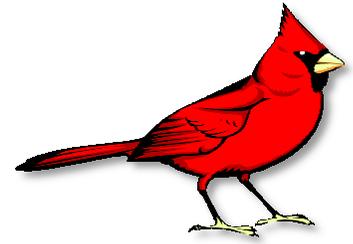


Final 2 Paper
Newsletters!

THE OBSERVER



Calendar

May 9. Beginner bird walk at Sycamore Canyon. Meet at the Sycamore Canyon trailhead at **7:00 AM**. The trail is located adjacent to Rose Hills Cemetery gate 17, but note that the trail is **not** in the cemetery! The entrance to Sycamore Canyon is a driveway just southwest of the entrance to the cemetery. Jay Oberholtzer leads. Rain or recent rain cancels.

May 16-17. Butterbredt Springs/Sequoia field trip. See page 2 for details.

May 21. Monthly meeting and program. Andrea Gullo from the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority will speak. Meeting starts at 7:30 PM at the Whittier Community Center. Details on page 3.

May 23. Field trip to Big Morongo Preserve. See page 2 for details.



whittieraudubon.org

A HUMMINGBIRD'S SHINING ARMOR

[From the National Audubon web site]

When a perched male Ruby-throated Hummingbird raises its head toward the sun at just the right angle, its throat glitters like a crimson spotlight. When it turns its head slightly, the bird's throat no longer gleams. It appears colorless, dark.

A hummingbird's brilliant throat feathers are called its "gorget" (pronounced gor-jit). The term comes from days of old, when a knight-in-armor wore a metallic collar—or gorget—to protect his throat. The hummingbird's intense glint is the result of iridescence, rather than colored pigments. The bird's throat feathers contain minutely thin, film-like layers of "platelets," set like tiles in a mosaic against a darker background. Light waves reflect and refract off the mosaic, creating color in the manner of sun glinting off oily film on water.

"There he goes! Diving in display toward the female. He plunges downward almost vertically, achieving tremendous speed. Then, he levels off and heads straight into the sun, which makes his gorget glow with iridescent brilliance." (The quote is from Alexander F. Skutch and Arthur B. Singer's *The Life of the Hummingbird*.)



END OF THE PAPER NEWSLETTER

Just a reminder that at the end of this chapter year in June we will cease sending out a paper newsletter unless you specifically request one. See the form on the back of this issue for instructions if you wish to continue receiving a paper Observer. Given our goal of being a conservation organization it is unconscionable for us to send out hundreds of paper newsletters each month. You can find the newsletter on our website at <http://whittieraudubon.org/newsletter/>. Note that we'll also save a bunch of money on printing and mailing, money that can be put to better use by the chapter.

TWO FIELD TRIPS IN MAY

MAY 16-17: BUTTERBREDT SPRINGS AND TRAIL OF A THOUSAND GIANTS, SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT.

Leader will be John Schmitt and Larry Schmahl.
 Accommodations: Please use Barewood Inn and Suites
 7013 Wofford Heights Blvd.
 Wofford Height Ca.
 760-376-1910



Wofford Heights is a community in the Lake Isabella area near Kernville. I have two rooms reserved at this Inn. One room has two twin beds and the other has a queen bed.

There will be a cost of \$10.00 per person as a tip for Mr. Schmitt.

Saturday, May 16 we will visit Butterbredt Springs. This is a premier migration stop for passerines on the dry desert slope of the Southern Sierra foothills. If it's windy, you can count on hundreds of birds. Hopefully, we will be in luck.

Sunday we will visit Sequoia National Monument for montane birds such as Pileated Woodpecker. Other trip birds should include Scott's Oriole and the birds of the Kern River Preserve.

This trip will be limited in size. Please let me know as soon as possible if you plan to attend. You will need to drive up on Friday night. We will be done early Sunday afternoon. Carpooling is strongly encouraged.

Please contact Larry Schmahl 562-714-1843 larschmahl@aol.com

MAY 23: BIG MORONGO PRESERVE

Leader will be Jay Oberholtzer.

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 and carpool/caravan, leaving at 6:00 AM sharp. It's close to a 2-hour drive, so we must leave promptly at 6:00. If you would rather meet us at Big Morongo, plan to rendezvous in the parking lot there at 8:00 AM.

