



The Kite Call

Ohlone Audubon Society, Inc.

*A chapter of the National Audubon Society
Serving Southern & Eastern Alameda County CA*

*Our Mission: To celebrate and protect birds and their habitats in
Southern and Eastern Alameda County
www.ohloneaudubon.org*

Calendar

June 1 GENERAL MEETING
via Zoom—7:30PM
(NO MEETINGS IN JULY OR AUGUST)

July 10 FIELD TRIP
Hayward Shoreline
(Details next issue)

Membership Meeting



Dunlins
By Lara Tseng

Date: June 1, 2021 at 7:30pm
Location: Virtual Meeting via Zoom
(Zoom details on the left)

June’s membership meeting is not to be missed if you want to learn about Dunlins, world geography, and a chance to witness the rise of a future ornithologist.

Lara Tseng has long been captivated by Dunlins and her interest was heightened after attending a talk by Jon Dunn on *Calidris* sandpipers in the fall of 2020. In particular, she was amazed that our local wintering Dunlins here (*pacifica*), the largest subspecies, could be the same species as the tiny little Dunlin (*arctica*) Jon described breeding in northeast Greenland.
(continued on page 2)



ZOOM MEETING INSTRUCTIONS:

Due to COVID-19, Ohlone Audubon’s membership meetings will continue to be online via Zoom. Registration is needed for OAS’s membership meetings in 2021! As before, you only need to do it once for ALL 2021 meetings.

Click the URL / link below to register for OAS’s 2021 membership meetings:
<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0ldeyop-joiHdxrIasw95GYo7GazoqhtELu>

(After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.)

SEE ZOOM REGISTRATION DETAILS THIS PAGE



IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS & OHLONE AUDUBON ACTIVITIES

Ohlone Audubon has tentatively scheduled a field trip in July!

We are continuing to hold our General Meetings via ZOOM. Please connect and tune in! As we continue with our Zoom meetings you will have to register for the 2021 meetings if you have not done so already. See details on this page.

Remember, we are in this together. Please stay safe and remain vigilant about taking safety precautions. Wear the Mask! Practice social distancing. Avoid gatherings. Get your vaccine shots! Getting outdoors is so important for both our mental and physical health and birding just adds to that enjoyment.



Follow us on Facebook!

See updates and photos from our activities that you can share with your friends! Find us by doing a Facebook search for Ohlone Audubon Society

Meeting Details

She will share with us her ongoing investigation into the ten subspecies of Dunlins, which are circumpolar during the breeding season. They vary greatly in size, plumage and molt strategies.

Lara Tseng is an avid 14-year-old birdwatcher from Orange County, California. She has a passion for science and birds and hopes to become an ornithologist in the future. She has volunteered for the Cavity Conservation Initiative, Tree Care for Birds and Other Wildlife, Sea & Sage Audubon, Laguna Coast Wilderness Park, along with other

June 1, 2021 Meeting - Dunlins (continued)

environment-related organizations. Lara is also a Western Field Ornithologist Student Advisor and a bluebird nest box monitor. She has published articles in *Western Field Ornithologists Newsletter*, *North American Bluebird Society's Bluebird Journal*, and *California Bluebird Recovery Program's Bluebirds Fly!* Newsletter. Lara has done a study on the timing and amount of eggshell consumption in Western Bluebirds and has written a manuscript on that research which is currently accepted pending presentation changes to the *Journal of Emerging Investigators*.

Field Trips



OAS field trips will resume in July, now that most California counties are back to the least restrictive yellow tier and vaccination rates in the Bay Area are high.

The first field trip will be to **Hayward Shoreline with Juli Chamberlin and Bob Toleno on July 10th from 1pm-4pm**. The trip will primarily focus on the returning shorebirds at Frank's Dump. This trip will be the 5-year anniversary of the trip where Vicki Robinson found Alameda County's first Red-necked Stint. (*Trip details in next issue*)

Per the latest CDC guidelines, unvaccinated participants will be required to wear masks on field trips, vaccinated people will not, and we will still observe social distancing.



OAS ZOOM Meetings are recorded!

If you missed one of our great meetings, they are recorded. Please check our Membership Meeting page on our website for the link. Zoom recordings are posted, about 1 week after live, on our website:

www.ohloneaudubon.org

President's Corner

I would always rather talk to you about birding, but sometimes it has to be business. As I am sure you know, everything that Ohlone does, from our great programs, to the wonderful *Kite Call*, our fabulous field trips and our conservation and education efforts happen because a person gets them done. Although Ohlone is a pretty stable organization, eventually people and needs change. Right now we have three such needs and I am reaching out the our membership to do some recruiting. First is some pretty big shoes to fill.

