



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 2 GENERAL MEETING**
Castro Valley
- Apr 6 FIELD TRIP**
Del Valle Reg Park
Livermore
- Apr 17 FIELD TRIP**
Alameda South Shore
- Apr 20 SWALLOW WALK**
Lake Elizabeth/
Coyote Hills
- Apr 24 FIELD TRIP**
Sunol Reg. Park
- Apr 27 FIELD TRIP**
Pine Canyon, WC
- May 4 FIELD TRIP**
San Joaquin Riv NWR
- May 7 GENERAL MEETING**
San Leandro
- May 9 FIELD TRIP**
Garin Park/Dry Creek
- May 11 FIELD TRIP**
Ardenwood
- May 18 FIELD TRIP**
Mitchell Cyn, Clayton
- May 22 FIELD TRIP**
Lake Chabot
- June 22-23 LASSEN WEEKEND**

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Membership Meetings

Avian Olfaction: The road less travelled Gabrielle Nevitt



Date: April 2, 2019
Time: 7:30 PM
Location: Castro Valley Adult School
4430 Alma Ave., Castro Valley CA 94546

Come learn more on the olfactory world of the procellariiform seabirds by Gabrielle Nevitt, a professor of animal behavior at the University of California at Davis.

Professor **Gabrielle Nevitt** is an internationally recognized scientist in the area of sensory ecology—the perceptual world of animals. Her research has been published in top scientific journals, including *Science*, *Nature*, and *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. She is known for her pioneering work on the olfactory ability of birds. She is fascinated by questions like how sub-Antarctic petrels and albatrosses forage over vast expanses of open ocean using their sense of smell, and she is frequently invited to speak at conferences and symposia worldwide. She has also been a
(continued on page 2)

The Fabulous Falklands

Ed Harper

Date: May 7, 2019
Time: 7:30 PM
Location: San Leandro Library
300 Estudillo Ave, San Leandro, CA

NOTE: please confirm meeting location on our website prior to meeting!

Our presenter, **Ed Harper**, has traveled around the world and to all the continents to both bird and photograph birdlife. Near the top of all his many destinations are the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). How can an island complex 300 miles off the coast of southern Argentina with a population of fewer than 4,000 souls be ranked so very high? To find out join us at this informative program highlighted with superb photography. During a two-week stay, Ed and wife Susan Scott along with two close friends pretty much had several of the islands all to themselves. The birding was magical with confiding birds completely unafraid of humans. Striated Caracaras would land within ten feet to satisfy their



(continued on page 2)

April Program (continued)

contributing lecturer in the International Course on Sensory Ecology at Lund University in Sweden since 2008. She is currently a professor of animal behavior at the University of California at Davis. She lives on a rural property in Winters, California, that she shares with her husband, Marcel Losekoot, along with an extended family of emus, chickens, geese, peacocks, and various other avian friends. In 2014, there was a popular write-up about professor Gabrielle Nevitt in Audubon:

<https://www.audubon.org/magazine/january-february-2014/birds-can-smell-and-one-scientist>

Directions: Castro Valley Adult School: multipurpose room/gym

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

From San Francisco / Oakland: Take the I-880S toward Hayward. Merge onto I-238 S toward I-580 / Castro Valley/ Stockton. I-238 S becomes I-580 E. Take the Redwood Road exit. Turn LEFT onto Redwood Road, RIGHT on Seven Hills Rd. to the parking lot on the right. **From Tri -Valley Area:** Take the I-580 West toward Oakland. Exit Castro Valley. Turn LEFT onto E Castro Valley Blvd. Turn RIGHT onto Redwood Road, RIGHT on Seven Hills Rd. to the parking lot on the right. **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, RIGHT on Seven Hills Rd. to the parking lot on the right.

The multipurpose room is downstairs to the right.

May Program (continued)

curiosity while inquisitive Black Cinclodes would be at one's feet. Black-browed Albatrosses glide in to rest beside you. Five species of penguins provided superb photographic opportunities while they were marching to and fro from the sea to feed their young. The effect of Snowy Sheathbills patrolling the nesting areas of thousands of Imperial Cormorants while Brown Skuas flying overhead looking for easy prey all combine to paint a spectacular scene. Southern Elephant Seals on the wide and extensive white sand beaches devoid of other humans further enriched the experience. Having just returned this past January from the Falklands, Ed is ready to share his insights and findings. One need not go on a cruise to enjoy the Falklands!

