

Eaton Canyon Nature Center
1750 N Altadena Drive, Pasadena
HOST: Pasadena Audubon Society

8:00 9:00 AM

Bird walk led by Taylor Paez, Pasadena Audubon

9:00 to 9:15 AM

Welcome by Laura Solomon, President, Pasadena Audubon,

9:15-10:00 AM

Eric Wood: Assistant Professor of Ecology, Cal State Univ, Los Angeles
Lab of Avian Ecology and Conservation

www.ericmwood.org

Bird Usage of Urban Forests in LA

LA area originally had few trees, until water was imported from Eastern Sierra.

With more water, greater density of trees.

Street trees support bird life.

Land use patterns influence density of trees, therefore density of birds.

Tree density correlates with affluence, e.g. Boyle Heights (low income), South Gate (medium income), San Marino (high income).

To study effect on wildlife, set up 45 sampling stations around the city in various neighborhoods. At each, laid out a 3 km walking survey routes. Students counted birds along each route. About 1,500 observations made. Winter only.

One result: high income areas experience greater wintering bird density.

One goal: identify tree species providing greatest benefits to birdlife. Birds utilize native trees in preference to exotics.

Measured every tree and identify to species.

Native species included sycamore, coast live oak, black walnut, a few others. Total 331 trees.

Exotics included 103 tree species. Total 7,437 trees.

Migratory forest birds prefer native trees, but also prefer some exotics, (Chinese Elm, Eucalyptus).

Limited usage of magnolia and 97 out of 103 exotics.

Feeding birds are associated with higher density and larger street trees

Encourage street tree planting especially low-income areas.

Provide incentives for homeowners to maintain street trees.

Consider native trees and be mindful of planting strategies such as where certain trees thrive.

Oaks are the most important native trees for birds, insects and food resources for birds

Partnering with Pasadena Audubon to gather additional data.

Understand parks in urban areas, trees, shrubs, bushes

Biodiversity in yards

10:00-10:20 AM

Carolyn Murphy, Pasadena Audubon

Pasadena Audubon Society Advocacy for Urban Trees

Rethink seasons for trimming trees, choice of trees to plant

Pasadena Audubon showed the film "Restoring Nature's Relationships" by Doug Tallamy. Can be found on YouTube (67 minutes).

Prepared a brochure "Go Native" encouraging use of native species.

Advocacy training available free March 27, 6 to 9 PM March 28, 9 AM to 4 PM at Eaton Canyon Nature Center

10:20-10:50 AM

Scott Thomas, Sea and Sage Audubon (by conference call)

CalFire's Vegetation Treatment Program

California Board of Forestry (CalFire) has produced a Program EIR for their approach to fire prevention that involves cutting large firebreaks and doing preventive burns. Many fire ecologists dispute the science underlying this approach. The first two versions of this EIR were challenged and then revised. Now a third has been released. It has been improved but it still flawed. A coalition of groups has filed a CEQA suit against it and is requesting Audubon joint as plaintiff. Previous revisions may make the current version of the EIR legally valid. Plaintiffs may be viewed as anti-fire management. We may have some (limited) opportunity to fight on a project-by-project basis later.

10:50-11:40 AM

Mike Lynes, Audubon California (by conference call)

Legislative Report

1. Audubon CA will introduce two bills, both intended to elevate Natural and Working Lands Climate Solutions. One bill will focus on conservation ranching, another will facilitate investments in NWL solutions from the state's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.
2. Coastal adaptation: Audubon will likely reintroduce AB 552 (Stone) from last year to fund investments in coastal climate resilience and equitable access.
3. Climate & Natural Resources Bond: Audubon and allies are working on a state bond for the November 2020 ballot that will provide billions for natural resources and climate resilience in the state.
4. Migratory Bird Protections: The Trump administration issued new regulations to take away protections from "incidental take" under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act. In CA, protections remain because we passed AB 454 last year. But Audubon is working nationally to fight the Trump rollback. We encourage scientists and other NGOs to comment on the new federal rules. Audubon also support S.B. 5552 from Rep. Lowenthal (Long Beach) to change the MBTA to cover incidental take.

