

Southern California Bluebird Club

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Saturday, April 7, 2007
8:30 AM

I. Call to order

The monthly meeting of the Southern Californian Bluebird Club was called to order on Saturday, April 7, 2007, at *It's a Grind Coffee Shop*, 24801 Alicia Pkwy #C, Laguna Hills, CA 92653

II. Members Present

Dick Purvis	Beverly Gandall
Bob Franz	Two Guests (Did not get names)
Linda Violett	
Sully Reallon	
Earl Garrison	
Susan Bulger	
Mike Spohn	

III. California Bluebird Recovery Program (CBRP)

Mike Spohn updated the membership of the progress Dick Blaine has made with the CBRP.

- The CBRP web site is constantly being updated. Be sure to check it out. <http://www.cbrp.org>
- Mike Spohn is looking for articles for the next issue of *Bluebirds Fly*.
- Several club members asked if they could begin entering nestbox information into the CBRP online reporting database. Mike Spohn will contact Dick Blaine and ask.

IV. Sea & Sage Audubon Society

Dick Purvis advised he met with a sub-committee of the *Sea & Sage Audubon Society of Orange County*. Dick presented our plan for becoming an affiliate organization. The committee was receptive to the idea and asked many questions. An open issue is whether our members would be covered by the S&SAS liability insurance. The committee will get back to us after they meet with the executive committee.

V. North America Bluebird Society (NABS)

Mike Spohn advised he was not too happy with the latest issue of the NABS newsletter. On the cover is a very large photo of a nestbox destroyed by a shotgun blast. Inside the front cover was another photo of a shot-gunned nestbox on the ground. This box had a young bluebird family in it. The theme of the newsletter was vandalism.

Mike sent an e-mail to the President of NABS and ultimately caused quite a stir. Mike's recognizes vandalism is a problem for all bluebirders, particularly in areas where hunting is prevalent. Highlighting the problem with violent pictures on the cover is not helping convince new bluebirders to join us, according to Spohn.

The annual NABS conference is September 20-23, 2007 at the University of Georgia at Athens. You can read more about it here:
<http://www.nabluebirdsociety.org/2007convention.htm>

Despite the disappointment in the latest newsletter, it is important that all our members support the national organization for our cause. You can learn how to become a NABS member here:
<http://www.nabluebirdsociety.org/support.htm>

VI. Nestbox Reporting

Bob Franz opened a discussion concerning the new on-line annual reporting process of the CBRP. There is some trepidation among the membership about the reporting process.

Linda Violetta has used both the CBRP and the Cornell on-line reporting systems and she thinks they are great. Linda explained to the group how it works and why she believes it is easier. Linda encouraged members to enter the information on their trails into the system before the end of the season. This will make us much easier after the nesting season is over because then all that needs to be entered are the numbers.

Mike Spohn will contact Dick Blaine and find out how to get accounts set up on the CBRP system.

VII. Recruiting

Mike Spohn told the group an interesting story. He is enrolled in a class at the CSUF satellite campus in Garden Grove. After each class, he noticed a vehicle in the parking lot with the CA license plate BLUEBRD. Mike stuck a club flyer on the windshield, and we now have our newest member – Beverly Gandall.

Beverly is a teacher and has been an avid bluebirder for years. She lives in Laguna Woods and has nesting bluebirds in her yard. They love her birdbath. Beverly was unaware of our club and was so excited to learn about our mission.

Sully Reallon advised he has been working on a design for a nestbox kit that can be used by Boy Scouts and similar organizations. Many of these groups want to help in the bluebird recovery effort but they have limited experience building nestboxes. The idea is to provide pre-cut components that can quickly be assembled with wood glue and a screwdriver.

VIII. Nestbox Activity

Several members reported boxes with eggs. Most members believe the season is starting a little slower than last year. Earl Garrison advised he has a lot of activity on his trails in Aliso Viejo and Laguna Hills.

IX. “Hands On”

Susan Bulger told the group about a nestbox camera she installed in a nestbox in her yard. The camera broadcasts the inside action in the box to a television set in Susan’s home. Sure enough – a pair of bluebirds took up residence in the box.

Susan watched the female build her nest. The group was fascinated as Susan told how the female would carry nest material into the box in her beak, but

actually shapes the nest with her feet. The female would spread her wings against the edge of the box for leverage, and shape the nest only using her feet. Many of us just figured bluebirds used their beaks to shape the nest. How interesting!

Linda Violett awed the group by her mealworm presentation. She brought a large Tupperware container containing beetles that produce mealworms. She explained in detail the process from beetles to mealworms. This was a fascinating learning experience for everyone. Linda has adjusted her methodology and has a system in place that works. She believes she is saving more than \$400 per season by raising her own mealworms. Earl Garrison was so fascinated by Linda's presentation, he took a bunch of beetles home in a cardboard coffee cup to start his own colony.

Special thanks to Linda for her informative presentation.

X. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Southern Californian Bluebird Club will be Saturday, May 5, 2007, at *It's a Grind Coffee Shop*, 24801 Alicia Pkwy #C, Laguna Hills, CA 92653

XI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 AM.

Minutes submitted by: Michael G. Spohn