

SOUTHERN CLIFORNIA BLUEBIRD CLUB

Virtual meeting, 9am November 7, 2020 Minutes

Present:

Board members: President, Bill Wallace, Treasurer, Jo-Ann Collier, Secretary, Jane Olinger. Vice President, Bob Franz was absent.

Approximately 14 other attendees.

BILL WALLACE:

- ELECTIONS: Recruitment of new Board members has been delayed by COVID. Currently no prospective nominees have come forward for available positions. There are no plans to hold elections virtually or by mail. All existing Board members have agreed to retain their positions for an indefinite period. No objections to this were raised.
- SCBC has a new website. socalbluebirds.org
- The new email address for the Bluebird Club is socalbluebirdclub38@gmail.com

Attendee Carolyn Oppenheimer, a past President of the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society, asked about preventing boxes from blowing down in windy conditions. Susan Bulger recommended:

- For boxes with our standard wire top hooks: shorten and make a smaller, deeper and tighter diameter curve to the hook. At the end, make a 90 degree bend, rather like a fishhook, or the letter L.
- For an add-on repair, have a machinist make a strong, but not too heavy, roof hook with a threaded end to insert in a hole in the roof which is kept in place by a nut(s) and lock washer(s).
- When constructing new boxes, purchase a 3/16 in. X 36' zinc plated round rod for each hook; discard several inches because it is too long. Install in the usual manner using staples and glue inside.

TREASURERS REPORT: Jo-Ann Collier.

- CCI received a match gift of \$6,000 from Charlotte Adelman. To date \$1,480 has been donated. The time frame for the matching donation ends November 2020.
- Total expenses to date for the CCI: \$2,925.18. Current Balance: \$15,298.94
- Total expenses to date for SCBC: \$2,573.00. Balance of 6,764.85
- Combined balance: \$22,063.79

CCI and TCBW REPORT: Gillian Martin: July through October 2020.

- The October issue of the CCI newsletter, "The Hole Story," has been published. The newsletter can be found on the CCI website CavityConservation.com under the Resources tab. Anyone wanting to be on the mailing list can contact: Gillianmartin@cavityconservation.com

- Gillian and the Director of the Tucker Wildlife Sanctuary have been in touch with the avian biologist at Edison Electric to address the fact that acorn woodpeckers are depositing acorns in holes in the metal conduction poles on the property. The acorns are not retrievable. Edison agreed to plug them.
- Gillian reported on a challenging tree care/bird conflict situation arose during the nesting season of this year in San Diego when 12 dead canary island palms, managed by the City of San Diego were scheduled for immediate removal. Gillian and Star Howard worked with West Coast Arborists (the city's tree care contractor) and indirectly with CDFW, to resolve the issue. Gillian related the circumstances to illustrate the complex set of circumstances and conflict of interests which resulted in a less than ideal outcome. She indicated that some of these challenges exist for other municipalities.
- Songbird Care and Education Center, operated by Vicki Anderson, will be closing at the end of 2020.
- Gillian attended a 3-day seminar on eucalyptus. She shared myths about the species, and best management strategies to reduce risk.
- TCBW Program: A virtual arborist training series occurred in August. It provided for tree care workers in AZ, NV, CA and HI. One hundred and ninety people attended. It was a great success.
- The Western Arborist Magazine has agreed to include a regular feature titled, "Urban Bird Talk." Gillian will write it. The first article was about the Coopers hawk.
- TCBW has a Spanish Education Committee and Gillian is working with its President to incorporate TCBW resources for Spanish speaking members.
- The TCBW program was contacted by Singapore Parks Depart seeking help in setting up a TCBW program. A productive meeting was held, and future meetings will be scheduled.

LARA TSENG'S REPORT:

Lara Tseng worked this summer assisting Sea & Sage Audubon set up a virtual summer camp. She joined a young L.A. Birders group managed by Pasadena Audubon. Her article about her eggshell project was published in the Western Field Ornithologist magazine. It will also be published in Bluebirds Fly. Lara will be presenting this project at 10:30 on 14 November via Zoom. All are invited to attend. She will apply to Cal. State L.A.'s early entrance program for honors students. She hopes to start college next year. She wants to become a biologist.

STATUS OF UNATTENDED TRAILS. Susan Bulger :

- ORANGE COUNTY MONITORS NEEDED: Anaheim, Brea, Fullerton, Irvine, Laguna Coast, Mission Viejo, Orange, Santa Ana, Yorba Linda and Costa Mesa.

- L.A. COUNTY MONITORS NEEDED: La Mirada, Harbor City, Irwindale and Whittier. Monitors should think about sharing or having a partner. For information, contact Bill Wallace.
- LA COUNTY MONITORS NEEDED: Phillips Ranch and Diamond Bar.
- SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY MONITORS NEEDED: Chino Hills

Attendee, Steve Kaye, was asked to assist in creating a series of short training videos for nest box monitors. He has instead agreed to provide a presentation on using a cell phone to make videos and to take good quality photos.

ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Bill Wallace has two available lifters. T

Submitted by Jane Olinger, Secretary
Southern California Bluebird Club