Program chair: Our current program chair, **Debbie Wong** has decided to move on from this position. Debbie has spoiled us. I can't think of an organization that has had a better run of programs than Ohlone. Our programs are uniformly excellent and Debbie has brought in excellent seminars as those of you attending Jon Dunn's will attest. I won't kid you, this is a big job from finding and negotiating with multiple venues, recruiting the speakers, and managing the event and post event. Debbie has agreed to stay on through the end of the year to give us plenty of time to find and cross train her replacement.

Education chair: We have been without a chair for several months. This position reaches out and responds to local groups and schools to support bird conservation. We want to work with our youth. One of the other key duties is to organize the effort when we are asked to staff a table at various nature festivals.

Post zoom media czar: Our zoom meetings have been a great success. Soon however, we will be returning to our regular in-person general meetings. Several members have asked if we could continue meetings in zoom as well as in person. The board has investigated this and has made no decision. This is because we have learned that continuing to offer a zoom alternative is not a small task. There is additional equipment, the availability of wireless is a key factor as is managing the video of the meeting in real time and uploading it to make it available via zoom. An additional key component is someone willing to take on this task. If you are willing to make a multi-year commitment to this effort, we are looking for you. If any of these tasks appeal to your and you would like to learn more, shoot me an email at President@OhloneAudubon.org

-Bill Hoppes

Bird Observations

Spring 2021

By Vicki Robinson



Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler

The days are getting warmer, flowers are blooming, birds are migrating and we can now be outside with social distancing and go birding!

We are ready to say goodbye to our winter residents. The crown sparrows are moving on and our **Yellow-rumped Warblers** have changed into their bright colors ready to go to the mountains and build nests.



Western Tanager

One by one the regular migrants are showing up at their usual habitats. **Hooded Orioles** at home feeders and Palm trees. **Bullock's Orioles** in the Eucalyptus trees at Garin and elsewhere. **Violet-green Swallows** are seen easily at the Del Valle overlook along with **Northern Rough-winged** and **Cliff Swallows**. The most colorful of the spring migrants, **Western Tanager** and **Lazuli Bunting** have arrived along with musical **Ash-Throated Flycatchers** with their police whistle call and the **Black-headed Grosbeaks** with their drunken robin call. **Bald Eagles** are making a wonderful comeback with nesting birds at Del Valle, Milpitas Elementary school, and Ardenwood Farm. The Ardenwood eagles can be seen regularly at Quarry Lakes and the Alameda Creek trail hunting for fish.

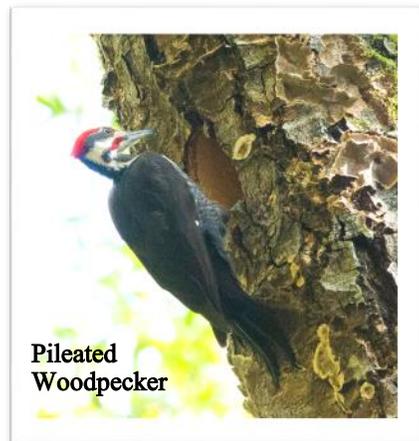


Lazuli Bunting

Not to leave out warblers! **Wilson's Warblers** seem to be everywhere. Orange-crowned are plentiful and an occasional **Black-throated Gray**, **Yellow** and **Nashville** have been seen. The Pride-of-Madera plants on Garin Avenue in Hayward have also been productive again with migrating hummingbirds. **Calliope**, **Black-chinned**, and many **Rufous** have been seen moving thru.



Nashville Warbler



Pileated Woodpecker

The surprise of the season has been a **Pileated Woodpecker** that has haunted the Oakland hills for years and heard but rarely seen. He has been drilling a nest hole on an easily accessed trail at Canyon meadow area - Redwood Regional Park giving great looks to many. No sight of a female yet but hoping all his excavating is not in vain.

A few uncommon and rare birds seem to have taken up permanent resident at certain parks. A **White-faced Ibis** is now a common sight at

Coyote Hills. A **Snow Goose** is mixed with **Canada Geese** at Crab Cove and a **Brant Goose** is seen regularly at Arrowhead Marsh. Could this be due to Climate Change?



