



# THE OBSERVER

WHITTIER AREA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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March 2020

We are a chapter of National Audubon Society



# Audubon

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

## 2020 CITY NATURE CHALLENGE

This year marks the 5th anniversary of the City Nature Challenge, an international effort to document nature in cities. From **April 24 to 27, 2020**, people in over 200 cities around the world will use cameras and smartphones to share observations of wild plants and animals. Each observation contributes to an open database of urban nature that will be used by scientists and naturalists all over the world.

### How to Participate

**Step 1:** Find wildlife - Anywhere in L.A. County

**Step 2:** Take photos of **WILD** plants & animals.

**Step 3:** Share Your observations in the iNaturalist App. OR post on social media with #NatureinLA. If they're not wild, be sure to mark them as captive/cultivated!

**Step 4:** Help identify what everyone found from April 28 to May 3. (see Page 2)

## 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

### Coming in Spring

Spring brings migration, both out of our area and summer residents returning. Looking forward to April Los Angeles will again take part in the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual City Nature Challenge. More below.

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 CONSERVATION AWARD DINNER

**March 19, 2020 at 6:00 pm**

Our annual Conservation Dinner will be Thursday night March 19 from 6:00pm to 9:00pm. This is in lieu of our monthly general meeting and will be at Hillcrest Congregational Church 2000 West Rd, La Habra Heights, CA 90631. Our 2020 Conservation Award Honoree is Colleen MacKay, Director of the Whittier Narrows Nature Center. Colleen has brought her animal ambassadors to numerous classrooms and events to educate our communities about the wild life that shares our neighborhoods. Colleen will be sharing some of her experiences in Education Outreach (and hopefully we will get a visit from some of her animals, too.)

We will be serving dinner from Lascari's, accompanied by live

- **Citizen Science in Greater Los Angeles**
- **General Meeting: Annual Conservation Dinner Honoring Colleen MacKay**
- **Kids Space: Birding in a Box Grants**
- **Field trips: Sycamore Canyon, San Joaquin Marsh, Butterbreth Spr.**
- **Field trip report: Bolsa Chica**
- **Conservation Dinner ticket order form**

music provided by our own Letty Brooks and her group String Picnic. Tickets are \$35 each and you can pay on our website with PayPal or with a check (see back page). Come out to support our educational outreach to local schools.

## March Field Trips

### Beginning Bird Walk, Sycamore Canyon:

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

**March 14, 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 Steve Huber.**

## March 21, 2020

### San Joaquin Marsh

San Joaquin Marsh located in Irvine. The address is 5 Riparian View, Irvine. This is great place to see a wide variety of water birds along with rails, raptors and just about anything that flies anywhere in Orange County. It is a leisurely stroll through a well-designed and maintained facility. A perfect place to spend an early spring morning.

Bring water, lunch, sunscreen, a hat, and binoculars. A scope will be very handy. We'll have lunch at the picnic tables located near the Duck Club buildings. We will carpool from the Whittier Community Center (Mar Vista and Washington in uptown Whittier) at 6:30 AM. If you prefer to meet us there, plan on being at the Duck Club around 7:30. **Steve Huber will lead.**

## May Field Trip

### Butterbredt Springs May 22-24, 2020

WAAS will be birding the Kernville area with John Schmitt. Space is extremely limited. Please email Larry Schmahl to see if there are still spaces available: larschmahl@aol.com

## Field trip report: Feb 22, 2020

### Bolsa Chica

On Feb 22, Linda, Jim, John, and Jeff took a chance and went to Bolsa Chica with the weather predicting rain. It was pretty cold and windy, but the rain held off until the walk back toward the bridge. The tide was very high which kept some birds, like hundreds of Black-bellied Plovers in the back areas, but there were lots

of winter birds. Hundreds of Brant were scattered all over the full tidal area. Eighteen Canada eese were a nice surprise. Lots of shorebirds too, especially Willets and Marbled Godwits. Three Osprey were very active nearby, maybe a courting type activity; there is a nest visible on a power pole just to the south. Lots of ducks were around, large numbers of Ruddy Ducks and American Wigeons. Male and female Red-breasted Mergansers showed, and one Reddish Egret was very photogenic. We walked just a little on the mesa, and said goodbye to Jeff who had parked up on top. And then it did begin to rain lightly, and we headed back along PCH. As we reached the parking lot, the rain had stopped and we wanted to recheck for Ridgeway's Rails & Mountain Plover which we had missed initially. Still no rails, but we got over to the least tern nesting area, and right away I saw the Mountain Plover! He is so cooperative when there, and we had super close looks. We talked to the volunteer who was digging up any vegetation, priming the habitat for Least Terns. We had 51 species, and kept a group ebird list as is recommended, and 'shared' the list. We were all glad we went to Bolsa Chica—Linda Leroy

## City Nature Challenge (from Page 1)

Los Angeles has done well recently. Some results from 2019:

### The winners in the big three categories were:

- Observations: Cape Town, South Africa with 53,763 observations
  - Species: Cape Town, South Africa with 4,588 species
  - People: San Francisco, CA, USA with 1,947 observers
- LA made the top 10 for each category!**
- Observations: 34,125 (9th place)

- Species: 3,249 (4th place)
- People: 1,555 (2nd place)

**Altogether, Los Angeles did tremendously well. Some of the highlights include:**

- Los Angeles had the greatest increase in number of observations over last year: an increase of 14,702 observations!
- Los Angeles had the greatest increase in number of people observing over last year: an increase of 700 people!
- Over 1/3 of our observers were new to iNaturalist in the two weeks before CNC began!
- **This year we need your help to take the top US spot.**

## Whittier Area Audubon Society 2018 Conservation Dinner

\_\_\_\_\_ will be attending

\_\_\_\_\_ tickets @ \$35 each

Total enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Send to:

Whittier Area Audubon  
PO Box 548  
Whittier, CA 90608-0548

Mailing Address:

Whittier Area Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 548  
Whittier, CA 90608-0548