



Least Bell's Vireo's Voice

Whittier Narrows Nature Center Associates Newsletter

April 2021

ONGOING NATIVE GARDEN HELP
NEEDED
ANY TIME

**Weeding.
trimming**



Tools available.



**If your dues
are still due
do your
duty!!!**

Web site access:

WNNCA.org

Our email: wnnca@att.net

**MAY
BIRD
OF THE MONTH**

**BLACK-CHINNED
HUMMINGBIRD**
(Archilochus alexandri)



Whittier Narrows
Nature Center Associates



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT PROGRAM



Send your Order to:

ordermyplant@gmail.com

Contactless Every Saturday
in April

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

**Order & Pick Up Your
Native Plant For
a Suggested**

Donation of \$7.00

donation due at time of pick up

Exact Cash

or Checks Only, please
Make Checks payable to: **WNNCA**



AVAILABLE PLANTS (ALL 1 GALLON)



		Suggested Donation
White Sage	(<i>Salvia apiana</i>)	\$7.00
Black Sage	(<i>Salvia mellifera</i>)	\$7.00
California Sagebrush	(<i>Artemisia californica</i>)	\$7.00
Purple Sage	(<i>Salvia leucophylla</i>)	\$7.00
Mountain Lilac 'Frosty Blue'	(<i>Ceanothus</i>)	\$7.00

Thank you for your support!



Whittier Narrows Nature Center
1000 North Durfee Avenue
South El Monte, CA 91733

April Bird of the Month

Allen's Hummingbird

(Selasphorus sasin)



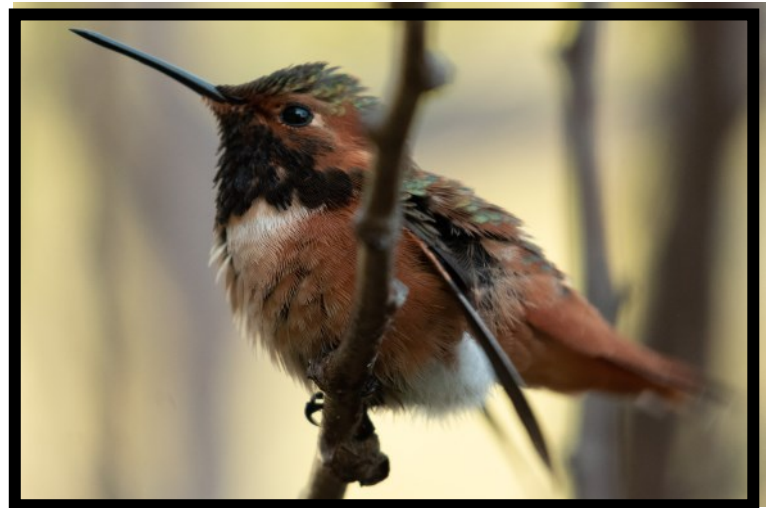
Allen's hummingbirds can be enjoyed all year long in Southern California, Their breeding grounds extend along a strip of coast from Baja California to Oregon.

They are small, 3 ¾ in in length, and 0.11 oz in weight, but every inch a bundle of energy, ziping from flower to flower for nectar, their energy drink, and catching insects in flight . As expected of any self-respecting hummingbird, their gorget is spectacular, with a coppery red/orange hue, and a green back.

Males and females have different territories, except in mating season, which provides the most impressive flight displays, the males describing a pendulous arc several times, then zooming as high as 60 feet, to perform a high-speed dive. The females made the nest and raise the young without help from the male. The nests are remarkable constructed, built in one or two weeks, using downy materials from plants, cemented to branches with spider webs, lined on the outside with lichens and moss, perhaps as camouflage.

Usually, the nest contains two eggs, the size of coffee beans. The incubation period lasts from 17 to 22 days and the chicks are ready to fledge the

Hummingbirds are very territorial, and it has been said that there is no brotherly love in the hummingbird kingdom. Too much beauty and energy to share in a group?





Grace's Wisdom Corner

(Featuring a special plant every month)

*Ceanothus
Or
California Lilac*

Ceanothus, California Lilac, Mountain Lilac, Soap Bush... With many names and even more varieties, It could not be decided what species name to give to our magnificent example in the Nature Center.

Ceanothus plants can be a ground cover, a bush or a small tree; it can flower white, different shades of blue or purple, and even pink.

Our very own mountain lilac is in full bloom now, visited by bees and some birds.

The flowers and leaves contain saponin, a molecule that attracts and expel impurities, thus the soap bush nickname.



Many gardeners complain that it is difficult to grow, but it has been found that does not tolerate water in summer months, so if placed in mixed plantings that are irrigated, it does not fare well. However, if you know this, you can grow it in your gardens and have a riot of flowers from March to May and over summer.

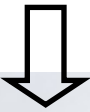
Planting natives in your garden, certainly helps in myriad ways, preventing poaching of wild plants, contributing to restore balance in the environment, and providing for birds attracted to the plants.

We encourage you to get your own!

OUR APIARY INHABITED AT LAST

Our beautiful apiary, built by Ric Gonzales, Eagle Scout, with the help of family and friends, is finally fulfilling its purpose.

Ric and friends



Friday, March 12 a new colony of thousands was installed in their new home by our very own apiarist, Bill Seleznoff. Bill had been providing our gift shop with his honey from his bees, honey and hope to do so again in the near future.



Merit Recognized

Our Park Superintendent, Colleen MacKay, was presented once more with a Congressional Recognition. She was awarded the Whittier Area Audubon Society's Conservation Award. She was presented this merited award on March 19.

Of course, the celebration could not do justice to the occasion. Next time, no doubt.



The newsletter staff wishes to thank our photographers for their contributions. It was difficult to insert individual credits, but appreciation is extended to Lou, Charlie, Tom, Jesse, and Colleen for furnishing such high quality input.

VOLUNTEERS

AT

WORK



**John rescuing balls
from the pond.**



**Weeding the Native
Garden.**

Sightings