White-faced Ibis

ED Note: Welcome **Vicki Robinson** and her wonderful photos, as our new Bird Observation columnist!

Conservation

Good news! AB 1512 (Bauer-Kahan) passed out of the Assembly Water Parks and Wildlife (WPW) Committee hearing April 26, 2021 on an 11-4 vote. There was a great show of support! The bill now moves onto the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Meanwhile, on the Senate side, SB799 (Glazer) moves onto the Senate Appropriations committee in early May. As you may remember, this bill directs State Parks to permanently preserve the Alameda-Tesla Expansion Area for conservation purposes consistent with PRC Sections 5019.71 and 5019.74, including for non-motorized recreation. To implement preservation of Tesla Park, SB 799 also provides that nine million dollars (\$9M) be transferred to the OHV Trust Fund.



IF YOU DID NOT SEE, CHECK OUT THE SAVE TESLA PARK EARTH DAY VIDEO. THIS IS A GREAT VIDEO!
[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/OWUPRUDHSV8](https://youtu.be/owuprudhsv8)

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO SIGN the Save Tesla Park Petition

If you have not yet signed the Save Tesla Park petition to the Governor please do sign and tweet or share! You can also easily tweet the Governor and Secretary Crowfoot from the same link. We want to get even more petitions and tweets submitted.

Petition - <https://addup.sierraclub.org/campaigns/tell-governor-newsom-to-save-tesla-park-from-off-road-vehicles--preserve-it-for-future-generations/take-action>

Share the posts and tweets:

Twitter - https://twitter.com/tesla_park and [saveteslapark](https://twitter.com/saveteslapark) Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/SaveTeslaPark>

<https://www.instagram.com/saveteslapark/>

More info at <http://www.teslapark.org/>

Nominations 2021-2022

In accordance with the Bylaws of our organization, the slate of officers nominated for the upcoming year must be presented to the membership, followed by the election of officers to occur at the May monthly meeting.

In view of the current situation, the slate of Officers for the Board of Directors 2021-2022 FY is listed below and members will be asked to vote "virtually" or by mail. Other board positions are appointed by the President. Please send your vote (yea or nay) electronically via this link:

<https://forms.gle/e8utRYhpCUTF9XGg9>

or via our Facebook page or via mail to 1922 Hillsdale St, Hayward, CA 94541. Write-ins are also accepted. Please vote by May 31, 2021. Thank you.

Slate of Officers for FY 2021-2022

- President: Bill Hoppes**
- Vice President: Marty Morrow**
- Treasurer: Gail Ryujin**
- Recording Secretary: Kathy Robertson**
- Corresponding Secretary: Jackie Bertillion**
- Director at Large (2024) Vicki Robinson**

I accept the above slate of Officers Yea ___ Nay ___

Write in: _____

Conservation continued on next page!

**THANK YOU
TO THE FOLLOWING
NEW AND RENEWING
MEMBERS, AND FOR
DONATIONS ALSO!**



- Ann Brown, Bruce Brown,**
- Kellie Collier, Lee Hartman,**
- James Holland, Joyce Hurt,**
- Helen Keating, Jeani King, Leslie Koenig, Karen Kramer,**
- Victoria Krysiak, Carol Lokke, Stella Manuel, Karen**
- Marcus, Raquel Martinez, Sherry Mattson, Dina Oakes,**
- Lisa Oliver, Marie Ross, Lester and Rebecca Whittaker**

Donations: Juli Chamberlin, Kellie Collier, Mary Norton

PLEASE CONSIDER AN ELECTRONIC KITE CALL!

We are urging members to switch over to an electronically issued *Kite Call* (but you don't have to!) The benefits are a cost savings to our chapter, in both printing costs and postage. Other benefits include getting it quicker and it is **much more colorful!!!!!!**

GO GREEN!

