



THE OBSERVER

Volume 81, Issue 8, May 2023

Whittier Area Audubon Society

Visit our Facebook page Whittier Area Audubon Society

We are a chapter of National Audubon Society

Visit our website or contact web@whittieraudubon.org for a link to the online meeting.



Audubon

May Field Trips

- **General Meeting: Breeding Raptors**
- **Bird Walk:: Sycamore Canyon 5/13 , 7am**
- **Field trip: Big Morongo**

Beginning Bird Walk, Sycamore Canyon

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

May 13, 2023, 7:00am

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

Visit our website
www.whittieraudubon.org

Election of Board Officers

At the May General Meeting, all Members that have current dues paid are eligible to vote for next year's officers. Slate:

President	Jay Oberholtzer
1 st VP	Steve Huber
2 nd VP	Linda Oberholtzer
Treasurer	Kathleen Barry
Recording Sec	Jim McNamara
Corresponding Sec	Larry Schmahl

Big Morongo Field Trip May 20, 2023



Our May field trip will be to Big Morongo Canyon Preserve, which is located north of Palm Springs..

We will convene in the parking lot of the Whittier Community Center leaving at 7:00 AM sharp. It's close to a 2-hour drive, so we must leave promptly at 7:00. If you would rather meet us at Big Morongo, plan to rendezvous in the parking lot there at 9:00.

Big Morongo is a great place for migrant flycatchers and warblers as well as interesting local residents. It

Scott Thomas will discuss what raptors nest or should be nesting in Orange County and the San Gabriel mountains. This will include the year-round residents and fairly common species, such as Great Horned Owls and Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks, to the more elusive, infrequent rare species, such as Long-eared Owls and Swainson's Hawks. The 2023 breeding season should be quite successful for raptors, as the early and favorable rains we have should prompt a boom in prey availability.

Thomas has been studying raptors in the field for more than 40 years.



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.

GENERAL MEETING

www.whittieraudubon.org

May Program

**Thursday, May 18, 2023
7:30 PM to 9:00 PM**

Scott Thomas, Chair of the Sea and Sage Audubon's Raptor Research Committee, will give a presentation about Breeding Raptors of Orange County and the San Gabriel Mountains. He will present virtually



THE OBSERVER

can get hot, so be prepared for warm weather. Bring water, a lunch, a hat, and sunscreen. We will bird Big Morongo and Covington Park and have lunch in the park. We should be back in Whittier between 3:00 and 4:00.

We will leave from the Whittier Community Center at 7:00 a.m. Trip Leader: Jay Oberholtzer

APRIL TRIP REPORT

WAAS Field Trip April 22, 2023: Bear Divide

Larry Schmahl



Our April field trip was to Bear Divide in the San Gabriel Mountains. Bear Divide is a low, narrow, pass or saddle within the San Gabriel Mountains just above Sand Canyon. The Moore Lab of Zoology at Occidental College runs a regular count to quantify the numbers and identities of birds migrating through Bear Divide.

Eight of us had the good fortune to arrive at Bear Divide early on a beautiful Spring day. As we exited the cars we could see small flocks of birds flying through the pass in front of us.

We mostly stood on the edge of the roadway and watched the birds come at, over and around us. It was easy but also fast and furious at times. A lot of the birds zoomed by unidentified.

Whittier Area Audubon Society

Volume 81, Issue 6, March 2023

Mostly, they were warblers and Lazuli Buntings. Most of the warblers were Yellow-rumps but there were very good numbers of Hermit, Nashville, Black-throated Gray and a few Wilson's, MacGillivray's, Orange-crowns and at least one Yellow and one Common Yellowthroat. Other birds included five or six species of flycatchers, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Warbling Vireos, various sparrows, swifts and hummingbirds. Surprising to me was a lack of raptors.

We also visited the banding table to see what the biologists were catching in the mist nests. The banders were very good about carefully holding up different species, explaining the field marks and answering questions.



As is usually the case at Bear Divide, the spectacle was over by about 9:30 and we departed. It was a very satisfying morning of birding. If you are interested in making a visit this Spring, Google the directions. Its an easy hour and 15 minutes from Whittier. Arrive by at least 6:30AM.

Mailing Address:

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



Our chapter was invited to join the **Whittier's Earth Day Celebration 2023**

Organizers provided guest speakers such as Congresswoman Rep. Linda Sánchez, Mayor Joe Vinatieri, and distinguished climate justice activist/social entrepreneur and founder of One Up Action Kevin J Patel.

Attendees had the opportunity to view an electric car/transportation display, and access resources from local experts and non-profits on sustainability, drought-tolerant landscaping, healthy eating, planet-friendly home improvements, recycling/upcycling, creativity and art, meditation, and other topics pertinent to supporting and enhancing the Earth Day movement.

We presented information on how Climate Change is affecting our bird populations and provided handouts on how to help our avian friends along their migration journey.