip will be a weekend overnighter to the Salton Sea Area and the Imperial Valley.

Some of us will be staying at the Townhouse Inn and Suites at 135 Main Street in Brawley, 855-797-6733. Another possibility is the Brawley Inn at 575 Main Street in Brawley, 888-388-0139. We will meeting at 7AM on Saturday morning at the Townhouse Inn and Suites, ready to roll.



Burrowing Owls, Salton Sea. J. Schmahl

Be sure to bring your lunch, water, and anything else you need during the day. We will be back to the Townhouse Inn between 2:30 and 3. Be ready to depart at 4PM for our wine and cheese party, "Booze on the Berm" where we watch the

spectacle of cranes, geese, ducks, gulls and egrets come in to roost. Dinner will be your choice after the wine and cheese.

Sunday morning we will again depart at 7AM for a morning of more birding. We will not be coming back to Brawley so be sure to have your belongings and check out Sunday morning.

Here's hoping the roads are dry and there is little wind.

Please contact Larry Schmahl with questions and if you plan to attend at 562-714-1843 or [larschmahl@aol.com](mailto:larschmahl@aol.com).

**DECEMBER TRIP  
REPORT**

We had a very nice morning for our traditional December outing. The sun was shining, the air was brisk but comfortable and Legg Lake's birds showed us their stuff.

From the parking lot, we were able to get views of an Osprey and Peregrine Falcon, a Common Gallinule and a passel of Black Crowned Night Herons. Strolling along the lakeside we found a Snow Goose keeping company with a couple of Canada Geese. Flocks of small birds in the lawns were Yellow Rumped Warblers instead of the Pipits we were hoping to see. A flock of Red Whisker Bulbuls traipsed between the lakes. A pair of Belted Kingfishers flew around the lakeside past a grouping of Cormorants, including 2 Neotropics mixed with the Double Cresteds. Several Red Tailed Hawks cruised the lawns looking for gophers. But the best Celebrity Flyover was an immature Bald Eagle. It did not stop but did get close to our position.

**From National  
Audubon**

**Tell Congress to Act for Birds**

Your letters are working! Last Thursday, Congress passed the Water Resources Development Act, which will help to restore ecosystems like the Everglades, Great Lakes, and Mississippi River. There's still time to pass more Audubon-priority bills to help birds as the end of the 117th Congress approaches.

**FROM AUDUBON  
CALIFORNIA**

A proposed agreement between the state of California, two Southern California water districts and the federal government announced today would provide \$250 million for projects to create habitat and suppress harmful, windblown dust at the beleaguered Salton Sea. The accord between the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the California Natural Resource Agency, the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) and the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), would expedite projects already part of the state's 10-year Salton Sea Management Plan (SSMP). Under the agreement, Reclamation is directing \$250 million from the Inflation Reduction Act to support remediation efforts at the Salton Sea, in addition to the \$583 million already committed by California under the SSMP. In response to the drought crisis, California has agreed to voluntarily conserve 400,000 acre-feet of water it draws from the Colorado River annually for the next four years, including commitments of 250,000 acre-feet from IID and 35,000 acre-feet from CVWD.