



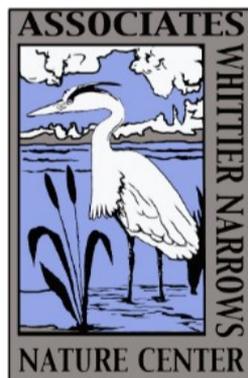
Least Bell's Vireo's Voice

Whittier Narrows Nature Center Associates Newsletter

February 2021

LOVING REMINDER *Time to renew your membership!*

It's that time of the year again, although in a year not like any other. Even though our activities are curtailed, modified or even absent, our love for this place is undiminished. There are physical changes coming to the Nature Center, with the intended refurbishment, and a fervent hope that we can resume most if not all our past practices in the near future. A form for renewing your membership can be **printed from page 5** and sent to the Center. Just a reminder of how little money can provide the many rewards that can be experienced in this very special place.



Annual Membership Levels

- \$30 Individual
- \$15 Senior Citizen (*over 62*)
- \$15 Student
- \$45 Family
- \$75 Friend Associate
- \$100 Patron Associate



Web site access:

WNNCA.org



Our email: wnnca@att.net

**MARCH
BIRD
OF THE MONTH**

California Scrub-Jay
(*Aphelocoma californica*)

February Bird of the Month

American Kestrel

(*Falco sparverius*)



Photo by Tom

The smallest of the falcons, with an adult weight of 4.1 ounces, a length of 10 1/2 inches and a width of 23 inches, its coloring is unmistakable, specially those distinctive tear marks.

Also called sparrow hawks, the kestrel has a wide range, found in open country and in cities, where often perches on telephone wires. However, it has been found that populations are declining in most of the US, except in the Southeast. This decline is mostly due to the familiar problem of loss of habitat.

American kestrels feed on insects, reptiles and small mammals, it has the ability to hover over prey before plunging like the true member of the falcon family it is.

Juveniles are very similar to the adult in appearance.

Lou managed to capture a pair in action.

We hope they make the WN their breeding locale. They nest in cavities, with no nesting materials used, and they are known to use nesting boxes. They lay 4-5 eggs, with an incubation period of 26-32 days.

They are not timid, harassing much bigger birds, especially during migration, and will defend their breeding grounds without fear.

These birds, although relatively small, are a joy to behold and easy to recognize, with their beautiful and unique plumage patterns.



Photo by Lou



Grace's Wisdom Corner

(Featuring a special plant every month)

*This month:
Golden Currant
(Ribes aureum)*

The golden currant is a deciduous native shrub, 3 to 10 feet tall, flowering from January to April, carrying clusters of yellow flowers, constituted of a 1/4 inch tube, opening into a circle of 5 lobes.

It also produces numerous berries, about 1/2 inch in diameter, ranging in color from yellow to orange to black. Very attractive to birds and humans, very colorful and easy to spot.



© St. Mary's College of California

The berries are one of the first available food for spring nesting birds. They are edible for us, too, and can be used for jellies and jams.

Golden currant bushes are not wildly abundant, but thrive in a variety of soils. It is also moderately fire tolerant, with a speedy recovery.

It has been used as hedges and windbreakers, as well as ornamentals. At WNNC there are examples in the native garden, and in several different open areas by the trails.

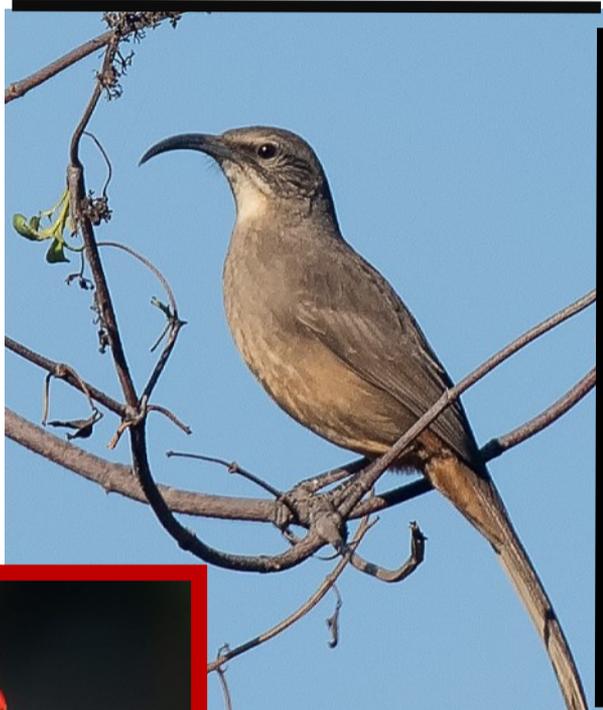
Golden currant can be a delightful addition to our home gardens.



This Month Sightings



Spirit



California Thrasher
(*Toxostoma redivivum*)

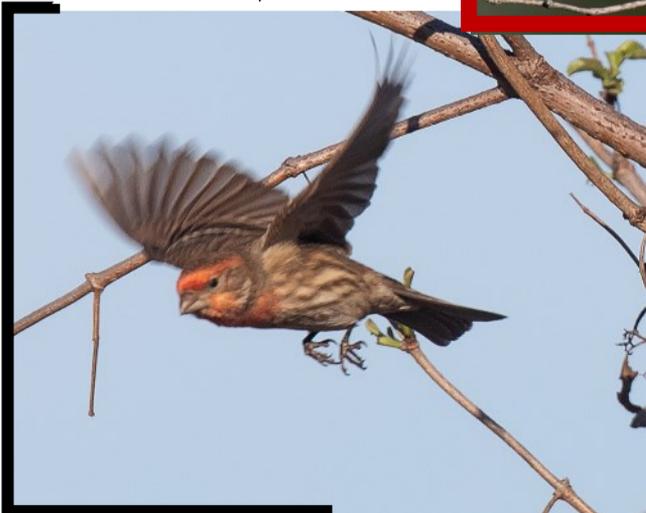


Purple Finch
(*Carpodacus purpureus*)



Lincoln Sparrow
(*Melospiza lincolni*)

↓ This photo by Socorro



Photos
by
Tom



Photo by Socorro

Membership Application

Whittier Narrows Nature Center Associates
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South El Monte, CA 91733
(626) 575-5523 Office
www.wwnca.org
wnnca@att.net
EIN: 95-6129697

Whittier Narrows Nature Center Associates (WNNCA) is a volunteer, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization actively looking for new members. WNNCA is a chapter of Nature Center Associates (NCA) of Los Angeles County.

WNNCA has been founded and is operated for educational, scientific, charitable and benevolent purposes, primarily concerning the promotion of the welfare and education of children and adults living in Los Angeles County, by the creation and/or operation of interpretive programs of Whittier Narrows Nature Center administered by Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation.

Date ____/____/____
(also used as annual *renewal* date)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (____) _____

Email _____

Annual Membership Levels (circle one)

- \$30 Individual**
- \$15 Senior Citizen (*over 62*)**
- \$15 Student**
- \$45 Family**
- \$75 Friend Associate**
- \$100 Patron Associate**
- \$250 Supporting Associate**
- \$1,000 Golden Oak Associate**

Checks and Cash accepted in the Gift Shop or
Send Checks payable to: Whittier Narrows Nature Center Associates (WNNCA)
to the address above.

Thank you for your support! We look forward to working together.