An avid photographer, Ed 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: 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
Saturday, April 6 **8:30 AM - 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).



All photos by Ed Harper

(Field Trips continued on page 3)

Field Trips (continued)

Alameda South Shore

Wednesday, April 17 9:30 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. Heavy rain cancels.

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. Meet at platform.

Swallow Walk - Lake Elizabeth and Coyote Hills Regional Park

Saturday, April 20 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
 & 12:15 PM - 4:00 PM
Leaders: Phil Gordon, pagpeg@aol.com, and

1st Segment: At 9:00, 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 other species.

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 Road/Highway 84/Dumbarton Bridge exit. Go west on Highway 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.

Sunol Regional Wilderness

Wednesday, April 24 8:00 AM - 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 foot bridge 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.

Pine Canyon, Walnut Creek

Saturday, April 27 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM
**Leaders: Rich Nicholson, Bob Dunn,
 Phil Georgakakos**
fieldtrips@ohloneaudubon.org

Enjoy a nice bird walk through oak woodlands in the Diablo foothills. Paved trails and moderate hills will give us a chance to see birds such as Cassin's Vireo, Rock and Canyon Wrens and possible nesting Peregrine Falcons. Scopes can be useful in certain areas, but they are not necessary. If time permits, we will visit the nearby Borges Ranch. Meet at the Diablo Foothills Staging Area parking lot.

Directions: Take Hwy 680/24 to Ygnacio Valley Rd. in Walnut Creek. Turn right onto Ygnacio and then turn right again at Walnut Ave. (**NOT** Walnut Blvd.). Follow Walnut Ave. to the turn circle and bear right onto Castle Rock Rd. Drive past the horse stables to Diablo Foothills parking area, 1700 Castle Rock Rd.

San Joaquin River NWR, Stanislaus County - Pelican Nature Trail

Saturday, May 4 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Leader: Steve Huckabone,
shuckabone@comcast.net

A 4+ mile foot-access nature trail which meanders through seasonal wetlands, restored riparian woodlands and old-growth valley oak stands. The trailhead features interpretive kiosks and picnic areas and restrooms. Drinking water is not available. Open sunrise to sunset daily. We will search for late spring migrants and breeding birds such as Black-chinned Hummingbird and California Thrasher. We typically find 1 or 2 Yellow-breasted Chats.

(continued on page 4)

Field Trips (continued)

San Joaquin River NWR *continued*

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.*

Garin/Dry Creek Regional Parks
Thursday, May 9 8 AM - 11 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. Be prepared for moderate walking. Pre-registration is not required, and all are welcome. Heavy rain cancels.

Directions: *Meet at the Dry Creek Regional Park parking area. 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.*

Ardenwood Farm, Fremont
Saturday, May 11 10 AM-1 PM
Leaders: Jerry Ting & Elizabeth Olin
fieldtrips@ohloneaudubon.org

Ardenwood Farm, an East Bay Regional Park, is a local hotspot for migrants like Olive-sided Flycatcher and Western Wood Pewee, orioles, tanagers, warblers, and local nesters like bluebirds and swallows. Join us for an easy walk on paved and dirt roads. The farm is pretty and fun to see in its own right! Pre-registration is not required, and all are welcome. Heavy rain cancels. For park entry fee, please refer to <http://www.ebparks.org/parks/ardenwood#entryfee>. East Bay Parks annual pass holders may be admitted without fee.

Directions: *To reach the farm, from I-880 in Fremont, take Highway 84 west toward the Dumbarton Bridge, exit at Ardenwood Blvd. and turn right at the farm entrance gate.*

Mitchell Canyon, Mt. Diablo State Park.
Saturday, May 18 8:30 AM-12:00 PM
Leader: Rich Nicholson
rsn711@yahoo.com

Enjoy an easy to moderate walk on a dirt road for a two to three mile round trip to look for raptors, woodpeckers, thrushes, vireos and warblers. Scopes can be useful, but they are not necessary. Lunch is optional as we recap the list after the walk. Restrooms are available. Heavy rain cancels.

