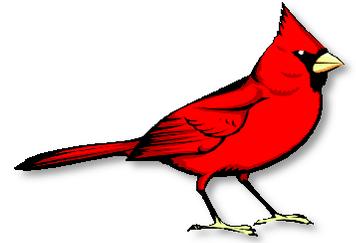


THE OBSERVER

www.whittieraudubon.org



Calendar

March 12. Beginner bird walk at Sycamore Canyon. Meet at the Sycamore Canyon trailhead at **8:00 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. Joan Powell and Jay Oberholtzer lead. Rain or recent rain cancels.

March 17. Annual Conservation Dinner. Claire Schlotterbeck will be our honoree for the evening. 6:00 PM at Hillcrest Church in La Habra Heights. See page 3 for details.

March 19-20. Weekend field trip to Carrizo Plain. See page 2 for details.



The Surprising Way Birds Are Trying To Dodge Climate Change

We humans have our ways of coping with climate change: We'll put down sandbags, escape pods, and even heat siphons to keep our homes from slipping away. But what about birds? How are they surviving bizarre rain patterns, extreme temperatures, and freak weather events?

Brooke Bateman has the answer to that. The post-doctorate ecologist from the University of Wisconsin, who once deciphered movements of Australian animals, wanted to figure out how breeding birds in North America were dealing with the havoc brought on by climate change. "How far and fast is climate change happening . . . that's what I needed to know," she says. With the help of scientists from Wisconsin and Australia, Bateman wove together climate data with location data for 285 North American species, and built models to show how rainfall, temperature, weather, and other variables affected every species' distri-

bution for every month of every breeding season from 1950 to 2011. Using the models as a reference, she then drew predictions on where the birds are ending up.

What do the models reveal?

There are two major curveballs in this study: First, birds are moving faster than we think, and second, they're going places where we don't suspect. Previous estimates had breeding ranges shifting by an average of .4 miles a year, but Bateman's work proves that some species are moving at twice that speed, up to as much as 3 miles a year. The quickest drifters include meat eaters, insect eaters, and species that forage high up in the canopy or at the bottom of the forest floor. Birds that are staying put include woodpeckers, hummingbirds, plant eaters, and non-migrants.

The direction of these movements is also unexpected. While the majority of the

species are flying northward (as predicted), more than a quarter of them are creeping westward—specifically to Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and South Dakota. The Tufted Titmouse, for example, is expanding into the Midwest and finding its niche in human-dominated landscapes. Hooded Warblers are moving in that direction as well, but they're more used to living in the thick forest understory, so adapting to the grasslands and wide-open plains will be a lot more difficult for them.

How does this study fit in with other related research?

In the continued saga of birds and climate change, findings like these can "help to complete the story," Gary Langham, Audubon's chief scientist, says. While the Audubon Birds and Climate Change Report predicts how breeding and wintering ranges may shift and shrink over the next century, Bateman's models take a deeper look at

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"birds have three options: they can move; stay and adapt; or stay and be wiped out."

what's causing the birds to relocate right now. And the snapshots from the past 60 years show that birds are already moving thanks to global warming. The responses, Langham says, are idiosyncratic: The birds aren't just moving northward, and they're not all magically adapting to their new surroundings.

The study's present-day, species-specific approach is also important because it highlights which birds need the most help. For instance, Bateman's models show that the Florida Scrub-Jay's thin slice of habitat is being squeezed even more tightly. The Audubon Climate Report's models point out that there will be other climate-suitable patches in California for these birds; but the jays probably won't be able

to find their way out there, Langham says. So rather than leaving species to adjust—or go extinct—on their own, humans will have to step in and give them a hand, by slowing down the pace of climate change and preserving critical landscapes.

Why is this helpful for conservation?

In Bateman's perspective, birds have three options: They can move; stay and adapt; or stay and be wiped out. Knowing which option a species will choose can help conservation groups, like the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pick out a rescue strategy. "We can put our money in places that have multiple species, and build connectivity between where the birds are and where they will be," Bate-

man says. Unfortunately, birds and people tend to love the same landscapes: In the study, areas that gained the most species were also hot spots for development. Saving these lands through acquisition is crucial, Bateman says.

The study also offers some foresight on which spaces need to be preserved for current and future generations of birds. "The big question is, can they create the next successful generation there?" Langham says. If they can't, humans might need to step in. "Heroic efforts [by people] could buy at least 10 more generations of birds," Langham says, "and that could be the difference in them being around."

March Field Trip

The Carrizo Plain is about 100 air miles north of Los Angeles near the communities of Taft and Maricopa. The area is officially known as the Carrizo Plain National Monument. It is home to Pronghorn Antelope, Tule Elk and, of great interest to us, many species of birds. Past trips have found Sandhill Cranes, Golden Eagles, Prairie Falcons, Long-billed Curlew, Mountain Bluebirds, Loggerhead Shrikes and many others. The Carrizo Plain is also the

best area in the State to view the effects of the San Andreas Fault.

