



# 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

- July 15 FIELD TRIP**  
Evening at the  
Hayward Shoreline
- Aug 5 FIELD TRIP**  
Elkhorn Slough Safari
- Aug 19 FIELD TRIP**  
Hayward Shoreline
- Sept 4 GENERAL MEETING**  
Fremont
- Sept 15 Pelagic FIELD TRIP**  
Half Moon Bay
- NO MEETINGS IN JULY/AUGUST**

### Membership Meeting

#### The Greater Antilles

**Presenter: Bob Lewis**

**Date:** September 4, 2018

**Time:** 7:30 PM

**Location:** Carlton Plaza 3800 Walnut Avenue, Fremont  
**(Watch for program details in next issue!)**



#### ELKHORN SLOUGH SAFARI TRIP

**AUGUST 5, 2018**



The trip is full! To be put on waiting list contact  
Lynn Feindel, Field Trip Chair  
[fieldtrips@ohloneaudubon.com](mailto:fieldtrips@ohloneaudubon.com)

**NO MEETINGS  
in July/August**

**TEASER**

**SEE THE 2017-2018  
FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE  
PAGES 5-6**

#### OHLONE PELAGIC TRIP

**HALF MOON BAY**

**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 15, 2018**

**WITH: ALVARO JARAMILLO**



First seats on trip are reserved for Ohlone – join us again this year! By this point in the season we will have a pretty good idea of where the food concentrations are, and we will head out there to maximize numbers and diversity. This is peak time for a good diverse list of seabirds to be found.

**RESERVE NOW!** Make your reservation now at [Alvarosadventures.com](http://Alvarosadventures.com) and click on pelagic trips and scroll down to September 15, 2018. