

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BLUEBIRD CLUB

February 4, 2017

Irvine Water District Meeting Room

Bill Wallace opened meeting at 9:05. One newcomer: Gisela Ferolito from Tustin.

JoAnn Collier gave treasurers report: **CCI** Misc donations \$325.00, Expenses: \$41.33, Net total \$7,018.62. **SCBC** Misc donations \$35.00, Expenses: \$94.85, Net Total \$4,114.60.

Gillian Martin's presentation:

Gillian Martin, Director of the CCI, made a 45-minute presentation on the existing and forecasted challenges impacting Western Bluebirds and their bird community. A copy of the power point will be made available on the SCBC website. Key points of the presentation include the following:

- Bluebirds have better nesting success from nest boxes than other cavity nesters, and these boxes have been invaluable for scientific research and for stabilizing bluebird populations.
- Thus far, scientific studies do not yet show that the House Sparrow and the European Starling overall have had a significant impact on bluebird populations. However, the impact of the House Wren (the most abundant of all cavity-nesters) may be substantial because of their exclusion and predation of cavity nesters, as well as open nesters. ● Due to climate change projections, Western Bluebirds (WEBLs) are expected to lose about 63% of their winter range, and Mountain Bluebirds (MOBLs) 73% of their breeding range by 2080. Tree Swallows are likely to arrive on their breeding grounds earlier than MOBLs (instead of after MOBL, as they have historically) thereby changing the dynamics of competition.
- Science also suggests that the presence of nest boxes, particularly in large and stable numbers and when boxes are too close together, may be having unintended consequences. (Ideally boxes should be placed 300 yards apart.) There is evidence that under some conditions, nesting success may be compromised due to increased predation and pest infestation. Open nesters are negatively impacted because interspecific and intraspecific competition is increased, and there may be long term impacts on WEBL and MOBL species biology and coexistence because high numbers of stable boxes in given locations does not mimic natural cycles of disturbance and succession of resources that occurred in historic habitats.
- Cornell lab of Ornithology says, "Care must be taken that advances of bluebird populations are not made at the expense of other native bird populations and not accompanied by loss of species diversity in managed areas.

The four winners of the gift cards from Wildbirds Unlimited were Tom & Elena Hery, Dan Livermore, Dick Henderson and JoAnn Collier. The gift cards were donated by **Gillian Martin**.

Bob Franz presented information about the top producers of fledglings in Orange County. **Susan Bulger, Dick Purvis, and JoAnn Collier**. Added information was that there were 6,943 varieties of birds, and 5,602 Western Bluebird.

Bob Franz was able to find a new monitor for one of his golf courses by talking to the Marshals (they work for the club monitoring the golfers) at the club. One Marshal volunteered. **Susan Bulger** found a new monitor by asking the staff at the golf club store. The girlfriend of one of the workers volunteered.

Gillian Martin displayed her new popup poster. It allows her to display her poster without having to find something to hang it from. It cost \$250.00 and includes a suitcase to hold it.

Respectfully Submitted

By Danette Davis