



# 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](http://www.ohloneaudubon.org)

### Calendar

- Aug 21 FIELD TRIP  
Hayward Shoreline
- Sept 6 GENERAL MEETING  
Via Zoom
- Sept 17 MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION DAY  
Shadow Cliffs, Pleasanton
- Sept 21 FIELD TRIP  
Alameda Southshore
- Sept 25 PELAGIC TRIP
- Sept 30 FIELD TRIP  
Pt Reyes

### Membership Meeting

#### A 27 Year Wildflower Journey: The Making of Beauty and the Beast: California Wildflowers and Climate Change

By Rob Badger and Nita Winter

Tuesday, September 6, 2022 7:30PM via ZOOM



Rob Badger and Nita Winter take you behind the scenes on their 27-year journey photographing wildflowers throughout California and the West. It began in 1992 when they discovered and fell in love with California's spectacular wildflower blooms in the Mojave Desert's

Antelope Valley California Poppy Preserve. Photographing these beautiful landscapes and individual flowers evolved into their documentary art project, *Beauty and the Beast: Wildflowers and Climate Change*. Their new beautiful multiple award winning coffee table book, co-published with CNPS, focuses on California's amazing plant diversity and is a companion to their traveling exhibit. Gorgeous superbloom scenery isn't the only thing that makes the *Beauty and the Beast* wildflower photos so special. Rob and Nita developed unique field techniques to capture one-of-a-kind images. They create every one of the photographs in the field, lugging 80 pounds of cameras and their "natural light" studio equipment from below sea level in Death Valley National Park to 13,000-foot-high mountain passes. (Books are available with both shipping or safe pick-up options in southern Marin through [www.wildflowerbooks.com](http://www.wildflowerbooks.com).)

Internationally acclaimed conservation photographers Rob Badger and Nita Winter have been life partners and creative collaborators for more than three decades. Their work has been featured in *Time*, *Mother Jones*, and *Sierra* magazines, the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *San Francisco Chronicle* and the *Los Angeles Times*. They are the recent recipients of the Sierra Club's 2020 Ansel Adams Award for Conservation Photography.

Membership Appreciation Day  
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 17  
Field Trip 10:30 Lunch Noon  
details page 9 RSVP



#### ZOOM MEETING INSTRUCTIONS:

Due to COVID-19 and the new variant(s), Ohlone Audubon's membership meetings will continue to be online via Zoom. Registration is needed for OAS's membership meetings. As before, you only need to do it once for ALL meetings. Click the URL / link below to register for OAS's 2022 membership meetings: (After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88107564735?pwd=dEpPajh4bGJKWjJHYmZFU1dVSStJdZ09>

# Field Trips



**Hayward Regional Shoreline -  
Grant Avenue Staging Area**  
**Sunday, August 21      8:30 AM - 12:00 PM**  
**Leaders: Rich Nicholson and Kathy Robertson**  
[rsn711@yahoo.com](mailto:rsn711@yahoo.com)

Meet at the Grant Avenue staging area in San Lorenzo. We will walk along San Lorenzo Creek to the shoreline, and south to reach Oro Loma Marsh. We expect to see shorebirds such as Red Knots, Short-Billed Dowitchers, Ruddy Turnstones, and Black-bellied Plovers, as well as gulls and terns and maybe an Osprey. Bring a scope if you have one.

***Directions:** From I-880 south take the Washington Avenue exit. Turn right on Washington and right on Grant Avenue. From I-880 north take the Hesperian Blvd. exit. Make a sharp left onto Hesperian and a right on Grant Avenue. In both cases continue west on Grant Avenue to the parking lot near the end of the road.*

**Alameda South Shore**  
**Wednesday, September 21    9:00 AM-12:00 PM**  
**Leaders: Judy & Jerry Steenhoven,**  
[steenhoven@sbcglobal.net](mailto:steenhoven@sbcglobal.net)

This is a good area to view shorebirds as they arrive from northern breeding grounds. Also expected are local breeders, such as terns and Black Oystercatchers. Bring binoculars and a scope if you have one. Pre-registration is not required, and all are welcome. This is planned as a 3-hour trip. We'll end at Crab Cove Visitor Center in Alameda.

***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 the Elsie Roemer Bird Sanctuary viewing platform, where Broadway meets Shoreline Drive.*

***Field Trips continued on page 3***



## ***SPECIAL EVENT: PELAGIC TRIP RETURNS!***

OHLONE AUDUBON PELAGIC TRIP | SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 2022

Join other OAS members on this co-promoted trip with **Alvaro's Adventures**

Use this link for full details. Click on the September 25th date.

<https://www.alvarosadventures.com/pelagic-dates-2022.html>

Our annual pelagic trip returns! Alvaro Jaramillo has set up a special trip for Ohlone members to share. Cost is \$185 (due to fuel increases) this year and leaves from Half Moon Bay. Things have changed—there is a new boat this year, The New Captain Pete. The goal is to get offshore into waters off the continental shelf, heading west/southwest. A good time of the year to be out there!

Please read the **excellent** fact sheet at the above link. When registering, please let Alvaro know you are with Ohlone (as he is rebating some of the trip fee back to Ohlone).

## Field Trips continued

**Point Reyes National Seashore**  
**Friday, September 30**                      **7:00am - 3pm**  
**Leaders: Bob Toleno & Juli Chamberlin**  
**[birding@toleno.com](mailto:birding@toleno.com)**

Fall migrants, including rarities, can often be found at the birding hotspots in outer Point Reyes National Seashore. This all-day caravan-style birding trip will visit some of the prime birding locations on the outer point, such as the fish docks, lighthouse, various ranches, and Drake's Beach, where we'll have lunch.

We'll plan to finish the day at the RCA building cypresses and the Inverness Tennis Club. We will leave from Bovine Bakery in Point Reyes Station promptly at 7:30am so we can get to the outer point as early as possible.

**Don't forget to register for PELAGIC TRIP  
 SEPTEMBER 25, 2022. Details on page 2.**

**Please plan to arrive by 7:00** so we can organize carpools, you can get breakfast (they serve very good coffee and delicious pastries at the bakery), and you have time to make a bathroom stop (there is a public restroom one block northeast of the bakery, on Mesa Rd). Wear layers—the outer point can be very chilly! Bring lunch, liquids, sunscreen, and a full gas tank. We will try to bring as few cars as possible to the outer point because parking is very limited in places.

**Directions:** Take the Richmond Bridge to Hwy 101 North, take Lucas Valley Rd exit, then turn right on Nicasio Valley Rd, left on Petaluma-Point Reyes Rd, and left on Shoreline Hwy (Hwy 1). The address of Bovine Bakery is 11315 Shoreline Hwy, Point Reyes Station, CA

## President's Corner

- **Bill Hoppes**

Welcome back, I hope you are getting some birding in during the summer doldrums. Fall migration will be here soon and the birding will amp up. Keep checking the *Kite Call* and the Ohlone website for upcoming field trips. We are halfway through the year and I thought I would revisit my New Year's Resolutions for Birders and see how I was doing. Remember I had listed twelve, so let's see how I am doing.

1. **Chase one rarity** - Chased three: *Oriental Turtle Dove*, (1) *Streak-breasted Munia* (2) and *Ruff*. (3). Didn't see any of them. I didn't say see three rarities, just chase them so I list this as complete.



**So far I am 0-3 on the rarities, still half the year to go**

2. **Attend one birding festival** - T and I attended the Biggest Week in American Birding and had a fabulous time so I list this one as complete
3. **Go birding at least 24 times** - eBird says I have submitted over 100 lists in 2022 so far. This included trips to Florida, Costa Rica, Ohio and just noodling around the house. So I can list this one as complete.
4. **Go on a pelagic trip**— Nope
5. **Target 10 life birds and get them** - Added 23 to my US list this year so this one is complete
6. **Learn 20 bird songs** - Can't say I've learned 20 new ones but using *Merlin* is helping. I am now pretty confident in Warbling Vireo, Rufous-crowned Sparrow and Brown Creeper. So this one is incomplete
7. **Get your nemesis bird**- So far I am 0-3 on the rarities, still half the year to go. The Great Gray Owl still eludes me although I can't say I've mounted a campaign.
8. **Use eBird** - Have for a long time so this one is

complete

9. **Adopt a birding hot spot and get to know it** - Could do better here. Probably the place I know best is Sycamore Grove followed by Shadow Cliffs but can't say I really know them. Have to rate this one incomplete.

10. **Buy a new gadget or guide** - I have started using the song feature of Merlin a lot. I highly recommend it. Also T bought me a cool new pair of Zeiss binoculars so I can list this one as complete.

11. **Volunteer for one citizen science project** - I mist net for SFBBO and T and I monitor Snowy Plovers and shorebirds. T and I also run two USFWS Breeding Bird Census routes so I can list this one as complete.

12. **Write one letter or attend one meeting promoting bird conservation**—Between the Altamont and south Bay I can list this one as complete.

Well, not bad, eight complete and four incomplete. Give's me something to work on this fall and winter.

# BIRDING OBSERVATIONS

Late Summer 2022

By Vicki Robinson

Shorebirds are starting to return to local birding shores. **Marbled Godwits, Willits, Black-bellied Plovers, Short-billed and Long-billed Dowitchers, Long-billed Curlews, Least and Western Sandpipers** and an occasional **Semi-palmated Sandpiper** among the **Western Sandpipers** if you look closely.

Our spring migrants have finished nesting and rearing their young. Most have moved on, but some juvenile **Orioles** and **Black-headed Grosbeaks** are still visiting feeders.



Semi-palmated Sandpiper (front)



Blue Grosbeak

A rare visitor to Alameda County was a **Blue Grosbeak** found on Mission Peak for those up for an uphill hike.

Coyote Hills is once again hosting **White-faced Ibis** and **American Bitterns**.



White-faced Ibis



American Bittern

A rare **Ruff** made an appearance at Arrowhead Marsh delighting hundreds of birders and photographers.



Red-necked Phalarope



Red Phalarope



Wilson's Phalarope



Ruff

Phalaropes have returned to various spots along the bay with the earliest, **Red-necked Phalaropes**, and then later the **Wilson's Phalaropes**. A very rare **Red Phalarope**, usually found in deeper waters, was visiting the Hayward shoreline.

Another ocean water bird a **Pigeon Guillemot**, has been seen at Seaplane Lagoon in Alameda. *(all photos by Vicki Robinson)*



Pigeon Guillemot

### IS IT TIME TO RENEW?

Look at your mailing label - it will tell you. 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 **Ohlone** 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

### 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!!!!** See all of these beautiful photos in color! Also, note that links are live!

**GO GREEN!**

Send your request to [pagpeg@aol.com](mailto:pagpeg@aol.com)

## Conservation

### Two open space ballot measures approved for East County

Two ballot measures involving East County open space are headed to voters this fall.

The first, a county wide initiative, would modify Measure D to increase the size of agricultural and equestrian buildings allowed on farmland. Wine-growers and equestrian business owners have pushed the measure. Horse ranchers believe the changes will enable them to hold equestrian competitions and riding events. Currently the existing restrictions do not allow venues large enough to hold these events. The ballot initiative has the support of the Sierra Club and Friends of Livermore.

The City of Livermore approved language for a city initiative to modify the South Livermore urban growth boundary to allow the city to extend sewer service along the Tesla Road corridor. Because of existing nitrate groundwater contamination wine-growers have been limited in the size and number of venues they can build in the south Livermore Valley. With a sewer connection winegrowers would be able to build a wider variety of venues and wine-country related businesses. Alameda county would contribute 80% of the \$6.5 million need for the project. The remaining funds will come from commercial and residential properties that connect to the new sewer line.  
-B. Hoppes

### Bald Eagle Fledgling Rescue at Del Valle Ends Successfully

Friday, July 8, 2022 (Oakland, CA) – The dramatic rescue of an injured bald eagle fledgling from the debris of a fallen nest on ranchland adjacent to Del Valle Regional Park in Livermore had those involved in the effort all aflutter for the last half of June. Thanks to a collaboration between nearby ranch managers, who spotted the nest debris and helped locate the fallen fledge, Park District biologists and naturalists, who headed up the rescue and release efforts, and the Lindsey Wildlife Hospital, whose wildlife medical team was able to nurse the eaglet back to health, the story ended well for the young eagle.

The near-tragic event occurred at the site of a large stick nest considered a “nest at risk” for the last three to four years due to a previous nest falling from the same pine tree. On the evening of June 11, the trunk supporting the nest snapped during a heavy wind-storm and the entire nest was blown down out of the tree.

Park District Wildlife Biologist David “Doc Quack” Riensche was notified early the following morning by neighboring ranchers, who first noticed the adult Bald Eagles standing guard near the fallen nest site, and soon after spotted the 10.5-week-old eaglet atop the pile of debris with his wing folded back. Later that morning, Del Valle Naturalist Alex Collins, who was leading a Bald Eagle program, noticed the nest was gone and sent photos to Riensche, who was already preparing to attempt a rescue.

With approval from federal and state wildlife



agencies to proceed, Riensche and Wildlife Program Manager Doug Bell met with the ranch managers on-site and climbed up the steep slope to remove the eaglet from the nest debris (above, left). Its sibling was nowhere to be seen, but the ranch managers would continue to watch for it. The eaglet was transported to **Lindsay Wildlife Hospital** where x-rays showed that it had a fractured right radius (wing bone). Wildlife veterinarian Dr. Krystal Loo pinned the wing bone so that it would mend properly.

While the fledge was convalescing, the ranch managers reported seeing its sibling in flight and calling to its parents, who were responding and feeding it.

“We were relieved to know that it had survived the tree collapse and its ‘forced fledging’, as it were,” said Riensche. “This gave us confidence that if the

(cont’d pg 6)

**Bald Eagle Rescue (continued)**

eaglet at Lindsay Wildlife Hospital recovered quickly, we could reunite it with its family.”

By June 29, the pin was removed from the wing, and the following day Dr. Loo and Veterinary Technician Peter Flowers performed an “eaglet exit exam,” which included feeding it and checking its wings, injury location, and talons/grip to be sure it was ready for release. With a clean bill of health and proper federal and state approvals in-hand, the team began coordinating the newly-healed fledge’s return to the wild.

On the morning of June 30, Riensche and Del Valle Supervising Naturalist Ashley Grenier, on-hand to photograph the release, met on-site with the ranch managers to discuss the release plan. A good eagle release site was located close to the original nest location, which was high enough to avoid potential ground-based threats and provided excellent up drafts to help the eaglet practice flapping its wings, build muscle tone, and hopefully get airborne.

The team was unable to take it out of the crate and carry it to the release location, as the “eaglet with attitude” was known to be a fighter and difficult to handle. Riensche lugged the crated fledgling back up the steep slope and placed the kennel on a large log, allowing it some time to recognize the familiar

surroundings. A short time later, the fledgling walked out of the kennel and slowly made his way upward (right photo, previous page).

By mid-afternoon, the eaglet was heard calling to its parents, who were feeding its sibling in a nearby pine. To be sure it would be hungry enough to call to its parents, the fledgling had only received enough food to get it through the day and be well-hydrated. However, with no visual sign of the released eaglet by sundown, the team was very anxious about its fate.