Directions: *Take Hwy 24 east or 680-north to Walnut Creek; exit at Ygnacio Valley Rd. Proceed east 8.5 miles to Clayton Rd; turn right. Drive one mile to Mitchell Canyon Rd.; turn right. At the end of the road, enter the park after paying the \$6 entry fee. Meet at the parking lot.*

Lake Chabot Regional Park
Wednesday, May 22 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.*

LASSEN WEEKEND TRIP JUNE 22-23, 2019

Limited to 20 participants—3 spaces remain!
To be put on the list email Phil and Pat Gordon
at pagepeg@aol.com.

The time has come to return to Lassen National Park. We last visited this park in 2015, when we enjoyed the many discoveries to be found in one of California's premier natural regions. This year should be interesting with all the snow! Meet each morning at Loomis Natural History Museum, near the north gate entrance and Visitor Center parking lot. Campsites and tent cabins are available in Lassen Park. The leaders will be camping at Lake Manzanita (<http://www.nps.gov/lavo/planyourvisit/manzanita-lake-campground.htm>). For motel rooms, try Lassen Mineral Lodge and RV Park (530) 595-4422, (<http://www.minerallodge.com>). Lodging may also be available at Shingletown, Old Station, Hat Creek, and Burney.

BIRDING OBSERVATIONS

March 2019

By Stephanie Floyd

March came in like a lion and kept on roaring with strong winds into mid-month even after the rains subsided. Challenging conditions for birds and birding! We had to cancel a couple of field trips - something we almost never do - because of torrential rain. We got lucky on our annual Quarry Lakes field trip early in the month and found more than 70 species under damp gray skies, including five species of grebe and many winter ducks and gulls. **Western** and **Clark's Grebes** were paired up and starting courtship displays. Along the Alameda Creek channel, we were intrigued by three **Canada Geese** with bright white foreheads. Sibley tells us that this is a known variant in all Canada Goose populations, but it was new to us. Other highlights were **Red-breasted Sapsucker**, **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**, and **Osprey**. Further afield, a small flock of "**Aleutian**" **Cackling Geese** stayed put on the lawns at Fremont's Central Park ball fields, and around the bayshore a few straggling **Greater White-fronted Geese** and **Snow Geese** were spotted here and there.

Birders reported seeing **Red-throated Loon**, **White-winged Scoter** and **Long-Tailed Duck**. **Tree Swallows** are in, and by mid-March reports were flying in of **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** at Gomes Park, **Barn Swallows** at Don Edwards NWR, **Violet-green Swallows** at Lake Temescal, and even one or two early **Cliff Swallows** in a swallow flock at Pacific Commons Linear Park. Swallows get busy as soon as they arrive, choosing nest sites and preparing to raise this spring's babies.

At Point Emery, birders report seeing **Surfbirds**, **Black Turnstones**, and **Whimbrels**, and a few **Red Knots** are being seen at the Hayward Shoreline and San Leandro Marina. **Allen's Hummingbirds** are buzzing around Gomes Park. Now that the sun is out, it should only get better!

And now for something completely different... a very rare (ABA Code 4 "Casual") **Garganey** has been visiting a wetland pond in West Sacramento during the first couple of weeks in March. It's a handsome duck and well worth the 2-hour drive from the Bay Area. Current status can be checked at digest.sialia.com under **Central_Valley_Birds**.

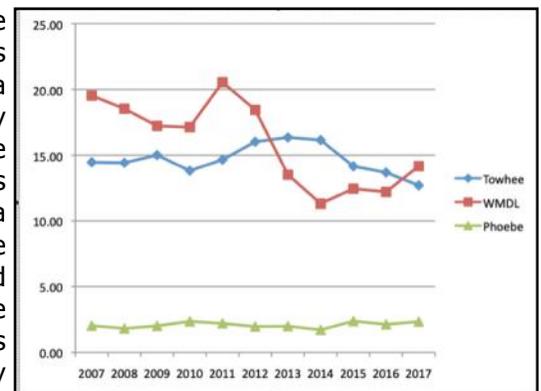
(ED. NOTE: See following article on Eurasian Migrants page 10 for actual photo!)

President's Corner

After you bird for a few years you start hearing and telling stories along the lines of "When I started birding, you never saw X and now they are all over the place", or "When I started birding X were all over the place and now you never see them". With all the data that is collected on birds these days from eBird to Breeding Bird Surveys (BBS) and Christmas Counts (CC), you can start to look at these anecdotes with more skepticism. I have three stories:

- When I started birding (1974) Black Phoebes were rare, now they are everywhere.
- When I started birding, Spotted Towhees were everywhere, now I hardly ever see (hear) them.
- When I started birding, Western Meadowlarks were everywhere, they seem much less abundant now.

