



THE OBSERVER

WHITTIER AREA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Visit our website www.whittieraudubon.org

Appearing on California's June 5th Primary ballot is Proposition 68. Audubon California and our chapter are supporting this Proposition. The bond measure addresses many of our state's water issues, which in turn, provides relief for many of our conservation issues. Where there is water, birds flourish. The Pacific Flyway is disappearing at an alarming pace and Proposition 68 can help restore some of the traditional places on which birds depend. See the article below for more info. Please vote!

- **Editor's note: Vote June 5!**
- **Board Elections**
- **Prop 68: Please support**
- **Field trip schedules**
- **Field Trip Report**

out in the last few years, it is time for Californians to make the next investment in the protection of the natural resources that make

California's parks and open spaces destinations for millions of visitors every year.

Proposition 68 includes funding for a broad array of conservation priorities: \$2.83 billion for parks and natural resources funding.

Investments in park-poor neighborhoods.

Much-needed maintenance for state parks.

Trails and creek restoration

Funding for critical restoration at the Salton Sea.

\$1.27 billion for water reliability

Clean drinking water projects.

Groundwater clean-up and sustainability.

Flood protection, including multi-benefit flood projects.

\$767 million for state conservancies.

Vital landscape-scale conservation work.

Ocean, bay, and coastal protection.

\$442 million for climate adaptation.

Projects to ensure habitat connectivity.

Collaborations on climate-smart farm practices.

Rivers and waterways restoration.

Elections for Board Officers at the May General Meeting

Here is the official slate:

President: Larry Schmahl

1st Vice President: Cathy Fricker

2nd Vice President: Linda Oberholtzer

Treasurer: Liz Huber

Recording Secretary: Steve Huber

Corresponding Secretary: Joan Powell

Members in good standing as of April's general meeting are eligible to vote. If you are uncertain of your membership status the National Audubon list will be available and Liz Huber has the current chapter membership list.

WHAT IS PROPOSITION 68? The California Clean Water and Safe Parks Act - Prop 68

Prop 68 - is a general obligation bond that will appear on the June 2018 statewide ballot. The Act will invest \$4 billion to address California's most important water, park and natural resource needs.

Key priorities addressed in the Prop 68 include:

□ Ensuring clean drinking water by cleaning up and protecting our groundwater, rivers and streams, and natural areas that serve as the sources of our water.

□ Preparing for the next drought by improving the ability of local areas to efficiently capture and recycle water.

□ Addressing the needs of underserved communities that lack safe parks and access to clean drinking water.

Whittier Area Audubon is joining Audubon California and a broad coalition of conservation organizations in supporting Proposition 68 on the June 5 California ballot. These groups have cited numerous potential benefits to California's birds and other natural treasures, as well as the state's residents. Proposition 68 is a \$4 billion bond measure that will fund a number of important priorities for Californians, including local, regional and state parks, clean drinking water projects, flood protection, and habitat projects that are vital to the state's diverse wildlife.

Audubon California was part of a coalition of organizations working closely with lawmakers during the 2017 legislative session to put Prop. 68 on the ballot. This critical opportunity comes at a time when millions of Californians don't have access to safe parks, trails, and recreation areas. Moreover, the cycle of drought and extreme weather is already taking a toll on California's natural treasures, and threatens our communities with flooding and ecological degradation.

These same forces have also exposed our state's antiquated water infrastructure, bringing into doubt our ability to provide clean, safe, and reliable drinking water to our residents. Lastly, with most of the bond funding for vital conservation programs running



Audubon

We are a chapter of National Audubon

General Meeting May 17, 2018

Edwin and Rebecca Menendez will share photos from their recent trip along the Rio Grande River in Texas. They will talk about what they learned about the geology and birds of the arid desert of West Texas, to the Chisos Mountains in Big Bend National Park, to the semitropical Lower Rio Grande Valley and South Padre Island. The Whittier Area Audubon Society meets at 7:30 pm on the third Thursday of each month from September through June at the Whittier Community Center. Location: 7630 Washington Avenue, Whittier, California.

