



THE OBSERVER

WHITTIER AREA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 76, Issue 8
April 2019

Visit our website www.whittieraudubon.org

SALTON SEA WEBINAR FROM AUDUBON CALIFORNIA:

Salton Sea webinar April 8

Please join us [Audubon California] on Monday, April 8 for a Salton Sea webinar. This will be an opportunity to learn about Audubon California's community engagement program, the status of the birds at the Salton Sea, and hear policy updates. We would love your input on how Audubon can best influence the future of this important bird area. Feel free to share this invitation with your network.

Please join us on Monday, April 8 from Noon to 1:30 p.m. PT.

Agenda

Salton Sea intro (10 minutes)

Policy update (15 minutes)

Status of birds (15 minutes)

Community engagement (15 minutes)

Q & A

Call-in Information:

Dial 1-669-900-6833 and enter the room number 999-389-5302

To view presentation material, please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://audubon.zoom.us/j/9993895302>

Elections are coming up in May. We will be presenting the official slate of candidates at the April General Meeting. See you there.



CONSERVATION DINNER

A big thank you to everyone who helped get everything done to make the Conservation Dinner successful.



Last week the Audubon's 2019 Annual Conservation Dinner honored Mike Hughes, Chair of the Habitat Authority Board of Directors, for his many years of dedication to environmental causes in our area. Mike Hughes received the Whittier Audubon's Conservation Award and complimentary certificates from Congresswoman Linda Sanchez, The Habitat Authority, and the City of Whittier.



Courtesy of Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority

The honoree, Michael Hughes, was surprised and very pleased to be honored. His associates attended and supported Mr. Hughes and our fundraising efforts.

Cathy Fricker and Jennifer Schmahl introduced our new program—Enhanced Audubon Adventures-- to aid teaching about birds and the environment they require. We now have a special place on our website for dedicated donations for the

- **Elections Preview**
- **General Meeting:**
- **Conservation Dinner Wrap-up**
- **Kids Space: Birding in a Box**
- **Field trips: Sycamore Canyon and Hansen Dam**

Enhanced kits. (see description below.)

KIDS SPACE:

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!

Cathy Fricker and Jennifer Schmahl are designing BIRDING IN A BOX to present to teachers or afterschool staff to enhance the Audubon Adventures experience. In the Box: we have designed a journal for teachers/ leaders to use as a guide, a set of kid sized binoculars, a set of owl pellets to dissect, kits to build either a birdhouse or a bird feeder and a set of Audubon Adventures. This is meant for Out Of School or Afterschool programs or to enhance Post-Testing school programs. Do you want to sponsor a classroom? Details at the Dinner.

The Race is On! City Nature Challenge 2019

Once again, cities around the world will compete during the 4-day City Nature Challenge, where city dwellers get the opportunity to celebrate nature by recording and sharing their observations of all sorts of life around them. Help Los Angeles County take

the lead! Last year the San Francisco Bay Area won in all three categories: Most observations: 41,737
Most species found: 3,211
Most participants: 1,532
Los Angeles came in at # 9 for observations with almost 20,000 observations, # 6 for species with a total of 2,356; and # 5 for participants with a total of 855 people making observations.

This year, 162 cities on 6 different continents have joined the challenge, making the competition fierce. We need your help to reach our goals!

How can you help?

Become a member of the City Nature Challenge 2019: Los Angeles County project. You don't need to join the project in order to participate, but by becoming a member, you will have easy access to Challenge results and receive tips & updates as we go along.

Participate in the Challenge!

Between April 26-29

Observation Phase: Get out there and start making observations! Any observation made within Los Angeles County during the above dates will automatically be added to the project. Between April 30- May 5

Identification Phase: Make sure you check back in during these dates to help identify observations. There are always more people submitting observations than identifying them and good identification is critical to raising the number of recorded species.

Follow us on social media

@natureinla. We are on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram! Repost our content, Tag us and credit us in the comments @natureinla and use the hashtag #citynaturechallenge.

MARCH FIELD TRIP REPORT: VENTURA AND PORT HUENEME

Yellow-crowned Night Heron J.Schmahl

Larry Schmahl reports:

The March field trip was to the Ventura Harbor area and various locations within Port Hueneme. We started at the Santa Clara Estuary. The estuary is a short walk in the sand from the Surfer's Knoll

parking area. The ocean was little rough which may have contributed to the fifty or so Brown pelicans loafing on a small island within the mouth of the river. They were joined by an equal number of gulls, mostly Western, California and Heerman's. Where the river met the waves were six Snowy Plovers. We also had a Black-bellied Plover, Marsh Wren and a few other species.

Our next spot was the Ventura Spreading Ponds. This is a series of freshwater ponds which make up a part of the waste water treatment facility immediately next door. These ponds held a good variety of birds including many species of ducks, egrets and herons including a Yellow-crowned Night Heron. There were numerous Tree, Cliff and Barn Swallows, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Marsh Wrens, various sparrows including a Sooty Fox Sparrow and an Osprey.



Our next spot was lunch in Port Hueneme. Thank you to Rebecca Mendez for using her phone to find a park with picnic tables after the park I had planned on stopping at had none. After lunch we birded the end of Arnold Road. The end of this road has shallow freshwater ponds that held hundreds of shorebirds and tens of ducks. The shorebirds consisted of mostly Long-billed Dowitchers, Black-necked Stilts and a few Dunlin. We did not find the Ruff that had spent most of the winter there. We also tried the end of Casper Road. Casper Road is bounded by Strawberry fields and dead ends into a private game reserve. Through the fence were lots of birds on the ponds to which we

had no access. However, the surprise of the day were the Whimbrels in the Strawberry fields. There were at least two hundred Whimbrels we could count and many more that disappeared into the heat waves.

Thank you all for attending. Our field trips are free and open to anyone who would like to come along. See you at the next one in April

April Field Trips

Beginning Bird Walk, Sycamore Canyon:

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

April 13, 2019 7:00am

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 Steve Huber.**

Field trip to Hansen Dam.

This is a field trip our chapter has not done before, so details on where and when will be added to the website and available at the general meeting.



Expect to leave around 7:00 am from the Community Center.

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

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