We can use some of this ocean of data to see if my impressions are true. There is no perfect data set and the data collected via eBird, the BBS and CCs are not directly comparable.



For this evaluation, I decided to use data from the BBS. This is where you go out during the breeding season and count all the birds you can see or hear along a 25-mile route. You can pull this data for many years, but unless you want to go route by route, the best you can do is get it for the entire State of California. Because the number of routes in California varies from year to year, the numbers are not directly comparable so I divided the number of birds seen in the State by the number of routes that year to give birds/route which should be comparable year to year and serve as an index of abundance I pulled data from 2007-2017.

There may have been a slight increase in Black Phoebes over the past decade but numbers are pretty stable year to year. Same with the Towhee, some up and down but pretty consistent over the decade. I may be on to something with Western Meadowlarks. Even though numbers have ticked up the past few years the overall trend seems down. I'm not in the mood to do any statistics such as regression analysis on the data but this was fun. There are other things I could do, like go back more years. I would be nice if the Christmas Count data were comparable so you could get a fuller annual picture. There may be ways to do all this currently, but it escapes me. Just know that there are tons of data out there that you can access to answer questions that come up to you on the birds you are watching. Give it a try.
-Bill Hoppes

Conservation



Bill to allow transfer of Tesla expansion area land introduced

Senator Steve Glazer has introduced a bill (**SB 767**) that would allow the state to sell the Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) Alameda-Tesla Expansion Area for conservation purposes. The measure was co-authored by Assembly Member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan. This new bill follows an unsuccessful effort to pass similar legislation in the last session.

Current state plans would add the 3,100 acres in the Tesla area to the 1575-acre Carnegie Off-Road Vehicle Park. Both sites are owned by the State. The General Plan and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Carnegie SVRA were approved., but lawsuits have been filed challenging the decisions. **SB 767** is expected to be heard by the Senate Natural Resources Committee April 9th. The bill would authorize the department to dispose of the Alameda-Tesla Expansion Area, if the department determines that doing so is in the public interest and would require that the land only be sold to a local agency or nonprofit organization for use as a park or other open-space purpose. It would require any revenue from the disposition of the land to be deposited in the Off-Highway Vehicle Trust Fund. Funds for acquisition of the Tesla property are available from the Altamont Open Space Committee. In 2017, the Open Space Committee sent a letter to California Department of Parks and Recreation to make the department aware that there are funds available to purchase property in the area.

We thank State Senator **Bob Wieckowski** and Assembly Members **Bill Quirk** and **Kansen Chu** for cosponsoring the bill. Letters for support have been sent by Ohlone Audubon to Senator Henry Stern, Chair of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee, and to Senator Bill Dodd, Chair of the Senate Committee on Governmental Organization.



For more information on this most important continuing effort see <http://www.teslapark.org>

City of Dublin releases draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for Dublin Boulevard Extension.

The City of Dublin has released for comment a DEIR to extend Dublin Boulevard 1.5 miles to connect the Dublin Blvd-Fallon Road intersection in Dublin to the Doolan Road North Canyons Parkway intersection in Livermore. Comments on the DEIR will be accepted until 22 April 2019. The DEIR can be accessed at <https://dublin.ca.gov/2093/DEIR>.

East Bay Regional Park District adds 160 acres to Doolan Canyon

The East Bay Regional Park District purchased a 160-acre parcel three miles northwest of Livermore as an addition to the Doolan Canyon Regional Preserve. The purchase, including the headwaters of Cottonwood Creek will protect the upper reaches of Doolan Canyon for future recreational opportunities, habitat protection, and open space preservation. Doolan Canyon provides habitat corridors for wildlife between Morgan Territory and Doolan Canyon Regional Preserves. Preservation of the property will also serve to protect riparian and wetland habitats that support a variety of special status species, including rare alkali soil plant species. A land use plan will be created for the for Doolan Canyon Regional Preserve. Currently the property will remain in a land bank status.