Send your request to pagpeg@aol.com

Conservation (continued)

"Sea level rise will have a profound impact on the San Francisco Bay and the communities that surround it. The challenge is to protect housing, businesses and critical infrastructure in an environmentally sensitive way. Learning from experts and local leaders involved in nature based solutions, this webinar series will inform key stakeholders about options for addressing sea level rise while restoring and protecting the Bay." **Dave Pine, Chair of the San Francisco Bay Authority and member of the Bay Conservation and Development Commission.**

"There is nothing that requires more urgency than addressing climate change, and specifically, for our region, sea-level rise. That is why I am authoring legislation to identify the highest priority climate adaptation projects and co-authoring a climate resilience bond that will invest almost \$7B in proven strategies to respond to climate change impacts across California. I look forward to joining this webinar to respond to the evolving climate crisis we face." **Speaker Pro Tempore Kevin Mullin, 22nd California Assembly District**

3-part Webinar series: Thursdays 9 am - Noon, May 13, 20 and 27th

May 13: *What are Nature-Based Adaptation Strategies*

May 20: *Where to use Nature-Based Adaptation*

May 27: *How to Green the Project: Funding and Case Studies*

Decision makers, their staff and the public need information and understanding of why nature-based adaptation to sea level rise is critical for cities around the Bay. This webinar provides an introduction to what these strategies are, how to plan for them and how to fund them.

Learn from leading experts in the field on building resilience for your community to the impacts of sea level rise. You will join a community of decision-makers who are working to protect their communities while improving the quality of life for residents and leaving a living legacy.

For more information on the program see [here](#) or <https://www.sierraclub.org/loma-prieta/sea-level-rise-why-we-need-nature-based-adaptation>

Registration is required. Register [here](#). Or at https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_LGuHDbuLRUysIQA2KGGJ3vg

Presented jointly by the

Loma Prieta Chapter, San Francisco Bay Chapter and Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club

RENEWALS

Look at your mailing label - it will tell you. For example: "Pd Thru 6/21" indicates that you are paid thru June 2021. A **"RENEW?"** indicates that this is your last Kite Call!

If you receive your Kite Call electronically, look for a reminder in your email box. If you see a **"JOIN LOCAL?"** on your label this indicates that you have joined the National Audubon Society, but alas, **not** your local **Ohlone** chapter. **We would love to have you join us!**

To **renew** or **join** us please send a \$25 check to Pat Gordon, Membership Chair, 1922 Hillsdale Street, Hayward, CA 94541-5428. Thank you!

DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL?

We often send out emails regarding meeting reminders, special events, and action alerts. If you would like to share your email to receive these notices please send to pagpeg@aol.com.

**WE DO NOT SHARE
CONTACT INFORMATION
Just staying connected!**



Re-powering projects continue to be proposed for the Altamont Pass area.

Update on the Status of Windmills and Raptors in the Altamont Provides No Good News

By Bill Hoppes

When new projects or upgrades are proposed for the windmills in the Altamont, we take it as an opportunity to update members on the current status of the impacts of wind power projects on raptors in our area.

To bring you up to date, wind power projects in the Altamont are part of the Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area (APWRA). The APWRA is an approximately 50,000-acre area that extends across the northeastern hills of Alameda County and into a small portion of Contra Costa County to the north. By 1985, the APWRA was crowded with over 26 different wind farms consisting of almost 5000 wind turbines. Soon after the wind turbines were in operation, it became clear turbines were killing hawks and eagles in disturbing numbers. In fact, the APWRA had the highest rates and numbers of raptor kills of any wind facility in

the world. In response, conservation organizations lead by Golden Gate Audubon, started legal action, and in 2010 reached an agreement with wind farm operators to replace nearly half of the first generation turbines by newer, less lethal to raptors, versions.

Replacing these older turbines is called “re-powering” and is governed by a Program Environment Impact Report (PIER) which was certified by the Eastern Alameda County Zoning Board of Adjustment in 2014. As re-powering projects are put forward, we continue to review the current state of wind turbines impact on raptors in the Altamont.

The latest re-powering proposal is by Mulqueeny Wind LLC, a subsidiary of Brookfield Renewable Energy Partners. In December 2019, they applied for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to replace 518 existing wind energy turbines with up to 36 new turbines that together will have a maximum production capacity of approximately 80 MW. The Project is proposed on 4,589 acres within the southeastern quadrant of the Alameda County portion of the APWRA.

With these and other re-powering projects that have replaced thousands of older wind turbines with fewer, newer, and supposedly more “bird-friendly” versions, the expectation of the involved agencies was that raptor mortality would decline at least to “sustainable” levels. That apparently hasn’t happened. The USFWS studies Golden Eagles in the area surrounding the APWRA. In this range wide area, approximately 10% of the population is lost each year from unauthorized human caused mortality. USFWS estimates that at least 40% of these fatalities continue to be caused by wind-turbine strikes and that human caused mortality of eagles is much greater in the APWRA than in the rest of the USFWS study area. The Golden Eagle population in the APWRA is currently unsustainable due to excess mortality, and that the loss of breeding age birds in the APWRA draws eagles from surrounding areas to this site of high mortality, resulting in the APWRA as a “population sink” for eagles in the Diablo range.

