



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

- Apr 3 GENERAL MEETING**
Castro Valley
- Apr 8 FIELD TRIP**
Del Valle, Livermore
- Apr 14 FIELD TRIP**
MLK Reg Shoreline
- Apr 18 FIELD TRIP**
Alameda South Shore
- Apr 22 FIELD TRIP**
Swallow Walk—Lk
Elizabeth, Coyote Hills
- Apr 26 FIELD TRIP**
Garin Park, Hayward
- Apr 28-29 FIELD TRIP**
Merced Hot Springs
- May 1 GENERAL MEETING**
San Leandro
- May 2 FIELD TRIP**
Sunol Reg Park
- May 5 FIELD TRIP**
San Joaquin NWR
- May 10 FIELD TRIP**
Sibley Volcanic RP
- May 12 FIELD TRIP**
Arroyo Del Valle
- May 19 SPECIAL FIELD TRIP**
Devil's Slide
- May 23 FIELD TRIP**
Lake Chabot

Membership Meetings

What's That Bird with Ed Ed Harper

Date: April 3, 2018 **Time:** 7:30PM

Location: Castro Valley Adult School
4430 Alma Ave., Castro Valley CA



Ed's superb bird photography program with wit and humor is back for our April membership meeting. It will be Educational and fun to guess the

identification of birds in partial or obstructed views. Ed will be host while the audience is the panel! Come and participate in this unique membership meeting.

An avid photographer, **Ed Harper** has photographed over 2000 species of birds, with many of his photos found in books and periodicals. In North America alone, he has photographed over 750 species of birds. Starting out as a tour leader for the Massachusetts Audubon Society in 1980, Ed now operates Sandpiper Journeys with his wife, Susan Scott. Together they have conducted many birding and natural history tours throughout the world.

(Directions on page 2)

Restoring Common Murres to Devil's Slide Rock

Gerry McChesney

Date: May 1, 2018 **Time:** 7:30PM

Location: San Leandro Library,
300 Estudillo Ave, San Leandro, CA

The central California population of Common Murres (*Uria aalge*) suffered a rapid decline in the mid-1980s when thousands of birds were killed in a nearshore gill-net fishery and an oil spill. A colony of about 3,000 murres on Devil's Slide Rock, San Mateo County was extirpated. A heroic effort using social attraction (murre decoys, recorded calls and mirrors) to restore the colony began in 1996. Now, the colony is restored to it's former numbers. Efforts are now focused on protecting the colony from disturbance.



Gerry McChesney will talk about this fascinating restoration project and the current status of the Common Murre population in central California.

(continued on page 2)



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

April Meeting Directions: <http://www.cvadult.org/contact/map-and-directions>.

From San Francisco / Oakland : Take I-880 south then merge onto I-238 east toward I-580 / Castro Valley/ Stockton. I-238 S becomes I-580 E. Take the Redwood Road exit. Turn LEFT onto Redwood Road. Drive 1.2 miles, then turn right onto Alma Avenue. Park in larger lot on top.

From Tri-Valley Area: Take I-580 West toward Oakland. Exit Castro Valley. Turn LEFT onto E. Castro Valley Blvd. Turn RIGHT

onto Redwood Road. Drive 1.2 miles, then turn right onto Alma Avenue. Park in larger lot on top.

From South Bay: Take the I-880 N toward Oakland. Merge onto I-238 S toward I-580/Castro Valley/Stockton. Take the CA-238/Castro Valley Blvd. exit toward Hayward. I-238 S becomes I-580 E. Take the Redwood Road exit. Turn left onto Redwood Road. Drive 1.2 miles, then turn right onto Alma Avenue. Park in larger lot on top.

Meet in Gym/Cafeteria, on the west side of the campus.

May Meeting—Common Murres (continued):

Gerry McChesney is a Wildlife Refuge Manager for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex. He has spent much of the last 30 years studying seabirds throughout California, including colony surveys, breeding biology, at-sea distribution, and restoration. Gerry has managed the Refuge's Common Murre Restoration Project since 2002.

PLEASE SEE FIELD TRIPS FOR INFORMATION ON A SPECIAL FIELD TRIP ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROGRAM!!!!!!

