



**Central Valley and Sierra Council Meeting Notes**  
*Hosted by Fresno Audubon and Audubon California*

**Date:** October 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017

**Meeting Location:** Academic Office Annex, room 115, University of California Merced.



Jane Manning, Robert Snow, George Folsom and Barry Boulton

**Attendance:**

Barry Boulton, Central Sierra  
George Folsom, Fresno  
Joan Manning, Fresno

Robert Snow, Fresno  
Mac McCarthy, Kern  
Susan Schneider, San Joaquin

Dale Smith, San Joaquin  
Sal Salerno, Stanislaus  
Joan Parker, Tulare  
David Dunham, Yosemite Area  
Joe Frank, Yosemite Area

Bill Ralph, Yosemite Area  
Lowell Young, Yosemite  
Mo Kostler, UC Merced Grassland Vertical  
Ecosystem  
Ariana Rickard, Audubon California

### **Audubon National Convention**

Ariana Rickard gave a brief overview of the 2017 Audubon National Convention in Park City, Utah. To see videos of some of the content of the convention, please visit Audubon's Vimeo page: <https://vimeo.com/audubon>

Videos can be downloaded from the site to show at member meetings.

### **Plants for Birds**

National Audubon Society program led by John Rowden ([jrowden@audubon.org](mailto:jrowden@audubon.org)), Director of Community Conservation. He is based in LA and is willing to visit chapters to talk about native plants.

Tod Winston ([twinston@audubon.org](mailto:twinston@audubon.org)) is helping with the technical aspects of the program and is based in New York City.

Resources:

Plants for Birds program - <http://www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds>

Native Plants Database - <https://www.audubon.org/native-plants>

Native Plant Service Survey Form - <https://www.audubon.org/native-plants/service-survey>

Toolkit - <https://works.audubon.org/groups/native-plants-native-birds/plants-birds-engagement-and-outreach-toolkit>

Webinar - [https://d2vv0elwdk9lnk.cloudfront.net/resource\\_files/2017-01-12%2012.08%20Plants%20for%20Birds%20toolkit%20webinar.mp4](https://d2vv0elwdk9lnk.cloudfront.net/resource_files/2017-01-12%2012.08%20Plants%20for%20Birds%20toolkit%20webinar.mp4)

Some chapter members brought up the issues with the database, and suggested that drought tolerance be added.

San Joaquin Audubon has a Native Plants Committee, which conducts programs, provides hand outs, and emphasizes drought tolerance.

They also support school native plants gardens and give funds to schools that have Master Gardeners.

LasPilitas.com – in Santa Margarita, sell native plants.

### **Tricolored Blackbird Conservation, Robert Snow**

Raised \$1000 by selling Tricolored Blackbird pins at Central Valley Symposium.

<http://ca.audubon.org/birds-0/tricolored-blackbirds>

PG&E – want to work with an Audubon chapter, habitat conservation plan, HCP. Required to put back habitat for the habitat that they destroy. Specifically want to work in the Central Valley.

If interested, please contact Matthew Brown:

#### **Matthew Brown *PMP, RPF, PCA***

*Senior Land Consultant*

Land Operations- Mitigation Program

Land and Environmental Management

1455 East Shaw Ave. | Fresno, CA 93710

office: 559.263.5416 | cell: 559.246.1592

Half of remaining birds are in foothills. More are nesting there now.

### **Programs at membership meeting**

Please complete the Google sheet with names of potential speakers:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1kta6TfeitgX7uJIKzJvGavUVaQ-T\\_j-xl-qPqpcVRi8/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1kta6TfeitgX7uJIKzJvGavUVaQ-T_j-xl-qPqpcVRi8/edit?usp=sharing)

Please add five speakers for your chapter. The deadline is January 20.

### **Climate Change – Education and Advocacy**

Lowell and Harry Love – gave climate change presentations and willing to do them for other groups.

Chippo – acronym to describe threats to wildlife: climate change, habitat loss, invasive species, population, over-harvesting.

Susan Schneider, San Joaquin – recently attended a four day national convention for an informal climate change coalition – Sierra Club, and San Joaquin and League of Women Voters.

Climate Watch – nuthatches and bluebirds – species selected a problem

Our common home – in research that is one of the best buzz words for talking about environmental issues.

EcoAmerica.org – Bay Area nonprofit – connecting on climate

Barry, Central Sierra. Put an article in each newsletter – one bird at risk in each issue.

Robert and George, Fresno – Talk about personal role in climate change, like travelling around to look at birds. Personal pledge to reduce footprint.

### **Chapter Reports**

*Fresno* – 50 year celebration. Asked members to write what they remembered on a Timeline – (long sheet of paper).

New Fresno website – Use Wordpress

Using Amazon Smile program to raise money:

[https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/about/ref=smi\\_se\\_dshb\\_aas\\_saas](https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/about/ref=smi_se_dshb_aas_saas)

### *Stanislaus*

Tricolored Blackbird Survey in May – three sites

422 members. No one comes to general membership meeting. 1-2 programs a year. Advertised through Modesto Bee and newsletter.

Board is 11 members - 7 working members and 4 retirees.

Grayson scholarship provides funds for students at CSU Stanislaus.

Organized a fundraiser at historic State theater in Modesto - the Big Year. Sold a lot of booklets on Birding Sites of Stanislaus and Merced Counties.

Goals - Diversity in membership and board. And more outreach.

Birds and Brew idea – recruit young people.

Interested in starting a college chapter.

### *Central Sierra*

Board is all retired. 3 or 4 board members will leave next year. New active program chair this year. Well-funded with \$100k in bank.

Educational program – presentations in elementary schools.

Conservation program – monitoring of local Tricolored Blackbird sites

Chapter provides \$4,000/year in scholarships.

Audubon group set up in local junior college.

### *Tulare*

Attended the California Assembly and heard about BirdSeasons program. Program started in January. They monitor one route weekly and collect data on 8-9 species and put into National Phenology Network.

Four chapter members attended hearing of the Tulare County Board of Supervisors regarding proposal to reduce size of Giant Sequoia National Monument. Three chapter members spoke against proposal. One of the Supervisors is an attorney for a logging company. Over 50 people attended, many of them young Latinos. New coalition between environmental groups and social justice groups on this issue.

Another nonprofit, Wild Places, takes high school age Latino kids into nature and is now partnering with Tulare Audubon. Some of their volunteers will work with them on their BirdSeasons project.

### *Yosemite Area*

Annual fundraiser – Nest box program. 440 nest boxes.

Education program – 950 kids go through program. Difficulty finding people who can go into classroom. Program was in 6 schools, now in 2 schools.

### *San Joaquin*

Programs – 8/year. 60 field trips a year.

New Conservation Chair – monitoring developments in Delta Tunnels

Participated in Audubon California's Advocacy Day in Capitol.

Meetup group – 77 members

500 members. 420 National, 70-80 local. Membership has been declining.

*Kern*

Chapter has found that having campaign on something is a good way to build membership.

350 members. Bakersfield.

75 or sometimes over 100 for meetings. 2-3 field trips/month.

Three science camps on a preserve, geared toward school districts that are underprivileged. All kids were from agricultural area. All Hispanic, Muslim, no Anglo faces. Kern County is majority Hispanic. 30 minutes at each session. They are one of them.

500,000 people in Bakersfield. Middle of downtown – program room.

Programs

- 1) Good venue
- 2) Programs have to be more entertaining rather than educational

### **2018 Central Valley meeting**

Kern – will host

Move Field trip to 3pm next year to allow people to stay for dinner.