“At this point, the released eaglet calling was a good sign, and we hoped the adults would respond by feeding it soon,” explained Doug Bell. “We were thinking it might stay grounded for a couple of days, or just take short hopping flights until it built up muscle tone,” he added.

Around noon the next day, the ranch managers reported seeing both fledglings in the same tree, while the attending adult fed one of the fledglings as the other one vocalizes. The sighting meant that the recovered eaglet was able to take flight and reunite with its family, a happy ending to a bald eagle adventure - just in time for the Fourth of July! (*Press release, EBRPD, via Dave Riensche*)



**Treasurer’s Report**

I am happy to report that the Ohlone Audubon Society is financially sound and had another fine year. Unfortunately, COVID-19 has limited our in person meeting to Zoom. We have increased the number of scholarships to four working with AWIS, Associate Women in Science. Your membership dues and contributions for the year have covered all our expenses for the *Kite Call*, membership meetings and administration expense. All insurances, bills and sales taxes have been paid. We have filed our Federal and State returns and have paid our fees to the California Registry of Charitable Trusts.

Thank you again for your generous and continued support.

*-Gail Ryzjin*

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*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*

2022-2023	
	annual
<b>INCOME</b>	budget
NAS DUES	\$2,712
CHAPTER DUES	\$7,000
SALES	\$0
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$13,000
DIVIDEND/INTEREST	\$8,313
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$31,025</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
KITE CALL	\$8,300
MEMBER MEETINGS	\$4,500
PURCHASE MDSE	\$0
OPERATING EXP*	\$6,400
CONSERVATION	\$2,100
EDUCATION	\$1,000
C'MAS BIRD COUNT	\$1,200
FUND RAISING	\$1,000
BW MEM GARDEN	\$500
special event/sarah M	\$6,000
SALES TAX	\$25
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$31,025</b>
Operating income	0

### New Members and Renewals

- Melanie Barnett
- Art Carey
- Bernie Cunha
- Ed Ellebracht
- Michael Fredrich
- Lavonne Gallo
- Bruce & Judy Jund
- Anne Krysiak
- Bob & Debra Lovendusky
- Frank Lucas
- Patricia Mahoney
- Joanie Smith
- Helen & Darrell Victor



### Donations

Frank Lucas, Mary Norton, Kerri Duggins Rames

Thank you!

### ACTION ALERTS

Want to be included in our action alerts when items come up that need your help? Please send an email to [pagepeg@aol.com](mailto:pagepeg@aol.com). (We do not share contact information)

## The Most Misidentified Birds in California

by Bill Hoppes

Last Kite Call I mentioned that a review by eBird editors had listed the Ring-billed Gull as the most misidentified bird in California. Paul Lehman wrote up a summary for this and other misidentified birds in a blog entry for Western Field Ornithologists. In this article I am going to look at some of the species he mentioned and see if I can improve our ID skills. I am not going to go into great detail on ID-ing these species. If you need a refresher, consult your field guide.

### Ring-billed Gull

Let's start with the most misidentified bird, the Ring-billed Gull. Here the problem is confusion with summering or juvenile California Gulls, particularly in early to mid-summer. If you look at eBird reports for the San Francisco Bay Area, although both gulls are present year round, Ring-bills are much less common than California Gulls May through July. Both gulls are pretty much the same size, although with practice, body shape is a great clue, and their plumage is similar. I think what gets folks confused is that the California Gull has that nice bright red spot with black on its bill during the breeding season, but the red spot fades post-breeding and is largely absent in immatures.

At this time, the remaining black on the bill can look a bit like a ring. So folks see a small gull with only black on the end of the bill and think they have a Ring-bill. Particularly in early to mid summer, make sure you have a clear, distinct ring on any bird you are going to call a Ring-bill. Also, if in doubt, check the eye, the California has a dark eye, the Ring-bill has a light eye .



