



**Central Coast Council Meeting  
Saturday, March 18, 2017**

**Ventura Audubon**  
1198 Navigator Drive  
Ventura West Marina  
Ventura, CA 93001

**NOTES**

**Attending:**

Don Klabunde	Conejo Valley	Adele Fergusson	Ventura
Chrystal Klabunde	Conejo Valley	Cynthia Hartley	Ventura
Stephanie Little	Morro Coast (via phone)	Bruce Schoppe	Ventura
Dave Tyra	Morro Coast	Joyce Schoppe	Ventura
Jessie Altstatt	Santa Barbara	Jim Susha	Ventura
Janice Levasheff	Santa Barbara	Neil Zeigler	Ventura
Dolores Pollock	Santa Barbara	Mike Lynes	Audubon CA (via phone)
Debra Barringer	Ventura	Ariana Rickard	Audubon CA
John Connor	Ventura		

**9:15am Election of Dave Tyra to Audubon California board – Unanimous!**

**9:20am National Perspective from National Audubon Society Regional Director  
Stephanie Little, National Audubon Society/Morro Coast**

Next board meeting for National Audubon Society will be in May. Last meeting was in January in Colombia. NAS just opened its first international office in Colombia. David Yarnold is promoting protecting the full lifecycle of birds, conserving the wintering habitat of birds in Central and South America.

Stephanie is the chair of the network committee and trying to get more resources to chapters.

Policy strategy for the next four years is to focus on local and state level issues, rack up wins there. NAS is asking chapter members to visit local supervisors, invite them on a bird walk. Invite kids and grandkids, bring loaner binoculars. Birding is a bipartisan activity. These walks are an opportunity to highlight a nature preserve we manage or a birding hotspot or our programs.

Goal for attendance at National Convention in July in Park City is 150 chapters represented, 450 chapter members.

Here's National's response to those worried about Utah's stance on handling public lands....

“Thank you for your advocacy for public lands, which have been one of Audubon’s top priorities for decades. We’re glad to see for-profit companies like Patagonia standing up for their values. When the Audubon flock gathers in Utah this summer, we’re going to send a strong message to elected officials from Utah about the importance of public lands, endangered species conservation, and protecting clean air and clean waters. We’ll have specific advocacy activities you can join while in Utah to make our voices heard. We’re also going to shine a spotlight on the perils facing the Great Salt Lake and other saline lakes that support millions of America’s waterbirds. We are going to stand up and be counted, and we hope you’ll join us.”

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

Tricolored Blackbirds are candidates for state listing. Final analysis is being done this year.

Priority bills for this year:

Funding for natural resources in state - \$100 million needed by California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Department of Parks and Recreation for mandates.

Parks Bond – we haven’t had one for 15 years. Concern about a possible economic downturn which would limit support for bonds.

We are working with Defenders of Wildlife on another way to provide a source of funding for natural resources, like a tax on outdoors recreation gear.

There are no clear signals from Brown on whether he would support a bond or tax on outdoor recreation gear. 2/3 of legislature would have to vote to approve a tax. It will be a two-year process for bond or fee plan. License fee will probably not be a feasible measure.

AB 890

Southern California legislator is proposing a bill that would close a loophole that allows developers to exploit the election code to circumvent CEQA. Sierra Club and Defenders of Wildlife are working with us on this.

## Extension of California's Cap and Trade program

We are advocating for a piece of funding going to natural resources.

There is not going to be much progress at federal level on climate for the next four years.

## Greenshield

Step up protections at state level if federal protections are taken away.

One bill would give California the right of first refusal if public lands in California are put up for sale.

## Federal

Proposed budget from the Trump administration includes an 80% reduction in envt. justice programs and an 80% reduction in climate programs for the EPA. Cuts in the USDA budget affect our Working Lands program.

We are working on the Farms bill, which is a bipartisan effort.

If there are efforts to repeal the ESA, we will fight it. And we will fight to protect and promote science. We will resist rollbacks on federal protections.

We will defend the progress we have made so that we can recover more quickly when the administration and Congress change.

Natural Resources Defense Council and Sierra Club have been more aggressive in their response to the Trump administration. National Audubon Society has been more cautious. 40% of our members are Republicans and independents.

**10:00am Conservation and Policy Priorities for FY 18**

**10:15am Break**

**10:30am Shorebird Conservation  
Cynthia Hartley, Ventura Audubon**

Cynthia has worked for 20 years on Ormond Beach. See pdf of presentation.

**11:00 am Board member recruitment strategies**

<https://works.audubon.org/resources/capacity-building-resources-audubon-chapters>

Mt. Diablo Audubon Meetup page now has 600 members:  
<https://www.meetup.com/Mount-Diablo-Audubon-Society/>

*Santa Barbara* – when somebody is leaving a chair, President asks them to replace themselves.

Nominating Committee – need someone who knows a lot of people in the community

*Conejo Valley* – Core group of 10 people. No people on committees, chairs do all the work

*Ventura* – small chapter, have recruited people through bird walks and local school (CSU-CI)

Ideas – change venue location to try to reach new audience

*Morro Coast*

Nominating Committee – four board members. Reactive, not proactive

Member-at-large, stepping stone to other board positions, one-year term.

**12:00 pm      Lunch**

**12:30 pm      Chapter Reports**

*Conejo Valley*

Gala dinner and auction, raised \$5300. 50 people and 100 auction items

Ribbon cutting of phase 2 of Simi Valley bikeway. Little extension between school. Greenway from one end of valley to other. Extended trail to Star Gaze. Contributed pictures, art work and information for interpretive signs. Six nice signs about birds on trail.

Heritage Park. Demonstration garden at pocket park. Mayor did some digging at site. Next phase is interpretive signs. Complete all the lawns to habitat grants for the year.

*Morro Coast*

Climate Change Engagement grant – more people signed up to be supportive of Morro Coast Audubon and Audubon California. Centered around Earth Day and the March for Science that is planned for San Luis Obispo. Goal is to get 300 more people who will stand up for climate policy. They have hired a CalPoly student to help with this project.

Sweet Springs. Get through regulatory issues. ADA accessible path with overlook and a bird blind.

Habitat Conservation Plan – received incidental take permit. \$380,000 to do work. Raised \$280,000. Launching fund drive April 1. Bench, interpretive signs, pavers sponsorships. Opportunity for \$50,000 from Coastal Conservancy and \$50,000 from Wildlife Conservation Board. Break ground in mid-July and complete in October.

Continue to be involved as a stakeholder with Trident Off-shore wind 13 miles off the coast of Morro Bay. Twenty-year project. First off shore wind project in California.

### *Santa Barbara*

Raise \$8,000 a year membership and \$50,000 – 60,000 through annual appeal

Ares program - Took one raptor to nursing home. Can take birds room to room.

Winter bird count for kids – third years. Blue shirt that says Santa Barbara Audubon. Grant from City of Goleta.

Western Field Ornithologists. WFO – conferences every year between California and other western states. Will be in Pueblo Colorado this year. Youth scholarships. 2018 site – Ventura. Looking to local organizations to help with conference. Papers, field trips to highlight what is happening in local area.

### *Ventura*

Least Bell's vireo – Cowbird Trapping, Fish and wildlife foundation. Five traps. Second year of four-year grant.

Education committee – projects with kids from school. Oxnard earth day with booth in plaza park.

Received money from NRG. Continued to help support conservation work this year. Snowy Plover work.

Ramp up activity at Hollywood Beach. Different fencing. Trying to get help with enforcement there.

Website completely revamped: <https://www.venturaaudubon.org/>

**Next meeting:** Santa Barbara, September 2017