

## **MINUTES [Approved]**

### **Sacramento Audubon Society Board of Directors Meeting**

Date / Time: May 30, 2023 @ 6:30 pm

Location: Virtual

- I. Call to Order / Roll Call / Approval of Minutes
  - A. Call to Order 6:40 pm
  - B. Roll Call
    1. Board Members Present: Paul Miller, Mary Forrestal, Jane Van Kessel, Susan Goodrich, Taylor Florence, Nancy Gronert, Eric Johnson
    2. Board Members Absent: Bill Weaver, Anthony Asay, Bill Bianco, Harriet Saeck
  - C. Approval of Minutes: Minutes for April Meeting not submitted prior to May 30, 2023
- II. Guests / Public Comments: None
- III. Presentations: None
- IV. Officer Reports
  - A. President
    1. Placer Nature Center Funding Request
      - a. Requesting funding to build nest boxes for diverse species, plant additional native shrubs and trees, host workshops for the public, and create a self-guided tour of their model woodland habitat.
      - b. Motion to donate \$1500 to Placer Nature Center (Paul 1<sup>st</sup>, Nancy 2<sup>nd</sup>) approved unanimously.
    2. River City Waterway Alliance Funding Request
      - a. River City Waterway Alliance is a non-profit organization founded in January 2023 that hosts trash clean-up events along local waterways.
      - b. Motion to donate \$500 to River City Waterway Alliance (Paul 1<sup>st</sup>, Nancy 2<sup>nd</sup>) approved unanimously.
      - c. Request a report on how funds are used.
    3. Mural Update: California Audubon and Wild Open Walls, artist did an amazing job and Eric will submit an article for the website and Observer.
  - B. Treasurer
    1. Motion to pay 2023 dues for ECOS / Habitat 2020 (Mary 1<sup>st</sup>, Nancy 2<sup>nd</sup>) approved unanimously.
    2. Bobelaine shed painter needs to fill out a W-9 before Harriet can pay him. Form has been sent to the painter twice.
  - C. Other Officers
    1. Recording Secretary: Joanne and I will be meeting on June 22 to transfer the Recording Secretary Gmail and go over position duties.

V. New Business

A. Chalk It Up Sponsorship

1. 3<sup>rd</sup> year participating in Chalk It Up.
2. Motion to sponsor a double square at Chalk It Up for \$475 (Mary 1<sup>st</sup>, Jane 2<sup>nd</sup>) approved unanimously.

B. Black Birders Week is May 28 – June 3. While it is too late to plan any events this year, it should be on our radar so we can do something next year.

C. Constant Contact is the email service SAS uses to communicate with members. Currently, Jane and Mary are the only two SAS members with access to the service. A Board Member needs to be selected to have access.

VI. Old Business

A. Board Elections

1. As of May 30, 2023, 73 people have voted “Yes” online, approving the 2023-2024 slate of officers and board members for Sacramento Audubon. This excludes test votes and one member that voted twice.
2. Jane will confirm that all those who have voted are members.

B. Big Day of Giving

1. In the past thank you letters were mailed to donors. This year, physical addresses were not available so the Thank You note was sent via email only.
2. Still need to find a chair for next year’s Big Day of Giving. Duties begin around December with registration.

C. Name Change

1. Second article published in the June Observer and on the website on May 21, 2023.
2. Three recommendations for a new name have been received including Sacramento Avian Society and Sacramento Birding Society.
3. Received email commenting against changing the name.
4. A former SAS board member and woman of color commented that the name change should be fully vetted with the membership and that the mission statement should reflect the chapter's vision of a broad and diverse membership representing the demographic of the community.
5. Next steps? Email membership asking for feedback about the name change. Can a survey be included in a Constant Contact email?

VII. Committee Chair and Board Member Reports

A. Membership: See *Membership Committee Report – May 2023*, attached.

B. Education: See *Education Committee Report 5/30/23*, attached.

C. Website: See *Web Committee Report – May 2023*, attached.

D. Conservation: None

E. Field Trips: See *Field Activities Committee Report – May 2023*, attached.

F. Accessibility: None

G. Bobelaine: See *Bobelaine Committee Report 05/30/23*, attached.

H. Monthly Speaker

1. Received request from a member asking for in-person meetings.
2. Deadline for the September Observer is August 15. Any details about hosting a hybrid meeting at Effie Yeaw will need to be finalized by that date.

I. Other Committee Reports: None

J. Board Member Reports: None

I. Adjournment: 8:11 pm

May 2023-

There are 652 dues-paying SAS members. 419 of these members are receiving e-newsletters. There were 9 new SAS members this month and 1 inactive member came back. 16 SAS members were made inactive this month because they hadn't paid their dues, or did not wish to renew, and one member passed away.

There are 2,546 NAS members that live in our chapter area. There were 30 new NAS members this month that live in our chapter area. The new NAS members have been sent information about SAS and how to join.

## Education Committee Report 5/30/23

Last education committee meeting was 5/15/23

### 1. Family Nature Walks.

Scheduled walks, 6/17/23. Last walk until fall of 2023.

### 2. Beginning Birding

Last trip scheduled for 6/4/23 at William Pond. New trips will in the fall if 2023.

