



**Bay Area Council Meeting  
Saturday, March 10, 2018**

**Sequoia Audubon Society**  
Redwood Shores Public Library  
399 Marine Parkway  
Redwood City

## NOTES

Attendance:

Bill Hudson	Golden Gate	Rob Furrow	Sequoia
Sally Baumer	Napa-Solano	Chris O'Connell	Sequoia
Robin Leong	Napa-Solano	Jennifer Rycenga	Sequoia
Kelly Alfrey	Santa Clara Valley	Karim Al-Khafaji	National Audubon
Diane Hart	Santa Clara Valley	Society	
Bob Hirt	Santa Clara Valley	Rebecca Schwartz Lesberg	Audubon CA
David McIntyre	Santa Clara Valley	Mike Lynes	Audubon CA
Ralph Schardt	Santa Clara Valley	Ariana Rickard	Mt.
Doug Brown	Sequoia	Diablo/Audubon CA	
Beverly Cronin	Sequoia	Sarah Rose	Audubon CA
Marshall Dinowitz	Sequoia		

**Audubon California updates: Audubon Assembly, Advocacy Day, GIS map, board vacancy, new Audubon branded website template for chapters**

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

Advocacy Day in Sacramento, June 20. RSVP here: <http://act.audubon.org/onlineactions/KP-XkKXrhU-469Zn3vM4Xg2>

GIS map with chapter boundaries and overlapping legislative maps:  
<http://ca.audubon.org/about/chapter-resources>

Audubon California is currently seeking candidates for the Bay Area Council rep Board position. If you are interested, please contact Ariana Rickard at [arickard@audubon.org](mailto:arickard@audubon.org).

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

## Meet our new Executive Director - Sarah Rose, Audubon California

Served as the Executive Director of the California League of Conservation Voters for six years.

### 10:45am      **Legislative Updates** **Mike Lynes, Audubon California**

There is a state legislative proposal to protect California from the expansion of offshore oil drilling.

Federal government wants to abandon the DRECP and Sage Grouse Conservation Plan.

Audubon California is sponsoring legislation this year – *AB 2627*. This bill will allow the state's Fish and Game Commission to protect birds from oil pits and spills, power lines, communications towers, and other threats. This measure is a backstop in case federal protections from the Migratory Bird Treaty Act are removed.

*Proposition 68*, the California Clean Water and Safe Parks bond, will be on the June 5 ballot. This \$4.1 billion bond includes \$200 million for the Salton Sea, \$700 million for conservancies, and \$400 million for climate change adaptation. Funding will also go to regional parks and land trusts.

*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. Would include hydropower.

Other priority bills – regulation of rodenticide, CEQA changes, Tesla Park. There are 2,000 bills at the moment. Another bill looks at long term governance at the Salton Sea.

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](mailto:ajones@audubon.org)

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

*California Coastal Gnatcatcher* – 30,000 comments to keep species listed and protected under the ESA. Similar issue with the California Willow Flycatcher – Pacific Legal Foundation is challenging the legal protections for distinct subspecies. Earthjustice is representing us and NRDC in a lawsuit defending the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's decision to protect the species.

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.

Anna Weinstein - Marine Program Director, SF; (415) 644-4613; [aweinstein@audubon.org](mailto:aweinstein@audubon.org)  
Anna led our efforts in Humboldt Bay. Coast Seafoods wanted to expand their oyster farming operations. In the end, they had to shrink their footprint from 300 acres down to 280 acres.

**11:15am SF Bay Program Update**  
**Rebecca Schwartz Lesberg, Audubon California**

Audubon is advocating for the beneficial reuse of sediment and for controlling the timing of dredging.

Richardson Bay – second largest eelgrass bed in Bay Area.

1960s – anchor out community grew. Post 2008 – more people joined anchor out community as living on boats was an alternate to homelessness after the recession.

0.4 acres of eelgrass are damaged by each boat. This amounts to 57 acres of direct damage to eelgrass.

The area is governed by the Richardson Bay Regional Agency (RBRA) – a joint powers authority

Rebecca Schwartz Lesberg, SF Bay Program Director, [rschwartz@audubon.org](mailto:rschwartz@audubon.org)

### **Chapter Reports**

#### *Napa-Solano*

New Education Coordinator – visitation in schools. Chapter is currently focusing on Bluebird monitoring and grant writing. USFWS - \$2500 bluebird program

#### *Santa Clara Valley*

First strategic planning exercise – day-long meeting. Currently have three goals: Advocacy, education and expanding the circle of birders. Developing a 3-5 year plan.

Burrowing Owl project continues to be successful. 30 people volunteered for service day.

Chapter is also conducting mitigation monitoring at a San Jose site.

#### *Golden Gate*

Centennial exhibit – moving to Richmond City Hall. Ceremony on April 4 with chalk drawings of the birds.

Osprey coming back to Richmond. See <http://sfbayospreys.org/> for nest camera.

Black-crowned Night Herons – Oakland moving nests, setting up nest boxes to encourage them to move.

#### *Sequoia*

Emphasis on citizen science. April 27-30, participating in the City Nature Challenge. Over 60 cities around the world compete to see who can find the most nature.

Green Birding – offer field trips by bike once per quarter and one by kayak. Joint kayak birding trip with Sequoia and Santa Clara Valley.

### **National Audubon Society Board Vacancy**

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.

Stephanie Little, the current Pacific-South chapter representative with National Audubon Society, 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.

Pan Flyway position – Karim Al-Khafaji terming off in one year. If you are interested in running for the National Audubon Society board positions, please contact Ariana Rickard at [arickard@audubon.org](mailto:arickard@audubon.org).

Napa-Solano Audubon will host the next Bay Area Council meeting in September.