



Least Bell's Vireo's Voice

Whittier Narrows Nature Center Associates Newsletter

September 2021

CHECK THIS OUT

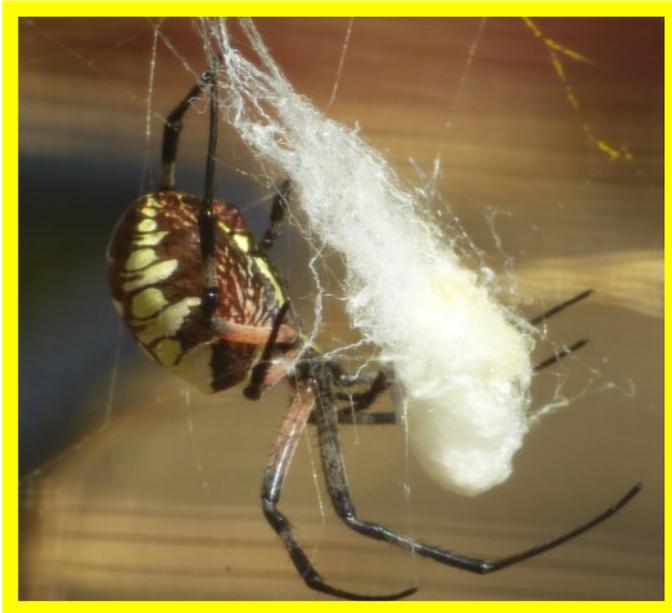


Photo by Socorro

This beauty is a yellow garden spider (*Argiope aurantia*, thank you Google.) Apparently it has several names. It was found right at home in the middle of the bee enclosure. It is about one inch long and very colorful. They eat part of their web every night and reconstruct it in the morning. Male is a lot smaller. We hope it stays so we can learn more.

Coming Attractions



Starting September 4,
Saturday walks are open to the public. 8:00 am



Construction for the classroom is scheduled for September 15.



Starting September 24,
Hogwart's Movie Nights \$3.00
Fridays and Saturdays, 7:00 pm.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:
reservations.lacounty.gov

Web site access:

WNNCA.org

Our email: wnnca@att.net

**OCTOBER
BIRD
OF THE MONTH**

**House Finch
(*Carpodacus mexicanus*)**

SAD NEWS TO REPORT



The WNNCA have lost a beloved friend in Ann Croissant, who passed away last June.

A memorial service will take place Saturday, August 28,

1:00 pm, at:

Glenkirk Church

1900 Palopinto Ave.

Glendora.

There should be a book written about Ann's life, her untiring efforts to protect nature and her unassuming, yet powerful influence inspiring others to a conservationist philosophy.

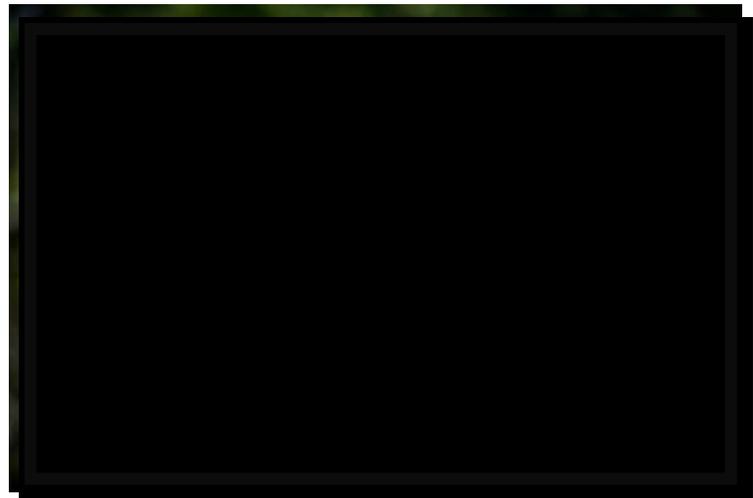
Among her numerous achievements, she was responsible for the rebirth of an almost extinct plant in the Glendora hills, by forming the Glendora Community Conservancy.

A housing development threatened the hills in which remaining brodiaea plants were present. Brodiaea is a native plant with a small range in the San Gabriel's. Anne created the Glendora Community Conservancy, the land earmarked for development was bought, and thus the plant's survival was assured. However, this is only one of her many accomplishments, that include teaching in several institutions, consulting with organizations and governmental offices, publishing a great portable guide to wildflowers identification with the help of her husband, a photographer friend and others.

She will be missed, not only for her knowledge and wisdom, but also becoming a cherished friend to all that came under her influence.

DONATIONS CAN BE MADE TO:

**San Gabriel Mountains
Regional Conservancy
PO Box 963
Glendora, CA**



September Bird of the Month

Nuttall's Woodpecker

(Picoides nuttallii)



Nuttall's woodpeckers is a California specialty. Their range might include some incursions into Northern Baja California, but rarely into neighboring states. They are associated with oak woodlands, but also with cottonwoods, willows, sycamores and mixed wooden suburban areas, even if no oaks are present. They are often seen in our grounds, pecking away. Once you have seen them a few times, they become easily identified. Not very big, about 7.5 in., the males have a red crown and a distinctive black and white striped back.

They eat very few acorns, but mainly insects, fruits, and berries.

Their nests are holes in trees, utility poles or even fence posts, carved by the male every year. The clutch is 3-6 eggs, incubation lasts 14 days, with the male taking part. The eggs hatch in four weeks, but tend to remain with the parents longer. Always a welcome sight.

Photo by Charlie



Unanticipated bonus:)

This is an Acorn woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*.) WNC birders had not seen this species for many years. We fervently hope to see it again. They are more common closer to the mountains.

