



THE OBSERVER

Volume 82, Issue 9, May 2024

Whittier Area Audubon Society

- **General Meeting: Ecuador**
- **Bird Walk: Sycamore Canyon**
- **Field Trip Chino Creek Wetlands**

We are a chapter of National Audubon Society



Visit our website
www.whittieraudubon.org

Join us in Sycamore Canyon for our Beginning Bird Walks! The entrance is on Workman Mill Rd. just south of Rose Hills Gate 17. Be prompt as we are required to lock the gate behind us.

GENERAL MEETING

May Program

Thursday, May 16, 2024

7:30 PM 9:00 PM



Northern Ecuador by Larry and Jennifer Schmahl



Larry and Jennifer will share stories and pictures from their recent nature tour of Northern Ecuador.

Admission is free.

It will be a hybrid meeting--It is your preference: Join in person or online.

In person: the meeting will take place at the **Whittier Community Center, located at 7630 Washington Ave. Whittier.**

Online: [please RSVP here](#) and we will send you a link to the meeting.
The program is free and open to the public.
Visit our website or contact web@whittieraudubon.org for a link to the online meeting.



Mailing Address:

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

May Field Trips Beginning Bird Walk, Sycamore Canyon

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

May 11, 2024, 7:00am

Chino Wetlands and Burrowing Owls

May 16, 2024

Saturday, May 16, 2024

7:00 am at the Community Center, meet at College Park Ave. 7:45 am



We be visiting the burrowing owl preserve next to the Chino Chaffey College campus and then on to the Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park. We will finish the day with lunch at the wetlands.

Meet: We will be leaving the Whittier Community Center at 7:00 AM. Alternatively, meet us at the College Park Avenue parking lot at Ruben Ayala Park at 7:45 AM.

Bring: Your birding equipment, cameras, water and lunch if you are joining us.

Trip Leader: Nathan and Steve Huber



We planned our now annual fieldtrip to Bear Divide in order to coincide with what we hoped would be the height of Spring migration.

Most of us arrived around 7AM to find that once again, the area was shrouded in fog. It was cold but at least it wasn't windy.

We stood on the edge of the slope, facing what we hoped would be an onslaught of migrants. There were a few ghost like images flying by but mostly there was fog. A few of us hiked up the Bear Divide Trail and got above the mist. There were birds flying by but the fog kept overtaking us. Eventually we retreated to the cars.

Photo by Larry Schmah



Steve Huber stated that there had been many reports of Lewis's Woodpeckers a few miles away on Placerita Canyon Road. We drove down and found a good turn out with an excellent view of the canyon. Soon we had multiple Lewis's Woodpeckers in the scope. There were also good numbers of migrating birds as

well. Most likely the same birds we missed in the fog of Bear Divide.

By the time we left Placerita Canyon for home, we had seen multiple Ash-throated Flycatchers, Western Flycatchers, Western Kingbirds, Western Tanagers and Warbling Vireos to name a few.

Placerita Canyon saved what would have been a very foggy field trip.

From National Audubon

April was a busy month! Last week, we shared the terrific news that the [Migratory Birds of the Americas Conservation Enhancement Act was signed into law](#). Over 37,740 Audubon members took 54,700 actions, resulting in 110,000 emails to Congress on this act. Thank you for taking action and sharing the alert with your members!

Together we made progress for birds on many fronts in April. Here's a roundup of some of the important issues that collectively we've been working on in the U.S.:

New Department of the Interior regulations will strengthen protections for 13 million acres in the **National Petroleum Reserve—Alaska**—and open the door for creating more "Special Areas" to protect this critical landscape and Alaska Native communities.

Senate recently passed bipartisan legislation strengthening the **Coastal Barrier Resources Act**, which would provide protections along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts.

Bicameral legislation introduced by Senators Alex Padilla and Laphonza Butler (both D-CA) and Congressman Raúl Ruiz (D-CA-25) would designate a new **Chuckwalla National Monument** in the California Desert.

The **Bureau of Land Management (BLM)** is requesting public input as they work to finalize management plans for more than 67 million acres of public lands where most of the sage-grouse are found. The deadline to comment is June 13

Under the leadership of our Birds Georgia chapter, 506 members in Georgia submitted comments to protect the **Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge** (the largest blackwater swamp in the United States) from a proposed titanium mine nearby

ALSO:

[The Bird Migration Explorer Toolkit is Ready for Spring Migration](#)

Celebrate and spread the joy of spring migration with the Bird Migration Explorer! Updated just in time for spring, the Bird Migration Explorer Toolkit includes ideas for social copy, videos, images, social graphics, and more. As always, the posts included in this toolkit are examples. You are welcome to use these as-is or create your own based on your region or conservation issues of interest.

LIGHTS OUT is being advocated all along America's flyways. You can do your part by turning off unnecessary outdoor lights and putting decals on your windows.