- B. Hoppes (East County Conservation)



Patterson Ranch Restoration and Public Access DEIR

The EBRPD draft environmental impact report for the proposed restoration and public access plans. Our concern is the proximity of all the trails and observation platforms, a paved parking lot and new picnic area in the vicinity of the area proposed to be restored to willow riparian, and the proximity to the adjacent Patterson Slough. Given the extremely dense development planned at the opposite end of the park - the Dumbarton Quarry area, there is a question the need for more picnic areas. The DEIR can be viewed at: <https://www.ebparks.org/about/planning/default.htm#patterson>. Comments are due by 4/22/2019.

Conservation continued on page 7

Conservation continued

Capitol Corridor

In the South Bay we have two active, rail bay-crossing projects underway, both impacting tidal wetlands, both crossing lands of the Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge and both needing to adapt for sea level rise. The other project is the Dumbarton Rail bay-crossing (see below) There is no regional, jurisdictional coordination of the two projects but we expect cumulative impacts to be significant.



The consultants from the Capitol Corridor have reached out to Committee to Complete the Refuge (CCCR) and requested an opportunity to present options that are being considered for rail line improvements along the southern end of the East Bay shoreline. The meeting was held March 21, 2019 at the Refuge. A summary of what was covered is as follows:

The Capitol Corridor is an intercity passenger train system that provides a convenient alternative to traveling along the congested I-80, I-680 and I-880 freeways by operating fast, reliable and affordable intercity rail service to 18 stations in eight Northern California counties. Capitol Corridor is currently undertaking a project to develop and evaluate possible adaptation alternatives for the railroad structure in the Alviso wetland area. This area has been identified as both a sea level rise hotspot and a transit pinch point. The project will evaluate sea level rise adaptation alternatives for railroad tracks in the Alviso wetland in order to improve resiliency of railroad infrastructure, enhance species and habitat restoration, and ensure that such infrastructure can support plans for increased train capacity between Oakland and the South Bay.

Given the sensitive nature of these areas, as well as the high cost of modifying significant rail resources, Capitol Corridor is in the early stages of outreach to solicit input from a variety of stakeholders. At the meeting, Capitol Corridor will present a wide range of preliminary options for attendee feedback. These options were developed with input from the previous stakeholder meetings and comments.

Dumbarton Rail

A new partnership - the Cross Bay Transit - a partnership between Facebook and Plenary Group (an international company focusing on development and management of public infrastructure) has been formed and is moving forward with investigating bringing rail across the old Dumbarton Rail Bridge. This structure has not been used

since 1982 and the western portion was damaged by a fire in 1998. Cross Bay Transit is in the process of conducting public outreach and environmental review of the proposed rail line. Rebuilding of the rail bridge has been proposed several times over the past twenty years.

The Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge (CCCR) and the Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge have both urged project proponents to consider an under bay tunnel as the rail line is in need of extensive repair and requires modifications due to sea level rise and the need to accommodate boat traffic, and most important - the rail line passes through an extensive, intact and historic tidal marsh complex that supports endangered species. An initial set of public meetings has been held in Newark, Fremont, Redwood City and Menlo Park.

Now for some good news - the Land and Water Conservation Fund has been permanently signed into law with a large bipartisan support in both the House and Senate. Yay! - C. High (West County Conservation)

Hayward Sea Level Rise

The City of Hayward and partner agencies East Bay Regional Park District and Hayward Area Recreation and Park District sought public input on how best to respond to rising sea levels and the threat it poses to shoreline habitat and infrastructure (Note: we got late notice of the HASPA survey with 3/31/19 deadline!) The survey will be followed by several community workshops and other events, which are still to be scheduled.

Under current projections, areas of Hayward shoreline that are vulnerable to flooding and inundation due to rising sea levels are vast, and home to wastewater treatment and energy plants, the eastern approach to the San Mateo-Hayward Bridge, business parks and residential neighborhoods. Also threatened are natural and recreational features, including marshlands, the Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center and San Francisco Bay Trail. For more info see the Hayward sea-level rise webpage: <https://www.hayward-ca.gov/your-environment/green-your-community/sea-level-rise>
- P. Gordon



The San Francisco Bay Trail during an average tide

The San Francisco Bay Trail flooded during a king tide, 2017

STEWART – Peet’s Pet Cowbird

At one of my Contra Costa County coffee spots I heard a remarkable “Bird Story.” It was early-February at the Bollinger Canyon Rd. Peet’s Coffee and Tea shop in San Ramon. Somehow the word “bird” came up in hasty conversation with the server, and he said,

Oh, there’s this little brown bird that comes in here, almost every day. It walks around picking up crumbs and stuff on the floor. We’ve been watching it wait outside in the patio and slip in when the door gets opened; then slip back out. The whole staff has seen this and now call him, “Stewart.”