Directions: San Leandro Library: Karp Room

<https://www.sanleandro.org/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=24859> <https://goo.gl/maps/JZissDVNz8y>

From I-580, take the Estudillo exit. Follow Estudillo westward to the library on the right.

From I-880, take the Davis Street exit, head east, passing under BART track. Go through light at E. 14th St. (Davis becomes Callan). Continue 1 1/2 blocks to the library on right.

We will meet in the Karp room.

Field Trips



Del Valle SRA

Sunday, April 8, 8:30AM - noon
Leader: Steve Huckabone
fieldtrips@ohloneaudubon.org

We will take a ~3 mile route looking for seasonal and resident birds including sparrows, Purple Finches, Merlins, eagles and Phainopeplas. Warning: the hike involves some steep, potentially muddy terrain so would be considered strenuous by most birders. Bring walking sticks if you like. Restrooms and water are available at the north end of the lake (turn right after the entry kiosk.) Heavy rain cancels. Pre-registration is not required, and all are welcome. Meet at the parking lot at the west end of the bridge at the south end of the lake (straight ahead after the entry kiosk.)

Directions: To reach the park, exit I-580 in Livermore at North Livermore Avenue. Head south and proceed through town. North Livermore Avenue will become South Livermore Avenue. About 1.5 miles outside town, turn right at Mines Road, go about 3.5 miles and continue straight onto Del Valle Road (Mines Road turns left) to the park entrance (\$6 fee unless you have an EBParks annual pass).

Garretson Point to Arrowhead Marsh - MLK Regional Shoreline

Saturday, April 14, 9:00 AM - Noon
Leaders: Rich Nicholson and Stephanie Floyd
fieldtrips@ohloneaudubon.org

Nice flat paved trails invite you to search for five species of grebes in their breeding plumage along with three species of teal and a long list of resident birds. The weather should be good, and the effort will be well worth it, as MLK Shoreline always offers a rewarding day of birding. Heavy rain cancels.

Directions: To reach Garretson Point, take I-880 to Hegenberger in Oakland. Drive west to Edgewater Drive, then go north until the roads ends at a free parking lot.

SIERRA WEEKEND TRIP (JUNE 23-24) IS FULL!

To be put on waiting list email Phil and Pat Gordon at pagepeg@aol.com. Details of trip will be emailed to participants.

Field Trips (continued)

Alameda South Shore

Wednesday, April 18, 9:00 AM - Noon
Leaders: Jerry Steenhoven, 510-881-1233 & Maggie Clark

Catch views of shorebirds in breeding plumage before they leave for northern breeding grounds. Meet at the Elsie Roemer Bird Sanctuary viewing platform where Broadway meets Shoreline Drive. Bring binoculars and a scope if you have one. This is planned as a 3-hour trip. We'll end at Crab Cove Visitor Center. Pre-registration is not required, and all are welcome.

Directions: From Hayward or San Leandro, take I-880 to Davis Street. Exit west and go to Doolittle Drive. Turn right on Doolittle and follow it to the bridge to Alameda, where the street becomes Otis Drive. Turn left at Broadway, drive southwest to Shoreline Drive, and park along the street.

Swallow Walk - Lake Elizabeth and Coyote Hills Regional Park

**Sunday, April 22, 10:00 - 11:30 AM
 & 12:15 - 4:00 PM**

Leaders: Phil Gordon, pagpeg@aol.com, and Park Ranger Sandy Ferreira



1st Segment: At 10:00, Park Ranger Sandy Ferreira will lead us along Lake Elizabeth and Mission Creek to view several nesting swallow species: Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, Tree Swallow and possibly others.

Directions: From I-880, exit at Stevenson Blvd. and go east to Paseo Padre Parkway. Turn right on Paseo Padre and follow the signs to the Waterpark. We will meet at the five tall palm trees at the north end of the Waterpark lot, south end of the lake.

2nd Segment: At 12:15 PM, meet Phil on the Visitor Center lawn at Coyote Hills Regional Park to eat your bag lunch, followed at 2:00 by a Marsh and Hills Swallow Trek.

