



# THE OBSERVER

WHITTIER AREA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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We are a chapter of National Audubon Society



## Audubon

Visit our website [www.whittieraudubon.org](http://www.whittieraudubon.org)

### NEW LEGISLATION TAPS INTO COASTS' POTENTIAL TO STORE CARBON POLLUTION

#### From Audubon

#### California:

*Audubon California supports the introduction of the Blue Carbon for Our Planet Act*

Today Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) introduced the bipartisan Blue Carbon for Our Planet Act, which would help the United States meet a goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 through the leveraging and enhancing of carbon storage benefits of coastal ecosystems.-

“What’s left of California’s coastal wetlands and seagrass beds serve as fish spawning grounds, bird rookeries and an enormous potential carbon sink, but some 95 percent have been lost to development and environmental degradation over the past 200 years,” **said Anna Weinstein, director of marine conservation for the National Audubon Society.**

“Just last year, California adopted a herring fisheries management plan that set a national example through preserving coastal areas that support ecosystems while storing

#### Coming in March

Our annual Conservation Award Dinner honoring Colleen Mackay, Director of the Whittier Narrows Nature Center. More information can be found on Page 3 of this newsletter or on our website.

carbon. Natural solutions that capture carbon dioxide are a win-win for coastal birds like Brown Pelicans.”

“Coastal ecosystems like marshes, mangroves, and seagrasses not only provide important habitats for birds and other wildlife, but they also serve as important carbon sinks that will be critical in helping the U.S. meet its carbon reduction goals.,” **said Dr. Karen Hyun, vice president for coastal conservation at the National Audubon Society.**

Audubon’s recent report, [Survival By Degrees: 389 Species on the Brink](#), found that two-thirds of North American birds are threatened with extinction by climate change if warming continues at its current pace. According to our research, limiting warming to 1.5 degree Celsius would give 76% of at-risk bird species in North America a significantly improved chance of survival. Capturing carbon through natural ecosystem functions is the most cost effective way to achieve the goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

#### KIDS SPACE

#### Birding in a Box

**We Have begun taking applications to award Birding In A Box grants to teaching**

- **Save the Plant. Save the Birds**
- **General Meeting: Understanding eBird**
- **Kids Space: Birding in a Box Grants**
- **Field trips: Sycamore Canyon, Bolsa Chica**
- **Field trip report: Salton Sea**
- **Conservation Dinner**

**organizations for next year.** The application and instructions will be on our website, so if you know any educational program that would like to use instant curricula, direct them to our website.

#### GENERAL MEETING AND PROGRAM

**JANUARY 16, 2020 at  
7:30 pm**

Chapter member Jim McNamara will share his experience with using eBird, The Cornell Lab of Ornithology’s citizen science project. He will be showing how to post lists and pictures on the premiere ornithological Citizen Science site.

Our Whittier Area Audubon General Meeting will be Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 7:30p.m. in the Whittier Community Center, 7630 Washington Ave., Whittier, CA. The Community Center is located at the corner of Washington Ave. (not to be confused with Washington Blvd) and Mar Vista St., across the street from the Whittier Central Library.

The program is free and light refreshments will be served.

## February Field Trips

### Beginning Bird Walk, Sycamore Canyon:

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

**January 11, 2020 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.**

### February 22, 2020 Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve

We will convene in the parking lot of the Whittier Community Center and carpool/caravan, leaving at **7:00 AM sharp**. If you would rather meet at Bolsa Chica, plan to rendezvous in the PCH parking lot at 8:00.

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 will lead.**

Mailing Address:

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

## Field trip report: January 25-26, 2020

### Overnight Trip to Salton Sea



Beginning Saturday morning we were joined by a vagrant of our own. A birder from New York saw our field trip notice on the website and joined us for the weekend and added 10 life birds to his list. Phil-you are welcome back anytime!

We made our way around agricultural fields (Say's Phoebe, Loggerhead Shrike, Kestrels) to Fig Lagoon where we saw White Pelicans, a Caspian Tern, Ring-billed Gull and assorted Egrets, Herons and Coots, including a Common Gallinule. Then Jay led us to Sunbeam Lake to find another Common Gallinule, Green Heron, Sora, Ring Necked Ducks, Ruddy Ducks, Northern Pintails, and Long Billed Curlews across the road in an ag field. Then on to Sheldon Reservoir for Herring Gulls, Red Head Ducks, Canvasbacks, Northern Shovelers, Ruddy Ducks, Western Grebe and a Spotted Sandpiper along with a several soaring Turkey Vultures and about 300 American Coots.



A quick stop at the Sonny Bono Headquarters for a lunch stop where we found the Snow Geese and a Burrowing Owl at the parking entrance. There is a feeder next to the picnic tables where Gamble's Quail, White Crowned Sparrows, Abert's Towhee and Ruddy Ground Doves visited. We also found a Black Tailed Gnatcatcher fluttering about.

Then more driving around agricultural fields where we found a sizeable flock of Sandhill Cranes with more landing on a constant basis. Have I mentioned Kestrels? We counted 70 Kestrels on Saturday.

On to the sea wall. This was our best look at the Salton Sea itself, which is a shadow of its former glory. Even so, many, many ducks, gulls, grebes can be found floating on the shallow salt water. Peeps galore along the muddy shoreline including Black-bellied and Snowy Plovers, Killdeer, Avocets, Black-necked Stilts, Least and Western Sandpipers, Willets, Greater Yellowlegs.

Birding on the Berm was another spectacular sunset ending to the day. Snacks and libations while watching the thousands of Cranes, Gulls, Geese and assorted other waterfowl/shorebirds come in to roost. Glorious.

Sunday morning stop at Cattle Call Park in Brawley gave us a Great Horned Owl, Vermillion Flycatcher, Chipping Sparrows, Anna's Hummingbird, Gila Woodpecker and a Red-naped Sapsucker (f).

The final spot before dispersal was the Unit 1 of the WRA. In addition to species seen previously, from the observation platform we spotted Western Snipe and heard many Marsh Wrens.

# Whittier Area Audubon Society

## Annual Conservation Dinner

March 19, 2020 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
Hillcrest Congregational Church 2000 West Road  
La Habra Heights, CA 90031

Each year we take the opportunity to acknowledge members of our greater community who have worked to preserve our environment through advocacy, education and leadership.

Whittier Area Audubon is pleased to announce

**Collen Mackay**

**As the 2020 Conservation Award Honoree**

Ms. Mackay is the Director of the Whittier Narrows Nature Center. We will be honoring her service to wildlife and our community.

Dinner will include live entertainment of traditional folk music from String Picnic. Tickets are \$ 35.00 and will help support Whittier Area Audubon with educational outreach to local students, monthly bird walks in Sycamore Canyon, along with monthly educational programs and lectures for the community.

Pay online with Paypal <http://whittieraudubon.org/give-and-join/> or make checks payable to:



Whittier Area Audubon P.O.Box 548 Whittier, CA 90608-0548

Yes, please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ tickets @ \$ 35 each. Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

RSVP before March 16, 2020

