



THE OBSERVER

WHITTIER AREA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Visit our website www.whittieraudubon.org

From Cornell Lab of Ornithology: US Has Lost 3 Billion Birds Since 1970

A new study finds steep, long-term losses across virtually all groups of birds in the U.S. and Canada

The first-ever comprehensive assessment of net population changes in the U.S. and Canada reveals across-the-board declines that scientists call “staggering.” All told, the North American bird population is down by 2.9 billion breeding adults, with devastating losses among birds in every biome. Forests alone have lost 1 billion birds. Grassland bird populations collectively have declined by 53%, or another 720 million birds.

Common birds—the species that many people see every day—have suffered the greatest losses, according to the study. More than 90% of the losses (more than 2.5 billion birds) come from just 12

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

families including the sparrows, blackbirds, warblers, and finches.

The losses include favorite species seen at bird feeders, such as Dark-eyed Juncos (or “snowbirds,” down by 168 million) and sweet-singing White-throated Sparrows (down by 93 million). Eastern and Western Meadowlarks are down by a combined 139 million individuals. Even the beloved Red-winged Blackbird—a common sight in virtually every marsh and wet roadside across the continent—has declined by **This Is a Problem Everyone Can Solve**

7 Simple Ways to Help Birds

- 1. Make Windows Safer, Day and Night

Simple adjustments to your windows can save birds' lives.

- 2. Keep Cats Indoors
Indoor cats live longer, healthier lives. Outdoor cats kill more birds than any other non-native threat.
- 3. Reduce Lawn by Planting Native Species

The U.S. has 63 million acres of lawn. That's a huge potential for supporting wildlife.

- 4. Avoid Pesticides

- **BIRD APOCALYPSE: We've lost 3 Billion birds**
- **General Meeting: Climate Change**
- **Kids Space: Birding in a Box Available**
- **Field trips: Sycamore Canyon and LA River,**

Look for organic food choices and cut out some of the 1 billion pounds of pesticides used in the U.S. each year.

- 5. Drink Coffee That's Good for Birds

Shade-grown coffees are delicious, economically beneficial to farmers, and help more than 42 species of North American songbirds.

- 6. Protect Our Planet From Plastics

91% of plastics are not recycled, and they take 400 years to degrade.

- 7. Watch Birds, Share What You See

Bird watchers are one of science's most vital sources of data on how the ecological world is faring. 92 million birds.

We are a chapter of National Audubon



KIDS SPACE Birding in a Box

We will be rolling out 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, 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.

GENERAL MEETING AND PROGRAM

October 17 2019 at 7:30 pm

“Behind the Scenes of the Global Warming Crisis: What You Don’t Hear in the News” will be the topic of the **Whittier Area Audubon Meeting on Thursday, October 17, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. at the Whittier Community Center, 7630 Washington Ave.**, not to be confused with Washington Blvd.), Whittier, CA. The Community Center is located on the corner of Washington Ave. and Mar Vista St., across the street from the Whittier Public Library Central Branch and next to a softball field.

The speaker is Craig Hover, author and engineer, will tell us why the global warming crisis is more imminent than the experts are willing to divulge, how existing off

the shelf technologies can be widely deployed to solve the global warming problem while still preserving our lifestyle. He will discuss why the Arctic is “ground zero” for global warming, why currently-promoted efforts to curb global warming are largely ineffective, along with what really ended the drought in the Southwest. The program is free to the public and light refreshments will be served..

October Field Trips

Beginning Bird Walk, Sycamore Canyon:

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

Oct 12, 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 Steve Huber.**

Birding the Los Angeles River

Linda Leroy leads.

We will be checking various places along the Los Angeles River for migrants and winter residents. Please meet at the Community Center for a 7:30 departure. Bring water, hat, sunscreen and lunch.

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