Directions: From the Waterpark at Lake Elizabeth, turn right onto Paseo Padre Parkway. Turn left on Stevenson and stay on it to I-880. Go north on I-880 to the Decoto Rd/Hwy 84/Dumbarton Bridge exit. Go west on Hwy 84 to the last exit before the bridge, Paseo Padre Parkway. Turn right onto Paseo, then left on Patterson Ranch Road. \$5 parking fee at Coyote Hills payable at kiosk unless you have an EBParks annual pass. Pre-registration is not required, and all are welcome. Heavy rain cancels.

Garin/Dry Creek Regional Parks

Thursday, April 26, 8:00 - 11:00 AM
Leaders: Jerry Steenhoven and Mona Brauer
fieldtrips@ohloneaudubon.org

On this relaxed trip we'll explore Garin/Dry Creek Regional Parks from the Dry Creek entrance. April is an excellent time to see a wide variety of birds. Residents and newly arrived migrants will be courting and setting up nesting territories. From this entrance, excellent riparian habitat, oak woodland and grazed pasture are accessible. We'll be looking closely at bird behavior: setting up breeding territories, courtship displays and signs of nesting. Birds will be in their finest plumages, and we should find quite a variety: woodpeckers, flycatchers, warblers, wrens, sparrows, and thrushes. Meet at the Dry Creek Regional Park parking area. Pre-registration is not required, and all are welcome. Heavy rain cancels. Be prepared for moderate walking.

Directions: Take Mission Blvd. in Hayward south to Whipple Rd. Turn east toward the hills on the continuation of Whipple (May Rd.) past the apartment complex to the parking area on the right.

**Birding Mercey Hot Springs with
 Bob Toleno and Juli Chamberlin**
Saturday-Sunday, April 28-29
fieldtrips@ohloneaudubon.org

Join Bob and Juli for a special overnight trip to Mercey Hot Springs on the western edge of Fresno County. Meet the leaders late Saturday afternoon and bird until sunset for a chance at seeing Long-eared Owls take flight. Lesser Nighthawks are also possible, and we should find Great Horned Owls and maybe Barn Owls, too. Be out again by sunrise Sunday morning for peak migrant activity with warblers, thrushes, flycatchers, and tanagers moving through in numbers, as well as nesting Lawrence's Goldfinches. The trip is limited to participants staying overnight at Mercey Hot Springs resort. As a bonus to birding, staying at Mercey affords you the opportunity to experience their mineral baths.

Book your lodging early at merceyhotsprings.com because spring is their busy season. The trip will go even with a small group. Contact us by email at fieldtrips@ohloneaudubon.org if you plan to participate.

And more trips!

Sunol Regional Wilderness
Wednesday, May 2, 8:00 - 11:00 AM
Leaders: Vicki Robinson and Jerry Ting
fieldtrips@ohloneaudubon.org

Join us for a chance to enjoy spring at one of our great regional parks, Sunol. We hope to find early nesting activity near the footbridge and visitor's center. Our route from there will depend on recent sightings. In any case, plan for moderate hiking. Meet at the first parking lot on the left after entering the park. Pre-registration is not required, and all are welcome. Heavy rain cancels.

Directions: To reach the park, take the Calaveras Rd./SR-84 exit from I-680 and drive southeast about five miles to Geary Road; turn left (east) on Geary and continue to the park (watch for wild turkeys along the road!) Parking fee \$5 payable at kiosk; free to East Bay Parks annual pass holders.

San Joaquin River NWR, Stanislaus County - Pelican Nature Trail
Saturday, May 5, 8:00 AM - mid-afternoon
Leader: Steve Huckabone,
shuckabone@comcast.net

A 4+ mile foot-access nature trail, opened in 2011, meanders through seasonal wetlands, restored riparian woodlands and old-growth valley oak stands. The trailhead features interpretive kiosks and picnic areas. Open sunrise to sunset daily. We will search for late spring migrants and breeding birds such as Black-chinned Hummingbird and Yellow Warbler. This is a 1/2 to 3/4 day trip, so pack a lunch and bring water. Restrooms are available at beginning of walk. Trail is primarily gravel flat levee road. Pre-registration is not required, and all are welcome. Heavy rain cancels.

