



## Whittier Area Audubon Society

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We are a chapter of National Audubon Society



# Audubon

- **General Meeting: Hoo's There?**
- **Bird Walk:: Sycamore Canyon 3/11 , 8am**
- **Field trip: San Jacinto Wildlife Refuge**

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

## GENERAL MEETING

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

### March Program

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

#### Hoo's There?

will be presented by Whittier Audubon member, Susana Guerrero. Last summer, Susana participated as a citizen science volunteer in Northern Utah, on a project study involving Flammulated Owls. Susana will present photos taken while participating on the project and share details about her experience. Most recently, Susana traveled to Panama and will share additional photos of owls and other bird

species observed in her travels there.

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.

### March Field Trips

#### 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.

#### San Jacinto (Riverside County) Field Trip March 18, 2023

This is, perhaps, the best place to see just about every kind of raptor there is for Southern California. Rough-legged Hawks, Kestrels, Harriers and Red-tails are everywhere. It seems like there is usually at least one of each duck and a

fair bit of peeps. There will be plenty of birds.

We will probably spend our whole time at the San Jacinto wildlife refuge. We will be doing some driving and stopping. The little 22 Channel radios are very handy to have. There are no picnic tables or the like, anywhere in the refuge. There are plenty of places to pull over. I recommend that everybody bring some folding chairs. As long as the weather cooperates, a clear sunny day is about all that is required. A sandwich, Coke and a folding chair are about as close to heaven as one gets in the Inland Empire. Bring your birding stuff, junk food and a lunch. Folding chairs will bring a touch of civilization. Meet: We will leave from the Whittier Community Center at 7:00 a.m.

Bring: A sandwich, Coke and a folding chair are about as close to heaven as one gets in the Inland Empire. Bring your birding stuff, junk food and a lunch. Folding chairs will bring a touch of civilization. Trip Leader: Jay Oberholtzer

#### Mailing Address:

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# JANUARY TRIP REPORT

Jim McNamara

WAAS Field Trip Feb 18, 2023:

We first started at Harriet M Wieder Regional Park where the birds seen by group were Canada Goose (1), Allen’s Hummingbird (2), California Thrasher (1), Western Bluebird (2), House Finch (6), Fox Sparrow (1), Dark-eyed Junco (1), White-crowned Sparrow (30), Golden-crowned Sparrow (1), Song Sparrow (1), Spotted Towhee (1), Yellow-rumped Warbler (6). Thanks to Amy Rangel for sharing her eBird list of the Harriet M Wieder visit.

We then drove a short distance to Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve where thirteen of us gathered to be warmly greeted by Vic Leipzig, former Huntington Beach City mayor, former Sea and Sage Audubon Society president, and current Insurance chair. All present introduced themselves to Vic who then recounted how WAAS and Sea and Sage Audubon have a long history of working together. In the middle of Vic’s short talk a very near Ridgway’s Rail loudly vocalized and that was our first bird. Some members photographed this bird including its banded leg. He requested photos be sent to him to forward to the local researchers.



As we stepped onto the PCH foot bridge, Edwin spotted a Sora and all were able to see this bird which did not vocalize.

For the 60 species seen by our group there were many other highlights most notably the Common Goldeneye diving ducks spotted in the Wintersburg channel and next on west side of the tidal gates in the outer tidal basin.



We were able to see four of these ducks at once together and one in the channel at the

same time. As best we could determine, the diving ducks swam through the tidal gates to greet us a second time in the Outer Bolsa Bay.



There were many other highlights during our visit, including: 12 Red-breasted Merganser, Pied-billed, Eared, and Horned Grebes, 90 Brown Pelican flying in, some of which were adults coming into beautiful breeding plumage, several Great Blue Herons flying in and out of their palm tree nests, a few Horned Larks, one very accommodating Belding’s Savannah Sparrow that posed up-close for us, a male and female Belted Kingfisher, Yellow and Black-crowned Night Herons, distant views of Dunlin, big quantities of Western Sandpipers that flew just inches over our heads and many other shore birds.

Central Park East (from Slater parking lot) is where eleven of us gathered for lunch. After lunch we viewed 23 species with many highlights here. Best in show was the male-female pair of Hooded Mergansers. We watched as the female tried to eat a frog while being chased by the male. After diving a few times this bird either successfully swallowed or lost the frog. We also found the elusive Red-breasted Sapsucker in the cottonwoods by the Island Slough and watched this bird until it flew away. We had 32 Cedar Waxwings flying around, perching high while vocalizing, dropping into the edge of the lake for sips of water. There were Chipping Sparrows, Dark-eyed Junco, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and some Swinhoe White-eye birds vocalizing.

A great day that brought good friends together to share a common love of birds. Thanks to all who participated.

## From National Audubon

### Oppose Oil Development in a Globally Significant Arctic Landscape

The Teshekpuk Lake wetlands complex, one of the most important habitats in the entire Arctic, is threatened by a proposed ConocoPhillips oil development—the Willow Master Development Plan. The Willow project is a major threat to Indigenous communities, migratory birds from across the globe, irreplaceable Arctic habitats, and our climate. Please share and spread this alert urging the Department of the Interior to reject the misguided and harmful Willow oil development project to protect this irreplaceable and fragile area. [Take Action](#)

Waterbirds like Black-necked Stilts, Western Sandpipers, Dowitchers, and Snowy Egrets are flocking to emergent wetlands around the Salton Sea, including near the community of Bombay Beach at the Salton Sea. Audubon California launched a project at the [Bombay Beach Wetland](#) to stabilize, enhance, and expand native emergent freshwater and saline wetland habitat on the exposed Salton Sea playa. This project will also help control dust on adjacent playa areas and provide access to green spaces for park-poor local communities. .