

---

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER COUNCIL UPDATE

### November/December 2015

---



*Dear Southern California Chapter Leaders,*

*As a reminder, this is a bi-monthly regional update for the Southern California Chapter Council only. I am hoping this makes it easier for your flock to stay abreast of regional events and information that actually matters to your Chapter. Please let me know if there are any topics you would like me to include in the future. Happy holidays!*

*Travis Abeyta (Chapter Network Manager – Southern California)*

## IMPORTANT UPDATES

### GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR OUR SOCIAL CHAPTERS



On **December 5<sup>th</sup>** come out to **King Gillette Ranch**, at the Santa Monica Mountains Interagency Visitor Center for 2015 BirdFest. See live birds, listen to talks from local experts, take a guided bird walk, meet representatives from bird-friendly agencies, and more! This is a free event presented by Conejo Valley Audubon, San Fernando Valley Audubon, Santa Monica Bay Audubon, National Park Service, and Western National Parks Association. Parking is free. A food vendor will be present. For more information, email [samo@wnpa.org](mailto:samo@wnpa.org) or call (805) 370-2302. You can find the official event flyer [HERE](#).

### CULTURE SHIFT & INCLUSION TRAINING



Are you looking to attract different audiences to your Chapter events? Do you want to recruit younger board members? In 2013, Audubon CA conducted a survey of Chapter's priorities and goals. **90%** of Chapter leaders stated that their most important goal was to diversify their boards and membership in age and ethnicity. Well you are in luck! Together with the Relational Center, we will offer training on culture shift and inclusion to local Chapters. The training will take place on **January 30, 2016 at Audubon's Starr Ranch Sanctuary**. Please let me know if your Chapter would like to attend or if you have any questions.

### THE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT



The Christmas Bird Count is right around the corner! I am sure you want to get the word out about your Chapter's counts and there are a couple great ways to do this. First, you should add your Chapter's count to the [events on Audubon Works](#). Next, you should visit <http://www.natureali.org/cbcs.htm> to see if your count is listed and if the information is correct. If not, the site has information for whom you should contact. After your counts, Audubon California would love to help your Chapter spread the word about your experience via our many social media platforms. Please send me photos of your groups conducting counts and any rare birds you may have seen. Happy counting!

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER CLIMATE CHANGE SUMMIT



Join us early next year for the first ever Southern California Chapter Climate Change Summit. The primary objective of the Summit is to offer a personalized and regionalized training which provides each of your Chapters with a clear understanding of the science and effects that climate change has on your local birds and habitats. Attendees will become focused Chapter activists, enthusiasts, and communicators who are motivated and committed to develop and implement effective climate change programs and action campaigns in your communities. We have sent you all a **Doodle Poll** to figure out the best dates. Please let me know if you have any questions. We will send out additional details once we have confirmed dates and locations.

## TRACKING YOUR CHAPTER'S CLIMATE CHANGE ACTIONS & EVENTS



The Climate Initiative has partnered with the GIS team to create a new GeoForm tool that will illustrate just how much every action matters in our fight against climate change. Events submitted through the form will be part of a dynamic map on Audubon.org. The tool is easy to use and we're asking Chapters, centers, and state staff to submit their events. Training materials and information can be found [HERE](#) on Audubon Works and you can view the online dynamic map [HERE](#). Please let me know if you have any questions.

## INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS (COP21) & BIRDS



Audubon and our partners at BirdLife International just published "[The Messengers](#)", a synthesis of climate change impacts to birds around the world. The report draws on hundreds of peer-reviewed studies and outlines the existing and projected risks that global warming poses to birds and their habitats. To draw attention to birds during COP21, we've also launched a social media campaign called [#BirdsTellUs](#). The ask is clear: Don't let birds disappear from global conversations about climate change. Audubon.org also published "[What You Need to Know about COP21—and Why It Matters for Birds](#)" and "[5 Easy Ways to Take Action During COP21](#)"—feel free to share these stories, or send us other ways we could help you and your supporters participate in this crucial moment of the climate discussion. You can get started at [www.BirdsTellUs.org](http://www.BirdsTellUs.org), but we also have additional background and tips [HERE](#) on Audubon Works.

