



# THE OBSERVER

WHITTIER AREA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

## From Audubon California: Endangered Birds on the Line

Recently, the Trump administration drastically weakened the Endangered Species Act, undermining one of the most successful environmental laws in our country's history.

Thankfully, California is poised to undo much of the damage. Urge your State Assembly member to VOTE YES for SB1 which will maintain protections for endangered birds and wildlife here in California.

The California Condors fought their way back when their numbers plunged to 25. The Peregrine Falcons fought near extinction from poisonings. The Snowy Plovers are fighting for every inch of beach. Birds know how to battle for their lives. And so does Audubon.

The Endangered Species Act is our nation's best tool for protecting wildlife. It's up to us to defend it and be the birds' steadfast ally through these unprecedented attacks. Urge your State Assembly member to VOTE YES for SB1 which

Welcome back to our monthly meetings. I hope your summer was pleasantly birdy.

will maintain protections for endangered birds and wildlife here in California.

We are a chapter of National Audubon



## KIDS SPACE Birding in a Box

We are designing a grant application and process to award Birding In A Box grants to teaching organizations for next year. The application and instructions will be on our website soon, so if you know any educational program that would like to use instant curricula, direct them to our website.

If you are unfamiliar with Birding In A Box Cathy Fricker and Jennifer Schmahl are designing BIRDING IN A BOX to present to teachers or afterschool staff to enhance the Audubon Adventures experience. In the Box: we have designed a journal for teachers/ leaders to use as a guide, a set of kid sized binoculars, a set of owl pellets to dissect, kits to build either a birdhouse or a bird feeder and a set of Audubon Adventures. This is meant for Out Of School or Afterschool programs or to enhance Post-Testing school programs. We are setting up a Donate option on our website to

sponsor a classroom Box.



Here's a sample of some of the artwork inspired by Audubon Adventures.

- **Salton Sea: Are We Losing Our Pelicans:**
- **General Meeting: Photographer Steve Kaye**
- **Kids Space: Birding in a Box Available soon**
- **Field trips: LA River, Sycamore Canyon and Zzyzx/Baker**
- **Field Trip report: Mt Pinos**
- **Birders Follies**

## GENERAL MEETING AND PROGRAM

September 19, 2019 at 7:30 pm

We are welcoming back a favorite presenter, Outdoor photographer Steve Kaye to share his excellent bird photos.

Thursday, Sept 19 Community Center, 7630 Washington Ave., Whittier, CA. at the corner of Washington Ave. (not to be confused with Washington Blvd.) and Mar Vista St.

## September Field Trips Extra: LA River Sept 7

We will meet at the Community Center parking lot at 7:00 am. From there we will travel to somewhere on the LA River depending on conditions. Bring water, wear hats. Scopes are helpful. Larry Schmahl leads.

## Beginning Bird Walk, Sycamore Canyon:

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

**Sept 14, 2019 7:00am**

### Sycamore Canyon Beginning Bird Walks

Meet at the Sycamore Canyon Trailhead. The trail is located adjacent to Rose Hills Cemetery gate 17. Rain or recent cancels the Canyon Walk, but we will choose another location. **Leader Larry Schmahl.**

## Desert Birding: Zzyzx/Baker

Larry Schmahl leads.

This will be desert birding at the tail end of Summer with Fall migration well underway. This should give us a good chance at migrant flycatchers, vireo and warblers as well as a wide variety of resident species.

**Depart at 5:00 a.m.** from the Whittier Community Center (Mar Vista and Washington)

Be prepared for high temperatures. Bring water, hat, sunscreen, lunch.

## JUNE TRIP REPORT

Mt. Pinos



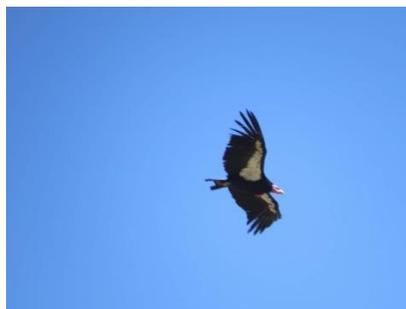
Steve and Elizabeth Huber scouted out lots of places, especially the optimal time and place to see California Condors!

We started out in Frazier Park birding the grounds around the Visitor Center. We saw Oak Titmouse, White breasted Nuthatch, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Western Wood Peewee, and assorted regulars. From there Steve led us to an abandoned campground, Mill Portrero. Lots of lovely wildflowers in bloom among the remains of a nice camping location.



We spotted Anna's Hummingbirds, Stellar's and California Scrub Jays, Pygmy Nuthatch, more White breasted Nuthatch and Western Wood Peewees, California and Spotted Towhees, Olive Sided Flycatcher, and glimpses of a California Quail.

From Mill Portrero we climbed up to the saddle where the Bittercreek Nat'l Wildlife Refuge sign is and got out hoping to catch the California Condors soaring, WHICH WE DID!



We spent at least 30 minutes watching several Condors sweeping across the hillside below us. We were extremely lucky to get a couple Condors soaring directly overhead, over the road, until

they all eventually caught auspicious thermals and glided out of sight.

Steve found a very nice campground for a lunch spot and then we ended our day at Mill Canyon Campground with some repeat birds and a Purple Finch. The weather was gorgeous, as was the scenery.



I'd like to introduce a new feature to The Observer. This is a collaboration of Larry and Monika Schmahl:

### Birders Follies



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