11:40 AM-12:00 PM

Ray Sessley, NAS Engagement Associate

NAS Campus Chapter Program

Works with National Audubon (Advocate)

David Yarnold was inspired to start a program of NAS chapters on college campuses. First one at Ole Miss. "Audubon on Campus" is a manual for starting a chapter. Helps students can help the environment and learn about career paths in the field.

Cal State LA already had a naturalist club and now are Golden Eagle Audubon Society (mascot at CSLA is the golden eagle).

Campus chapters now at CSULA, UCLA, San Diego, Channel Islands

12:00-12:15 PM

Vic Leipzig, SoCal rep to Audubon California

AudCal Report

Reviewed AudCal board meetings during 2019. Next will be in La Jolla in three weeks. Vic is near the end of his second term. Election will be held in the fall to pick a successor. Next chapter council meeting should be in April. We need a chapter to volunteer to host. Don Goeschl will look into Peterson Ranch in Antelope Valley as a location at which Antelope Valley Audubon could host. Sea and Sage can offer its location at San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. Other chapters can be the official host, using SJWS.

12:30-2:15 PM

Chapter Roundtable Reports

San Fernando Valley (Teri Carnesciali)

- Nesting boxes added 247 fledglings over the years from added boxes
- Feral cat discussions will support Delta rescue and adoption
- PR success to get local interest in birds in back yard, an article about one bird per publication
- LA does not have a city bird so Marianne Davis is spearheading an effort to get one.

Antelope Valley Audubon (Don Goeschl)

- Residential development threatened 25 acres of habitat, so raised 1 million and bought the property. Then raised \$400K to put trails in.
- Youth education program: --- Well received by LA County Library. Will do a third program next month.
- Authorization to take training into Antelope Valley public schools on a 1-year program
- Highest concern is construction of solar farms. One is 11 x 5 miles!

Golden Eagle Audubon (Lilian Chou and Austin Xu)

- Goal for academic term (just formed last semester) will be doing a collaboration bird walk
- Challenge is change of leadership, current leader is graduating

Whittier Area (Jim McNamara)

- Bird box program
- Held annual Conservation Dinner
- Created flyer for beginning bird walks

San Bernardino (Drew Feldman)

- Paradise Valley Project (195 homes to be added). Due to local opposition, Riverside Board of Supervisors voted this down
- Highland Project (8,000 homes). OC Flood will work with local land trust to achieve conservation.
- San Jacinto area project being fought. Mediation scheduled in Jan. Marino Valley filed brief that EIR info on green house gas emissions was very understated. Barbara Boxer is now involved
- Villages of Lakeview project 11,500 house along the Pomona Expressway. But now may lose this battle, EIR now corrected to include concerns (8,700 houses)
- Church of the Woods 13 acre project going into spotted owl territory and battle just beginning
- Met with Congressman Paul Cook.

Pomona Valley Audubon Society (Tina Stoner)

- Teton Raptor Center in Wyoming sponsored PooPoo Project to add screen to vault toilets to prevent birds from dying in ventilation pipes. Angeles National Forest in two regions and San Gabriel Mountain Region
- Burrowing Owl Preserve project, installing artificial burrows. Jan 24-25, 70+ volunteers removing weeds, 8 burrows added. Waiting for rain to scatter seeds for native plants.
 - Weekend trip to eastern Sierras
 - Chino Campus Burrowing Owl festival

Sea and Sage (Gail Richards)

- Celebrating Sylvia Gallagher's 40th year of teaching
- Six 1-week summer camps
- Annual Dinner is Mar 20th

LA Audubon (Travis Longcore and Emily Cobar)

- Education:- Collaboration with Outward Bound
- Opposed feral cat program by Los Angeles
- Street Tree replacement EIR comment
- Submitted comments on Ballona EIR

Reports from chapters not present (Vic Leipzig)

- El Dorado www.eldoradoaudubon.org
- Buena Vista
- Buena Vista Lagoon (boardwalk project)
- Property near Camp Pendelton (non-native plant removal)
- Palos Verdes / South Bay
- Butterfly habitat restoration
- San Diego
- SDAS has hired Travis Kenmitz to replace Chris Redfern as ExDir, starts Feb 17th
- Santa Monica Bay & Palomar
- No report

These notes by Jim McNamara, Whittier