Upper left is California Gull in Breeding plumage. Note combination of black and red dots on the bill. Upper right is Ring-billed Gull in breeding plumage. Note the distinct ring at the tip of the bill. Left is California Gull in non-breeding plumage. The red spot has faded and the black dot sort of looks like a ring-be careful.

(continued pg 8)

### Herring Gull

With so many hybrids and with the growing presence of Glaucous-winged Gulls in our area you need to take care with this one. Herring Gulls are absent from the Bay Area during summer. To ID Herring Gull, look for a light gray mantle, black wingtips and light eye. Glaucous-winged has light-gray mantle, gray wingtips and a dark eye. Western Gull has a dark gray mantle and dark eye.



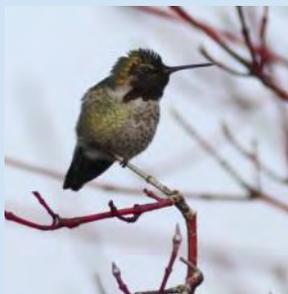
Herring Gull on the left, note especially the black wingtips and light eye, contrasted with the Glaucous-winged Gull on the right with its light gray wingtips and dark eye.

### Rufous Hummingbird

Too many observers list any hummingbird with rufous as this species, forgetting that we also have Allen’s. I wrote in a previous article that Rufous Hummers can have greenish backs and the amount of green on the back of these species can overlap. For a hummingbird with a green back, look for any red, if you see some, it might be one of the 5% of Rufous Hummingbirds with green. Allen’s start showing up in February and stay through July, Rufous come in two migratory bursts one around April and a second around September. Be cautious of “Rufous” hummingbirds outside these windows.

### Black-chinned Hummingbird

Black-chinned Hummingbirds are rare in our area. They are often mistaken for Anna’s Hummingbirds in poor light where the iridescence on the throat doesn’t show. Make sure you see any Black-chin in good light where the color on the throat is clearly seen.



One of these is an Anna’s, one is a Black chinned. Do you know which is which? Answer to the left

### Vaux’s and Black Swifts

White-throated Swifts are much more common. Often, birds that are called these two species when they are actually White-throated Swifts seen in poor light.

### Swainson’s Thrush

Remember, Swainson’s is our Summer thrush. Birds reported before late April are more likely Hermit Thrushes.

Many of these come from not remembering when certain species are here and when they aren’t and not taking the time to get a look at the bird in good light at the right angle. Take care with these species and you will improve you bird ID skills.

*Oh, and the Anna’s is on the left.*

*Saturday,  
September 17, 2022*



*The Sara Matthews/Helen Sowers*

# Membership Appreciation Day

Saturday, September 17, 2022 -noon

Shadow Cliffs Regional Park, Pleasanton  
Lago del Sol Picnic Area  
Field Trip 10:30am



In memory of **Sara Matthews** and **Helen Sowers** and appreciation of the great support of our members (after a 2-year covid hiatus!), you are invited to a catered (no charge!) luncheon at **Shadow Cliffs Regional Park** on Saturday **September 17, 2022**. Come and meet other members. Bring your family. There will be a field trip, led by Kathy Robertson and Pat Gordon at 10:30, followed by lunch at noon. Please join us! (Please remember to **RSVP** so we can plan for food)



*Members will have the opportunity to meet the board and discuss our field trips, education, programs, and conservation.*

*Where would you like to go on a field trip? What programs would you like to see? What conservation items should we be working on? Help out with education for the next generation? We will have tables set up so you can give your input.*



**Save the date! Hope to see you there!**

**Please RSVP to Pat Gordon, [pagpeg@aol.com](mailto:pagpeg@aol.com)**

RETURN TO:  
OHLONE AUDUBON SOCIETY  
1922 HILLSDALE STREET  
HAYWARD, CA 94541

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RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED



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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**WEBMASTER:** L. Koenig *webmaster@OhloneAudubon.org*  
**WEBSITE:** <http://OhloneAudubon.org>

**Yes, I want to Join Ohlone Audubon Society!**



Please sign me up today

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

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.  
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