



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

With the introduction of vaccines to prevent and lessen the effect of Covid19, we can start to look forward to life returning to normal. Until then, please stay safe and continue following social distancing recommendations. **We will see you soon.**

- **General Meeting: Army Corps Mitigation along San Gabriel River**
- **Field trips suggestions: San Gabriel River Spreading Basin, Madrona Marsh**
- **2020 Conservation Awardee Colleen MacKay receives long overdue recognition**

National Audubon has issued guidance regarding activities and meetings during the Covid19 pandemic. Whittier Audubon will NOT be leading field trips or having in-person meetings or gatherings of any kind during the pandemic.

VIRTUAL MEETING AND PROGRAM

www.whittieraudubon.org

Thomas Keeney: Army Corps of Engineers and Habitat Mitigation

Thursday, April 15, 2021

This will be a virtual event That may be in Google Meet or perhaps Zoom. Go to our website to RSVP and get a link emailed to you.

As part of the Whittier Narrows Dam Modifications \$400M reconstruction, a federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service was completed in which includes 105 acres of habitat creation and restoration for least Bell's vireo (riverine) and California gnatcatcher (coast sage scrub) were agreed upon as part of the EIS. Also as part of the ESA consultation is approximately 246 acres of giant reed eradication within the Rio Hondo River and cross-over channel portion of the reservoir.

This is intended as a discussion with chapter members concerning the

mandatory habitat creation and restoration that must be accomplished.

This is a chance for our Chapter to discuss what we as stakeholders of Whittier Narrows are concerned about and how we want the habitat creation or restoration to be accomplished as planned without cutting cost corners.

Mr. Keeney is now retired with 40 years of federal service including the 26 years with the Corps of Engineers. **Please join us for this important and informative presentation.**

Suggested Field Trips Beginning Bird Walk, San Gabriel River Spreading Basins

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

April 10, 2021 7:00am
National Audubon is still asking local chapters to refrain from leading field trips or having any gatherings.

Therefore, we are simply suggesting interesting places to go birding on your own that are appropriate for the season. Our suggested location is the San Gabriel River Spreading Grounds. A great location to park and begin your morning is at the eastern terminus of Mines on the west side of the spreading basin. Please check our website for further details.

SPRING MIGRATION

SUGGESTED FIELD TRIP

If we could get together and share a field trip outing this month, we would be going to **Madrona Marsh** in Torrance. The Preserve is a mix of several micro-habitats including back dune, coastal prairie, alkali margin, vernal pool and vernal marsh area and is situated within the greater El Segundo Sand Dune System. The fine sand particles of this ancient dune system have been carried from the coastal dunes by winds for thousands of years. Each of the Preserve's habitats houses its own specifically adapted native plant species.

Madrona Marsh Preserve provides a valuable habitat for birds, insects, spiders, frogs, reptiles and small mammals. It is one of the last vestiges of the extensive marshland that once covered the Southern California Coastal Plain.

First, fourth and fifth Saturdays the Preserve is open 10 am to 4:30 pm. Second and third Saturdays the Preserve is open 2pm to 4:30 pm.

If you can safely get out and travel, migration is happening and this birding spot can be worth your time.

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Audubon Conservation Award presented to Colleen MacKay of Whittier Narrows Nature Center



Last year's lockdown to prevent the spread of Covid19 came just before our planned 2020 Conservation Award Dinner last March. Unfortunately, Colleen MacKay, our 2020 Awardee lost the opportunity to be celebrated for her years of stewardship and educational outreach as the Director of Los Angeles County's Whittier Narrows Nature Center.



Colleen also took the opportunity to explain some of the changes to the Nature Center itself. Especially the exciting news that they will be adding a museum and asked for Whittier Audubon's help with it. The old Sheriff's building will house the Nature Center offices and the original Nature Center building with house the animals, exhibits, museum and library.



Congratulations to Shirley Patterson

Another delayed award that President Steve Huber was able to finally present was to long time member Shirley Patterson. The Chapter awarded her with a Lifetime Membership Award. Thank you Shirley and Congratulations!

