



**Central Coast Council Meeting
Saturday, February 10, 2018**

**Conejo Valley Audubon Society
William Rolland Art Center, room 114
California Lutheran University (CLU)
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360**

NOTES

Attendance:

Catherine Bourne	Conejo Valley	Dolores Pollock	Santa Barbara
Cia DeMartino	Conejo Valley	Melissa Riparetti-Stepien	Santa Barbara
Chrystal Klabunde	Conejo Valley	Cherie Topper	Santa Barbara
Don Klabunde	Conejo Valley	Kat O’Dea	Ventura
Dee Lyon	Conejo Valley	Bruce Schoppe	Ventura
Thelma Williams	Conejo Valley	Joyce Schoppe	Ventura
Stephanie Little	Morro Coast	Jim Susha	Ventura
Janice Levasheff	Santa Barbara	Ariana Rickard	Audubon CA
Lee Moldaver	Santa Barbara		

**9:15am Audubon California updates: Audubon Assembly, Advocacy Day, GIS map, new Audubon branded website template for chapters
Ariana Rickard, Audubon California**

Audubon California Assembly – November 2-4, Long Beach:
<http://ca.audubon.org/about/chapters/audubon-california-assembly>

Advocacy Day – June 20, Sacramento

GIS Map: <http://ca.audubon.org/about/chapter-resources>

Squarespace Template for chapters: <https://works.audubon.org/groups/chapters/new-branded-website-template-chapters>

If you need access to Audubon Works, you can click the green “Register” button and use the registration code “kingfisher.”

Vimeo page with Audubon videos available for download: <https://vimeo.com/audubon>

I am Audubon video from National Audubon Convention: <https://vimeo.com/224335318>

Samantha Arthur - Conservation Project Director at Audubon California
Works on Tricolored Blackbirds and groundwater issues
Sacramento; (916) 737-5707 ext. 115; sarthur@audubon.org

Anna Weinstein - Marine Program Director, SF; (415) 644-4613; aweinstein@audubon.org

9:30am **Major policy and legislative initiatives**
 Mike Lynes, Audubon California

Federal issues

Migratory Bird Treaty Act – Strong push from Audubon to protect MBTA. 520 bird species are vulnerable if protective measures from the MBTA are removed.

California is looking into state legislation to protect these birds. AB 2627:
<http://ca.audubon.org/press-release/new-legislation-seeks-protect-california%E2%80%99s-birds-trump-administration-rollbacks>

Expansion of offshore oil drilling

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is responsible for developing the Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program. We are currently operating under a plan for oil and gas lease sales that covers the years 2017-2022. BOEM is now developing a new plan for 2019-2024 that would supersede the old plan.

On January 4, 2018, BOEM released a new Draft Proposed Program (DPP) that includes three planning areas in California. The comment deadline on the DPP is March 9, 2018.

BOEM held one public meeting in California, in Sacramento on February 8. If you would like to provide comments on the plan, please visit:

https://act.audubon.org/onlineactions/e_Vm3cj1d0WzmFBz_TQ2sA2?ms=policy-adv-web-website_nas-topmenubar-20180104_offshore_drillin

The State Lands Commission will not allow any permits to oil companies to drill off the coast of California.

California Coastal Gnatcatcher – 30,000 comments to keep species listed and protected under the ESA.

Protection from federal rollbacks

The federal government has decided to repeal the Waters of the United States rule, which will make it easier to destroy wetland. The state is going to put together a Waters of the State rule which would protect those waters. Defenders of Wildlife is leading the coalition.

SB 49 – the state would provide baseline protections in case Clean Water, Clean Air protections go away. This bill may come up again in this legislative session.

SB 100 (renewable energy bill)

This is a two-year bill, currently in limbo. The bill would create 100% carbon free energy by 2045, not 100% renewable. The bill supporters are trying to broker a deal with labor which would allow members to support the bill.

CEQA

California Environmental Quality Act – governor would like to see CEQA reform, promote transportation projects to build roads and bridges.

Prop. 68 – Parks & Water Bond

\$4.1 billion bond. We are asking the chapters to help us get the word out on Prop. 68. What parks, beaches in your area could benefit from these investments?

**10:00am Bird Habitat projects
Dee Lyon, Conejo Valley Audubon**

Project started in 2014. The chapter has created demonstration gardens and converted Heritage Park to native plants through a partnership with the city of Thousand Oaks.

This year, they offered \$200 in native plants and design advice to anyone in the community. Dee visits the residences and provides design advice based on guidelines from the Theodore Paine Foundation and the California Native Plant Society.

40 people signed up, so they offered the assistance to the first 25 people who signed up. The rest of the people are guaranteed assistance next year. Each participant receives 40 plants.

After participating in the program, many people have joined Audubon.

Program has cost \$5,000 from the chapter's budget. They did receive a grant from National Audubon Society to support the native plant program.

Native Habitat handouts on Conejo Valley website:
<http://conejovalleyaudubon.org/conservation.php>

**10:30am National Audubon Society Board Meeting Update
Stephanie Little, Morro Coast Audubon**

There are nine chapter representatives on the National Audubon Society's Board of Directors. Overall, there are 30 board members.

The Pacific-South representative covers California and Hawaii chapters.

Audubon National Convention: 90 scholarships, 1/3 chapters going to chapter leaders under the age of 35. The Board raised \$50,000 for scholarships

Stephanie is terming off the board at the end of the year. She has been on the board for five years. You do not have to be a board member of a chapter to serve on the National Audubon Society Board.