Directions: You can reach the Pelican Nature trailhead by taking I-580 to CA-132 East (towards Modesto). Take a right on River Road and go 3 miles; then take a left on Dairy Road and go 1.5 miles. The parking area is approximately 40 minutes from Livermore.

Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve
Thursday, May 10, 9:00 - 11:30 AM
Leaders: Jim and Linda Hargrove
fieldtrips@ohloneaudubon.org

Join us for a pleasant walk through some small woods into a typical grassland habitat. The birds should be on territory and singing. We can expect to see, or at least hear, California Thrasher, Lazuli Bunting, and several species of sparrows. In previous years, a pair of Golden Eagles has nested on the microwave tower on the hill, and we hope to see them again this year. The hike is along a gravel path and some paved areas, involving a moderate uphill slope. We'll proceed slowly, so most will have no trouble with the walk. Bring water and sunscreen. Pre-registration is not required, and all are welcome. Heavy rain cancels.

Directions: We'll meet at the visitor's center on Skyline Blvd., near the intersection with Grizzly Peak. The simplest route is to take CA 13 and exit at Park Blvd. Turn left on Mountain Blvd and right onto Snake Rd. Stay on Snake Rd until you reach Skyline. Take a sharp left onto Skyline and look for the entrance to the parking lot.

Arroyo Del Valle
Saturday, May 12, 8:00 - 11:00 AM
Leaders: Steve Huckabone and Kathy Robertson
fieldtrips@ohloneaudubon.org

Join us for a trip to Arroyo Del Valle (the "back side" of the dam on Lake Del Valle). Be prepared for moderate hiking, some of it off-trail; we may have to go under a fence. We will look for migrants such as Ash-Throated Flycatcher and Western Tanager. Pre-registration is not required; all are welcome. Bring water. A portapotty is on site. Meet at the staging area on Arroyo Road .

Directions: In Livermore, take Arroyo Road south past the golf course, past the VA Livermore Health Care facility, and past Wente Vineyards, cross the white bridge, and shortly the staging area will be on your left.



More trips continued!

SPECIAL FIELD TRIP!

Devil's Slide Trail County Park, Pacifica
Saturday, May 19, 9:00 AM-Noon
Leader: Gerry McChesney
fieldtrips@ohloneaudubon.org

Gerry McChesney, the speaker at our May meeting, has generously offered to lead this special field trip. The Devil's Slide Trail is a 1.3-mile multi-use coastal trail, converted from a former segment of Hwy1 between Half Moon Bay and Pacifica. The paved trail provides luxurious coastal views and is a great spot to enjoy some coastal birding. Viewed from the trail is Devil's Slide Rock (or, Egg Rock to some locals), the site of an intensive project to restore a colony of **Common Murres**. We'll spend time viewing the breeding murres on the rock and learning about this amazing project. We'll also look for other nesting seabirds such as Brandt's Cormorants, Pelagic Cormorants, Western Gulls and Pigeon Guillemots. Peregrine Falcons are often sitting by their cliff nest site or flying overhead. Nesting Rock Wrens are often seen along the trail. Late lingering flocks of scoters and grebes should be present just offshore. Bring a spotting scope if you have one.

Directions: We'll meet at the Devil's Slide Trail South Parking Lot. From Half Moon Bay, take Hwy 1 North past Montara and Gray Whale Cove State beaches. At the traffic light just before the entrance to the Tom Lantos (Devil's Slide) Tunnel, turn left into the trail parking lot. From Pacifica, take Hwy 1 South. Immediately after passing through the tunnel, turn right at the traffic light into the parking lot. We'll meet by the rest room at the trailhead. Parking is limited so carpooling is highly recommended. Please meet at the Starbucks at 245 W. Jackson St., Hayward, at 7:45 AM to arrange carpools. From there, it is about 40 miles to the trail parking lot.

CRAZY ABOUT GULLS?

Check out this blog Jerry Ting shared with us:

Keep this link handy if you are into or about to get interested in gulls. Good luck!

