

# Southern California Bluebird Club

## Monthly Meeting Minutes

Saturday, July 7, 2007  
8:30 AM

### I. Call to order

The monthly meeting of the *Southern California Bluebird Club* was called to order on Saturday, July 7, 2007, at *The Corner Bakery*, 13786-D Jamboree Road, Irvine, CA 92602.

### II. Members Present

Dick Purvis	Earl Garrison
Bob Franz	Omar Pasha
Mike Spohn	Joe Tolosa
Sully Reallon	Faith Allen
Chuck George	Trevor George
Susan Bulger	Tom Croom
Jerry & Sandra Nicholson	Roy van de Hoek
Peter Wetzel	John & Adele Holland
Bill & Inge Wallace	

### III. Huell Howser PBS Special

The Huell Howser show of our club activities was broadcast on June 19<sup>th</sup> and it generated a lot of interest. Mike Spohn reported there is a significant increase in the number of people on the club e-mail list. Many members reported getting calls about the show.

The show will be rebroadcast on July 24, 2007 at 7:30 PM on KCET in the Los Angeles area. Other areas should check local listings for the correct time and channel.

Congratulations to Bob Franz, Susan Bulger, and Dick Purvis for a job well done.

### IV. California Bluebird Recovery Program (CBRP)

The CBRP has the nestbox activity reporting system on-line and ready to go. If you need instructions or more information about the system, you can find it here: <http://theblaines.net/HostedBirdsFrontEnd>. If you are not comfortable using the online system, then send in your paper forms. No matter how you do it – be sure to get counted.

The North American Bluebird Society (NABS) has expressed interest in having the 2008 annual conference in California. Dick Blaine, Director of CBRP, is looking at the possibility of CBRP hosting it. It is uncertain if there are enough resources to handle this big task.

Mike Spohn made a final call for articles for the August *Bluebirds Fly* newsletter.

## **V. Sea & Sage Audubon Society**

There was a long discussion about the open issues surrounding a partnership agreement between our club and the Orange County based Sea & Sage Audubon Society. Tom Croom, an S&S board member, provided details of all the issues. The biggest stumbling blocks are fund accounting, membership requirements, and liability insurance coverage.

Dick Purvis and Tom Croom described in detail all of the activities and discussions both parties have had to date. S&S took our request seriously and spend considerable time researching this idea.

Due to the inherent complexities involved, it was decided we would take no action and table the issue for now. Mike Spohn agreed to research the possibility, costs, and requirements of forming our own non-profit corporation.

## **VI. Los Angeles River Bluebird Recovery Project**

Robert "Roy" van de Hoek briefed the members about his efforts to re-introduce bluebirds to the Los Angeles River and surrounding areas. Roy is a wildlife conservation biologist and he works for the Los Angeles County Parks Department. He is also Co-Director of the Ballona Institute, a research organization affiliated with the International Humanities Center Ecology Project. Finally, Roy is an active and long-time member of the Sierra Club.

Roy is interested in creating nestbox trails in LA County parks. He has generated a lot of interest among his peers and has received grant funding to get the project started. As always, volunteers are needed to adopt the new trails and monitor them.

Special thanks to Roy and Dick Purvis for making this happen.

## **VII. Golf Course Recruitment Program**

Dick Purvis shared with the group his idea for soliciting golf courses in southern CA to hang nestboxes. There are more than 200 golf courses in the greater LA area and Dick would like to start a 'subscription' program where golf courses pay us a fee for providing them nestboxes and monitoring instructions.

The idea was well-received although most members thought we should do a pilot project with a small number of golf courses to learn more about how they operate and if they would be willing to join the program.

## **VIII. Bluebird Activity**

All members present said they have active bluebirds on all their trails. A couple of members reported some of their bluebirds have been afflicted with some type of neurological disorder. In one instance, a female appeared to have vision problems and eventually lost her ability to fly. She was taken to a wildlife center and her prognosis is not good. Obviously, this is a situation we must keep a close eye on.

Several members advised they have new nests with eggs this week, indicating the birds got a late start this year.

**IX. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Southern Californian Bluebird Club will be Saturday, August 4, 2007. Same location.

**X. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 AM.

Minutes submitted by: Michael G. Spohn