



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

- July 16 **FIELD TRIP**
Hayward Shoreline
- Sept 6 **GENERAL MEETING**
Via Zoom
- Sept 17 **MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION PICNIC**
Shadow Cliffs, Pleasanton
- Sept 25 **PELAGIC TRIP**
(See field trips for details –pg 2)

Membership Meetings

No General Meetings in July and August

Next meeting - Tuesday, September 6, 2022 via Zoom

The Ohlone Board of Directors decided to continue our General Meetings via Zoom for the foreseeable future, EXCEPT for the MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION PICNIC in September, our COOKIE EXCHANGE/MEMBERSHIP PHOTO SHARE in December and our ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP POTLUCK/INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS in June. These will be in-person. We heard you about the ease of attending the zoom meetings.

Look for details for the September program in our next issue . Your current zoom link will continue to work.

SAVE THE DATE

**Saturday September 17, 2022
Noon**

MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION PICNIC

Shadow Cliffs Regional Park
Pleasanton
Lago del Sol Picnic Area

In recognition and appreciation of the support of our members, you and your family are invited to a catered (no charge) luncheon.

More details and RSVP next issue!

Field Trips



**Hayward Shoreline, Shorebirds at Frank's Dump
Saturday, July 16, 2:30pm - 5:00pm
Leaders: Juli Chamberlin and Megan Jankowski
juli@cattywampus.net**

Join Megan and Juli for a 2 1/2 mile round-trip walk on flat paved and gravel paths to Frank's Dump, possibly the best high tide roost . July is an excellent month to view migrating shorebirds, and we can expect to see Red Knots, Ruddy Turnstones, Short-Billed Dowitchers, phalaropes, and Snowy Plovers. July is often the biggest month for "peeps", and we hope to see thousands of Western Sandpipers, possibly a Semipalmated Sandpiper, or maybe even a real rarity like the Red-Necked Stint found 2 years ago. Evening light should give us excellent conditions for viewing and photography of shorebirds in breeding plumage. Pre-registration is not required, and all are welcome.

Directions: Take I-880 to West Winton Avenue in Hayward and go west towards the bay to reach the park. Be sure to park outside the gate as the gate will be locked by the time we return .

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



SPECIAL EVENT: PELAGIC TRIP RETURNS!

OHLONE AUDUBON PELAGIC TRIP! SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 2022

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

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

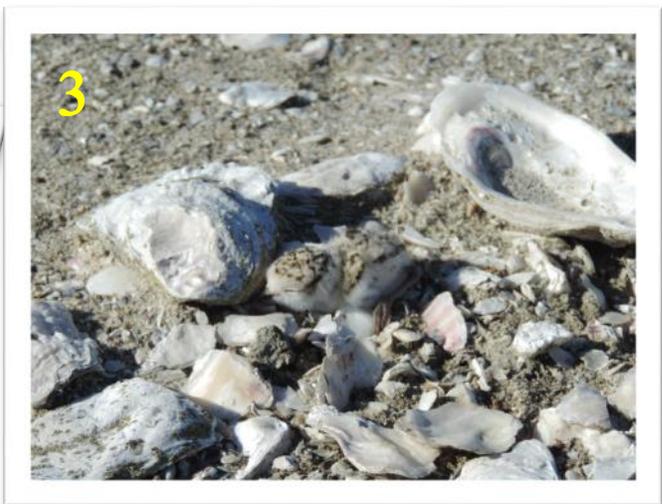
Our annual pelagic trip returns! Alvaro Jaramillo has set up a special trip for Ohlone members to share. Cost is \$185 (due to fuel increases) this year and leaves from Half Moon Bay. Things have changed—there is a new boat this year, The New Captain Pete. The goal is to get offshore into waters off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



*Awww—from the Hayward Shoreline
(thank you Dave Riensche)*

1. baby American Avocet in nest.
2. Black Oystercatcher nesting at Hayward “Tern Town”,
3. baby Western Snowy Plover



President's Corner

As the summer birding doldrums come to us, I hope you are still getting out there. Think about a trip to the coast or Point Reyes or up into the Sierras. Target a nemesis bird or plan a campaign to add a few to your life list.