Well, he then asked if I knew what kind it was; and just gave a “small brown bird, about the size of the black birds that hang around outside by the tea tables.” I’d seen the Brewer’s and occasionally Red-winged; and he suggested I wait awhile – “It might show up, he said” – to no avail.

Then, on the first Monday after our return from Puerto Rico, 25 February 2019, I got to see this clever critter. I ordered my coffee and then saw the bird waiting outside the Patio Door, and slip past the exiting person just as he was leaving – amazing! Now I could see its size and bill, with a faint, darker brown back striping pattern. It was a Brown-headed Cowbird. Wrong season and female, not a young male, since the male molts into it’s black feathering by August or September. The bird got spooked inside, amid several people doctoring-up their coffee, and ran by them, back out. And there it began picking up and eating crumbs around the feet of folks seated with their drinks and pastries. With my White-chocolate Mocha in hand now, I decided to head out (a different door) to possibly get a picture (since my camera just happened to be in the car) and hurried back – and there it was; almost pausing to pose for this photo.

Of course I had to tell the staff that “Stewart” should be changed, since it was a girl, and suggesting they try “Stacy (aka Stewart).” If you should see “Stacy” let me know.

And so there’s another “Tale of a Bird” by Phil E. Gordon, 13 March 2019.



A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW AND RENEWING OHLONE MEMBERS!

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



Lee Aurich, David & Rosa Bazzani, Tim Becker, Terri Bostater, Ed Ellebrandt, Lynn Feindel, Elsa Glines, Christine Hayamizu, Eva Gayle Marion, Sherry Mattson, Michael O’Brien, Francine Salvaggio, Linda

Sandifur, Harvey & Armida Schultz, D. Lynn Shaeffer, Carol Silva, Scott Whitaker, Joyce Wilson, Judy Wuelfing

Donations: Christine Hayamizu, Carol Silva



Is it time to renew? Look at your mailing label - it will tell you. For example: “Pd Thru 04/19” indicates that you are paid thru April 2019. A “RENEW?” indicates that this is your last Kite Call! A cmp means you are chapter membership paid; a nnmp means you are a national member only and a “**JOIN LOCAL?**” on your label indicates that you have joined the National Audubon Society, but alas, **not** your local **Ohlonе** chapter. **We would love to have you join us.**

If you receive your Kite Call electronically, look for a reminder in your email box.

To renew or join us please send a \$25 check to Pat Gordon, Membership Chair, 1922 Hillsdale Street, Hayward, CA 94541 Or thru PayPal on our website. Thanks!

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

NOMINATIONS 2019-2020

The following slate of names for the elected officers of the Board of Directors, to serve from July 1, 2019 thru June 30, 2020 are being presented. We will vote at the May General Meeting, with installation following in June. Nominations from the floor will also be accepted at the May meeting or by contacting Bill Hoppes, President.

- President: Bill Hoppes**
- Vice President: Marty Morrow**
- Recording Secretary: Kathy Robertson**
- Corresponding Secretary: Jackie Bertillion**
- Treasurer: Gail Ryujin**
- Director at Large 2022: Terry Preston**

Eurasian Migrants

By Bill Hoppes

In the past few weeks a bird that rarely visits California has been seen by hundreds of birders at Bridgeway Pond in West Sacramento. The Garganey is a small dabbling duck that breeds in much of Europe and western Asia, migrating to southern Africa, India, Bangladesh and Australasia in winter. The one up in Sacramento is a long ways from home. eBird lists only three sightings before this in our area, all from the early 1990s. This got me to thinking about other Eurasian migrant birds that occur in our area with some regularity. There are three that I have been working to see, in order from easiest to hardest.