BIRDINGTHEDAYAWAY.BLOGSPOT.COM

Lake Chabot Regional Park
Wednesday, May 23, 8:30 AM - Noon
Leaders: Rich Nicholson and Kathy Robertson
fieldtrips@ohloneaudubon.org

Lake Chabot Regional Park offers a variety of habitats for birdwatching: riparian, grassland, oak savannah, marshy shoreline, and open water. We'll look for spring migrants and nesting residents. We might see Bald Eagles that have nested at the park in previous years! . We will hike a few miles over mostly moderate terrain with a few steep hills. Pre-registration is not required, and all are welcome. Heavy rain cancels.

Directions: Take Lake Chabot Road north from Castro Valley Boulevard for 1.6 miles. Turn right just before the East Bay Regional Park District sign. Follow the road uphill for .7 miles to the parking area on the left. Meet at the parking area across from the Police and Fire Headquarters.

BIRDING OBSERVATIONS

January 2018

By Stephanie Floyd

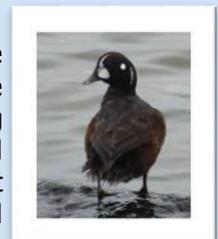


Tropical Kingbird, Niles Com Pk (V. Robinson)

On January 30, Kathy Robertson found a confiding **Tropical Kingbird** at Niles Community Park that stayed for many days flycatching from trees by the parking lot. In early February, Steve Huckabone found a shyer **Hermit Warbler** in the same area. Toward the end of the month, many birders enjoyed seeing a

colorful **Lapland Longspur** near the observation tower at Middle Harbor in Oakland. A pair of **Mute Swans**, probably repeat visitors, showed up at Coyote Hills around Thanksgiving 2017, disappeared in mid-December, and reappeared in mid-February 2018. Not rare but certainly special was the sighting of four **Ospreys** flying over our heads at the same time at an OAS field trip at Quarry Lakes on February 24. We also saw a **Bald Eagle** that day.

By far and away the bird causing the most stir in recent weeks is the handsome **Harlequin Duck** hanging out at San Leandro Marina since around February 25. Birders have done a great job of relocating it time and again and posting its whereabouts on the birding digest so that others could enjoy it.



Harlequin Duck San Leandro Marina, (Eda Kung)

Conservation



SB 1316 ALAMEDA-TESLA EXPANSION AREA

Senator Glazer introduced **SB 1316** in late February. He has asked other legislators to join in co-authoring it. in February. Attached is the current SB 1316 bill and here is a link. https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB1316. We have late word that local Assemblymember Quirk will lend his support and co-author this bill. Ohlone has sent our letter of support also.

SB 1316 will change state law to allow the Department to dispose of the 3,100 acre Alameda-Tesla Expansion Area (also known locally as "Tesla Park") in order to permanently preserve the land if it is determined by the Department to be in the public interest. Proceeds from any such sale would be returned to the OHMVR Division. SB 1316 would be the first step in at least a two-step process that could lead to sale of the Alameda-Tesla Expansion Area for preservation purposes. The bill does not require that the Department make a determination to dispose of the Alameda-Tesla Expansion Area, but it permits it. Then, in the future, there could be a decision that disposal of the Alameda-Tesla Expansion Area is in the public interest. (- Friends of Tesla)

FOLLOW UP ON THE ANTICOAGULANT RODENTICIDE ISSUE

Lack of support and stiff opposition resulted in the death of California **AB 1687 (2017 -Bloom)**. This bill would have banned the use of nine first and second generation anticoagulant rodenticides (AR'S) in the State of California. AR's are a growing concern as they are being found in the bodies of many endangered or threatened wildlife species along with other species causing illness and death. In spite of the agricultural and exterminator exemptions in this bill the powerful agricultural industry and pesticide industry strongly opposed it.

A new bill, **AB 2422** was introduced by Bloom early this year. Although it was presumed to be similar to AB 1687, unfortunately it in no way reflects the intent of that bill. AB 2422 simply changes five words in Section 12798 of the Food and Agriculture Code. This existing section requires the Department of Food and Agriculture to establish a competitive grants program to make funds

available to qualified public and private entities to conduct pest management research projects. This bill would make a non-substantive change to provisions of this section. The proposed changes appear to have little impact on the language of this section.