The Ohlone Board has discussed the path forward for our membership meetings for the past year. Some want to go back live, some want to stay with Zoom and others want to have hybrid meetings. After all these discussions, this is what we are going to do. There are three times a year when we are going to get together in person: the June potluck (just had it and I think everyone had a great time), the September member appreciation lunch and field trip, and the December cookie exchange and member slide show. Those will be “live” in person events. The remaining meetings, which are all of the “program” meetings will continue as zoom. We will revisit this issue in the future, but at least for the next 12 months this is what we are going to do. I hope you will continue to attend and enjoy our great programs via zoom and join us when we come together in person.

Field trips need help. With Bob Toleno on Midway Island, Kathy Robertson has been filling in. She needs field trip leaders. Leading a field trip is not an onerous task. If you have a place you like to bird, know where the bathrooms are and can handle a sign-in sheet, you can lead a field trip. If you can help out shoot Kathy an email at secretary@ohloneaudubon.org.

Finally, something about birds. Pop Quiz, what is the most miss-identified bird in California? Is it some obscure warbler or vireo? Some streaky sparrow? Some spotty thrush? You are all wrong. According to a report by eBird, the most miss-identified bird in California is theRing-billed Gull..... I couldn't believe it either. Apparently folks mix up Ring-bills and immature California Gulls. I will try to write on this in a future *Kite Call*, but in the meantime review your field guide so that you can tell Ring-bills from immature Californias.



The most mis-identified birds in California-do you know which is which?

- Bill Hoppes



Checklists Available - FREE!

Ohlone member Marilyn Trabert has graciously offered us her copies of clean checklists (see below) from her collection. Email me (Pat) at pagpeg@aol.com for more info or for arranging to get them to you

- Southeast Arizona
- Cape May County
- Monterey County
- ABA Southeastern U.S.
- Morro Bay
- Stanislaus National Forest
- King Ranch (“Crested Caracara!”)
- Central CA Pelagic Trips
- Shearwater Journeys)
- Asilomar

- Sacto Nat'l Wildlife Ref Complex
- Utah, Arches Nat'l Park, Scott M.
- Matheson Wetlands Preserve,
- Maps of the National Wildlife Refuge System, Discover Wildlife
- California, Salton Sea Nat'l Wildlife Refuge Visitors' Guide

And many more!

BIRDING OBSERVATIONS

Spring 2022

By Vicki Robinson

The days are getting longer and warmer. Most of our nesting birds have finished their jobs and are now teaching the young how to find food and spread their wings. Backyards are full of **California Towhees**, **Northern Mockingbirds**, **Bushtits**, **Chestnut-backed Chickadees**, **Bewick's Wrens**, **Mourning Doves** and **Scrub Jays**. Occasional visits from **Western Tanagers**, **Hooded Orioles**, **Oak Titmouse**, **Nuttall's**, **Downy** and **Hairy Woodpeckers** are visiting local parks and backyards. Hummingbird feeders are emptying quickly with all the baby **Anna's Hummingbirds** and occasional **Allen's** learning where to get free nectar.

Tern, tern, tern. It's the season for the return of **Least Terns** to lay eggs on the protected habitats at the Hayward Shoreline and Alameda Point. Also, **Black Skimmers** (a tern like bird) are using the manmade habitats to raise their very large babies. **Forsters Terns**, **Elegant Terns**, **Caspian Terns**, **Least Terns**, and **Black Skimmers** can be seen at various spots around the bay.



A high number of **Black Skimmers**, some have counted over 50 are hanging out at a small island at Shoreline Lake in Mountain View. Also, a lonely **Black Tern** has been flying around and landing on that small island.

Also seen at the Shoreline Kite Flying area was a rare one day wonder **Eastern Kingbird**.



Colonies of **Great** and **Snowy Egrets** and **Black-crowned Night-Herons** can be found nest building and making loud harsh squawks at Ruus Park in Hayward and elsewhere although the previous active area at Lakeshore Park Newark has been a no-show.



American Avocets and **Black-neck Stilts** that nested along our shorelines are now guarding their chicks.

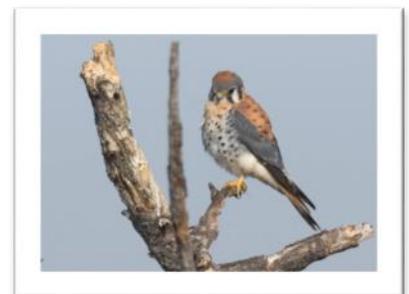
The **Bald Eagles** at Ardenwood abandoned their nest with no chicks but can still be seen flying around Ardenwood and Quarry Lakes. Hopefully they will try again next year. The Del Valle eaglets though are flapping their wings!