Eurasian Wigeon

The Eurasian Wigeon is the easiest to find. The Eurasian wigeon was described by Linnaeus in 1758 in the 10th edition of his **Systema Naturae** under the binomial name *Anas penelope*. *Anas* is the Latin for "duck", and *penelope* refers to a duck that rescued Penelope, the wife of Ulysses, when she was thrown into the sea by her father. Penelope's parents were Prince Icarius of Sparta and the nymph Periboea. Periboea hid her infant daughter as soon as she was born, knowing that Icarius had wanted a son. As soon as Icarius discovered the baby girl, he threw her into the sea to drown. However, a family of ducks rescued her. Seeing this as an omen, Icarius named the child Penelope (after the Greek word for "duck") and raised her as his favorite child. Anyway, back to birds. The Eurasian Wigeon breeds in the northernmost areas of Europe and Asia. It is strongly migratory and winters in southern Asia and Africa. It can be found as an uncommon winter visitor in the United States on the mid-Atlantic and Pacific coasts. In fact if you see large groups of American Wigeon, there is likely a Eurasian Wigeon among them. Adult males are not too hard to spot. They have a chestnut head and neck, a buffy, almost golden crown and a gray body. The American Wigeon has a grayish brown face with a green eye stripe, the crown is white and the body brown. There have been over 12,000 records for Eurasian Widgeon on eBird in California with best places to see them, our own Don Edwards NWR and the Sacramento Valley refuges. But look closely at any large flock of Wigeon and you are likely to see one.



Eurasian (left) and American Wigeon (right). Note the differences in body color, head and neck and the cream colored crest on the Eurasian Wigeon.

Ruff

Ruff is becoming one of my nemesis birds. The Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*) is a medium-sized wading bird that breeds in marshes and wet meadows across northern Eurasia. This highly gregarious sandpiper is migratory and sometimes forms huge flocks in its wintering grounds, in southern and western Europe, Africa, southern Asia and Australia. Ruffs are not as easy to find as the Eurasian Wigeon, with fewer than 50 records for our area on eBird, but a couple seem to show up every year. Recently the best place to see them has been down at the Don Edwards NWR Visitor's Center in Alviso. I have been down there a couple of times, but no luck.

This species was first described by Carl Linnaeus in 1758. The species name refer to the aggressive behavior of the bird at its mating arenas; *pugnax* from the Latin term for "combative". The original English name for this bird, dating back to at least 1465, is the ree, perhaps derived from a term meaning "frenzied"; a later name reeve, which is still used for the female, is of unknown origin, but may be derived from the shire-reeve, a feudal officer, likening the male's flamboyant plumage to the official's robes. The current common name was first recorded in 1634, and is derived from the ruff, an exaggerated collar fashionable from the mid-sixteenth century. Unfortunately we don't get the Ruff in its breeding plumage. Non-breeding plumage is about as dull as it gets. Females and males in non-breeding plumage appear similar, the feathers



Ruff in breeding plumage (left) and nonbreeding plumage-what we get here (right). Ruff in winter is about as nondescript as a bird gets.

Eurasian Migrants continued

of the upper parts are various browns, ranging from dark brown to brownish-grey. These feathers have prominent pale margins, creating a scalloped effect. There are often light feathers at the base of the bill. The breast and belly are light brownish, fading to white on the chin and from the abdomen to the tail. The female is about the size of a dowitcher, and the male is similar in size to a Greater Yellowlegs. In flight, the Ruff shows a white 'U' on its tail, separating a dark rump and dark tail-tip.

Mandarin Duck

The Mandarin Duck (*Aix galericulata*) is from East Asia and is considered one of the most beautiful birds out there. It is closely related to our Wood Duck, the only other member of the genus *Aix*. *Aix* is an Ancient Greek word which was used by Aristotle to refer to an unknown diving bird, and *galericulata* is the Latin for a wig, derived from *galerum*, a cap or bonnet. The species was once widespread in East Asia, but destruction of its forest habitat have reduced populations in eastern Russia and in China to below 1,000 pairs in each country; Japan, however, is thought to still hold some 5,000 pairs. The Asian populations are migratory, overwintering in lowland eastern China and southern Japan. Because of its beauty, the Mandarin Duck was included in many private aviaries from which individuals often escaped. This led to large escapee breeding populations in Great Britain and smaller ones in the US, most notably in North Carolina and southern California. Records in the US are considered wanderers

from these populations. ABA doesn't include Mandarin Duck on its list for North America but has it on its watch list. The California Birds Records Committee includes it on the list of "Naturalized Bird Species not Reviewed by the CBRC". This list includes naturalized species known to nest regularly in parts of California, but have not yet been reviewed by the CBRC or accepted as being well-established in the state. Which means you can't count it on your life list yet, but maybe in the future. There has been a Mandarin Duck hanging around Hall Memorial Park in Milpitas all winter. I took one trip down there to try to see it, but no luck. Anyway, check the rare bird alerts as there will likely be more opportunities to see this gorgeous bird.



