

Southern California Bluebird Club
June 4, 2016 minutes
Irvine Ranch Water district

Bill Wallace opened the meeting at 9:00 am. There were 35 people present. New members were introduced: Vic Leipzig, President of Sea and Sage Audubon, Randy and Victoria Havens, **Melissa Alsop**, **Darrell and Jane Schafer**, and **June Gee** and two of her Girl Scouts.

Jo-Ann Coller gave the treasurer's report: CCI took in \$707.00 in donations and spent \$587.55 in April and \$819.00 in May, leaving a balance of \$6265.48. SCBC Took in \$630.00 in donations which included another check from Chevron for **Floyd Sabins'** 40 hours of work in building nest boxes for the club. The expenses were \$130.37 which leaves a balance of \$3583.73. The club's combined balance is \$9849.21.

Gillian Martin was unable to attend, so Jim **Semelroth** presented her report via PowerPoint.

Jim Semelroth wrote an article for the NABS Journal that addressed what our club has been doing in passing on the torch to youth. The article will be published in the summer issue of the journal.

Bill Wallace reported that **Steve Perry** is retiring and is giving up three golf courses that now need new monitors: Tijeras Creek in Rancho Santa Margarita, Mission Viejo Golf club off of OSO near the 5 freeways and Oak Creek Golf Course in Irvine near Irvine Valley College. If interested please contact **Steve Perry** cabosteve123@yahoo.com .

Jean Gee and her 8th grade Girl Scouts of 1971 Los Alamitos built 10 nest boxes for the club with the help of **Dick Purvis**. This project was for their Silver award. The boxes were used to replace lost or damaged boxes of our monitors.

Tomas Dardis sold several of our nest boxes at a school event and raised \$160.00 in donations for our club. His father, **Seth**, has put up a Facebook page for SCBC that displays bluebird pictures and club information. He has recently added information soliciting monitors for our club.

Jim Semelroth brought up the issue of “Shot Hole borer” beetles that are destroying many trees, primarily Sycamore trees. At present there is no remedy to stop the beetles, other than destroying the tree. Occasionally monitors have found nestlings covered in a black goop which can kill the chicks if they are not given a clean nest immediately. Jim raised the question, “Does the fungus from the beetles cause the black (tar-like substance) have anything to do with the fungus? **Susan Bulger** suggested the black substance might be from Ficus berries the parents were feeding the chicks. A study is needed.

The meeting ended with trail tales from the members.

Respectfully Submitted
Jo-Ann Coller, Treasurer