



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

Victory! Audubon-Sponsored Bill Protecting California's Migratory Birds Signed into Law

AB 454 ensures state-based protections for migratory birds in the face of federal rollbacks.

From California Audubon's Audublog

California Governor Gavin Newsom signed a bill strengthening the state's protections for migratory birds beyond those specified under federal law, including the Endangered Species Act. Assembly Bill 454 clarifies existing state safeguards for native birds and closes loopholes where California law defers to federal law, which has been severely weakened by the Trump administration. AB 454 amends sections of California's Fish and Game Code that may be interpreted to defer the

From the Editor: As we approach the holiday season Southern California switches from Summer resident birds to Winter visitors. We are truly fortunate to experience a rich bird environment all year. Come to our general meeting and share your birding surprises and find out what others are seeing.

state's authority to prohibit the killing of birds to the federal government. The new law is a step by California officials to block the effect of the Trump administration reversal of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

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.

If you are unfamiliar with Birding In A Box Cathy Fricker and Jennifer Schmahl have designed BIRDING IN A BOX to present to teachers or afterschool staff to enhance the Audubon Adventures experience. In the Box: we have include 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

- **CALIFORNIA Governor signs AB 454**
- **General Meeting: Whittier Narrows Update**
- **Kids Space: Birding in a Box Grants available**
- **Field trips: Sycamore Canyon and South Coast Botanic Garden**
- **October Field Trip Report**

Donate option on our website to sponsor a classroom Box.

GENERAL MEETING AND PROGRAM

November 14, 2019 at 7:30 pm

"What's new with Whittier Narrows Natural Area" will be the topic presented by Thomas Keeney, at our Whittier Area Audubon meeting on Thursday, November 14, 2019 at 7:30 p.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.

Please note that our program is one week earlier than we normally meet.

Thomas Keeney will discuss the Whittier Narrows Dam Safety Modification Study which is a Corps of Engineers project which will be restoring riparian and coastal sage breeding habitats, and long-term monitoring for Least Bell's Vireo and California Gnatcatcher. Keeney is the Senior Terrestrial Ecologist /Biological Sciences Manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, Planning Division, Environmental Resources Branch. He is also an adjunct professor of ecology at the University of the West in Rosemead, CA. He takes students to the Whittier Narrows Natural Area as one of the places where they perform field ecology.

November 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 Jay Oberholtzer.**

SOUTH COAST BOTANICAL GARDENS November 21, 2019

Palos Verdes Peninsula

Jay Oberholtzer leads.

Admission to the gardens is \$9 Adults and \$6 Seniors. Please meet at the Community Center for an 8:00 am departure. Bring

water, hat, sunscreen and lunch.

South Coast Botanic Gardens:
26300 Crenshaw Boulevard
Palos Verdes Peninsula,
California 90274

From their website:

Picnics are now allowed within the garden, in designated spaces. Please check at Guest Services for the daily picnic area. You may also use our picnic area, located in the southwest corner of the parking lot. Guests are welcome to take informal, candid photography for personal use without a fee or special permission.

<https://southcoastbotanicgarden.org/>

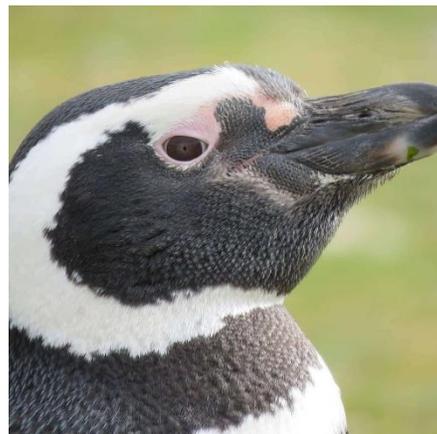
October Field Trip Report

On October 19, 8 Whittier Area Audubon birders were joined by a couple we have not seen for a while, Pat & John from Pomona Audubon.

We went to 2 destinations on the LA River, and saw a few good birds, although the bird activity was in general low on the river at this time. We spent a couple hours at Willow, and a few birds had arrived that we did not see in early Sept. Steve, Pat & John found us a Wilson's Snipe, and he was very cooperative feeding right near us at the edge of the river. Linda found a Dunlin south of the Willow bridge, and there were good looks at an Osprey, and 3 species of teal. We had both yellowlegs, both phoebes, and a nice flyby Belted Kingfisher.

Our 2nd stop was a new park to us, Ralph Dills Park, along the river south of Rosecrans. Everyone enjoyed the park atmosphere, plantings, and there were lots of birds, but the 'usual suspects'. As the group size dwindled, we ate lunch and wrapped up the field trip. We all agreed it was great to get out birding with the Audubon!

--Linda LeRoy



Here's a small preview of a future presentation about our recent trip to Punta Arenas and Tierra del Fuego.

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