The bill's author's office has been contacted but as of yet, nothing has been heard regarding the intent of the language change proposed by the bill. At this point we can only hope there is something in the works that would seriously address the rapidly growing problem of AR's in the food web. (-Terry Preston mtmpreston@comcast.net)

AB 2787- A PROPOSED BAN ON THE USE OF LEAD FISHING WEIGHTS IN CALIFORNIA

AB 2787, authored by Assemblymember Bill Quirk proposes to ban the use of any lead fishing weight under 50g in weight with a cross section in any direction under 2cm. These toxic lead weights have been banned in at least 6 states along with Canada and Britain due to their toxicity to humans and wildlife. There are many alternatives for use without this toxicity. Examples of wildlife known to have been killed by these lead weights include herons, geese, swans, pelicans, gulls, loons, and harbor seals. Birds are very susceptible to lead poisoning because the grinding action of their gizzards releases the toxic metal directly into their bloodstream. Loons are the birds most likely to ingest lead fishing tackle, and one lead sinker or lead jig can kill a loon. Lead can also infiltrate the soil and water, and eventually be taken up by aquatic invertebrates and plants.

Opposition to AB 2787 includes associations like the California Chamber of Commerce, the California Travel Association, the National Federation of Independent Business, the California Parks Hospitality Association, the California Association for Recreational Fishing, the American Sportfishing Association, Coastside Fishing Club as well as hundreds of individual anglers who have submitted letters opposed to the ban.

Under President Obama's Administration, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service moved to ban lead fishing weights nationally by 2022. Unfortunately, this effort was reversed under the Trump administration. This bill needs our support.

AB 2787 will be heard on April 10, 2018.

(- Terry Preston mtmpreston@comcast.net)

Conservation (continued)

EAST COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS POSTPONES DECISION ON CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR EXPANDING OIL OPERATIONS EAST OF LIVERMORE

Responding to citizen objections, the East County Board of Adjustments (BZA) postponed a request for an oil field Conditional Use Permit (CUP) renewal east of Livermore. BZA continued the application from E&B Natural Resources for the extension of its CUP to operate a field with nine wells on 143 acres at 8617 Patterson Pass Road. The production area is concentrated on 2 acres. E&B operated under a 10-year CUP acquired 10 years ago from another owner. The firm applied for the new 10-year CUP before the expiration date of the old permit on Jan. 24. E&B also applied for another CUP at 8467 Patterson Pass Road, but it was also continued because the staff report was not complete. The most controversial points raised by opponents of the CUP had to do with a fine the county Environmental Health Department levied in 2015, because of what opponents termed an oil spill at the site. E&B representatives stated that the company found dry oil stains when a tank was removed on the property. The stains were sent to a state certified laboratory and subsequent remediation and monitoring found no impact on ground water.

PROPOSITION 68 WILL FUND NUMEROUS LOCAL AND STATEWIDE CONSERVATION PRIORITIES



Ohlone is joining Audubon California and a broad coalition of conservation organizations in supporting **Proposition 68** on the June 5 California ballot. These groups have cited numerous potential benefits to California's birds and other natural treasures, as well as the state's residents. Called the **California Clean Water & Safe Parks Act, Proposition 68** is a \$4 billion bond measure that will fund a number of important priorities for Californians, including local, regional and state parks, clean drinking water projects, flood protection, and habitat projects that are vital to the state's diverse wildlife.

Audubon California was part of a broad coalition of organizations working closely with lawmakers during the 2017 legislative session to put Prop. 68 on the ballot. This critical opportunity comes at a time when millions of Californians don't have access to safe parks, trails, and recreation areas. Moreover, the cycle of drought and extreme weather is already taking a toll on California's natural treasures, and threatens our communities with flooding and ecological degradation.

These same forces have also exposed our state's antiquated water infrastructure, bringing into doubt our ability to provide clean, safe, and reliable drinking water to our residents. Lastly, with most of the bond funding for vital conservation programs running out in the last few years, it is time for Californians to make the next investment in the protection of the natural resources that make California's parks and open spaces destinations for millions of visitors every year.

