



**Central Coast Council Meeting
Saturday, September 15, 2018**

**Morro Coast Audubon Society
Morro Coast Audubon Office
601 Embarcadero, Suite 14
Morro Bay, CA 93442**

NOTES

Attendance:

Chrystal Klabunde	Conejo Valley		
Don Klabunde	Conejo Valley	Adele Ferguson	Ventura
Kareen Perry	Morro Coast	Cynthia Hartley	Ventura
Dave Tyra	Morro Coast	Kat O’Dea	Ventura
Rosalie Valvo	Morro Coast	Bruce Schoppe	Ventura
Janice Levasheff	Santa Barbara	Joyce Schoppe	Ventura
Dolores Pollock	Santa	Ariana Rickard	Audubon CA

Barbara

**9:15am Fundraising for Sweet Springs Nature Preserve expansion
Dave Tyra, Morro Coast Audubon**

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

See attached overview of 2018 Legislative Session.

Fire and vegetation management became a major issue for Audubon towards the end of the session.

Audubon California’s Migratory Bird Treaty Act bill, AB 2627, died in Senate Appropriations Committee. The Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) put the price tag on implementation of the bill at \$2 million the first year, and \$1.5 million every year after that.

Opposition from the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife meant that the Governor would probably veto the bill even if it passed out of the Senate. The DFW is now reevaluating the Migratory Bird program and putting more money and effort into enforcement.

The California Attorney General joined the lawsuit against the federal government on the current interpretation of the MBTA.

Although AB 2627 did not pass, we were successful in raising the profile of migratory birds in California.

SB 100, which sets California on a path to achieve 100% zero-carbon electrical generation by 2045, passed and was signed by the Governor. Through meetings with individual legislators and emails from members, Audubon helped pass this bill.

A major issue during the end of the legislative session was fire and vegetation management. Some agencies wanted to create large buffers through tree thinning. We advocated for protection of trees for birds, since even old trees provide important habitat for birds through snags and cavities.

Mike Lynes and Juan Altamirano were delegates to the Global Climate Action Summit in San Francisco in September. Recent IPCC report on climate change stresses the need to reach zero emissions immediately.

**10:00am Update on Morro Bay Proposed Wind Project
Garry George, Audubon California**

Audubon has no current position on the proposed offshore wind project in Morro Bay. Audubon supports offshore wind, but advocates for responsible siting. A fisherman's organization is going to support the project.

Project calls for 12 megawatt turbines, 910 feet high (as high as the Empire State Building), 30 miles off San Simeon. The company will have to get a viewshed permit for impact on Hearst Ranch California State Park.

Garry attended Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (Department of Interior) California Inter-governmental Renewable Energy Task Force Meeting on September 17, 2018. Please let me know if you want to see his notes from the meeting.

Potential impact on seabirds:

- 1) Collision with turbine – terns and gannets fly and dive into the sea
- 2) Displacement for resting and migration

**10:15 am Audubon Assembly: regional priorities for Chapter Congress
Ariana Rickard, Audubon California**

Conejo Valley

Urban priority - native plants, community engagement and outreach. Yards to habitat project has been a major success for the chapter.

Conservation – Preserving habitat when construction occurs.

See white paper/lit review from Audubon California about impacts to birds from fire and paper on prescribed fire in the west.

Ventura

Coastal stewardship - Ventura County updating Coastal plan, Sea level rise

Replacement of local chaparral. Clear 200 feet for fire clearance

Morro Coast

Coastal priorities.

Conservation – little development things that keep popping up.

Central Coast Council List of Conservation Priorities

Coastal – everything shorebird related, climate change resilience, power plants.

Fire and vegetation management – request additional information and support from the state office.

**11:15am Audubon CA Board Meeting Update
Dave Tyra, Morro Coast Audubon**

See attached notes from board meeting. The focus of September meeting was Working Lands – tricolored blackbirds, flooded valleys for rice.

11:30am Discussion on working with Independent Contractors

How do we classify people who conduct work for the chapters? Independent contractors or employees?

Santa Barbara – took two independent contractors and made them employees. Now have four employees.

Hire leader as the employee, other surveyors as independent contractor. Volunteers are independent contractors.

1:00pm Chapter Reports

Santa Barbara

Student rep on board, Diego Perez. He attended his first board meeting this week and hopes to start an Audubon chapter at Santa Barbara High school. Kat O'Dea invited him to one of CSU – Channel Island meetings and events.

New free bird festival for kids with the Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration. The festival will take place at the North Campus open space, where a golf course is being converted back to wetlands. Event will include a bird walk, and the chapter is providing binoculars and leaders. This is the chapter's second birding for kids event.

Gabriele Drozdowski, the founder of the Eyes in the Sky program, is retiring and moving to South Korea. The program, which uses non-releasable birds to educate kids and others, now has an interim director.

The Conservation Committee continues to have many meetings with various agencies, like the Board of Supervisors and the League of Conservation Voters.

Annual appeal sent in the fall and has pictures of priority programs.

Morro Coast

Sweet Springs Saloon invited the chapter to join them in a benefit for Sweet Springs on September 22. Tito's would donate \$2,500 and other money on top of that from a Bloody Mary tasting contest to Morro Coast Audubon.

New program to engage public is a photo to postcard contest organized by Nancy Foley, board member.

Eight people on the Education Committee. They visit third grade classrooms all over county. They do a classroom introduction and then hands on stations. Second visit – how to use binoculars and field trip to playgrounds. Three presenters are bilingual.

Family day activity for Winter Bird Festival in January.

Conejo Valley

City of Thousand Oaks – micropark changed to demonstration garden, now has description signs and project is completed.

Chapter received a \$10,000 grant for Lawns to Habitat program. \$5,000 for 25 people get lawns converted and receive \$200 of native plants. Another \$5,000 for second year of project.

Fourth annual Bird Fest on November 10 at King Gillette Ranch in Santa Monica Mountains. Co-sponsored by San Fernando Valley Audubon and Santa Monica Bay Audubon. One day event, last year 1500 people participated. Program includes rehab birds, Brown Pelicans, Condor from the LA Zoo, a bird walk and speakers in the morning.

Channel Islands

At the college's clubs and org fair, they recruited 60 new members.

One upcoming project is a three day clean up over the course of four weeks, which will include trash and debris removal and fence replacement. Loren Smith from the National Audubon Society network team will be sending photographers for the upcoming clean up event.

Planning a weekend trip to Santa Rosa Island for a Western Snowy Plover or bird survey with NPS. Two nights and three day trip.

They are also planning on creating a bird friendly garden on campus.

Ventura

Received an Audubon Action Grant for shorebird monitoring program on Ormond and Hollywood Beach. 2018 was a successful breeding season for Snowy Plovers and CA Least Terns at Ormond Beach. Record number of Least Terns: 84 Least Tern nests, 65 hatched.

35 nests for Snowy Plover. Cynthia has four students working with her on the beach.

They flew drones over nesting plovers and created a protocol for remote monitoring which they presented to US FWS. They plan to study nest site selection.

Kat's poster won first place at a research symposium. Some of the posters will be shared at the Assembly.

City of Oxnard is considering longer term involvement at Ormond Beach through the creation of a visitor/volunteer, possibly an Audubon Center.

After fires, rats appeared in burned areas. Chapter provided three Barn Owl boxes and perches to aid in rat population management in burned areas as people were putting out rat poison.

2:00 pm Chapter feedback for State and National Audubon

Next meeting hosted by Ventura – March 2019. Either March 2 or 30.