Time commitment – three-day meetings, includes travel time. You also have to serve on a committee, and there are calls throughout the year. Every two years – there is a meeting in DC. Past meetings have been in Alaska, Florida, Texas, Columbia and Panama. One international meeting every 2-3 years. Last meeting was in Santa Monica.

Nomination deadline – June. Need to be nominated by chapter. Candidates need to write a letter introducing yourself to other chapters.

Year of the Bird - Partnership with National Geographic, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and BirdLife International to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the MBTA. National Geographic will publish articles and issues on migratory birds. There are 760 million readers of the National Geographic.

If you visit the National Audubon Society website, you can sign on to a pledge and will get emails about monthly actions.

John Rowden - Director of Community Conservation
Plants for Birds Lead for National Audubon Society
LA; jrowden@audubon.org, 212.920.1883

Plants for Birds video: <https://vimeo.com/252365088>

11:00am Discussion on Membership

Conejo Valley

Publicity – gets notices out to local press. Social media – Facebook, Listserve. Conejo365.

Birding classes is another recruitment vehicle – beginning birder classes – partner with Conejo Botanical Gardens. Just once a year, three Saturdays in a row.

Morro Coast – 1,000 members.

Business membership – 15-20 local businesses, \$100/year. In exchange, businesses are written up in newsletter and receive recognition on website.

Santa Barbara

2,000 members emailed lapsed memberships, 100 joined again

Clings – Sell for \$1, give them away. Sent the logo to company, and they made clings.
<https://www.printglobe.com/>

Ventura

535. 35-40 local only members. More visible through Facebook and in community.

Audubon Club on CSU CI campus

Participating with a lot of other groups in coalitions, like passing the dog ban on Ormond Beach.

12:00pm IBA Program **Andrea Jones, Audubon California**

There is no longer a director of the IBA team, Science team has taken over management of the IBAs. Although IBAs are not used as actively as they used to be, they are still alive and well. We use them if we are taking on a new project. Please contact Andrea Jones if you want to update the boundaries of an IBA. (415) 388-2524 ext. 113; ajones@audubon.org

Link to IBA map: <http://ca.audubon.org/conservation/california-iba-interactive-site-map>

1:00pm Chapter Reports

Conejo Valley

March 24 – annual fundraiser.

50th anniversary – plan something in the fall to celebrate.

BirdFest – fall – November/December. King Juliette Ranch, Santa Monica Mountains. Fourth Bird Festival organized by NPS and 3-4 local Audubon chapters. Led bird walks for kids. San Fernando Valley Audubon started Festival. 2,000 people attend.

Morro Coast

Sweet Springs – own and manage nature preserve. 32 acres. Acquired 8 acres recently. Morro Shoulder banded snail on property. Acquired an incidental take permit to develop property.

The chapter raised \$350,000 to develop park. Major fund drive, raised \$100,000 in three months. Appeal to higher giving donors and created and sold sponsorships for benches, plaque next to sign or bench and sold pavers.

All pathways are ADA accessible. Big celebration for community to come out and invited local supervisors. Great turnout.

Los Osos is a big dog community and chapter decided to ban dogs from property. Preserve, not a dog park. Before ban went into place, chapter did a lot of outreach to the community. They created ambassador program, 40 docents to be out at the preserve on a daily basis. 1 hour a week. Docents have a badge. Once a month, field trip for all ambassadors. Have a sense of ownership of the preserve.

Santa Barbara

Initiative to design signs for Goleta Coast IBA.

The Trust for Public Land bought a golf course near Devereux Slough. A portion of the property is being restored to wetland. In effect, this will be "Upper Devereux." Sponsorship of that restoration went to UCSB who delegated CCBER (Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration) to direct the effort, now well underway. Santa Barbara Audubon has been involved in various ways, most recently raising \$50,000 for an "Audubon Overlook." Wetland will be connected to and connect to Coal Oil Point Preserve. Project still has another year before completion.

Fourth year for Winter Bird Count for Kids at Lake Los Carneros, 91 kids participated this year. Next year - try to reach out more to underserved communities. 40 loaner binoculars and scopes. Grant from City of Goleta - \$700 – 1200. \$4/shirt. Snacks are donated.

Mark Holmgren – Trying to get some funding for Santa Barbara County Breeding Bird Atlas.

Reduced paper newsletter from six to four. Electronic blasts – go out twice a month.

Legacy Award – Collaboration with Santa Barbara Natural History Museum. Leadership Circle dinner event. Gave award to Eyes in the Sky program. Interacted with 14,000 people last year.

Ventura

Nest monitoring – Ormond and Hollywood Beach.

Kat O’Dea represented Ventura Audubon at a charrette. Convened to discuss what people would like to see at Fisherman’s wharf – County land.

Chapter is encouraging people to use owls and raptors in burned out areas to deal with rat problem. Fund owl boxes in hillside. Ventura Botanical Garden destroyed by the fire.

Channel Islands CSU Audubon Club

First full semester as an actual club. Figuring out officers. Academic professors have signed up to take active role.

Events and fundraising opportunities. Movie showing – Rio. Fundraiser for club – Snacks will raise money.

2:00 pm Chapter feedback for State and National Audubon

Central Coast Birding Trail Map – request from Ventura County for more brochures. App rather than paper map. Jim Susha’s daughter – volunteered to do artwork. Need someone who can put them together for all the counties.

Next Council meeting - hosted by Morro Coast, Saturday, September 15. Sweet Springs field trip.