



Least's Bell's Vireo's Voice

Whittier Narrows Nature Center Associates Newsletter

October 2020

NEW HOURS FOR THE NATURE CENTER AS OF OCTOBER 1



CHANGE

change

CHANGE

CHANGE

8:00 AM TO 5:00 PM

WEDNESDAY THROUGH SUNDAY

CLOSED MONDAYS AND TUESDAYS

Web site access:

WNNCA.org

Our email: wnnca@att.net

ATTENTION

**NOVEMBER
BIRD OF THE MONTH**

**White-crowned Sparrow
(Zonotrichia leucophrys)**

BIRD OF THE MONTH

COMMON RAVEN (CORVUS CORAX)



This photo was taken about three years ago by a visitor trying for a Northern Cardinal sighting, with Lou as guide. This is a very impressive portrait of this handsome and interesting bird, and we thank Lou for sharing it. Ravens have been nesting in the Nature Center for several years, raising a family successfully every year. They can be found in a variety of habitats, most abundant in the West. Considered to be very intelligent birds, they are known to use tools, and they are playful, but very defensive of their territory.

There is a wealth of myth and lore surrounding Raven, from the Bible to modern times. They have been associated with balance, magic, omens and also been called a bringer of light. To some, ravens are messengers of bad omens, for others, they bring good tidings.

Many different groups have legends explaining why the raven is black. It is said that the raven was white at the beginning but its color changes, either as punishment for some wrongdoing, or as the result of facing some danger in an effort to help the people.

It seems that Ravens wherever they are present, are looked upon with a lot of interest and enjoyment, reaching high levels of respect and even awe at times.



**Photos
by Tom**



This encounter was photographed in 2017 near the river, in one of our nature walks.

RARE GOOD NEWS FOR CONSERVATION



177,000 TRICOLOR BLACKBIRDS SAVED IN 2020

If you are ready for some good news affecting birds, this information from a recent Audubon California newsletter will be welcomed. It reports that colonies of the Tricolor Blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*) on agricultural fields in California has been protected this year. This initiative has been the result of Audubon California working closely with dairy farmers, as well as government agencies, conservation organizations, agricultural associations and others.

The Tricolor Blackbird has been an iconic presence in open fields and dairy farms in Central California, even though colony size have declined due to habitat loss and climate change. It is estimated that they are poised to lose one third of their range even with the least severe climate change scenario. But for this year, they are protected.

Distinction of the Tricolor Blackbird from the Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) is difficult, so it is a right to brag to be able to distinguish them. It is such an uplifting sight when they are detected in the fields, even if one is just driving by, that any effort to maintain these birds in viable numbers should be appreciated.

It might just be a drop in the bucket of conservation, but it shows us that some things can be done to alleviate the impact of our interaction with nature, which we all know it is not always thoughtful or wise.

NAME A HAWK CONTEST



In our September newsletter, we published an article by Colleen referring to an injured hawk that was hanging around the Nature Center and the steps she had taken to help it.

This photo is of that Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) who now seems to be in good health, and is seen frequently around the Center, taking advantage of our fountain to drink and bathe. Maria had the idea that it would be nice to have a name for it and look upon it as an unofficial Ambassador.

If you have an idea for a name for this hawk, please send your suggestion to Charlie's email. The name will be voted upon.

We look forward to all your creative suggestions.



REMEMBER

OUR HONEY

IS

AVAILABLE!