



Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee

E-mail update

November 2007

Upcoming Meetings

No meetings this month

Bird Enthusiasts Migrate to the Las Vegas Wash

The Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) recently partnered with the Red Rock Audubon Society to host the 2007 annual meeting of the Western Field Ornithologists. The conference, held from September 27-30, brought both amateur and professional ornithologists from throughout the U.S. and Canada to Las Vegas for an action-packed schedule of scientific presentations, workshops, expert panels and field trips. Presentations showcased western ornithological research with an emphasis on the Southwest and included avian monitoring on the Las Vegas Wash, remote source contaminant assessment, and satellite tracking shorebird migration, to name just a few. In addition, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) gave a series of talks on studies performed for the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Plan, and Dr. John Klicka and several graduate students from UNLV's Marjorie Barrick Museum presented cutting-edge molecular genetics research.



A newly banded hermit thrush.

The BOR also partnered with SNWA to provide a mist netting and bird banding workshop at a Las Vegas Wash restoration site lush with cottonwoods and willows. The workshop represented the first documented banding efforts along the waterway and did not disappoint! The group netted and banded 22 individuals from various species, including: orange-crowned warbler, ruby-crowned kinglet, hermit thrush, MacGillivray's warbler, yellow-breasted chat and white-crowned sparrow.

The Annual LVWCC Tour Recap

October 23 turned out to be a beautiful day as 37 participants associated with the Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee (LVWCC) spent a day out at the Las Vegas Wash for the annual tour. This is always an exciting day of "Show-and-Tell" of many of the ongoing efforts and improvements along the Las Vegas Wash and this year was no exception.

After a brief introduction, attendees loaded the bus and for the first time, headed to the north side of the Las Vegas Wash to highlight the Sunrise Mountain Trailhead constructed by Clark County Parks and Recreation and Site 111— an area that was revegetated last spring by local Boy Scouts. Participants were also able to catch a glimpse of the Upper Diversion Weir construction area, which is scheduled to be completed by next summer. The bus then traveled back to the south side and stopped at the Bostick kiosk to discuss the many public outreach and education programs conducted by the LVWCC, followed by an update on wildlife surveys. A stop at the Powerline Crossing Weir provided the opportunity to highlight the extensive water quality monitoring efforts ongoing along the Las Vegas Wash and its tributaries, as well as the March 2007 Wash Green-Up held on the site.



Tour participants at the Powerline Crossing Weir during the annual tour.

The tour concluded overlooking Las Vegas Bay at Lake Mead to emphasize the underlying connection between the management of the Las Vegas Wash and the future impacts on the lake.

Agency Spotlight

Carol Lane recently joined the Southern Nevada Water Authority staff as an Environmental Biologist I to work with Xioaping Zhou and the Resource Monitoring Water Quality Team. Carol is a Las Vegas native and alum of UNLV's Environmental Studies program and worked for SNWA previously as an intern while attending school. Upon graduating, she headed north to Utah and accepted a position with the Utah Department of Environmental Quality in the Water Quality Division where she worked on rapid bioassessment sampling for streams and lakes.

Lane's duties include working on the constructed wetlands projects in the Pittman Wash and at the City of Henderson Water Reclamation Facility and managing all of the water quality data related to Las Vegas Wash projects, which includes working on a multi-stakeholder water quality database with SNWA's Data Resources Division.



Carol Lane is a new Environmental Biologist for SNWA.