



**Central Coast Council Meeting  
Saturday, September 16, 2017**

Cachuma Lake Neal Taylor Nature Ctr.  
2265 Highway 154  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

## NOTES

### Attendance

- |                                     |                                  |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Don Klabunde , Conejo Valley     | 12. Jayne Wamsley, Santa Barbara |
| 2. Chrystal Klabunde, Conejo Valley | 13. Debra Barringer, Ventura     |
| 3. Dave Tyra, Morro Coast           | 14. Adele Fergusson, Ventura     |
| 4. Rosalie Valvo, Morro Coast       | 15. Cynthia Hartley, Ventura     |
| 5. Kathleen Boehm, Santa Barbara    | 16. Vince Hartley, Ventura       |
| 6. Aaron Kreisberg, Santa Barbara   | 17. Kaitlyn O'Dea, Ventura       |
| 7. David Levasheff, Santa Barbara   | 18. Bruce Schoppe, Ventura       |
| 8. Janice Levasheff, Santa Barbara  | 19. Joyce Schoppe, Ventura       |
| 9. Chris Mersey, Santa Barbara      | 20. Natasha Khanna, Audubon CA   |
| 10. Dolores Pollock, Santa Barbara  | 21. Ariana Rickard, Audubon CA   |
| 11. Cherie Topper, Santa Barbara    |                                  |

## AGENDA

**10:00am**      **Introductions and finalization of agenda**

**10:15am**      **Santa Barbara County Breeding Bird Study**  
**David Levasheff, Santa Barbara Audubon**

Mark Holmgren started the project. Public can input observations through website.  
Tutorial on Santa Barbara Audubon website: <http://santabarbaraudubon.org/santa-barbara-county-breeding-bird-study/>

**10:30am**      **Audubon California Board Meeting Update**  
**Dave Tyra, Morro Coast Audubon**

Humboldt Bay – Coastal Commission met Wednesday in Cambria. Coast Seafoods, a subsidiary of billion dollar company Pacific Seafoods, wanted to expand oyster farming operation in Humboldt Bay. This is the primary place in US that Brant use during migration. 50,000 – 60,000 Brant use Humboldt Bay.

Coast Seafood is currently operating 300 acres of oyster farms in Humboldt. This type of aquaculture destroys eelgrass. The company wanted to expand to 900 acres in eelgrass areas. Audubon CA filed a lawsuit regarding the adequacy of the EIR. Lawsuit has not yet been settled. Humboldt Bay is governed by the Harbor Commission.

Anna Weinstein, Marine Program Director for Audubon California – talked to hunters, fishermen, and Redwood Region Audubon to build a coalition to oppose the plan. Spent time listening to the needs and interests of the community and see where we have common ground.

May 2017 – Coastal Commission staff recommended approving the project, but the Coastal Commission board did not approve. Final recommendation allowed 269 acres, less than what they had before. Coast Commission staff voted for expansion to 450 acres, but Commissioners disagreed.

Chapter Board Representatives have an agenda item on board meetings and will solicit chapter leaders for input for presentation at next board meeting.

Dave Tyra will write up first report on the board meeting and Ariana will distribute to Central Coast Council. The next board meeting is in December.

**10:45am National Audubon Convention – David Yarnold, Plants for Birds, Climate Watch**

**Dave Tyra, Dolores Pollock and Ariana Rickard, Audubon California**

I am Audubon video – <https://vimeo.com/224335318>

National Audubon encouraged chapters to become more involved with advocacy for birds and conservation.

Scholarship opportunities - \$600 for chapter leaders and if you are under 35, can get \$1000 scholarship. Chapter could provide matching funds for scholarship that comes from National Audubon Society.

Plants for Birds program – started a few years ago. Plants for Birds resources:

<https://www.audubon.org/native-plants>

<http://www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds>

<https://works.audubon.org/groups/native-plants-native-birds/plants-birds-engagement-and-outreach-toolkit>

Chapters could get city involved with program. John Rowden, based in LA, is contact for chapters. ([jrowden@audubon.org](mailto:jrowden@audubon.org))

Surfrider (Ocean friendly garden program) and Native Plant Society are potential partners.

Climate Watch – way of looking at changes in bird distribution and timing. Surveys are conducted in winter and in the spring. Currently looking at species of chickadees and bluebirds. 30 day period. Requires 10-15 volunteers.

