



THE OBSERVER

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Whittier Area Audubon Society

Visit our Facebook page Whittier Area Audubon Society

We are a chapter of National Audubon Society



Audubon

Bring: Bring a sack lunch, sufficient junk food to last the trip, and your usual birdwatching stuff.

Trip Leader: Jim McNamara

Mailing Address:

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

- **General Meeting:**
- **Bird Walk:: Sycamore Canyon 2/11 , 8am**
- **Field trip: Bolsa Chica & Orange County**

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.

Visit our website
www.whittieraudubon.org

GENERAL MEETING

www.whittieraudubon.org

February Program: TBD

**Thursday, February 16,
2023 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM**

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.

February Field Trips

**Beginning Bird Walk,
Sycamore Canyon**

Every second Saturday of the month (except July and August,)
**January 14,
2023, 8:00am**

Bolsa Chica and Orange County

FEBRUARY 18, 2023

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.

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

JANUARY TRIP REPORT

Salton Sea Overnight



Winter still had a grip on Imperial County, but the sun was shining and the birds were present. Leaving Brawley, we headed out to the agricultural fields to see what birds we could find. At a small stock pond we found the first of several Burrowing Owls and





watched a Forster's Tern compete with a Double Crested Cormorant for the same fish. Then off again to check more ag fields. We spotted a Horned Lark and another Burrowing Owl. Then off to the old shoreline of the Sea (now sadly distant) to sea flock of Ring Necked Gulls, California Gulls, Avocets, various duck species, a Rock Wren, Savannah Sparrows (including Large Beaked). Midmorning break to score the picnic tables at Sony Bono Wildlife Refuge where we found Gamble's Quail, Ruddy Ground Dove, Abert's Towhee, and a Blue Grey Gnatcatcher. Out on the trail we saw a White-Tailed Kite in the shimmering distance. Then thousands of Snow Geese, with White Pelicans, Shovelers, and Ruddy Ducks. We made a short stop along Sperry Road where we had seen dozens of American Robins and a Cedar Waxwing making short shrift of the supply of date palm fruit. We also saw several Inca Dove and a Red Shouldered Hawk there. Then off to Booze on the Berm as we watched flights of Curlew overhead, hundreds of Sandhill Cranes come in the roost and another bonus family of Burrowing Owls. Our lookout spot allowed us to see Gulls, White Faced Ibis, Ducks and the cranes come into an isolated wetland area. Next morning was our usual stop at Cattle Call Park. The Hubers has already spotted the Great Horned Owl, so we also found Anna's Hummingbirds, an American Kestrel pair, nicely posing Vermillion Flycatcher. More ag fields on our way north along

the eastern side of the Sea where we had a nice flock of Mountain Bluebirds. Our target this day was Salt Creek Campground. From this campground you can see thousands of birds resting in the shallow waters. Flocks of Northern Shovelers, Ruddy Ducks, Redheads, Northern Pintail, Ring billed Gulls, California Gulls along with Least Sandpipers, Avocets among other. The last stop was at the Salton Sea State Park headquarters where we had lunch and saw Bonaparte's Gulls and White Pelicans



Monday, February 20, 2023. Bird and nature lovers everywhere unite in the effort to tally as many of the world's bird species as possible over these four days. All skill levels and all abilities are welcome to count birds from anywhere and enter their checklists online. Learn how to join the GBBC from Audubon and partners Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Birds Canada by visiting birdcount.org.

From Audubon California



Water is the foundation of life. On World Wetlands Day, we celebrate California's embattled wetland ecosystems which provide rich ecological services, including habitat, flood protection, and pollution filtration. Wetlands are precious resources for tens of millions of migratory birds during dry, arid journeys. Check out a selection of locations where Audubon's work touches the ground and birds flock to these watery wonderlands.

From National Audubon [The Great Backyard Bird Count: Q&A Webinar](#)



The 26th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) will take place **Friday, February 17, through**