Comments on the draft environmental report for the MulQueeny project also list significant potential impacts to Burrowing Owls, Tri-colored Blackbirds, Swainson’s Hawks, and several species of bats. Recent surveys in the APWRA using dogs have shown that the mortality rates for passerines and bats are several orders of magnitude higher than previously believed.



Mortality rates for Golden Eagles in the Altamont continue to exceed “sustainable” levels.

(continued page 7)

(Windmills continued)

Well, this is all very depressing. It turns out that all the re-powering projects approved in the APWRA have not reduced mortality of Golden Eagles and the current high mortality rate continues to draw in eagles to this dangerous area. In addition, impacts to passerines and bats has been significantly underestimated.

The agencies commenting on the Mulqueeny Project have made substantive comments, mainly focusing on downsizing the project as a whole, micro-siting studies so that the turbines are placed in areas least likely to impact wildlife, and operational plans focusing on minimizing avian and bat strikes. Alameda County, unfortunately, is ignoring these recommendations and concluding that the impacts of the project are “significant but unavoidable”.

The impact of the APWRA on raptors is not a success story. More re-powering projects are in the pipeline. Ohlone Audubon is involved in the review of these projects and will continue to update our membership.



Re-powering projects in the Altamont have been shown to cause significant mortality to species such as the Mexican Free-tailed Bat in addition to raptors



Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour

Continues **Sundays**
May 16 & 23 10AM to 3PM

If you haven't already, you can register for the free, virtual Seventeenth Annual Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, [here](#). Or at [https://](https://www.bringingbackthenatives.net/register-2021)

www.bringingbackthenatives.net/register-2021

Agenda - On May 16 there will be a visit to 8 private gardens, and, using Kathy Kramer's own garden as the case study, learning how to choose keystone species for sunny areas. We'll also be hearing about upright manzanitas from Pete Veilleux from East Bay Wilds, and edible native plants for the home garden from Rick Flores from the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum. Already registered? We have you—and your registration is good for all days. **Videos of the presentations made during the first two days of the 2021 virtual Tour** can be seen on the [Tour's YouTube page](#); check them out! <https://www.youtube.com/channel/>

Native Plant Extravaganza shopping helps support students!

San Lorenzo High Environmental Club students have propagated over 75 native species for you. Most plants are bargains at just \$7.00. Due to the virus, it is a "by appointment only" sale again this year. You can make an appointment and get a plant list and directions by emailing Steve Wiley at stevewiley63@yahoo.com. Appointments available on Saturday afternoons or weekdays after school hours. When you are picking up your plants, visit their 20 year old, one-acre native plant garden and adjacent nursery. The Club is entirely self-supporting, and the plant sale is an important part of the student's fundraising efforts.



Would you like to help make a difference for Bay Area birds? Become a volunteer with the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory! For 40 years, volunteers have helped SFBBO conserve birds and their habitats through science and outreach. Current volunteer opportunities include:

- *Communications - Be a guest blogger, photographer, or videographer, or help spread the word about birds on social media as a volunteer in our communications department and help promote avian science work*
- *Fundraising - Host a Facebook fundraiser, lead a virtual bird talk, or help solicit auction items with our fundraising team and help sustain important outreach and research*
- *Education - Teach an environmental education activity virtually for a local classroom, library, or community center with our education specialists and get people excited about science and conservation*
- *Science - Survey for phalaropes, plovers, and other shorebirds or help with remote data entry to assist SFBBO's scientists*

To learn more and apply to be a volunteer, please visit sfbbo.org or write to outreach@sfbbo.org

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OHLONE AUDUBON SOCIETY
1922 HILLSDALE STREET
HAYWARD, CA 94541

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Please renew your Ohlone membership by the date shown on your address label. For those receiving our electronic copy, an email will be sent. Direct questions about Kite Call delivery to the Membership Chair.

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Yes, I want to Join Ohlone Audubon Society!



Please sign me up today

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

Join Ohlone Audubon Society
By mailing a \$25 check payable
To OAS with this coupon to:

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I prefer to receive the Kite Call by e-mail [] (Recommended) Please send me e-mail updates and action alerts [].

Ohlone Audubon does not share our mailing list or your personal information with others.
National Audubon Society membership dues are separate from those of Ohlone Audubon Society.