



Whittier Area Audubon Society

- **General Meeting:**
- **Bird Walk:: Sycamore Canyon 12/9 , 8am**
- **Field trip: 12/16 Bulmer Memorial Bird Walk Legg Lake**

We are a chapter of National Audubon Society



Audubon

Visit our website
www.whittieraudubon.org

- **Winter Birding: Weird Duck Time. Keep an eye out.**

GENERAL MEETING

December Program

Thursday, December 16,
2023 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Annual Photo Share and Cookie Potluck

This is your chance to show your favorite photos from this year. Bring a thumb drive with your photos and some holiday goodies to share. (Kindly limit your photos to 25)

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 for a link to the online meeting.

December Field Trips

Beginning Bird Walk, Sycamore Canyon

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

Dec 9, 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. **Leader: Linda Leroy**

Bulmer Memorial Bird Walk

Dec 16, 2023

Legg Lake, Saturday December 16, 8:00 am. Whittier Narrows Recreation Area parking lot, Santa Anita Ave.

Every December we memorialize the conservation efforts of one our late members, Thelma "Tim" Bulmer. A past president of Whittier Area Audubon, Tim was indefatigable in her efforts to protect and promote conservation of the Whittier Narrows habitat. In her honor our December field trip will be a stroll around Legg Lake to enjoy our Winter visitors and residents. . **Jay Oberholtzer leads.**

NOVEMBER'S RAIN DELAY

For those who were disappointed to miss the November field trip to the Chino Wetlands, Steve Huber is planning to return after his official retirement date. That should be early December. Please check our website for details.

Mailing Address:

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

CONSERVATION CHAIR REPORT: Whittier

Narrows Dam Modification Project

Kathleen Barry

Communication with the Army Corps of Engineers' biologist

The habitat restoration is moving along largely on schedule. Hydroseeding with a native vegetation mix will occur during the first week in December. This will cover the habitat extending south to Wells Road (excluding the city of Whittier's property) and possibly even on the other side of Wells Rd. (covering about 3/4 of the property). For the remaining portion requires more weeding done with a herbicide. The seeding will create an herbaceous/shrub understory. The current understory is mustard and castor bean which is invasive and not desirable. Hand weeding will start after the seeding.

The Nature Center will have an event in February. The hope is that



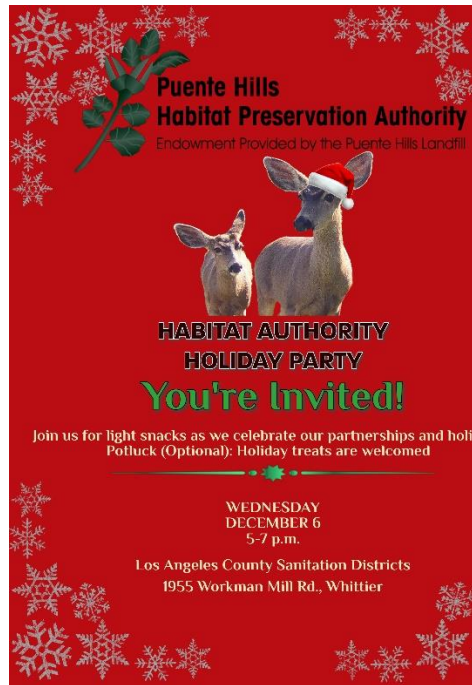
several volunteers from Audubon, the Nature Center Docents and other organizations can help that day to do weeding within the restored habitat. National River Day is on Feb 3rd and it will likely be on that day.

Update on the Final Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA)

The final SEA was released in October 2022. Whittier Area Audubon submitted several comments on the draft plan in January of 2023. Our concerns were about the use of the Santa Fe Dam area as the borrow site (borrowing material to use in other areas of the Narrows). The area is home to the unique alluvial fan scrub and the least Bell’s vireo, and we questioned how both would be managed. There will be hydroseeding of the area at completion of work with an alluvial fan scrub mix and this will be watered and maintained for 120 days after seeding. The Corps will be required to survey this area prior to construction and any listed plants would be flagged. There will also be survey of the least Bell’s vireo prior to any construction begins and none will occur during nesting season. Finally, we had concerns about the extensive amount of earth-moving and material removal from the borrow site and the impact on the topography and hydrology of the area. The Corps stated that they “will ensure post-project grading of the alluvial plain maintains pre-existing hydrologic flow channels.”

Save the date! The Habitat Authority is having a holiday gathering at the Sanitation Districts on December 6. Attached is the invitation with details.

Please RSVP here: <https://forms.gle/VV7a48VFxj4cyH8W6>



Blackbird, and Golden-winged Warbler—are identified as at a “Tipping Point.” If nothing changes, these birds, who have already lost at least half of their populations in the last 50 years, are on track to lose *another 50%* in the coming decades.

Birds are in a code-red crisis. And yet, we are not without hope. Using our proven combination of committed advocacy, empowering education, and expert on-the-ground conservation—all guided by science and grounded in our shared love for birds—we’ve been able to give species a better chance at survival. Look no further than the recovery of waterbirds and waterfowl: After 40 years of concerted wetland conservation efforts, these populations as a whole remain healthy—even while other species are in steep decline. From the Everglades to the Central Valley of California, Audubon’s efforts and partnerships have made a positive impact, and we’re not stopping there. Tackling a threat as big as this will take all of, we know the Audubon community can soar to birds’ defense.

CONSIDER INCLUDING NATIONAL AUDUBON IN YOUR YEAR-END GIVING

FROM NATIONAL AUDUBON:

“Urgent action is needed to help these birds before they become endangered.” That was the dire warning just one year ago in the State of the Birds report. More than half of U.S. bird species are in decline! And of those, 70 species—including the beloved Rufous Hummingbird, Tricolored