Photo by Tom



Grace's

Wisdom Corner

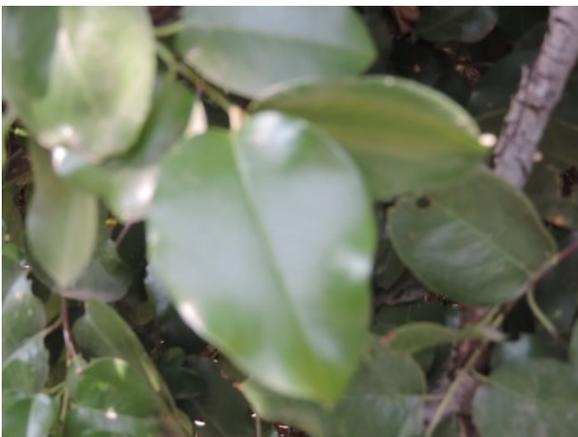
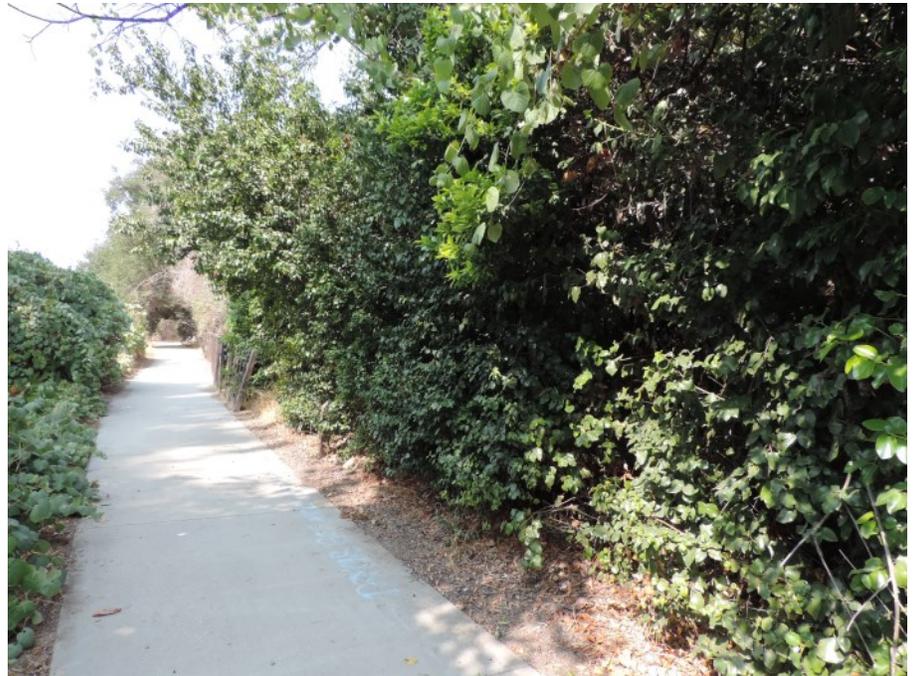
(Featuring a special plant every month)

Catalina Cherry
(*Prunus lyonii*)

Holly-leaved Cherry
(*Prunus ilicifolia*)

We have two species of native cherries in the Nature Center, right by Woody's trail. Catalina cherries occur in the Channel Islands, the holly-leaved in coastal hillsides, but not exclusively. Their ancestry is very close, so hybrids happens. Hopefully you can

see in the photos that Catalina leaves have smooth edges, but the holly-leaved has spiny wavy edges. The holly-leaved plant tends to be smaller, although can obtain tree size. Catalina cherry trees can grow to 40 ft. tall. Catalina cherries are edible when ripe, although with not much flesh, tasting pretty astringent. The holly-leaved contains more cyanide, less when very ripe, and even less flesh. Of course invaluable to wildlife. Native populations valued the pits as much as acorns. They cracked them to extract the seeds, which were leached from toxicity, just as acorns, and made into balls or cakes or a fermented drink.



Catalina



Holly-leaved



SOUTH EL MONTE COMMUNITY EVENT INTERNATIONAL NIGHT OUT



WNNCA was invited to participate in this community event, and the opportunity for a little PR was taken. There were many booths with information from many aspects of our communities, authorities and government officials, service organizations. a school backpack give-away for students. A mini trash truck that the children could climb on and pretend to drive was a great hit with the small fry. Food and cold drinks were available and a movie was shown after dark.



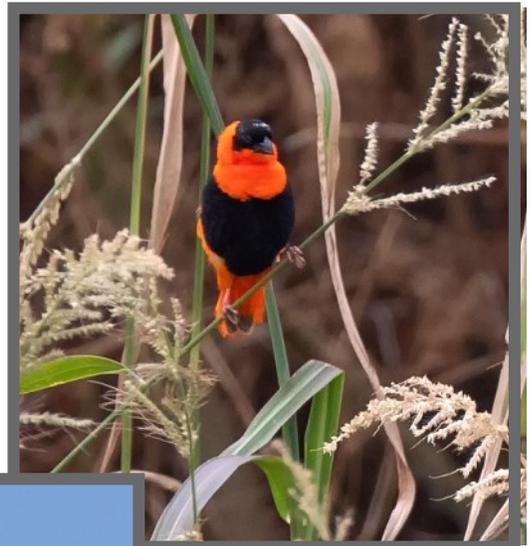
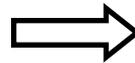
Rewarding walk to the dam



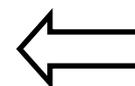
Photo by Charlie



**Northern
Orange
Bishop**



Lazuli Bunting



American Kestrel

**Photos by Lou and
Tom**