

You are Invited to Attend My Monthly Free Walks and Restoration Days: Visit, Enjoy, Learn, Restore at KMHRP

You can get a taste of birding with me in So CA and/or also get your hands dirty doing some habitat restoration!

When: *Second Saturday and Sunday of each month (restorations on Saturdays at 9 AM, Walks Sundays at 8 AM, both events last about 3 hours)*

Where: *See directions below.*

Ken Malloy/Harbor Regional Park (KMHRP) and Lake Machado have been called a "diamond in the rough", a "jewel in the heart of the city", and more, yet most folks know it only as "that place where they had the alligator". KMHRP and its lake are a remnant of a vast and exceedingly rich ecosystem, once visited by residents of nearby Tongva Native American villages. It contained rich willow riparian woodlands, a remnant oxbow lake (once a bend in the former LA River course) teeming with fish and wildlife, vast seasonal wetlands that are now all but vanished elsewhere in CA, and rich coastal sage scrub and oak woodland uplands. It was habitat for up to 350 species of resident and migratory birds and waterfowl (more species than in any comparable sized area in the state). It was said to be so rich in waterfowl that they once blackened the sky for minutes at a time as they passed overhead.

Grizzly bears no longer wander the margins of the lake, but YOU can! Soon, with an infusion of nearly \$120 million in water quality and habitat improvement grants, the park can be restored to a more contemporary and user-friendly version of its former glory. There will be opportunities for picnickers, hikers, photographers, families seeking a relaxing and cool outing in summer, scouts and campers, fishermen (and women), wildlife enthusiasts, teachers and students, scientists, and more.

The Walks

The focus of my walks is the birds and other wildlife in this, one of the most valuable natural habitats remaining in Southern LA County. Birders of all levels of experience, from beginner to expert, are welcome. Of the 350 species that have been documented, up to 200 are regularly occurring species, and usually 50, more or less, are seen per walk. The great diversity is due to the many converging habitat types: lake/open water, riparian woodland/willow forest, freshwater marsh, and sage-scrub species, including seasonal migrants and vagrants are all seen. You can download a checklist of the birds of KMHRP from this site and if you explore the site a bit you can also find and read more about birding KMHRP on this site in my unedited excerpt from my chapter in the 2007 ABA *A Birder's Guide to Southern CA*.

The Restoration Work

You can watch and be a part of the restoration process, which has already begun. Would you like to watch as endangered California Gnatcatchers, PV Blue Butterflies, Least Bell's Vireos, Least Bitterns, Tricolored Blackbirds, Western Bluebirds and other species recolonize the park? How would you like to BE a part of the process?

You can help make this happen by participating in the Saturday habitat restoration parties at the Park. These activities occur on the 2nd Saturday of each month and are sponsored by the Palos Verdes South Bay Audubon Society, with the support of the KMHRP advisory board, the LA Dept. of Recreation and Parks, the Chadwick School Ecommunity, and more. Local groups and organization have been very generously providing additional support. Students can earn community service credit, learning service credit, credit toward the Audubon YES! (Youth Environmental Service) award, and more, by participating.

Directions and Details: Take the Anaheim St. exit off the Harbor (110) Fwy. and go west on Anaheim St. to the park entrance, just before Vermont/Gaffey. Both activities are free to the public and meet in the parking lot near the intersection of Anaheim and Vermont in Harbor City. The lot can be accessed from either street. Parking is near the Anaheim St. entrance, near the head of the gated bike path/trail that forks and leads to the south end of the lake and to the small building adjacent to the lawn area that overlooks the lake.

Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult for both activities. The Saturday restoration activity begins at 9 AM, the Sunday nature walk begins at 8. Both end at approximately 11:30. For both activities it is best to have protection from sun (and if desired, insects) including hats, long pants, closed toe shoes and sunscreen, and to bring water (although refreshments are usually provided at the Saturday work parties.) For the Saturday work parties you may want to bring gloves (we will try to provide gloves, tools, and other supplies.) For the Sunday walks, binoculars are necessary (a few spare pairs are usually available for loan on the day of the event) and a field guide to birds is helpful. Walk leaders on Sundays may consist of a team of Audubon experts and local naturalists who show up and give me a hand. Bird checklists and Audubon chapter membership information are provided. (Note: SERIOUS rain cancels.)