



Audubon | CALIFORNIA

Bay Area Council Meeting
Saturday, January 12, 2019

Napa-Solano Audubon Society
Florence Douglas Senior Center
333 Amador Street
Vallejo, CA

NOTES

Attendance

Bill Hudson	Golden Gate	Diane Hart	Santa Clara Valley
Barbara Salzman	Marin	John Epperson	Sequoia
Sally Baumer	Napa-Solano	Marilyn Latta	State Coastal Conservancy
Robin Leong	Napa-Solano	Garrison Frost	Audubon CA
Nancy Piotrowski	Napa-Solano	Rebecca Schwartz Lesberg	Audubon CA
Marty Morrow	Ohlone	Ariana Rickard	Mt. Diablo/Audubon CA
Kelly Alfrey	Santa Clara Valley		

9:30 am **Legislative Updates**
Mike Lynes, Audubon California

AB 2627 – Stopgap rollback of MBTA, but bill did not go forward. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife and Attorney General issued a statement that California will continue to enforce protections for migratory birds. Plan to reintroduce bill without certification language this year, saying California will enforce law at least as strong as MBTA prior to January 1, 2017.

Gavin Newsom

- First state budget – education for all, universal health care, affordable housing. No environmental platform. Flat on spending on environment and environment protection.
- Two good nominations – Cal EPA – Jared Blumenthal, Federal EPA in CA and Wayne Crowfoot – California Natural Resources Agency.

US House of Representatives – two of the seats that flipped were occupied by representatives that were drafting legislation to take water from wildlife refuges and give them to farmers.

State Senate – Democrats have 2/3 vote, super majority

State Assembly - Democrats have 2/3 vote, super majority

Legislature and Governor Newsom are probably going to focus on clean drinking water and fire management this year.

Border Wall – Audubon opposed to it. Deferring to our national colleagues on national issues.

SB 1 – back stop bill to protect endangered species under the California Endangered Species Act if federal ESA is gone or enforcement is reduced.

2019 legislative priorities

Working on state budget for better environmental funding

Fire management to include conservation management

Clean drinking water

MBTA bill

SB 1

Other priorities: Greenhouse gas reductions and wildlife corridors

**10:00am SF Estuary Invasive Spartina Project
Marilyn Latta, State Coastal Conservancy**

Visit California Coastal Conservancy website at <https://scc.ca.gov/> and sign up for their email list to receive updates on grants.

Native species – Native Pacific Cordgrass, important tidal marsh species. Very productive habitat. Annual grass. Dies off.

Four species of invasive spartina – *Spartina alterniflora* – East Coast species planted by Army Corps in 1970s, *Spartina patens*, *Spartina densiflora*, *Spartina anglica*

Marilyn Latta, Project Manager

State Coastal Conservancy

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11:00am Chapter Reports and CBC updates

Sequoia

70 year anniversary this year. Chapter founded in 1949. Currently updating t-shirts and hats.

Considering hiring an Executive Director.

Two CBCs – Crystal Springs 184 and Ano Nuevo 173 species. Great weather for both of them.

Santa Clara Valley

Ralph Schardt, Executive Director, is retiring and moving to New Mexico. Job posting is on website.

Audubon Naturalists training for high school kids. 10 students. July 15 – 23. Every day from 9am – 2pm. \$175 for members \$225 for non-members. Students are now participating in other events with SCVAS.

CBC for kids for the first time in 2018, plan to do it again. 12 people participated.

Marin

Recently purchased Black Point, 2.5 acres. The chapter owns or manages 500 acres spread around the Bay.

Anchor outs – consultants will produce a work plan with an evaluation system. Alternatives to where anchors out should go. The anchor outs are impacting eelgrass.

Three counts – co sponsor with Point Reyes.

Ohlone

Conservation – primary focus. Two conservation directors. East Chair and South Bay Chair. Currently looking for a third person to handle San Leandro and Castro Valley.

San Leandro Marina is considering doing major renovation to include ferry services.

Education – Education Coordinator rather than Education Chair. Scholarship funds – no takers.

Golden Gate

Two CBCs – East Bay – four year running. Biggest participation 250 people. 170 species.

Lake Merritt rotary nature center – Oakland is reviving it. Classes there this spring.

Adult classes – six total, all full. Primarily in East Bay, some are in SF.

Osprey cam – two years running. Local paper article covering story.

Reviving bird-a-thon this year. 29 trips, spread over two months. Weekend trip to see Greater Sage-Grouse. Goal is to raise \$60,000 this year.

Alameda - fourth city to adopt bird-safe buildings. Took two years to pass. SF 1st, Oakland - 2013 and Richmond. In building codes – new construction over 30 feet high. Put in glass that birds can see. No search lights or anything. Guidelines from American Bird Conservancy.

Centennial exhibit is now at Lafayette Library.

Napa-Solano

Education – big priorities. Scholarships to high school seniors, have to be going into environmental studies for college. From memorial fund.

Two development centers going in – one is in American Canyon - Napa. Cordelia – Solano County – Flyway center. Both being developed at the same time. Helped get approval of plan. Looking forward to Flyway Center. High visibility.

Two CBCs – Benicia – 166 species and Angwin Bird Count 146 species.

SF Bay Flyway Festival – February 9-10 on Mare Island.

Madrone

52nd annual Christmas Bird Count on Dec. 30, 2018: tentative total species 172. Less passerines noted across all blocks for West Sonoma Co. CBC.

Sent a check for \$451 to Altacal Audubon in Chico. Board wants to help support Altacal post the Camp Fire and this is a small expression of support to help with their members and the environmental recovery.

Breeding Bird Atlas - page on Madrone web site, exploring an official web site (rather than a book) for publishing the updated BBA data. This is in process.

Dutra asphalt plant property in the Petaluma Wetlands area in Petaluma. Madrone is quietly exploring bridges of communication for a possible conservation sale and acquisition of the property.

2nd annual family and youth bird walk, modeled after the CBC4Kids at Spring Lake Regional Park on Dec. 15 with Sonoma Co. Regional Parks. Another family walk with Regional Parks at Spring Lake March 23rd.

Supporting open space and habitat conservation in the NE area of Santa Rosa, the Paulin Creek Preserve property, and SW Santa Rose, the Roseland Creek Preserve property.

Three new volunteers for our Phenology Project at the Paula Lane Nature Preserve in West Petaluma, and the project is ongoing entering our 4th year.

Second annual scholarship to an environmental science or science student transferring from the Santa Rosa Junior College to a 4 year university. Able to provide this educational benefit as a result of the bequest left to the Chapter by one of the founders, Ernestine Smith.

Recruiting for a newsletter editor, Vice President and Recording Secretary and a Program Chair.

San Francisco Bay Program

Manage 900 acres of subtidal habitat in Richardson Bay.

Restoration programs – Sonoma Creek enhancement project. Centennial marsh. Marsh developed in 20th century. Aramburu Island – erosion, natural beach restoration, have Black Oystercatchers there now.