



Whittier Area Audubon Society

- **General Meeting: Mickey Long**
- **Bird Walk:: Sycamore Canyon 10/14 , 7am**
- **Field trip: 10/15 Island Packers**

We are a chapter of National Audubon Society



Audubon

Mickey Long retired in late 2010 after 39 years working in the County's Nature Centers and Natural Area Parks, ending this time as Administrator over the 19 Natural Areas. These included sites from Antelope Valley to San Pedro, and local sites like Whittier Narrows and Eaton Canyon. His academic studies and publishing have been in the realms of Botany, Ornithology and Herpetology, but ecology and biogeography of local flora and fauna is an overriding interest.

He continues to teach natural history classes for Docents at Whittier Narrows and Eaton Canyon and for Pasadena Audubon, and finds presentations among his most enjoyable pursuits (along with monthly folk music

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.

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

Oct Field Trips

Beginning Bird Walk, Sycamore Canyon

Every second Saturday of the month (except July and August,) **Oct 14, 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. Larry Schmahl leads.

Island Packers Field Trip

Oct 21, 2023

Travel with Island Packers to Santa Cruz to see the Island Scrub Jay. Trip is full

Mailing Address:

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WAAS Field Trip Report, 9/23/2023

Our first stop was the Harriet M. Wieder Regional Park, named for the first woman to serve on Orange County Board of Supervisors. The weather was nearly perfect, with mostly sunny skies, and temps in the mid-70s. Our group included Letty Brooks, Liz and Steve Huber and me. We arrived at 7:15 AM and identified 12 species in less than 30 minutes. Checklist included: Common Yellowthroat (1), Orange-Crowned Warbler (2), Spotted Towhee (1), California Towhee (2), Song Sparrow (4), House Finch (3), California Thrasher (1), House Wren (4), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (1), American Crow (1), and Canada Goose (3).

We arrived at Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve (BCER) just before 8 AM where we were met by additional WAAS members Linda LeRoy and Al, Becky and Edwin

Visit our website
www.whittieraudubon.org

- Fall migration is ongoing. Consider Lights Out Fall to protect migrating birds. Happy birding!

GENERAL MEETING

October Program

Thursday, October 19, 2023
7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Local Ecology

Mickey Long

The Stories within Ecology and Ecosystems

Everyone knows birds live within an ecosystem, also that birds directly affect and are affected by the myriad living and nonliving things in the ecosystem, including us. However, all the functions and stories of interacting flora, fauna and environment make up a fascinating tale of millions of years of evolutionary history. This talk will lead from fundamental building blocks of world ecosystems to more complex and little-known eco-stories, with emphasis on our southern California plants and animals.



Menendez, and Elaine Rudberg. As the nine of us crossed the wooden foot bridge, we were greeted by several first year Forster Terns flying overhead and diving for small fish. Linda and Steve recognized a few back-lit distant Redhead from the bridge. In the pickle-weed we could see a single Black-bellied Plover, a Willet, and a few Belding's Savannah Sparrow. At the north end of the foot bridge, a young Snowy Egret landed on the bridge railing to observe our group for awhile before flying off.

The Least Tern nesting area was overgrown with weeds and no birds were visible so we continued on to the first observation point that looks north over the full tidal basin. The rising tide was beginning to cover the near sandbar where Double-crested Cormorants, Brown Pelicans, Western Gulls, two Ruddy Turnstone, and two Sanderling birds were seen. Looking west Linda LeRoy identified a single Royal Tern. We continued westward along the Inner Bolsa Bay Loop Trail watching for birds on both sides of the berm. Edwin saw and photographed a Cormorant catching and eating a rather large fish! Continuing on, several bird species were seen on both sides of berm, among them Pied-billed Grebe, Marbled Godwit, Willet, Long-billed Curlew, Terns and Gulls, Sandpipers and Dowitchers, Snowy and Great Egret, and more Savannah Sparrows.

As we arrived at the second observation point, the Rabbit Island point normally overcrowded with shorebirds was completely empty. We continued along the eastern Wintersberg Channel berm path to watch for birds in the channel and in the Full Tidal Basin area. We had views of Northern Shoveler flying over, Long-billed Curlew flying into the Pocket Pond, small flocks of Sandpipers flying down the channel, a few Mallards, some Great Egrets in tidal basin and few more Willet. The area around the Brightwater Bridge channel crossing was surprising. In the ponds around the last oil pumps we had 21 Red-necked Phalarope swimming and foraging. West of the channel at the top of a bare tree, a beautiful juvenile Peregrine Falcon perched. A Downy Woodpecker flew into this same tree and quickly worked his way to the top before departing.

We left the falcon where found and walked the western berm of the channel watching

for birds in the pocket pond. Here we found Killdeer, Double-crested Cormorant, Marbled Godwit, American White Pelican, Great and Snowy Egrets, Willet, and one Ring-billed Gull. Walking across the old dam as we talked about the Belted Kingfisher a female Kingfisher flew over our heads and perched on the fence post barely time enough for a few photos. We continued along the return trail, parallel to PCH, where some of us were able to see an adult Yellow-crowned Night Heron and others saw Round Rays in the water. In all, 37 bird species were seen at BCER.

We arrived at the PCH parking lot about 11:30 AM and departed for Huntington Beach Central Park east at the Slater entrance for lunch. After lunch we took a short walk and identified 19 different species. The first bird we saw was an Osprey carrying a large fish. The Osprey perched on large tree branch across the water and all had good view of it eating the fish.



We had a trifecta of invasive species, Scaly-breasted Munia, Pin-tailed Whydah, and Swinhoe's White-eye. Other birds of note were three Red-shouldered Hawks hunting, a male Downy Woodpecker, a male Townsend's Warbler, Green Heron, Dark-eyed Junco, House Wren, a Western Tanager and several others. We left Central Park about 1:30 PM after a great day birding.



Photos courtesy of Jim McNamara