LOCALLY, THIS PROPOSITION WOULD HELP FUND A NEW FOSSIL MUSEUM IN FREMONT. The original bill was drafted by Senator Wieckowski as SB 5, which included funding for a museum in Fremont.

For the birds of the Pacific Flyway, and the roughly one million people living around the Salton Sea, Prop. 68 has profound importance. The bond measure includes \$200 million for vitally important dust mitigation and habitat restoration at the Salton Sea, where water diversions are creating a public health disaster and destroying habitat.

More information is on our website: <http://ca.audubon.org/conservation/conservation/bird-friendly-communities/vote-prop-68>



EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT OPENS NEW TRAIL ACCESS TO PLEASANTON RIDGE

The East Bay Regional Park District dedicated a newly-completed trailhead at Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park on Saturday, March 10, at 11 a.m. The new Castleridge trailhead will serve as an important public access point for from the northern side of the park. The trailhead's parking for up to 50 vehicles, a drinking water fountain, accessible restroom. The project is a joint partnership between the Park District and the City of Pleasanton. A multi-use trail extends from the trailhead to the northern ridgeline of Pleasanton Ridge. Until now the only District access points have been from the southern part of the park. The new access point is made possible by the Park District purchase of the 231-acre Castleridge property in 2014 for \$2.2M. The new trailhead is located close to the intersection of Foothill Road and Old Foothill Road, west of the City of Pleasanton's Alviso Adobe Community Park.

Year of the Bird

**2018 marks the centennial of the
Migratory Bird Treaty Act!**

NOMINATIONS

The following are being presented as the slate of officers for the OAS board, serving July 1, 2018 thru June 30, 2019. Members will be asked to vote at the May meeting and the new officers will be installed at the June Annual Meeting.

- President:** Bill Hoppes
- Vice President:** Marty Morrow
- Recording Secretary:** Kathy Robertson
- Corresponding Secretary:** Jackie Bertillion
- Treasurer:** Gail Ryujin
- Director at Large 2021:** Vicki Robinson



INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY TEESHIRTS

We've received the **2018 International Migratory Bird Day** catalog with this year's teeshirt. Again this year, in addition to the regular teeshirt style, they are offering a women's fit shirt with a deeper neckline. To offer these to

our members at a reasonable price, we must order a minimum of 24 shirts. Please let me know if you would like to participate in this order by either calling me, 510/537-0311 or e-mailing me at dennisonaAToutlook.com with the number of shirts you would like, whether you prefer the standard style or women's fit, and what sizes. The cost per shirt will be \$17.00. (Add \$2.00 for XXL) I need these orders by April 10th. You can also sign up to order at our membership meetings on April 3rd. Mona Brauer



A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW AND RENEWING OHLONE MEMBERS!

Ohlone sends a warm welcome and thank you to the following new and renewing chapter members:

Rosa Bazzani, Carol Castro, Marina Chiarappa-Zucca, June Colby, Evelyn Cormier, William Delameter, Denise Dugas, Anne Marie Gonsalves, Karen Kramer, Sarah Harrington, Carin High, Philip Hirschberg, Angela Ippolito, Don & Erika Johnston, Helen Keating, S. Maurice Krumrey, Alice Masek, Wendy Naruo, Kathleen O'Sullivan, Barbara Sacks, Christine Smith

Donations: Philip Hirschberg, Angela Ippolito, Don & Erika Johnston, Wendy Naruo, Scott Whitaker

President's Corner

Boy the hills are green. But don't let it fool you, the doldrums of summer are on the way. Get out and bird while the birding in the Bay Area is still good. Ohlone has some great field trips coming up, so take advantage of them.

Do you use eBird? Have you diligently input your data after each trip and sent it off wondering if it was of any value? Well it is. A study by Joshua Horns of the University of Utah, published in the journal *Biological Conservation* found that eBird observations matched trends in bird species populations measured by U.S. government surveys to within 0.4 percent. One of the important offshoots of studies such as these, is to increase confidence in eBird results from areas and nations that lack comprehensive government sponsored surveys of bird numbers.