## NATIONAL AUDUBON'S NEXT STRATEGIC PLAN



Last month, David Ringer and Heather Hahn, co-chairs of the core strategic planning team for National Audubon, gave a presentation on Audubon's next strategic plan. There are some exciting ideas and insights to share as the strategy takes shape. The plan will be presented to the national board of directors for final approval in January 2016. You can listen to the presentation and resulting discussion on Audubon Works by clicking [HERE](#). I can also provide you with additional information.

## THE AUDUBLOG



Audubon California's website has an amazing resource for all Chapters aptly dubbed the "[Audublog](#)." If you have not checked it out I suggest you do so ASAP. The blog contains news and notes about birds and conservation in California. It also feeds stories to our various social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. I would love to identify a conservation effort that your Chapter truly cares about and post a story with photos. Please contact me with stories!

## BIRD OF THE YEAR



We need your help to select our 2015 Bird of the Year. We have some great nominees below, but you can also write in your own choice if you wish. Votes will be accepted through Sunday, Dec. 20. You can vote as many times as you like. Each year, Audubon California asks the public to help us name our Bird of the Year. We created the Bird of the Year in 2009 to raise awareness about bird conservation in California. Typically, we name six finalists and post the poll online. Voters are free to choose one of these birds, or write in the bird of their choice. This is a conservation award. We're particularly interested in recognizing bird species that were of significant conservation interest in 2015, but that also had a compelling story and rallied the public around it. [VOTE HERE](#)

## DID YOU KNOW AUDUBON CALIFORNIA HAS AN ONLINE PRESS CENTER?



Audubon California is one of the leading voices for birds and conservation in the Golden State, and a resource for Chapters of looking for information on topics such as social media, storytelling, habitat conservation, climate change, wildlife policy, and a variety of related issues. Representatives of our organization appear in the press regularly and are happy to share their expertise. Please visit our [Press Center](#) to contact our Communications Department.

### QUESTIONS ON BIRD-SMART GLASS



Collisions with glass windows kill hundreds of millions of birds each year in the United States, but thanks to American Bird Conservancy's new Bird-Smart Glass Program, a list of 18 tested, proven products is now available to help homeowners and architects identify simple but effective solutions to stop birds from hitting windows. You can find more information [HERE](#).

### SPEAKERS FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS



As you all may or may not know, we have five Chapter Councils located in different regions of California. Each of these councils holds meetings at least once a year. We are always looking for experts in certain areas to speak at these council meetings. Please let me know if you are interested in possibly speaking at an upcoming Southern California Chapter Council meeting or any of the other councils. You can find more information on the councils [HERE](#).

### HAVE YOU JOINED AUDUBON WORKS YET?



[Audubon Works](#) is an online community built to facilitate collaboration across the entire California and national Audubon network. It is a place for you and all of Audubon's staff, Chapter leaders, volunteers, and activists to come together to share ideas, experiences, best practices, and information. It includes discussion groups, a searchable resource library, an Audubon-wide event calendar, and a platform to create your own petitions. In addition, most NAS Chapter Resources have moved to Works. Join the conversation in the [State Chapter Group: California Chapters](#) - a separate group for California Chapter leaders to share ideas and content. You can find instructions on logging into Audubon Works [HERE](#).

### DID YOU KNOW WE HAVE A NEW AUDUBON CA WEBSITE?

Have you checked out our new Audubon CA website? Check it out [HERE](#).

Have you seen the Chapter Resources we have posted on our new website? You can find them [HERE](#).

**UPCOMING DATES**

**DECEMBER 5**

BirdFest of the Santa Monica Mountains

**DECEMBER 14**

Christmas Bird Count starts

**DECEMBER 20**

Deadline to vote for Audubon's "Bird of the Year"

**JANUARY 5**

Christmas Bird Count ends

**JANUARY 30**

Culture Shift & Inclusion Training at Audubon's Starr Ranch Sanctuary

*Please don't hesitate to call me at 818-648-4800 or email me at [tabeyta@audubon.org](mailto:tabeyta@audubon.org) with any questions you may have.*