The hot spot for rare and uncommon birds this summer has been at Joseph D. Grant Park off Mt Hamilton rd. in the South Bay. A **Vermillion Flycatcher** has been thrilling birders and photographers with its brilliant red color. It's also an easy spot to see **Lawrence's Goldfinch** and **Lark Sparrows** which are harder to find in Alameda County this year.



It has been a good year for raptors breeding. **Red-tailed Hawks** nesting at Ardenwood. **Red-shouldered Hawks** and **American Kestrels** have successfully nested at Garin/Dry Creek with multiple fluffy chicks and many pictures taken by local photographers. **Great Horned Owls** are also having a good year.



(All photos by V. Robinson)

Conservation

Following is the excellent article penned by President Hoppes in this edition of the Kite Call and I wanted to take the opportunity to put in a few additional words about the wonders of tidal wetlands of San Francisco Bay. —C.High

San Francisco Bay has been recognized as a “Wetland of International Importance” by UNESCO’s Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. It has been identified as a Hemispheric Reserve for shorebirds by the Western Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve Network. This classification is the Network’s highest ranking and the Network states that, “San Francisco Bay holds higher proportions of the total wintering and migrating shorebirds on the U.S. Pacific coast than any other wetland.” The Bay supports hundreds of thousands of migratory waterfowl every year and has been designated an Area of Continental significance for waterfowl by the North American Waterfowl Conservation Plan and an Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society. The Bay provides Essential Fish Habitat as identified by the National Marine Fisheries Service and supports hundreds of fish and crustacean species.

The San Francisco Bay estuary is the largest estuary on the west coast of both Americas. The incredible biodiversity and ecosystem services the estuary supports and that we depend upon, are vulnerable to the threat of sea level rise. Estuarine intertidal and shallow waters support economically important species, as well as rare, listed and migratory species, act as nurseries for fisheries, and support tremendous biodiversity.

In addition, tidal wetlands provide numerous ecosystem services including nutrient cycling, water quality improvement, flood protection and also provide opportunities for education and recreation. Of great pertinence to our concerns of addressing climate change, is the significant ability of tidal wetlands to draw down and sequester carbon. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Coastal Blue Carbon website states, “Current studies suggest that mangroves and *coastal wetlands annually sequester carbon at a rate ten times greater than mature tropical forests*. They also *store three to five times more carbon per equivalent area than tropical forests*.” [emphasis added]

However, these extremely beneficial ecosystem services will be lost if we do not adequately include plans for long-term protection of tidal wetland habitat as we plan to provide resilience for the Bay Area’s built environment. Dusterhoff et al, in a San Francisco Estuary Institute Report (SFEI) “Sediment for Survival: A Strategy for the Resilience of Bay Wetlands in the Lower San Francisco Estuary,”

describe the significant challenges we must address to maintain tidal wetlands – the diminishing sediment supply which may hinder the ability of tidal wetlands to keep pace with rising sea levels through accretion of sediment and our history of developing up to the edges of the Bay, which reduces the ability of tidal wetlands to migrate inland.

Climatecentral.org has an excellent website that describes the importance of protecting tidal wetlands now and into the future at: <https://www.climatecentral.org/climate-matters/coastal-wetlands-at-risk>

There is an excellent, short 9-page article that discusses the resiliency and vulnerability of coastal wetlands to sea level rise. And there is a newly added online map that shows the difference between complete protection of tidal wetlands and the spaces they can migrate to, versus a scenario where we fully develop the shoreline. That mapping tool can be found here: <https://coastal.climatecentral.org/> Just “click” on the “choose map” button and scroll down to the last choice, “wetlands gain/loss.” The peer-reviewed report mentioned above provides two contrasting scenarios:

“In the most optimistic scenario, coastal wetlands could **increase in area by 25% by 2100 and provide an additional \$222 billion** in ecosystem services—if we conserve all land available for wetland migration and cut heat-trapping emissions rapidly, and if wetlands grow upwards quickly.”