Garganey

That brings us back to the Garganey (*Spatula querquedula*) The name *Spatula* is the Latin for a "spoon" or "spatula". This genus also includes our Cinnamon and Blue-winged Teal and the Northern Shoveler. The specific name *querquedula* is derived from Latin *querquedula*, a word believed to represent the bird's call. The common name dates from the 17th century and comes from Lombard language which is also believed based on the sounds the ducks make. If you are up near Sacramento, check the rare bird alerts to see if he is still there. If is a great opportunity to see a very rare Eurasian migrant in California.

Garganey from up in Sacramento. Note the prominent white stripe over the eye. I actually took this one with my new camera.



The Cornell Lab  

GLOBAL BIG DAY
4 MAY 2019

 Every bird counts.
ebird.org/globalbigday

How many birds can a world of birders find in one day? You can help answer that question on **4 May 2019: Global Big Day**.

Last year's Global Big Day featured more than 30,000 people across 171 countries, collectively reporting 7,026 species of birds—about two-thirds of the world's bird species in a single day! This May, you can be a part of the fun. All you have to do is spend a few minutes birding, and eBird what you find.



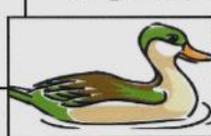
TULE PONDS AT TYSON LAGOON

BIRDS of Fremont

April 13, 2019 (Sat)
Time: 11-4 pm
1999 Walnut Ave
FREE FAMILY FUN

Join us for our Spring Open House at Tule Ponds at Tyson Lagoon. Learn about birds that live call Tule Ponds their home.

- Families will look at our exhibit of birds nest and see if you can identify who made them.
- Take a walk and describe birds and get points and prizes with your little ones.
- Count certain birds and receive more points.
- Make bird headbands.
- Look at feathers under the microscope.
- Displays on tules, silkworms, and more.
- Posters on evolution of Tule Ponds.



Take a self guided tour at your leisure
Guided Tours at 11:30; 12:30, 1:30, 2:30
meet in classroom



They're Back!

The FOS's (first of season)



Western Kingbird arrival (1 of 4 seen)—Pacific Commons 3/19/19 (V. Robinson)



Pacific Slope Flycatcher—Gomes Park, Fremont 3/23/19 (B. Chen)

The Great Backyard Bird Count



Art by Chantley Harner

GBBC Sets New Records

Thanks to the efforts of so many bird watchers around the world, the 2019 Great Backyard Bird Count is one for the record books! By every measure, this year's event topped all previous levels of participation, checklists, and species reported. Below are the figures as of March 14, 2019.

Species: 6,699 Checklists: 204,921 Est Participants: 224,781

Species	Number of Individuals
Red-winged Blackbird	4,290,218
Snow Goose	2,481,082
European Starling	2,031,493
Canada Goose	1,716,620
Common Murre	755,193
Ring-billed Gull	748,766
Mallard	720,105
American Robin	491,102
American Coot	448,816
Northern Shoveler	446,105

For a complete summary: <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/all-summaries/2019-gbbc-summary/>

A Final Note: Ruth Levenson, a long time OAS member, recently passed away at 97 good years! Ruth was one of the most caring and sharing people we knew. Our condolences to the family.

OHLONE T-SHIRTS IN FULL COLOR!

By popular demand, we'll be ordering new **Ohlone Audubon** t-shirts – this time in color. The short sleeve t-shirts are available in regular style and women's style. Sizes range from small to XX large. Cost is \$20.00 per shirt with \$2.00 extra for XX large. We also have a long sleeve option, in regular style



only. Also in sizes small to XX large. The cost for the long sleeve is \$23.00 per shirt with \$2.00 extra for XX large.

We'll be taking orders until April 6th so that the shirts will be available for our May meeting. If you would like to order one or more, please e-mail Mona Brauer at dennismonaATgmail.com, or call 510/537-0311.

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