



THE OBSERVER

WHITTIER AREA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 76, Issue 2

October 2018

Visit our website www.whittieraudubon.org

Elections November 6th. Get Out And Vote.

I'm not going to tell you how to vote, but please be an engaged citizen, learn about the current issues and vote. Included below are some of the positions National Audubon and Audubon California taken. The future is our responsibility.

Audubon California endorses Prop. 3

Measure on November ballot will have multiple benefits to clean drinking water and conservation priorities.

Citing the measure's broad funding for clean drinking water and conservation priorities in California, Audubon California today announced its support for Proposition 3, an \$8.9 billion water bond measure on the November ballot.

"This measure addresses some of California's most pressing water needs, including needed funding to insure access to clean drinking water in every community," said Sarah Rose, executive director of Audubon California. "This will also provide hundreds of millions of dollars to benefit birds and their habitats across the state - on farms, on our coasts, in our mountains, at the Salton Sea, and beyond."



From National Audubon's website:

Birds can't vote, but you can.

Join Audubon and bird lovers across the country and pledge to Vote For The Birds this fall.

In addition to Congressional races, there are countless state and local elections happening around the country that will have a big impact on our communities and our birds. These decision makers have an important influence on the ways that laws are written and enacted at every level of government.

The best way to protect birds and the places they need is to make sure that you vote on November 6

GENERAL MEETING AND PROGRAM

October 18th at 7:30 pm

"The dramatic story of the California Condor--it's near extinction and its recovery from the brink." will be the topic of the Whittier Area Audubon's general meeting on Thursday, October 18, 2018 at 7:30 a.m. at the Whittier Community Center, 7630 Washington Ave., Whittier, CA. 90602.

The Community Center is located on the corner of Mar Vista St. and Washington Ave. (not to be confused with Washington Blvd.), across the street from the Whittier Public Library

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- **General Meeting: Condors!**
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main branch next to a softball field. Parking is free. Light refreshments will be served.

Vic Leipzig will make the presentation. He is a past-president of Sea and Sage Audubon and representative to the Board of Audubon California for the southern California chapters. He teaches birding classes for the adult education program of Saddleback College.

KIDS SPACE:



Halloween, harvest festivals, and general autumnal celebrations lead to an abundance of everyone's fall favorite: pumpkins. While you partake in pumpkin spice lattes and jack-o-lantern carvings, why not share some gourd indulgences with the birds? This bird feeder is the perfect use of an extra or post-trick-or-treat pumpkin.

Materials:

- Small to medium sized pumpkin, up to 10 pounds
- Small sticks
- Twine or rope
- Birdseed

Steps:

1. Cut the pumpkin in half.
2. Scoop out the seeds, leaving a hollow inside with 1/2-inch thick shell wall.

3. Insert two sticks across the open pumpkin to create perches for the birds.
4. Knot two lengths of rope together at the center and tack the knot to the bottom of the pumpkin feeder. Hang the other ends of the rope in your chosen feeder location.
5. Fill with birdseed.

Do you know a teacher or afterschool coordinator that would be interested in having a readymade curriculum for their students? All our proceeds from the Conservation Dinner go towards educational outreach. We'd love to introduce the world of birds to more kids!

October Field Trips

Beginning Bird Walk, Sycamore Canyon:

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

October 13, 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 Jay Oberholtzer.**

BOLSA CHICA AND HUNTINGTON BEACH LOCATIONS

October 20th at 7:00 am

Bolsa Chica is one of the great local birding spots. Ducks, shorebirds, and waders can be found in abundance. Gulls, terns, and pelicans are regular, as are raptors that nest on the bluffs. Bring water, a lunch, a hat, and sunscreen. We will bird Bolsa Chica and possibly nearby spots like Central Park or Harriett Wieder Park. Linda LeRoy and Al Moreno lead.

Trip Report: Ballona Wetlands and Creek Los Angeles River

New President, Larry Schmahl led two trips in September. The first to Ballona Creek and Wetlands on our traditional weekend, and a supplemental trip along the lower Los Angeles River a week later. Angelenos fought long and hard to keep the Ballona Wetlands from being filled in to host yet another "mixed use" development. Somehow, wildlife doesn't usually figure into the mixed use calculations. But Ballona was mostly saved from the developers and is a lovely place to look for surprising city dwellers.



Upon finding parking along the busy parkway we hopped out to find a Sora, various ducks, several Pied billed Grebes-one with a late set of babies, and a Yellow Crowned Night Heron. Along with the more expected Black Crowned Night Heron. A White Tailed Kite demonstrated his eating technique, and Song Sparrows. Leaving the wetlands we headed to the jetty where the Creek meets the ocean. We saw flocks of Marbled Godwits, Black Bellied Plovers and Willets flying between the creek and the beach; Sanderlings, Western Gulls, Forster's Terns, Brown Pelicans all cruising overhead. Down at the breakwater we spotted a Black Oystercatcher, a Wandering Tattler and Black Turnstone poking through boulders. There were several Belding's Savannah Sparrows along the jetty. Turning back upstream we found a Merlin hiding in a barren tree and a Loggerheaded Shrike hunting over the marsh. This is not the complete list of species seen.

Larry wanted to add a local supplemental trip to see if any migrants were moving through the area. He led us to various spots along the lower Los Angeles River (Yes! We have a river!) from Atlantic downstream to Willow. If you carefully frame your pictures, you can avoid sharing the amount of trash that accumulates in the channel. The birds don't seem to mind working around Home Depot buckets and shopping carts.



Some of the birds spotted included Osprey, Peregrine Falcons, American Kestrel, Blue-winged and Cinnamon Teal, American Widgeon, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, Pied-billed Grebe, Black-necked Stilts, American Avocets, Semipalmated and Black-belled Plovers, Killdeer, Least. Western, Spotted and Pectoral Sandpipers, Long-billed Dowitcher, Greater Yellowlegs, Red-neck Phalarope, Snowy Egrets, Green and Great Blue Herons.



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