Versus – “But in a contrasting scenario, **97% of coastal wetlands and \$732 billion in ecosystem services could be lost by 2100**—if heat-trapping emissions grow unchecked, seas rise faster than expected, wetlands grow at a moderate rate, and no land is conserved for wetlands migration.” [emphasis added]

Newark Area 4 is one place that numerous regional guidance documents have identified as being desirable for conservation for tidal wetlands migration space, which is why we are fighting to protect these lands from development. If you haven’t visited the savenewarkwetlands.org website to sign the evergreen petition, please do so! If you have already signed, please share the link with family and friends and ask if they would consider signing the petition. Every signature is one more voice for preservation of this rare opportunity for tidal marsh migration in the South Bay.

Conservation (cont'd)

Opponents plan appeal of Judges dismissal of suit against North Livermore solar plant

Opponents, of a 350-acre solar plant plan to appeal a District Court judge’s dismissal of their lawsuit to stop construction of the plant planned for North Livermore. Opponents of the project, include Save North Livermore, Friends of Open Space and Ohlone Audubon. The conservation groups content that Alameda County’s approval of the project conflicts with the requirements of Measure D. The project opponents need to file their appeal to the District Court by July 2022 .

The 2022-2023 Proposed Budget for the Ohlone Audubon Society. (Approved 5/12/22)		
INCOME		
NAS DUES	\$2,712	
CHAPTER DUES	\$7,000	
SALES	\$0	
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$13,000	
DIVIDEND/INTEREST	\$8,313	
TOTAL INCOME		\$31,025
EXPENSES		
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/S.MATHEWS	\$6,000	
SALES TAX	\$25	
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$31,025
Contact Treasurer for more details/questions		

New Members and Renewals

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Ray Bedford</i> | <i>Terry Spaggins</i> |
| <i>Juli Chamberlin</i> | <i>Michael Sullivan</i> |
| <i>Barbara Correa</i> | <i>Margaret Thomson</i> |
| <i>Liz Dunbar</i> | <i>Sharon Travers</i> |
| <i>David Kimball</i> | <i>Steve Wiley</i> |
| <i>Leslie Koenig</i> | <i>Judy Wuelfing</i> |
| <i>Eric & Angela Korpela</i> | <i>Ameet Zaveri</i> |
| <i>Dawn Lemoine</i> | |

Donations

- Ray Bedford*
Juli Chamberlin
Eric & Angela Korpela
Dawn Lemoine
Kate Marchetti
Mary Norton

Thank you!

Intertidal wetlands and birds

by Bill Hoppes

Intertidal wetlands are some of the most productive ecosystems in the world. They are important breeding grounds and nurseries for economically important marine life.



An estimated two-thirds of the world’s fish catches spend a portion of their life cycle in the intertidal wetlands (Kleeman and Forrest 2000). They are also critically important habitat for birds,

serving both as wintering sites and key migration stop overs. For example, China contains 10% of all the wetlands in the world, much of it tidal. These wetlands comprise 21 sites designated as Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. These sites contain critical wintering and stopover sites for several species of endangered cranes and nearly the entire worldwide populations of Spotted Greenshank and Spoon-billed Sandpipers. Of 672 important bird areas in southeast Asia, 181 are associated with tidal wetlands (Li Yong et al. 2022).

The Camargue is the largest inter-tidal wetland in France. Two thirds of all birds found in Europe can be seen in the Camargue as it is a key stopover site on the migration crossroads of Africa, Europe and the Mediterranean. Similarly, Donana National Park in southern Spain hosts over 6 million birds every year during their migrations across Europe. The Inner Niger Delta is one of the largest wetlands in the world annually hosting from 3-4 million waterbirds (World Wildlife Trust, 2020). Finally, the Copper River Delta in Alaska is the largest tidal wetland staging area in North America. Some 20 million shorebirds pass through each spring (Isleib, 1979)

There are three main types of intertidal wetlands: mangrove swamps, mudflats and salt marshes. Mangrove swamps are encountered along tropical shores and are considered some of the most productive habitats found anywhere. Salt marshes and mudflats are mostly found in temperate zones. Salt marshes and mudflats are the most important intertidal zones in our San Francisco Bay area.



