



Audubon CALIFORNIA

Notes - Northern California Council Meeting
Hosted by Audubon California and Peregrine Audubon Society



Date: February 2nd and 3rd 2018

Meeting Location: Rod Shippey Hall, UC Hopland Research & Extension Center, 4070 University Rd, Hopland, CA 95449

Attendance:

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Mary Muchowski | Altacal | 10. Brad Graevs | Plumas |
| 2. Dave Jensen | Mendocino Coast | 11. Roberta Lyons | Redbud |
| 3. Hannah Bird | Peregrine | 12. Lisa Prather | Redbud |
| 4. Roger Foote | Peregrine | 13. Marilyn Waits | Redbud |
| 5. Helen Menasian | Peregrine | 14. Chet Ogan | Redwood Region |
| 6. Chuck Vaughn | Peregrine | 15. Larry Jordan | Wintu |
| 7. Ryan Keiffer | Peregrine | 16. Andrea Jones | Audubon CA |
| 8. Cheryl Watson | Peregrine | 17. Mike Lynes (via Skype) | Audubon CA |
| 9. Geoff Watson | Peregrine | 18. Ariana Rickard | Audubon CA |

Notes

Audubon California Policy Update

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>

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.

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.

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 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.

GIS Map

Map on Audubon California website shows boundaries of chapters with legislative boundaries (Assembly, State Senate, and Congressional districts). <http://ca.audubon.org/about/chapter-resources>

Bird-friendly farming workshop

To promote attendance, workshop content put in the context of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). 50 total participants for this first workshop. The workshop was a great networking opportunity between scientists, Audubon and farmers.

Nine presenters each spoke for 20 minutes. Highlight was the falconry demonstration, although this is an expensive option.

For follow up and evaluation, all participants will be asked what practices they implemented after the workshop.

Audubon California Board update

Dave Jensen, President of Mendocino Coast Audubon, has served on the Audubon California Board for six years as the Northern California Council representative. He will term out after the September meeting.

David Yarnold has emphasized that chapters matter and National Audubon Society has changed its structure to increase the strength of the chapter network.

One important victory in that time: Lead shot ban in California.

Salton Sea Update

No Great White Pelicans seen in the last two months due to loss of prey. Tilapia in the Salton Sea were feeding pelicans, cormorants and grebes. Fish gone, so those species are gone now. The salinity in the Sea is 60 parts per thousands. – above this, tilapia will not reproduce.

State has plans to build a couple of big ponds for tilapia, starting construction in the fall. Pupfish in the ponds. Plan is to develop 1200 acres for habitat projects.

The Salton Sea will see a 40% reduction in water in the coming years. Agricultural water runoff is what is feeding the Salton Sea.

Exposed playa is dust emissive, and water reduction will create asthma problems for 600,000 people in region. Water will get saltier and saltier as volume is reduced.

End of last year, plan to deal with less water was completed. One proposal is to create wetlands by

mixing fresh water with salty water.

Audubon is focused on getting Prop. 68 (Parks Bond) passed to get \$200 million in funding to the Salton Sea.

Awareness is increasing for the Salton Sea. Jerry Brown put more money in the state budget for the Salton Sea.

California Department of Water Resources is the lead agency on Salton Sea. Audubon is working with Sierra Club, Defenders of Wildlife and Pacific Institute.

Salton Sea birding trail map: <https://ca.audubon.org/node/26691>

Grebe Project

Redbud

Predation from crows and gulls increased this season.

Floyd Hayes video of the Grebes of Clear Lake (13 minutes): <https://youtu.be/W6yC6LBY8iQ>

The chapter continues to educate the public, going out to groups, kids and schools.

To monitor grebes, they installed a webcam in 2011 and 2013.

Fishing line recycling program: 21 recycle bins, started project six years ago. Sea scouts are maintaining bins. \$80 to buy materials – PVC pipe.

Redbud can help other chapters on this project with signs and information on building fishing line recycling bins.

Coastal Commission manages program to support these recycling bins.

Plumas

Second Annual Grebe Festival – a little more attendance this year

Eagle Lake had nesting for the first time since 2011.

Lake Almanor – work with PG&E on how to maximize grebe use. 2016 – thousands of chicks. Only 71 chicks after the breeding season.

Would like to stop monitoring Lake Davis, since the numbers there aren't very large.

Chapter Updates

Altacal

Disappointing grebe season; Tricolored Blackbird surveys – done in the fall

Snow goose festival – 70 trips and workshops. Several thousand people attended. The chapter pays organizers. Profits from festival basically covers expenses. Festival occurs the last weekend of January.

More attendees on field trips through advertising on Facebook, create events.

Mendocino Coast

Chapter funds a scholarship for Mendocino Coast College student. Also runs a grade school classroom education program.

Save our Shorebirds is a long-term monitoring program.

Black Oystercatchers – statistical analysis and modeling of data will predict productivity along the coast.

Peregrine

Monthly meetings in Ukiah attract 90-100 people. Chapter has been able to secure good speakers.

Chapter supports a scholarship for Mendocino College students pursuing work in natural science areas.

The chapter provided input on marijuana ordinance with the county.

Plumas

Flamulated Owl project – finished this year.

Plumas Environmental Education Project – PEEP – for 5th and 7th graders.

Internship program –Six high school interns work on restoration projects for six weeks in the summer.

New Citizen/community science monitoring projects- Sandhill Cranes, which are breeding in the Sierras.

Redbud

Commenting on grading ordinance for vineyards.

Heron Days – pontoon boat rides on Clear Lake. Two weekends on south end of the lake and two weekends on north side of the lake. Last weekend in April, first weekend in May.

Redwood Region

Six field trips a month, 10-12 programs/year

Spring shorebird count led by Professor Mark Cowell at Humboldt State University.

Audubon fundraiser coming up in a few weeks. Annual banquet and auction – February 17

Godwit Days – April 20 -22: <https://godwitdays.org/>

Children's Art show with Northcoast Environmental Center

Raptor Counts in Humboldt Bay – 11th year

Wintu

Four bird walks every month, beginner bird walk every month.

Whole Earth Festival – 50 or 75 Bluebird Nestboxes kits for youth to build their own bird house.

Youth organization – Kids learn shop skills. Wood and labor, want to make 100 nest boxes for Earth Day.

Met with Doug LaMalfa, Republican Congressman about conservation, Endangered Species Act, and habitat.

Burrowing Owls – artificial nesting. The only one that is really active is in Chico. We have installed 24 total boxes at Tuscan Preserve which is on a conservation preserve in perpetuity. The owls have produced offspring for the past three years.

Giving Tuesday – Made \$1800 every year.

Bird Word – Redding local paper once a week

Links and Resources

How to get more copies of the Climate Change Booklet -
<http://www.napasolanoaudubon.com/Main/Climate>

Climate change video: <https://vimeo.com/213556754>

Meghan Hertel – Director of Land and Water Conservation, mhertel@audubon.org

BirdsBeSafe collar for feral & outdoor cats - <http://www.audubon.org/news/how-stop-cats-killing-birds>

Speaker list – Google sheet for all chapters to provide names and contact information:
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1BIOpBPaxwoPAz-V9h5vonoJfWBW889QuQasmObPiZEE/edit?usp=sharing>

Plumas – host next meeting in October 2018

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm.