



THE OBSERVER

WHITTIER AREA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Visit our website www.whittieraudubon.org

HELP SAVE HUMBOLDT BAY

FROM AUDUBON CALIFORNIA:

Located in the far northwestern corner of California, Humboldt Bay is a globally significant Important Bird Area. The dense eelgrass beds and expansive mudflats of Humboldt Bay support the highest diversity of shorebirds on the West Coast, as well as some of the highest abundances in the western hemisphere -- over 500,000 shorebirds in spring migration alone. And up to 60% of all Pacific Black Brant.

Yet this bay's tidelands are the most vulnerable to development in the state of California.

The Humboldt Bay Harbor District is proposing a new 237-acre shellfish operation that would destroy eelgrass habitat and reduce habitat for migratory birds that urgently need to feed and rest in the bay. As the district moves toward an environmental impact report on the project, we want to make sure that important habitat values are safeguarded.

Please send your email to the Humboldt Bay Harbor District today, (either through the Audubon California Action page or HumboldtBay.org Contact Page and refer to Humboldt Bay

Intertidal Mariculture Pre-Permitting Project and Yeung Oyster Farm – SCH #2017032068) asking them to change their proposal to include a spatial plan for the bay, and to propose development sites away from key bird habitat. Because oyster farming and birds can co-exist in Humboldt Bay, but not like this.



Audubon

We are a chapter of National Audubon

CONSERVATION DINNER

**March 19 (TUESDAY), 2019 at
6:00 pm Hillcrest
Congregational Church**

**2000 West Road, La Habra
Heights**

**We will be honoring Michael
Hughes, Vice Chairman of the
Board and Hacienda Heights
representative for the Puente
Hills Habitat Preservation
Authority.**

Michael Hughes was appointed in 2017 by Supervisor Hahn to represent the community of Hacienda Heights. He previously was appointed by Supervisor Don Knabe from 2010 to 2016. Prior to his appointment as Director he served on the Habitat Authority's Citizens Technical Advisory Committee for 11 years, as well as 11 years as an Alternate Director. He has served 13 years on the

- **General Meeting: CONSERVATION AWARD AND DINNER NEW NIGHT**
- **Kids Space**
- **Field trips: Sycamore Canyon and Santa Clara River Estuary**
- **Conservation Dinner Info**

Board of Directors of the Hacienda Heights Improvement Association, 8 of those years as its President. Michael has served on the San Gabriel Council of Governments, and is currently on the Board of the Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority and Hills For Everyone.

This event is our main fundraising event. Tickets are \$35 each and can be purchased with PayPal on our website or at the door. This includes dinner and dessert. We are providing iced tea, coffee and ice water. For those who prefer and little more oomph, there will be a wine bar. We will be selling Opportunity Tickets for chances at some cool stuff.

KIDS SPACE:

Cathy Fricker and Jennifer Schmahl are designing BIRDING IN A BOX to present to teachers or afterschool staff to enhance the Audubon Adventures experience. We will be showing everyone the contents and lesson objectives at the Conservation Dinner. Do you want to sponsor a classroom? Details at the Dinner.

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!

March Field Trips

Beginning Bird Walk, Sycamore Canyon:

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

March 9, 2019 8:00am

Sycamore Canyon Beginning Bird Walks

Meet at the Sycamore Canyon Trailhead. The trail is located adjacent to Rose Hills Cemetery gate 17. Rain or recent cancels the Canyon Walk, but we will choose another location. **Leader Jay Oberholtzer.**

Field trip to Santa Clara River Estuary and Ventura Harbor area.

Depart from Whittier Community Center at 6 AM for a two hour drive to the Ventura Harbor area. We have not had a field trip to this specific area since September of 2014.

We will bird the settling ponds, the Santa Clara River Estuary, the beach and the rocky breakwaters.

If time allows, we may search other areas as well. Be prepared for walking on the sand.

Bring a lunch, water, appropriate clothing and a hat. We should be back by 4PM. **Larry Schmahl leads.**

FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP REPORT: MALIBU

Our first stop on the beautiful sunny morning was Malibu Lagoon. Bushtits and house finches greeted us in the parking lot and a short walk to the lagoon edge gave us Gadwall, American Wigeon, Mallard, Ruddy Duck and Green-winged Teal. Jim MacNamara spotted a pair of female Red-breasted Mergansers. Cathy Fricker spotted a Great Egret and several Killdeer. Al Moreno spotted some Yellow-rumped Warblers and Linda LeRoy found a couple of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. Steve pointed out the Belted Kingfisher fishing from the bridge and we found Willit, Marbled Godwit, Least and Western Sandpipers and Sanderling. On the beach side, we found Ruddy Turnstone and Black-bellied Plover, several Snowy Plover and among the many gulls were groups of Royal Terns. Another birder helped us find the most uncommon bird of

the day, a female Common Goldeneye. Our second stop for the day was up Malibu Canyon Road to the Tapia section of Malibu Creek State Park, spared from the wildfires.

Rebecca Menendez spotted a White-breasted Nuthatch and Jean Kilmer found our first Nuttall's Woodpecker. Carlo Furutani spotted the first of many California Scrub Jays that we saw in the park. We found Spotted and California Towhee, Oak Titmouse, Dark-eyed Junco, Fox Sparrow, American Robin and Hermit Thrush. We were treated to a great view of three Red-Shouldered Hawks circling very low overhead. We all got very good looks at Nanday Parakeets, a local specialty and a life bird for several of our group.

At the King Gillette Ranch at the large pond we saw Bufflehead and Ring-necked Ducks as well as Canada Goose.

Mailing Address:
Whittier Area Audubon Society
P.O. Box 548
Whittier, CA 90608-0548



CONSERVATION AWARD DINNER, TUESDAY MARCH 19, 2019 HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH. 2000 West Road, La Habra Heights, CA 90631

DINNER \$35 PER PERSON. SEND PAYMENT TO WHITTIER AREA AUDUBON SOCIETY P.O. BOX 548 WHITTIER, CA 90608-0548

OR USE PAYPAL ON OUR WEBSITE: WHITTIERAUDUBON.ORG

PLEASE RESERVE _____ (#) DINNERS AT \$35/EACH TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

FOR: _____ (NAME)