This trip is very dependent upon the amount of rainfall that occurs. The past years of drought have dried out the vegetation in the Carrizo Plain to the point that the bird and animal life, at least last year, was heavily impacted. This year, we scheduled this trip thinking that all this talk of heavy winter rain would reinvigorate the Carrizo Plain.

I will make a scouting run the weekend before to see the condition of the Plain. Depending on that result, we may re-direct our plans. Watch the website. Be sure to let me know that you are coming, preferably by email. That way I can be sure of letting you know of any changes.

We will be going up on Friday night (March 18) and spending Friday and Satur-

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"Past trips have found Sandhill Cranes, Golden Eagles, Prairie Falcons, Long-billed Curlew, Mountain Bluebirds, Loggerhead Shrikes and many others"

Annual Conservation Dinner

The Annual Conservation Dinner will take place on March 17, 2016 at 6:00 pm.

The Whittier Area Audubon Society is proud to announce we will be honoring Claire Schlotterbeck with our annual Conservation Award at our Conservation Dinner. Each year we take the opportunity to acknowledge members of our greater community who have worked to preserve our environment through advocacy, education and leadership.

For over 30 years, Claire Schlotterbeck, Executive Director, Hills for Everyone has led the effort to protect and establish the 14,100 acre Chino Hills State Park, a park that lies at the juncture of four of California's most rapidly growing and urbanized counties, surrounded by 16 million people.

Claire has lived most of her life in Southern California. She has been a resident of Brea since 1978 and a long-time advocate for Chino

Hills State Park and the Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor. After moving her young family to Brea she worked with HFE founder David Myers, taking over as Executive Director and engaged in the fight to save the wilderness that is now Chino Hills State Park.

Claire is an appointed member of the Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority Advisory Committee, a joint powers authority that is working to connect the remaining natural lands in the Puente-Chino Hills.

Former Assemblyman Dick Ackerman selected Claire as Woman of the Year in the 72nd Assembly District in 1998. In August 2001, she was honored as one of six nationwide recipients of the Chevron Corporation Conservation Award. In March 2002, she was honored by the California State Park Ranger Association as the Honorary State Park Ranger of the Year. Claire is a recipient of the Sierra Club Los Angeles Chapter's 2015 Po-

litical Leadership Award.

Active in her own community, she helped create the Brea Senior Center and the Brea Community Center. Claire also serves as a Board Member of UCLA Uni-Camp, UCLA's official student charity. Ms. Schlotterbeck is also a consultant for the California State Parks Foundation, Laguna Greenbelt and Friends of Newport Coast.

Ms. Schlotterbeck received her bachelor's degree in Political Science from UCLA and her masters from Purdue University.

Location:

Hillcrest Church, 2000 West Road, La Habra Heights

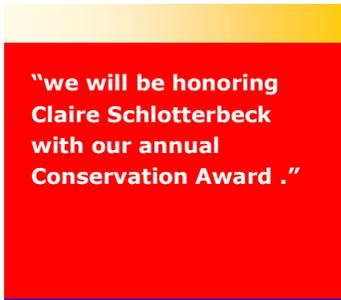
Reserve by mail for \$35 per person. Make your check payable to Whittier Area Audubon, and send it to:

Whittier Area Audubon
P.O. Box 548

Whittier, CA 90608-0548

Or reserve online at

<http://whittieraudubon.org/event/march-program/>



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day nights in Taft. Saturday will be spent on the Plain. There will be a wine and cheese party Saturday night. We will check out Sunday morning and depart eastward to either the Tule Elk Reserve State Park or the Buena

Vista Aquatic Recreation Area and head home on Interstate 5. Of course, you are free to depart whenever you need to. Be sure to bring your lunches for Saturday and Sunday and lots of water, a hat and sunscreen. Please arrange to car pool. The fewer cars the better while bird-

ing on the Plain.

I have made arrangements to stay at the Holland Inn and Suites, 531 Warren Street, Taft. 661.763.5211. They probably will not have room for all of us, so you may have to stay at one of the other motels in town. We will meet

at the parking lot of Holland Inn and Suites on Saturday morning, March 19, 2016 and leave at 7:00 a.m. If you are joining us, please let me know.

Jay Oberholtzer 562-945-2838 (office) or email at tvulture@earthlink.net.

Whittier Area Audubon

Whittier Area Audubon
PO Box 548
Whittier, CA 90608-0548

Whittier Area Audubon's web site is located at <http://www.whittieraudubon.org>. Our Yahoo group is called whittieraudubon. And we're on Facebook...search for Whittier Area Audubon!



YAHOO!

Bring Your Cans!

Reminder: Bring your aluminum cans to our monthly meetings. We can raise funds by recycling your cans.

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 and 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.

To join National Audubon, make your check payable to Audubon and send to National Audubon Society, PO Box 42250, Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250. Please include a letter with your name, mailing address, and any other personal contact information you wish to share (e.g., email address, phone number) along with Whittier Area Audubon Society's code, C4ZC170Z. As a member of National Audubon, you will receive Audubon's bimonthly magazine.

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