Loss of intertidal wetlands is an international problem. Every international flyway has been impacted and total wetland loss world-wide has been estimated at 50% since 1900 (Atkinson, 2003, OECD 1996). (Cont'd page 7)

(Intertidal Wetlands cont'd)

The story is worse in our own San Francisco Bay. More than 90% of historical tidal marsh acreage in the San Francisco Bay and estuary have been diked or filled for agricultural uses or other urban interests, such as commercial salt harvesting (*Myers 1983*). Despite substantial habitat loss, every year over half a million shorebirds and about 700,000 waterfowl rely on both mudflat and tidal marsh habitats in San Francisco Bay to “fuel up” during their migration along the Pacific Flyway. Because of this, San Francisco Bay has been designated as a site of international importance for shorebirds (*Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network*). In total, the Bay’s tidal marshes support at least 113 bird species that represent 31 families. Despite the loss of tidal marsh, large areas remain in SF Bay. Over 9,000 acres of tidal wetland is protected in the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Smaller areas of protected tidal marsh (e.g. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coyote Hills Regional Park; Hayward Regional Shoreline) are scattered throughout the bay. Massive salt pans with interwoven fingers of tidal marsh dominate the area near the western end of the Dumbarton Bridge (Hwy 84 in East Palo Alto), and from Sunnyvale east through Coyote Creek north up the East Bay. Other major blocks of tidal marsh include Bair and Greco Islands (near Redwood City), Palo Alto Baylands (near Redwood City) and vast tracts in the Suisun Marsh, San Pablo Bay and Napa River. The broad tidal flats of San Francisco Bay form a band around the entire edge of the San Francisco Bay Important Bird Area.

These remaining tidal marshes and mudflats support immense populations of migrating birds and endangered and endemic species. Most of the global population of the endemic Alameda Song Sparrow falls within this tidal marsh area. Surveys in the tidal marshes on Don Edwards S.F. Bay NWR lands have estimated 600 Ridgway’s Clapper Rails, a significant portion of the remaining population of this species. Snowy Plovers winter and breed in scattered sites, mainly near Redwood City and in Alameda County, where they are joined by thousands of pairs of California Gull, Forster’s Tern, with smaller numbers of Caspian Tern. Threatened California Least Terns currently breed at Hayward Shoreline, and utilize salt pans throughout for post-breeding staging. A heronry near Alviso is one of the largest in California. Joining these species are an estimated half-million Western Sandpipers pouring through during spring migration and an estimated 10 percent of the Dunlin and Marbled Godwit global populations (*Audubon 2022*).



However, as sea levels continue to rise, and at increasing rates, and sediment supply to the Bay continues to dwindle (from damming and channelization of rivers, etc.), tidal wetlands will drown if space isn't conserved for the habitat to migrate inland. All the benefits that tidal wetlands provide for birds and other wildlife and our communities will be lost. It is imperative that we conserve suitable undeveloped lands adjacent to tidal wetlands if we value the benefits derived from this important habitat. That is why OAS has been involved in the fight to protect the lands of Newark Area 4. These historic baylands not only provide valuable habitat for resident and migratory waterbirds now, they are one of the few locations in the South Bay that will be able to support tidal wetlands in the future in this era of rising sea levels.

To reverse the historic loss of tidal habitat, multiple Federal, State and private agencies and organizations have undertaken a mammoth project to re-establish 100,000 acres of tidal marsh in San Francisco Bay by 2030. Over 30 projects are underway to restore wetland habitat (*San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority 2022*). Some of the largest projects underway include the South Bay Salt Ponds Restoration Project, one of the largest wetland restoration projects in the United States. This effort plans to restore 15,000 acres of former salt evaporation ponds. Another key project is the San Pablo Baylands Collaborative Protections and Restoration Project, which will restore and protect almost 12,000 acres of tidal wetlands in the Sonoma Creek Baylands (*San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority, 2022*) The restoration projects in SF Bay are just a part of an international effort to protect and restore these habitats that are critical to the future of migratory birds worldwide.

National Audubon Society 2022 Important Bird Areas San Francisco Bay-south <https://www.audubon.org/important-bird-areas/san-francisco-bay-south>; Atkinson, P.W. 2003. Can we recreate or restore intertidal habitats for shorebirds? Wader Study Group Bulletin 100: 67-72 Isleib, P 1979; Migratory shorebird populations on the Copper River Delta and eastern Prince William Sound, Alaska. Studies in Avian Biology 2: 125-30; Li Yong et al. 2022 Conserving migratory waterbirds and the coastal zone: the future of South-east Asia's intertidal wetlands. Oryx 56(2) 176-183 Myers J.P. 1983. Conservation of migrating shorebirds: staging areas, geographic bottlenecks, and regional movements. American Birds 37(1) 23-25.

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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.
National Audubon Society membership dues are separate from those of Ohlone Audubon Society.

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