Beginning Bird Walk, Sycamore Canyon:

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

May 12, 2018 7:00am Sycamore Canyon Beginning Bird Walks

Meet at the Sycamore Canyon Trailhead. The trail is located adjacent to Rose Hills Cemetery gate 17. DO NOT BE LATE. The gate opens and locks punctually. Expect to park on the street. Please check our website for updates.

Rain or recent rain cancels the Canyon walk, but we will choose another location) **Leader TBD.**

Overnight trip to San Diego May 19 and 20, 2018

Leader Jay Oberholtzer

Our May, 2018 field trip is a weekender to San Diego starting Saturday, May 19, 2018. The San Diego area is a great concentration of waterfowl, shorebirds, migrants and chaparral birds. It is just far enough south that we see birds such as Yellow Crowned Night Herons, Reddish Egrets and other "southern species". Just about any sighting is possible. We will try to cram as many different kinds of habitats as possible into our weekend.

The Plan is to depart from the Super 8 Imperial Beach 1788 Palm Avenue, Imperial Beach, CA 92154. (619-575-4421)

At 7:30 a.m. on Saturday May 19, 2018

We will start at the San Diego River area vaguely near Sea World, then work our way down the Point Loma peninsula, stopping at the Fort Rosecrans Cemetery, then down the Cabrillo National Monument This area is quite the migrant stop over. Just about anything is possible. When done, we will work our way back up the peninsula, stopping at Famosa Slough, then on to the Tijuana Estuary. There have been sightings of Little Blue Herons, Yellow-crowned Night Herons and Reddish Egrets there. Time permitting, we will try some of the fields in the Hollister-Dairy Mart-Monument Road area. We will return to the Super 8 in Imperial Beach for the traditional wine and cheese party and re-hydration event. Sunday, we will hit La Jolla Cliffs early (before the traffic) looking for Oystercatchers and the like, then on to Mission Trails Regional Park. Mission Trails Regional Park is a chaparral type park, but with a fair bit of water. This stop may change depending on the water supply. I will know more after my scouting run. Figure on two sack lunches, the usual bird watching stuff and some sun screen. As with all of our wine and cheese parties, creativity is in order. Scopes will be a definite plus. I may tweak the route a little after I make a scouting run, so watch the website for any changes. Let me know if you plan to attend. Please either email me at tvulture@earthlink.net or telephone my office at 562-945-2839.

FIELD TRIP REPORT

The Whittier Audubon field trip for April was to Whitewater preserve. It is a Wildlands Conservancy property in Riverside County and is an important wildlife corridor between the San Bernardino and San Jacinto mountains.

Both California and Gambel's Quail were seen along the road into the preserve. We all met in the parking

lot just before the gates opened and quickly found a raptor perched up on the cliffs above the road, ID' d with Jay Oberholtzer' s scope as a Peregrine Falcon - a very good start. Starting in the picnic and camping area we heard several Yellow Warblers singing and Al Moreno spotted a Hooded Oriole in the top of a tree. We then walked along the river floodplain - an open habitat - finding a Wilson's Warbler, Lesser Goldfinches and Costa's Hummingbirds. Liz spotted a Blue Grosbeak. Continued walking down the valley towards the road yielded an American Kestrel and several Bell's Vireos were heard in the willows. The group headed back up the road to the parking area and spotted a Black Phoebe, Anna's Hummingbird, Phainopepla, White-crowned and Song Sparrows and Steve managed to find a Greater Roadrunner across the way. As we approached the cliffs, White-throated Swifts were heard and seen overhead, Jim McNamara spotted a Bewick's Wren in the brush and Al found a Western Kingbird. Further along Linda found some small birds on the cliff and a closer look found some Rock Wrens, one of which was carrying nesting material. Small peeping noises were heard up high on the cliffs which became much more frequent as the adult Peregrine Falcon returned to a hole in the cliff. We watched both parents circling the cliffs and perching on the edge of the hole. Linda then found another nice migrant: a MacGillivray's Warbler in the brush at the bottom of the cliff. Further walking above the parking area yielded a California Thrasher, Bushtit, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Ash-throated Flycatcher and a pair of Lawrence's Goldfinches. The group enjoyed a nice lunch in the picnic area with a total of 35 species seen including several migrants. The weather was beautiful, the company great and the birding excellent.

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