



## Whittier Area Audubon Society

- **General Meeting: Birds of Sri Lanka**
- **Field Trip San Diego**
- **Bird Walk:: Sycamore Canyon 2/10 , 8am**
- **Field trip: 2/16-18 San Diego**

We are a chapter of National Audubon Society



# Audubon

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

permitting, we will try some of the fields in the Hollister-Dairy Mart-Monument Road area. We will return to the Comfort Inn Sea World Area motel for the traditional wine and cheese party and re-hydration event.

Sunday, we will probably hit La Jolla Cliff early (before the traffic) looking for oystercatchers and the like, then on to Mission Trails Regional Park. Mission Trails Regional Park is a chaparral type park, but with a fair bit of water. This stop may change depending on the water supply. I will know more after my scouting run.

Figure on two sack lunches, the usual bird watching stuff and some sun screen. As with all of our wine and cheese parties, creativity is in order. Scopes will be a definite plus.

I may tweak the route after I make a scouting run, so watch the website for any changes.

Let me know if you plan to attend. Please either email me at [tvulture@earthlink.net](mailto:tvulture@earthlink.net) or telephone my office at 562-945-2839

I have managed to find some fairly cheap accommodations for our February field trip to the San Diego area. Comfort Inn Sea World Area motel at 3800 Greenwood St., San Diego has been selling rooms for the weekend of Friday, February 16 through Sunday morning, February 18 at slightly over \$100 it This far cheaper than anything else I have been able to locate in the San Diego area.

I typically make a scouting run the weekend before a scheduled trip. I will therefore submit an updated email on the following Monday or Tuesday evening. Please check our website

## GENERAL MEETING

### February Program

Thursday, February 15, 2024  
7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

## BIRD OF SRI LANKA

Dinara de Silva shared some of her pictures at our photo share night in December. We were so impressed that we asked her to put together an entire evening's presentation of her "yard" birds from Sri Lanka.

This will be available as 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.

Visit our website or contact [web@whittieraudubon.org](mailto:web@whittieraudubon.org) for a link to the online meeting.

#### Mailing Address:

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

### February Field Trips Beginning Bird Walk, Sycamore Canyon

Every second Saturday of the month (except July and August,)  
**Jan 13, 2024, 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 Diego Feb 17 -18

The Plan is to depart from the Comfort Inn Sea World Area motel at 3800 Greenwood St., San Diego **At 7:30 a.m. on Saturday.**

We will work our way down the Point Loma peninsula, stopping at the Fort Rosecrans Cemetery, then down the Cabrillo National Monument and the famous "Drip". This area is quite the migrant stop over. Just about anything is possible. When done, we will work our way back up the peninsula, stopping at Famosa Slough, then on to the Tijuana Estuary. There have been sightings of Little Blue Herons, Yellow-crowned Night Herons and Reddish Egrets there. Time



## THE OBSERVER

for a general outline of how our San Diego weekend will probably progress. Most importantly, please let me know right away when you have made your reservations and whether you plan to attend. Please make arrangements so that we have at least four people in each car. Some of the places that we need to pull over at are well-traveled.

**Let me know if you plan to attend. Please either email me at [tvulture@earthlink.net](mailto:tvulture@earthlink.net) or telephone my office at 562-945-2838.**

### Trip Report Crystal Cove

January 20, 2024

By Jim McNamara

Our group walked the upper trail north starting at 7:30 AM. First off we saw a juvenile Cooper's Hawk fly into and perch in a bare tree near our parking area. On departure, this bird was still perched in the same tree.

A short distance down the trail, an adult Cooper's Hawk flew nearly directly overhead giving us brief looks. Further down the trail, there was a Lincoln's sparrow and we all saw an Orange-crowned Warbler busy foraging in the same area.

Just past mid-point of trail we found our number one target bird, the completely leucistic male Anna's Hummingbird.



The next highlight was a pair of White-tailed Kites, the first one kiting, the second one perched in a distant bare tree. We also had a female Northern Harrier flying low over the bluffs and enjoyed watching this bird hunt over

## Whittier Area Audubon Society

the entire park. This bird was very active

At the north end of the trail, Steve pushed out a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. We then took the ramp to the beach and walked south to see the shore birds. After rounding the point part of cliff, light rain began and soon became steady. Along the way we had great views of Royal Terns who always seem to face the same direction, Black-bellied Plovers, Sanderlings, a single Whimbrel, a Willet, an Osprey

With increasing rain, we decided to call it a day.

## From National Audubon

### How to Take Part in the Great Backyard Bird Count

It's free, it's fun, and it helps scientific research. Here's how to participate in this annual February tradition that spans the globe.

For some folks, the best part of President's Day is having an extra 24 hours to veg out. But for others, it's that joyous time of year when they get to tally up birds for the annual [Great Backyard Bird Count](#) (GBBC). The dates for the 2022 GBBC are February 18 to 21.

During the GBBC, people from around the world count wild birds on the same weekend and then submit their data online for scientists to use in their research. The kid-friendly event is run by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, plus other sponsors and international partners.

Whether you're a sage expert or a first-time birder, you can help create a snapshot of avian populations and provide critical information for future conservation efforts just by reporting what you see and hear. Every observation you submit gives scientists more insight into research areas such as how birds are adapting to suburban

Volume 82, Issue 6, February 2024

sprawl, West Nile Virus, and climate change. It's free, it's fun, and it makes a difference.

Collecting and reporting data for the GBBC is straightforward: At each location, identify any species you see or hear, and tally up the number of individuals. (You can also note any interesting behaviors.) Create a checklist for each location and time; if you revisit a spot, start a new checklist. Remember to keep track of start and end times for each checklist, as well as distance traveled. The mobile app automatically tracks the time after you open a new checklist. Your smartphone should also have a health app that logs steps and miles.

Be as accurate as possible, but don't panic if your numbers are inexact. Counting a large flock of fussy juncos is a challenge. Estimate when you have to: If you tally only 20 birds, but it seems like there are twice that many, 40 is a safe estimate. (eBird has a [helpful article](#) on estimating flock sizes.) Snapping a photo of the scene can help you total up flocks later, so keep a camera on hand if possible. (Did we mention that there's a [photo contest](#)?)

During the GBBC, rarity doesn't matter; the hundreds of House Sparrows count just as much as the more unusual species. But that doesn't mean that seeing a rare bird isn't part of the allure. Perhaps you will find a bird that's never been seen in your area, or record a historically high number of a particular species. Last year, counters in Philadelphia found the GBBC's first-ever Barnacle Geese, which usually winter in Europe. And southwestern birders posted three tropical marvels: the White-throated Thrush, Clay-colored Thrush, and Rufous-backed Robin. Rare birds are exciting, but it's important to be cautious and rule out less exciting possibilities first. Carefully document any unusual sightings; it's good practice, and can help with verification later on.