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

Jay Oberholtzer will lead. Please let me know if you are coming. Either send an email or leave a message at my office, 562-945-2838.



MAY MEETING AND PROGRAM

By LINDA OBERHOLTZER

Andrea Gullo, Executive Director of the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (known as the "Habitat Authority") will be the guest speaker at the Whittier Area Audubon meeting on Thursday, May 21, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will take place at the Whittier Community Center, 7630 S. Washington Ave., Whittier, CA. 90602. The Community Center is on the corner of Mar Vista St. and Washington Ave. (not to be confused with Washington Blvd), across the street from the Whittier Public Library and next to a softball field. The program is free to the public and light refreshments will be served.

Andrea will be telling us about what is going on with the Habitat Authority and how we as a community can take advantage of the many recreational and educational opportunities offered.

Ms. Gullo has a Master's Degree in Urban Planning from UCLA and is the author of publications regarding human attitudes toward cougars. She is responsible for coordinating and supervising all agency activities including projects involving trails management, ranger services, outdoor education, resource management, finances and administration.

The Habitat Authority is dedicated to the acquisition, restoration and management of open space in the Puente Hills for preservation of the land in perpetuity, the primary purpose to protect the biological diversity. Additionally they provide opportunities for outdoor education and low-impact recreation.

The Habitat Authority has a board of directors consisting of the City of Whittier, County of Los Angeles, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County and the Hacienda Improvement Association.

The Habitat Authority is public agency which came into existence in 1994 as a condition of approval for the Puente Hills Landfill. The Habitat Authority's jurisdiction extends within eastern Los Angeles County approximately from the intersection of the 605 and 60 Freeways in the west to Harbor Boulevard in the east.

Approximately 3,870 acres of preserved public open space is managed by the Habitat Authority, of which 1,878 is owned by the Authority.

CORNELL LAB OF ORNITHOLOGY GLOBAL BIG DAY: MAY 9

The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, a great resource for birders everywhere, is staging a "global big day" on May 9. The goal is to raise \$500,000 for conservation and, with help from birders everywhere, to collectively tally 4,000 of the world's bird species in a single day. Quoting from their web site:

Please join the Cornell Lab's Team Sapsucker and Team Redhead for our first Global Big Day! We've set an ambitious goal to help the birds and we can do it with your involvement and support. Go birding wherever you are, for any length of time, on May 9 and enter your lists in eBird. Help us find as many species as possible for the Global Big Day tally and a worldwide show of support for the birds!

You can donate by going to their web site here: <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/wsb>



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JOIN WHITTIER AREA AUDUBON SOCIETY!

EVERY MEMBERSHIP SUPPORTS AUDUBON'S VITAL EFFORTS to protect birds, wildlife, and natural habitats. For \$30 per year you can support Whittier Area Audubon, receive 10 issues of our chapter newsletter, *The Observer*, and support our local projects and events.

To join our **local** chapter, make your check payable to Whittier Area Audubon and send it to Whittier Area Audubon, P.O. Box 548, Whittier, CA 90608-0548.

You can find your membership expiration date on the mailing label on your *Observer*.

PLEASE CHECK OUT OUR NEW AND IMPROVED WEBSITE! WHITTIERAUDUBON.ORG

We are moving away from a dead trees newsletter with the launch of an electronic newsletter and a fresh, new website. The most recent newsletter will be placed on our website whittieraudubon.org every month, with previous newsletters saved and archived for your enjoyment. If you wish, we will email you a copy of the newsletter directly to you. Simply go to our website and click GIVE AND JOIN and select Email List.

Printing and mailing costs have steadily risen over the years, and as advocates for wise stewardship of our natural resources, we cannot in good conscience continue to send out paper newsletters.

IF YOU WISH TO CONTINUE RECEIVING A PAPER NEWSLETTER IN THE MAIL YOU WILL HAVE TO REQUEST IT WITH THIS FORM. Detach and mail to Whittier Audubon, PO Box 548, Whittier, CA 90608-0548.

YES, Please continue sending me a paper newsletter through the mail.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Beginning in June 2015 we will no longer send out paper newsletters unless you opt in by mail.