Larry Hickey will be taking over the coordinator duties from Cathie LaZier.

### 3. Outreach Events.

Current schedule:

1. Camp Pollock, Educational Speakers, 3/8/23 6pm - 8pm.
2. Harvest Day, 8/5/23
3. Chalk it Up, 9/2 - 9/4/23
4. NatureFest, Effie Yeaw. Date ?
5. Lodi Crane Festival, Nov. 4 & 5, 2023.
6. Central Valley Birding Symposium, 11/16 - 11/19/23.

### 4. Presentations.

None presently scheduled or requested.

### 5. Kids Bird Count.

Nicole Barden is coordinating with Effie Yeaw. Count will be same day as Backyard Bird Count, 2/17/24 & 2/18/24.

### 6. Next committee meeting 7/10/23. Mather Park.

# Web Committee Report

## May 2023

### Year to Date Visits to the Sacramento Audubon Website

- 54,521 visits to the website for Jan 1, 2023 to May 29, 2023 compared with 40,976 visits in same time period for 2022.
- 34,565 from web searches (21% of visible search keywords contain the word audubon)
- 16,194 direct
- 3,065 social

Year to Date 116,675 pages viewed.

These were the most popular pages.

Page	Views	Time on Page
<a href="#">Gallery of Birds*</a>	19,396	0:01:43
<a href="#">Kids' Corner*</a>	13,833	0:03:51
<a href="#">Home</a>	10,347	0:01:39
<a href="#">Sacramento Area Birds Checklist*</a>	9,901	0:00:22
<a href="#">Birding Locations*</a>	9,479	0:03:07
<a href="#">Calendar of Events*</a>	6,277	0:03:16
<a href="#">Field Trips</a>	5,257	0:02:05
<a href="#">Bobelaine Audubon Sanctuary</a>	2,363	0:02:47
<a href="#">Injured Birds</a>	1,293	0:03:46

\* aggregate of primary and subordinate pages

### Ongoing Projects

- Sacramento Area Birds Checklist 2023  
Working with Chris Conard and utilizing eBird data from 2018 – 2022 for hotspots within the checklist region with over 100 submitted checklist, the web committee is proposing the changes detailed in the spreadsheet found at <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1xohyqHhJ6C7EV4YAqTP77mjUfvVU2EsS/edit?usp=sharing&oid=101347841481538145867&rtmpof=true&sd=true> and to the checklist map [https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=1bpefLUUFii\\_fA8s7-BZk\\_BD\\_Gjq-mO4&ll=38.5982225%2C-121.69732410000002&z=8](https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=1bpefLUUFii_fA8s7-BZk_BD_Gjq-mO4&ll=38.5982225%2C-121.69732410000002&z=8)  
The spreadsheet and map link will be emailed to a select group of Sacramento Area Birders for review on June 5 with the goal of review completed by June 30, 2023.  
Once the review is complete, we will begin building a new webpage with the revised information.
- Where to Go Birding  
(Pages in development <https://www.sacramentoaudubon.org/where-to-go-birding>)  
This new section of the website will combine seasonal recommendations and regional recommendations for where to go birding in the Sacramento Region.  
Currently seasonal recommendations are found at <https://www.sacramentoaudubon.org/diy-field-trips> and regional recommendations are found at <https://www.sacramentoaudubon.org/birding-locations>. Once the new Where to Go Birding pages and maps are complete the DIY Field Trips and Birding Locations pages will be removed from the website.

## Field Activities Committee Report - May, 2023

### **Field Trips**

#### 4/15-5/15 Field Trip attendance (Spring Migration!)

Trips: 18

Leaders: 25

Attendance: 163

Total Attendance on 18 trips, with leaders: 188

Average **10.45** people per trip, with leaders

Average **9.06** people per trip, not counting leaders.

Now scheduling for June and July. Sierra and coast trips planned.

### **Leaders**

Adding new leader in the fall (total 38).

Name badges and pins continue to be distributed to leaders.

Renewing summer gathering to honor FT leaders.

### **Process**

Review of scheduling and registration processes ongoing.

## Bobelaine Committee Report 5/30/23

Last Bobelaine committee meeting was 5/12/23

1. Aerial Survey.  
Nina Valder will be sending flight digital photos and index for the photos to Mary for the website. They will need to be in a secure location.
2. Feather River Restoration.  
No relevant information since Helen Swagerty's 3/23/23 email.
3. Shed painting.  
Painting completed 5/24/23.
4. Kiosk upgrade.  
Kiosk ordered. Committee reviewed new kiosk location at Bobelaine. Waiting for shipping schedule. Organizing work crew and needed materials for installation.
5. Other Items:
  - A. Monitoring camera at parking area. Need to research on available camera systems. Remain on committee agenda.
  - B. DWR was at the levee, week of 4/17/23 looking at slumped section of levee that is east of the shed. Expect to do correction work August to October. They mentioned using Laurel Ave. for their trucks. Not sure neighbor, Lloyd Bathem will approve trucks on road.
  - C. Paul Miller sent letter to Lloyd requesting removal of large mud grate, and replacing with standard size speed bump. SAS to fund change.

Next meeting. Will survey committee members for setting date.