



THE OBSERVER

WHITTIER AREA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Visit our website www.whittieraudubon.org

I am excerpting sections of an Executive Summary from Wetlands on the Edge: The Future of Southern California's Wetlands, Regional Strategy 2018, a comprehensive guide for the recovery and long-term survival of Southern California's wetlands. In this report, over 50 scientists and resource managers analyze how our wetlands have changed, their future potential and threats, and how we can ensure their health into the future.

- **Editor's note: Wetlands**
- **New Strategies for California Wetlands**
- **General Meeting: Kids & Birds**
- **Field trip schedules**

Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project

On October 18, a coalition of 18 state and federal environmental agencies approved an ambitious strategy to preserve, restore and expand the region's marshes, salt flats, lagoons and estuaries. The plan aims to more than double the 1,600 acres of inter-tidal wetlands in Orange and Los Angeles counties.

PROJECT MISSION: To expand, restore and protect wetlands in Southern California's coastal watersheds.

PROJECT VISION: Restored and protected wetlands and rivers along the Southern California coast benefitting wildlife and people

Of the 330 coastal wetlands that historically existed between Santa Barbara and San Diego, there are only 105 remaining today, and those systems are smaller than they used to be, fragmented, and many are cut-off from their natural sources of water and sediment. The diversity of coastal wetland types has also suffered—lagoons, river mouths and small creeks have been modified for navigation and flood protection, and filled by development. This has left the remaining wetlands in a poor state, more vulnerable to disturbance and stress. While

urbanization will continue to impact wetland habitats, the added stress of climate change and sea-level rise further challenges the survival of these delicate ecosystems.

The drastic loss of wetlands together with an increasing understanding of their value have spawned an era of much-needed wetland protection and restoration. To that end, the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project (WRP) is a group of federal and state agencies that have been coordinating their efforts around wetlands protection and restoration for almost 20 years.

GOAL 1: Preserve and restore resilient tidal wetlands and associated marine and terrestrial habitats

GOAL 2: Preserve and restore streams, adjacent habitats, and other non-tidal wetland ecosystems to support healthy watersheds

GOAL 3: Support education and compatible access related to coastal wetlands and watersheds

GOAL 4: Advance the Science of wetland Restoration and management (cont on Page 2)



Audubon

We are a chapter of National Audubon

GENERAL MEETING AND PROGRAM

November 18th at 7:30 pm

“How to Teach Birding to Kids” will be the topic presented by our own First Vice President, Cathy Fricker.

Thursday, November 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the Whittier Community Center, 7630 Washington Ave., Whittier, CA. at the corner of Washington Ave.(not to be confused with Washington Blvd.) and Mar Vista St. It is across the street from the Whittier Public Library Central Branch and next to a softball field. The event is free and light refreshments will be served.

Cathy Fricker is an elementary school teacher and uses the Audubon Adventures program from the National Audubon Society in both her classroom curriculum and in her birding club.

Please come for a fun visual presentation and you will also learn fun facts about birds.

This event is child friendly!

KIDS SPACE:

Cornell Lab of Ornithology has a story about one of their Young Birders, Lorena Patricio, 15, of Brazil. She and another friend published a field guide of their local birds. You can watch a short video about her love of birds and art on YouTube.

<https://youtu.be/tcHPfIEpHY4>

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!

November Field Trips

Beginning Bird Walk, Sycamore Canyon:

Every second Saturday of the month (except July and August,) **November 10, 2018 8:00am 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 cancels the Canyon Walk, but we will choose another location. **Leader Steve Huber.**

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Planting trout in Legg Lake, 1957
Image Credits Creator:University of Southern California
Credit:Corbis via Getty Images

LEGG LAKE, WHITTIER NARROWS

November 17th at 7:00 am

Steve Huber will lead our monthly chapter field trip to our own backyard, Legg Lake. Legg Lake is part of the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area. Whittier Narrows is a 1,492-acre park located in the City of South El Monte and is one of Los Angeles County's largest and most popular recreation areas. Because the lake is regularly stocked with fish there is always the possibility of some very interesting visitors. Join us and see a great birding location right here.

Steve will announce meeting time and location at the general meeting. We will update the website also.

CONSERVATION AWARD AND DINNER

Do you know a person that has been a conservation hero and deserves accolades and recognition? We are searching for our 2019 Conservation Award honoree and would like your suggestions.

Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project

(Continued from Page 1)

“The message of the Regional Strategy is clear but challenging: without immediate and courageous action, coastal wetlands as we know them in Southern California will be altered or lost completely due to sea-level rise. Our actions must be innovative and will involve removing or reconfiguring human-created



impediments to natural water flows and dynamic wetland functions, reconnecting fragmented areas in order to regain larger wetland areas, and facilitating the landward expansion of wetlands into areas that are currently upland habitats. If these measures are not taken today, we stand to lose some of the last natural spaces that exist in the vast urban landscape of coastal Southern California.” John Laird California secretary for natural resources

To access the Regional Strategy 2018, and associated maps and tools, visit www.scwrp.databasin.org. For inquiries and information on the Wetlands Recovery Project, visit www.scwrp.org.