



THE OBSERVER

WHITTIER AREA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Visit our website www.whittieraudubon.org

GOOD NEWS FOR BIRDS

From American Bird Conservancy:

Today, the New York City Council approved [Proposed Initiative 1482B](#) — to date, the most broad-reaching bird-friendly building policy in the country. The new policy requires that new buildings' materials meet bird-friendly standards that greatly reduce collision risks to birds. The policy also covers major renovations that include modifying existing glass, and applies to construction across the city's five boroughs. "[Bird-friendly building design](#) should not be seen as an add-on or an extra," said Dr. Christine Sheppard, [Glass Collisions Program](#) Director for American Bird Conservancy. "Many strategies for controlling heat, light, and even security can be bird-friendly strategies, too. These can be incorporated into almost any building style, but should be built into project design from the outset to minimize additional costs. That's why this kind of legislation is so important."

"This bill is a compromise forged by our diverse consortium, which wrestled with and reconciled competing interests of many sorts — design, light, height, use, location, cost, bird mortality...."

Great Backyard Bird Count is coming in February. *Every February, count for as little as 15 minutes in your own backyard to help expand our understanding of birds.*

The 23rd annual GBBC will be held Friday, February 14, through Monday, February 17, 2020. Please visit the official website at birdcount.org for more information and be sure to check out the latest [educational and promotional resources](#).

It's a huge leap forward for long-term conservation," said Kathryn Heintz, NYC Audubon Executive Director. "It will reduce collisions and save migratory birds whose numbers are declining dramatically. As a whole community, we must do better for the future, better for the sustainability of urban living, and better for the health of both birds and people."

"It's our ethical responsibility as members of the building industry to address the role of glass in bird population decline," said Dan Piselli, AIA, LEED AP, CPHD, Director of Sustainability at FXCollaborative. "This informed our strategy for renovating the [Jacob K. Javits Convention Center](#) in 2013." Once identified by NYC Audubon as the city's top bird-killing building, it was renovated with the goal of not only making the facility more transparent and welcoming, but also making it bird-friendly. New glass incorporated patterns that birds perceive as an obstacle and that also reduce cooling costs. Bird deaths have dropped by 90 percent and the building now uses less energy since the renovations were completed.

- **Good News: Bird Friendly Architecture in NYC**
- **General Meeting: Birding Chile**
- **Kids Space: Birding in a Box Grants**
- **Field trips: Sycamore Canyon, Speaking Basins, Salton Sea**

"The materials and techniques that prevent bird collisions are already commonly used for a variety of reasons in our buildings; this legislation mandates their use in ways that also protect birds in cost effective ways," said Benjamin Prosky, Assoc. AIA, Executive Director of AIANY and the Center for Architecture

A [recent study published in Science](#) reported that the U.S. and Canadian breeding bird population dropped by more than one-quarter since 1970. Glass collisions are one major cause of this loss, killing up to 1 billion birds in the U.S. each year. According to NYC Audubon's Project Safe Flight, 90,000 to 230,000 birds die each year during their migrations through New York City alone. Fortunately, both home and commercial windows can easily be made safe for birds.

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.

GENERAL MEETING AND PROGRAM

**JANUARY 16, 2020 at
7:30 pm**

Patagonia and Tierra Del Fuego
Chapter President Larry Schmahl and his wife Jennifer recently traveled to Punta Arenas, Chile for a birding tour around Patagonia. They will share some of the images from their trip.

Our Whittier Area Audubon General Meeting will be Thursday, January 16, 2020 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.



January Field Trips

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.

We will leave the Community Center parking lot at 6:00 am. You can meet up with the group at the Carl's Jr at the Interstate 14 Avenue K exit at 8:00 am Larry Schmahl leads.

Beginning Bird Walk, Sycamore Canyon:

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

January 11, 2020 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 Larry Schmahl.**

January 18, 2020

January's field trip will be to our nearby settling basins known as the San Gabriel River Coastal Basin Spreading Grounds in Pico Rivera. These basins are between Whittier and Washington Boulevards and directly adjacent to the west side of the San Gabriel River. The basins have hosted numerous rare birds over the years. This will be a relatively easy walking field trip on flat, paved roadways.

Provided there is water in the basins, there should be many species of ducks and geese, gulls, shorebirds, sparrows and finches, and perhaps a rare bird or two. Meet at the Whittier Community Center at 7:00 am for a short drive to the basins. Scopes will be very helpful. Check the weather report the night before. If the basins are dry, be prepared for a plan B to another location. Larry Schmahl leads

January 25-26, 2020 Overnight Trip to Salton Sea

This is a great wintering spot for just about every bird there is. Between

flooded fields, a huge, foul-smelling body of water, acres of disgusting mud, all surrounded by a desert hell-hole, anyone can see that it is a great place for birds. We will meet, and leave promptly from the Townhouse Inn & Suites 135 Main Street, Brawley, CA 92227 (760-344-5120) (formerly known as the Brawley Motel) at **7:30 a.m. on Saturday morning, January 25.** We will caravan through a bunch of places, stopping for lunch when the time is right. Bring a sack lunch for Saturday and for Sunday. Saturday evening, we will definitely have our traditional roadside wine and cheese party, so bring something for that. We will try for a spot where we can watch the Sandhill Cranes come in to roost. Sunday, we will leave at the same time and bird our way in the general direction of home.

This area in winter is great for raptors, shore birds and all kinds of migrants. It is just south enough that all kinds of rarities show up. Because the ecology is so varied, we can expect to see a lot of species. Some of the roads will be unpaved, but should be fine for passenger cars with average clearance. It is probably best to leave the Ferrari at home.

This trip is weather sensitive. Many of the roads will be dirt and, if too wet, may not be passable. Please let me know if you are coming. I will send out emails to those who have let me know they are attending, if there are any last minute adjustments/cancellations. Jay's email: tvulture@earthlink.net

Mailing Address:

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