There are many other opportunities to get involved in Citizen Science. Like Burrowing Owls or Snowy Plovers, San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory is always looking for volunteers and docents. Programs are also available at the Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge, California Academy of Sciences, and East Bay Regional Park District - pretty much everywhere in the Bay Area. You aren't limited to birds as Citizen Science topics range the gamut from ants to wildflowers, to king tides, to, certainly birds. So give it a try, the information you collect is important to understanding and preserving our natural environment.

Enjoy your spring birding, hope you get a life bird soon.

Bill Hoppes

PLEASE CONSIDER AN ELECTRONIC KITE CALL!
We are urging members to switch over
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 pagepeg@aol.com
 Thank you for considering this!

Confusing, Common Sparrows

By William Hoppes

Every fall mobs of migrating sparrows seem to occupy shrubs and grassy areas in the bay area. Two of the most common migrating sparrows are the White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrows. White-crowned Sparrows *Zonotrichia leucophrys*, consist of multiple subspecies that have complex migration patterns with migrant and resident populations nesting in the boreal forest across Canada and migrating throughout the US, primarily in the west as far south as central Mexico. At the banding station I volunteer at near Milpitas we mostly catch the *pugetensis* subspecies with a few of the *nuttalli* subspecies thrown in. Golden-crowned Sparrows *Zonotrichia atricapilla*, are simpler with no recognized subspecies, breeding primarily in north-central Alaska and the Yukon and wintering from southern coastal Alaska to Baja.

When these two species arrive here in the fall, either to spend the winter, or pass through to their wintering grounds, they present an ID problem that can trip up beginning birders. These two species often occur in shrubby areas in mixed flocks. Such a flock can consist of four types of birds: adult and first year White-crowned Sparrows, and adult and first year Golden-crowned Sparrows. Telling adult Golden-crowned and White-crowned in full breeding plumage apart is easy, their names give it away. Beginning birders may have trouble, however, in telling first year White-crowned Sparrows apart from wintering Golden-crowned Sparrows.



Here are the adults of each species in breeding plumage, easy to tell apart.

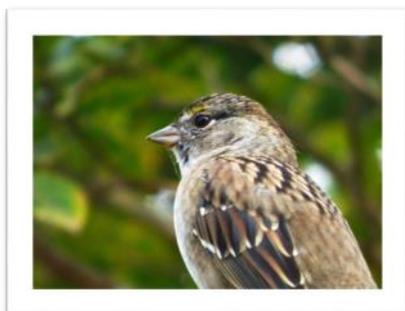
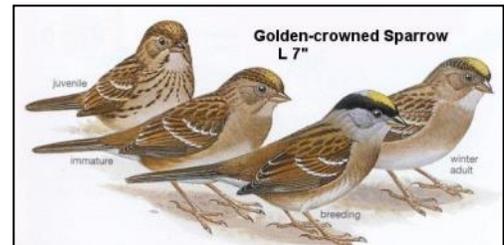


On the wintering grounds, things get more complicated. When **Golden-crowns** arrive on the wintering grounds and before they go through their molt, the striking black and gold of the crown is reduced, and they often look like this.



First year **White-crowned Sparrows**, don't get their striking white and black striped crown until they molt on the wintering grounds prior to their first trip north. Until they do, they look somewhat like the wintering Golden-crowns.

This can create an id issue getting Golden-crowns and immature White-crowns when they are in mixed flocks, skittering around in the underbrush. So what is the easiest way to get this right. There are clues such as leg color, the pattern of the head stripes, but those have never worked for me. These are two clues I look for. First, I look for any hint of black stripes on the head to match the gold to give me a clue that I might be looking at a Golden-crown. Here is a good graphic (right) that shows how the black starts to fill in on the wintering adult.



Head shots of Golden-crowned Sparrow (left) and immature White-crowned Sparrow (right) note difference in bill color.

Second, and most important to me, is bill color. In all plumages the Golden-crowned has a dull, horn colored bill. The White-crowned, on the other hand, has a bill color that is described as "yellow", "pink" or "candy corn". Here are a couple of pictures that show that difference. For me, bill color is the easiest way to tell these two species apart, that is the first thing I look for after I decide it is one of these two species. Once you get this identification down pat it is time to move on to White-crowned Sparrow subspecies, but that is for another time.

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