<http://www.audubon.org/conservation/climate-watch-program>

**11:15 am      Revision of Audubon California Chapter Network Strategic Plan  
Ariana Rickard, Audubon California**

Garry George developed a Chapter Network Strategic Plan which guided the team from 2013 – 2016. The Chapter Team at Audubon California (Garrison Frost, Natasha Khanna and Ariana Rickard) are currently drafting another Strategic Plan for 2017 – 2020 and are seeking input from the chapters on priorities and goals. Please complete the survey by September 30: <https://goo.gl/forms/GCtarg65weE08Vle2>

**11:45am      Chapter Reports**

*Conejo Valley*

Working on next stage of Lawns to Habitats program. City staff sprayed wildflowers in Heritage Park – thought they were weeds. Chapter has funding for the signs.

Planning two joint field trips with Conejo Valley and Ventura.

*Ventura*

Ventura River cowbird trapping program to protect Least Bell's Vireo. Working with Griffith Biological to work in Lower Ventura River and Ventura Land Trust to do restoration work, like cleaning out homeless encampments.

Kat O'Dea, student at California State University Channel Islands, formed Audubon club on campus. There are a lot of birders on campus, but 65% were not familiar with Audubon.

Planning to get involved with community events, volunteer, and do bird walks.

47 people have signed up. \$20 dues. Donation based. Free club t-shirt.

Kat is on Ventura board as student liaison. Student club members can attend Conejo Valley and Ventura Audubon bird walks.

Ormond Beach dog ordinance ban – visitors have declined by 50%. Snowy Plovers and Least Terns had a great year, high number of nests.

Hollywood Beach – 32 Snowy Plover chicks lost to crows. Dogs have shifted to this beach and there is no enforcement at Hollywood Beach.

### *Morro Coast*

Chapter is focused on Sweet Springs property - 24 acres of land. 9 years ago acquired 8 acres – East Sweet Springs.

September 1 – dogs were banned at Sweet Springs and some neighbors were upset. Most people are fine with it. Jan Surbey is training Ambassadors (docents) who greet people and remind them of the rules. There are currently 24 Ambassadors who volunteer for one hour a week and provide brochures and information sheets on dog rules. Chapter has a brochure of other places where people can take dogs.

Sweet Springs property contains woodland, salt marsh and estuary. Goal was to raise \$100K, now at \$89K. Construction is on track - Bird blind and overlook have been built. ADA accessible trail with sight impaired signage. To raise money, the chapter sold memorial pavers and sold sponsorships for benches and interpretive signs.

The Morro Shoulderband Snail, an endangered species, is found on the property. Chapter completed a Habitat Conservation plan to receive an incidental take permit. Plan to open up property in November and have a party.

### *Santa Barbara*

Chapter has strong relationships with local politicians in the City of Santa Barbara and Goleta.

Tree removal planned for Monarch butterfly grove in Elwood. Proponents said all trees had to be removed (13,000). Goleta group formed to oppose this plan and now down to 29 trees slated for removal. Aaron (Conservation Co-Chair) spoke at Goleta City Council meeting.

Coal Oil Point Reserve – Nature Center opening this year.

Annual appeal – will send to 1800 people on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Brings in about \$60,000 on average.

New Education program – Aries – Audubon Raptor Interaction Education for Seniors. Adapted elementary school curriculum for local underserved retirement facilities. 19 people signed up to be trained and 400 people participated. Staff at facilities asked chapter to come back and lead bird walks. Chapter will provide a local bird list for retirement homes. Applied for continued funding to keep program going. Chapter has an Education pipeline from preschool to retirement.

Restoration happening at Santa Barbara Natural History Museum, which impacted the birds in the aviary on the grounds of the museum. Jack hammer, other noise will disturb birds. Seven rescued raptors are now at two chapter members' residences in converted aviaries. Screech owl sits on mouse and will eat it only when it gets dark. New temporary house for 9 months. Docents are taking raptors to the Rose Garden at the Mission and are getting about the same number of people as at the Museum.

Western Field Ornithologists are having their conference in Ventura – September 2018. Last week of September 21-24.

**12:45 pm      Hanging Chads and/or chapter feedback for State and National Audubon**

Salton Sea Update:

1. Audubon in coalition with Pinnacle Forum and Love 20/20 has launched The Salton Sea Sunday Campaign that has brought over 100 churches to collaborate and support the Salton Sea current issues.
2. We have launched the Local Media Campaign in conjunction with Univision to reach out to Spanish speaking audiences. First radio 60 sec. PSA spot was aired TH Sept 14th. It will be played 6X a day for the next 6 times and will be followed by the TV PSA (currently working on it).
3. Launching the Audubon Leadership/Education Program in collaboration with Salton Sea Education Advisory Committee (a cohort of Professors from at least 4 colleges and universities).
4. Audubon/Eco-fight is flying stakeholders and community leaders over the Salton Sea in an effort to raise the level of awareness.

**Next meeting - Conejo Valley will host – February 3 or February 10. Ariana will send out a doodle poll to finalize the date later this year.**