

Southern California Bluebird Club
July 14, 2012 Minutes
Irvine Ranch Water District

Bob Franz opened the meeting at 9:00 am. There were 32 people present. Three new members attended: **Tony Pira, Sherry Gamboa,** and **Jean Yen** from Chino Hills.

Jo-Ann Coller read the Treasures report. Since our meeting on June 9th we have taken in \$3107.00 in conference registrations which brings our total registrants to 65. Jo-Ann did a book signing at Wild Birds Unlimited and took in \$240.00. The club paid \$5000.00 to the Radisson Hotel which leaves a balance of \$2500.00 still owed for the conference. The \$240.00 book money went to pay for the 2nd printing costs of the book, which leaves a balance of \$760.00. This leaves our bank balance at \$8785.76.

Bob Franz and **Danette Davis** have made the final arrangements with the Irvine Ranch Water District to change our meeting locating to their new facility on the same grounds and to change our meeting date to the first Saturday in each month. This makes our next meeting August 4th, 2012.

Jim Semelroth showed a video from U-tube entitled "Murmuration," which showed European Starlings in strange flocking formations.

Jim Semelroth reported that Sea Scout, **Will Cox** will be giving a presentation at our conference. **Renee Cox**, mother of the Sea Scout, Will Cox, will be working on press releases and publicity and also on the silent auction for the NABS Conference in October.

Danette Davis has reserved our meeting room for September 24th, Monday evening from 6:00-8:00pm for all of the people who will be working at the conference. We will be going over all the final details for the conference and handing out pertinent information.

After considering all the ramifications, **Bob Franz** announced we will not be posting Bee Keepers on our web site. We will provide a list of Bee Keepers to anyone interested, but the club will not endorse them.

Gillian Martin did an owl presentation for a group of people at a mental health facility. She was pleased at the response and felt she provided a worthwhile community service.

Jim Rogers suggested we create a “Century Club,” for members who have provided 100 hours of monitoring, 100 nest boxes, 100 presentations given, etc. This would be a way to honor our dedicated club members. He will design a business card or patch to be awarded.

Jo-Ann Coller demonstrated how to treat nest boxes for mites. She recommended providing a clean nest box and nest. Then spraying the clean nest with Food Grade Diatomaceous Earth, and applying the powder to the chicks, if possible. The powder is not poisonous; however you should attempt to prevent the chicks from breathing in the fine powder. The chicks can then be replaced in the new treated box. Tree Swallows are more likely to become infested with mites. Jo-Ann recommended treating their nests with the powder before the chicks are hatched. She brought 5 “Puffers,” with powder for \$15 each. They can also be purchased from Ace Hardware.

Bob Franz reported that **Farrell Roe** from Jackson Tennessee has Eastern Bluebirds in one of our hanging boxes. This is the first time Farrell has used a hanging box as opposed to a box attached to a post or tree. Farrell will be attending our conference.

Jim Semelroth reported that the hen from **Mike Spohn’s** nest box with the video cam has died from a window impact. However, she and her mate successfully fledged five chicks from their first brood. She had started a second nest and laid five additional eggs before her death.

Bob Franz told us that the new data base for entering our year end totals has been hacked. **Dick Blaine** is setting this data base up, called “Kwik Survey,” and will have it working again soon. This will be a much simpler method for entering

our data. **Jim Semelroth** said that Cornell University is taking our data from the past few years and will incorporate the information into their data base.

Bob Franz announced that **Dick Purvis** has created a new Oleander blossom which Dick has named, "Ruby Lace," after his mother in law. This new blossom had a deeper pink than the original. He has a patent and the plant is being marketed.

Bob Franz read an article regarding the return of the Western Bluebird to Washington's San Juan Islands after a 40 year absence. Five years ago, the American Bird conservancy and partners relocated 45 pairs of adult bluebirds from southern Puget Sound, where the Nature Conservancy had invested years in nesting box programs and habitat restoration to bring the population back from a handful of nesting pairs. Scientists reported in 2011 that many of the relocated birds and their offspring are returning each year to nest on the islands.

Susan Bulger brought flyers that **Jo-Ann Coller** made warning people of the dangers of fishing line. Susan suggested members post them at fishing supply stores.

Gillian Martin provided a power point presentation she designed for golf courses. It is a useful tool to educate grounds keepers to the value of snags, use of pesticides, the value of nest boxes, and the value of the entire eco system that the golf course provides. She also has the presentation available in Spanish.

Respectfully submitted, **Jo-Ann Coller**