

Southern California Bluebird Club Meeting
Irvine Ranch Water District Community Room

Minutes

June 7, 2014

Bob Franz opened meeting at 9:07. First Time Visitors: Deardra from Huntington Beach wanted to learn more. Jerry, Christin and Grant Ciefalo were from the Eldorado Audubon Society. Forty two members were present.

Bob Allen from Vector Control of Orange County was the speaker. He said Vector Control's main focus is: 1. Suppression and Control of mosquitos, rats and fire ants. They consult on filth flies (your neighbor is not picking up their dogs droppings). 2. Surveillance: pathogens: mosquitos, ticks, fleas, rodents, birds, and opossums. 3. Outreach: to vets about the consequences of the pathogens to pets.

West Nile Virus is a bird virus. It infects the mosquitos and then it infects you. It can kill birds and horses but probably not you unless you were old, very young, or sick. The mosquitos cannot get infected from you. If you find a bird that has not been dead more than 24 hours you can call them(714-971-2421 ex 117) and they will come pick it up to test for the virus. Use gloves, one bird per bag and label it with the date and place where you found it. You can put it in the freezer if it can't be picked up quickly. A preventative measure is to have no standing water in your yard. if you have a pond you can put mosquito fish in it (Do not **ever** dispose of them into our water ways. They are not native). You can also put in BTI doughnut in the water, it only affects mosquitoes. For yourself, you can use DEET. **Never** use a bug zapper! It doesn't work, and kills the good bugs.

SCBC TREASURERS REPORT: Total expenses year to date is \$4,327.18. Net balance as of June 7, 2014 \$6,240.35.

CCI TREASURES REPORT: Total expenses year to date is \$1,891.64. Net balance of June 7, 2014 is \$4,698.38.

Gillian's CCI report for May 2014

The Education Committee of Sea and Sage Audubon reviewed the contents of the teacher's loaner kit and expressed strong support of it. Discussion about its promotion for the coming school year will follow.

Gillian Martin met the Parks Maintenance Superintendent of the City of Irvine at Turtle Rock Park to discuss sang retention. He agreed to begin with that park as a trial project and two trees there were selected for management rather than removal. Gillian gave him a Wildlife Tree sign for his consideration.

It appears that the metal Wildlife Tree Signs are not going to be durable as designed. Gillian has been communicating with the owner of Signs Plus about how the signs can be improved. The signs fade quickly in the sun and become more difficult to read.

Gillian reported that she spent several interesting days at a Biological Field Station in Northern California which is owned by the University of California. Gillian was there at the invitation of two scientists whom she met at the International Woodpecker Conference in Spain. They are conducting a research project on Acorn Woodpeckers, the longest known study on any bird in the world. It has been in existence for about 35 years. The project focuses on the cooperative behavior and mating choices of the species so genetic testing is included in the project. Janis Dickinson of Cornell University is also still doing research on the property with Western Bluebirds. This summer she and her field assistants are studying their vocalizations to see if voice recognition is a significant factor. Thus far, it does not appear to be so and Janis suspects the birds have a greater ability for sight recognition than was previously understood. Gillian gave Janis a packet of information about the CCI. She indicated she would share it with her colleagues at Cornell who manage the YARDMAP program which encourages citizens to set ecologically beneficial goals in their backyards and communities.

TOPIC UPDATES:

1. **Jo-Ann Collier** is continuing to get sign-ups for OC Fair. Email her if you are available. It is lots of fun. Joann1@socal.rr.com.
2. **Bob Franz** introduced **Carly Wimer** and **Katie Toblesky** from a Placentia Girl Scout troop. The girls presented their Silver Award project. They made 16 boxes and placed them with the help of Bob and **Dick Purvis**. They made note of their observations about which boxes the Bluebirds would prefer, the new boxes or the old boxes.
3. Several people have stepped up to help monitor **Dick Purvis'** boxes since his surgery prevents him, for now, from doing it himself. **Bill Wallace**-14 boxes, **Jean Suan**-16 boxes, **Norm Franz**-17 boxes, **Kappy Hurst**-16 boxes.

NEW TOPICS:

1. **Jim Semelroth** made a motion that we start a scholarship fund. The motion was seconded. Jim will start a committee to discuss the particulars.
2. **Susan Bulger** reported on the Love Fullerton project. She, **Bob Franz**, and **Bob Keely** were able to get 25 new volunteers.
3. **Walter Josten** talked about his new app for the SCBC on Apple called VuGreeting where you can make a card and end it with a plug about the Bluebird Club.

4. **Bob Franz** discussed the Saddleback Canyons Conservancy. Rutter Santiago Limited Partnership wants to build a gate-guarded community on 113.7 acres east of Santiago Canyon Road. They will destroy over 150 mature oak trees to be replaced with acorns and seedlings. They will level hills and fill-in valleys by moving 1.9 million cubic yards of earth. A motion was made to give \$1,000.00 to help defray the legal costs to fight this action. It was seconded.

5. **Bob Franz** requested a committee be formed to discuss the information on a Nestbox Decal.

6. Martin Ciofalo was intrigued by the 2 sizes of eggs he found in a nest. He researched the possibility of twins since there were only two eggs at the time and when he checked two weeks later there were three birds. There was a possibility of another egg being laid during that two week period.

Respectfully submitted by:

Danette Davis, Secretary