



THE OBSERVER

WHITTIER AREA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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We are a chapter of National Audubon Society



Audubon

Visit our website www.whittieraudubon.org

CONSERVATION GROUPS COORDINATE EFFORTS ON CITIZEN SCIENCE

FROM CORNELL LAB OF ORNITHOLOGY'S GBBC: We Want YOU in the Next GBBC

We love birds—you love birds. So it's fitting that the 2020 [Great Backyard Bird Count](#) (GBBC) begins on Valentine's Day, February 14, 2020, and continues through Monday, February 17. In newsletters we send from now through March, we'll do our best to get you ready for the count and pass along fun information about birds. The GBBC team at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Audubon, and Bird Studies Canada is getting everything ready for you and can't wait to see what your checklists reveal about birds around the world during the coming count!

Climate Watch Survey

Changes to climate and the environment continue to have an impact on birds all around the world. The National Audubon Society created its [Climate](#)

Conservation groups like Audubon, Cornell Lab of Ornithology and educational institutions have discovered that Citizen Scientists are providing valuable data through eBird and similar databases. They admit that experienced bird watchers are often better at observations than paid biologists. Please help by joining one or more of the citizen science projects, eBird, iNaturalist or others, and add your observations.

[Watch](#) project a few years ago to specifically track how birds may be responding to climate change. You participate by observing birds in your area at a specific time using a specific protocol. Scientists will then analyze the data. Take note: The next survey will take place from **January 15 through February 15, 2020**, and is open to anyone with an interest in birds.

According to Audubon's 2019 climate change report, *'Survival By Degrees,'* up to two-thirds of North American birds are vulnerable to extinction due to climate change. The good news is that there are [plenty of opportunities to protect birds](#) from this existential threat, and Audubon members have been leading the way for years. In 2014, after the publication of Audubon's first climate change report, thousands of people asked how they could help make the world a better place for birds, and Climate Watch was born. You can join us in this fight by observing birds in your area, using our specific protocol, and helping us learn about how birds

- **Conservation Groups and Citizen Science**
- **General Meeting: PHOTO SHARE**
- **Kids Space: Birding in a Box Grants available, Winter feeders for kids**
- **Field trips: Sycamore Canyon and Tim Bulmer Memorial Bird Walk**
- **Coming Attractions for January**

are responding to the changing climate.

Go to Audubon.org/Conservation/Climate-watch for how to help.

Christmas Bird Count Turns 120!

The National Audubon Society's 120th Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is set to take place from **December 14, 2019, through January 5, 2020**, all across the U.S. and Canada. CBC is the longest-running community science project in the Western Hemisphere. You can join tens of thousands of volunteers who take part in their local counts and make a vital contribution to science and bird conservation. Explore how Christmas Bird Count data are used to highlight bird population trends.

Our own Linda Oberholtzer helps coordinate the local circle in Orange County

KIDS SPACE Birding in a Box

We Have begun taking applications to award Birding In A Box grants to teaching organizations for next year. The

application and instructions will be on our website, so if you know any educational program that would like to use instant curricula, direct them to our website.

. Now is a great time to make homemade bird feeders to welcome our winter visitors. The easiest feeder is a empty toilet paper roll, smeared with peanut butter and rolled in bird seed. Attach a colorful piece of yarn to the top and hang near a window to enjoy the show.

This is also the season to point out visiting birds. Most kids do not realize that Whittier might be the South-for-the-Winter for many species

GENERAL MEETING AND PROGRAM

**DECEMBER 19, 2019 at
7:30 pm**

PHOTO SHARING!

Many of our members are very fine amateur photographers. Our December general meeting is traditionally a photo share evening. Bring some of your favorite photos on a thumb drive or CD and Jay Oberholtzer will perform computer magic to put your picture on the big screen. When choosing your offerings, remember that we want the time to see everyone's pictures, so **PLEASE OBSERVE A 25 PICTURE LIMIT.**

As usual, our Whittier Area Audubon meeting will be Thursday, December 19, 2019 at 7:30p.m. in the Whittier Community Center, 7630 Washington Ave., Whittier, CA. The Community Center is located at the corner of Washington Ave. (not to be confused with Washington Blvd) and Mar Vista St., across the street from the Whittier Central Library. The

program is free and light refreshments will be served.

December Field Trips

Beginning Bird Walk, Sycamore Canyon:

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

Dec 14, 2019 8:00am 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 Linda Oberholtzer.**

TIM BULMER MEMORIAL BIRD WALK

**December 21, 2019
Whittier Narrows Nature Center**

Larry Schmahl leads.

Larry Schmahl, our Chapter's President, will lead our yearly bird walk from the Whittier Narrows Nature Center. This tradition began with an invitation to a local journalist, the late Bill Bell, from his neighbor, the late Thelma Bulmer, a past chapter president, as a way to show our city that yes, indeed, Whittier has wild birds. Let's see who is in town for the winter.

Light refreshments will be served at the Center after the walk.

Mailing Address:
Whittier Area Audubon Society
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A LOOK AHEAD TO JANUARY

Antelope Valley Hawk Watch Field Trip, Saturday, January 4, 2020

Larry Schmahl will lead our annual Hawk Watch to the Antelope Valley Sunday, Jan 4. An all-day drive around Antelope Valley in search of winter hawks. Expect cold and wind. Larry leads.

January 18, 2020

Local Settling Basins to check for wintering waterfowl and other visitors
Larry Schmahl leads

January 25-26, 2020

Overnight trip to Salton Sea. Jay Oberholtzer leads. Contact the Townhouse Inn & Suites 135 Main Street, Brawley, CA 92227 (760-344-5120) for accommodations. Jay's email: tvulture@earthlink.net

January Program

Larry and Jennifer Schmahl recently visited Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego.

They will share their pictures and photos at the January General Meeting. Penguins AND Flamingos? Sí.

