



# THE OBSERVER

Volume 80, Issue 8, April 2022

## Whittier Area Audubon Society

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

- **General Meeting: Birds v Oil**
- **Bird Walk:: Sycamore Canyon**
- **Extra: Bear Divide**
- **Field trip: Monterey and Elkhorn Slough**

We are a chapter of National Audubon Society



### GENERAL MEETING

[www.whittieraudubon.org](http://www.whittieraudubon.org)

**April Program: Dave Weeshoff on Birds vs. Oil**

**Thursday, April 21, 2022  
HYBRID MEETING**

**7:30 PM to 9:00 PM**

Birds vs. Oil will be presented by Dave Weeshoff of Pasadena Audubon and volunteer at International Bird Rescue, a look at oil spills - their causes, consequences, response activities, and prevention. The recent Huntington Beach oil spill will be used as an example. Dave has been a volunteer at International Bird Rescue, San Pedro, for 17 years where he assists the Staff in the rehabilitation of sick, injured, orphaned and oiled aquatic birds. IBR is a world leader in oil spill response and has been active in over 230 oil spills world-wide in their

WAAS has been communicating with the Army Corp. of Engineers about their plans and progress with restoration of habitat around the Whittier Dam. We will keep you posted

50 year history. They operate two world-class facilities in California as well as an emergency response facility in Anchorage, Alaska. He has participated in 5 oil spill responses, and consistently maintains his skills and knowledge through seminars, trainings and hands-on activities. The Whittier Area Audubon Society general meeting and program will be a hybrid presentation Thursday, April 21, 2022 at 7:30 pm. Attend as you prefer, either in person at the Whittier Community Center, located at 7630 Washington Ave. Whittier. Please wear a mask, or join online. The program is free and open to the public.

**Please RSVP at  
[web@whittieraudubon.org](mailto:web@whittieraudubon.org) to  
receive a link**

### Field Trips

#### Beginning Bird Walk, Sycamore Canyon

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

**April 9, 2022, 7:00am**

We are back 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.

#### BEAR DIVIDE

**APRIL 16, 2022**

**Be there at 6:30 AM**

Take I-5 north and Exit 162 CA N14. Take Exit 3 Placerita Canyon Rd. and turn right for 5 miles. Turn right onto

Sand Canyon Rd. 3 miles. Turn right onto Forest Route 3N17 (Santa Clara Truck Trail) 2 tenths of a mile. Find all the field ornithologists counting migrating birds.

This is a narrow canyon and migrating birds are funneled through the divide. Occidental College recently discovered this location and started tabulating bird migration.

## Overnighter to Monterey / Elkhorn Slough

**Saturday, April 23, 2022,  
2:00 PM to Sunday,  
April 24, 2022, 3:00 PM  
Jay Oberholtzer leads**

This trip will be a unique adventure for most of us. We will start on Saturday at various spots in the general area of the Elkhorn Slough. This will cover a wide range of habitats. There is the possibility of a short docent-led tour on Saturday morning in the Elkhorn Slough national wildlife refuge. If that docent led tour is going to work out, I need to know how many people will attend. Therefore it is important that you let me know, as soon as possible, if you plan on attending. This information will also become important for our Sunday pelagic tour.

There is more than a full day's supply of stops in the Elkhorn Slough area, alone. Additional time permitting, we will try for the Point Lobos area as well. Where



the Slough meets the Monterey Bay, there are strong possibilities of sea otters, loons as well as a large supply of assorted shorebirds. Just about everything that one would expect in grasslands, tide pools and riparian habitat seem to be reported in the area of the Slough.

Sunday is scheduled for a pelagic tour in Monterey Bay. The cost of that trip is \$150. The space has to be reserved. Therefore, if you want to attend the pelagic tour, please let me know right away and I will generate a list of those who are attending. The trip is expected to last about eight hours. The website for this place has several addresses.

One is [gowhales.com](http://gowhales.com). The other is [Montereyseabirds.com](http://Montereyseabirds.com). Please let me know, right away, if you want to attend this pelagic trip.

**GET YOUR ROOMS RESERVED NOW.** Places to stay in this area range from obscenely expensive in the Monterey area to downright economical, the farther away you get from Monterey. I have located from an Internet search the following places which are far more reasonable: they are:

- Sand Dollar Inn in Seaside \$99/night
- Sand Castle Inn in Seaside, \$139/night
- Seaside Inn in Seaside \$88/night
- Motel 6 Monterey \$89/night
- Super 8 by Wyndham Monterey \$98/night

I will designate the Saturday morning meeting place after I have an idea where others are staying and when I have confirmed where we will start out Saturday morning. Please let me

know if you are even just thinking about attending this trip, so I can provide updates by email.

**Jay's contact info is on our website.**

**Mailing Address:**

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

**SPRING MIGRATION IS HERE. CHECK OUT OUR LINK TO CORNELL'S BIRD CAST. REAL TIME RADAR TRACKING OF MIGRATING BIRDS.**

Are your gardens and feeders ready for the influx of birds passing through, or even arriving? My feeders are full of residents going crazy with feeding up and pair bonding. Let us know what vagrants you are seeing. Check out our Facebook Page Whittier Area Audubon Society

**from California Audubon**

NYT writes recently that California has the most imperiled biodiversity of any state in the contiguous United States. California is designated a Global Biodiversity Hotspot, a distinction for only 36 bioregions across the planet. We have the highest number of species and the

California's species are threatened with extinction. With its dramatic coastlines, ocean environments, lush forests, mountains, blooming valleys with grasslands and oak woodlands, rivers, wetlands, salt lakes, and vivid deserts, it's no surprise why California's spectacular natural landscapes host the largest, most diverse concentration of 450 species of birds in the United States.

This means that the conservation we do locally matters on a global scale. To learn more about California's Biodiversity Hotspot and how Audubon California is prioritizing conservation across diverse landscapes and bird species, enjoy our [California Biodiversity Hotspot Storymap](#).

If you'd like to experience a flyover of the four landscapes Audubon works in: deserts, coast, central valley, and urban rivers, watch our [California Biodiversity Hotspot webinar](#). We will reveal why we've chosen these landscapes as keys to protecting bird biodiversity in the golden state.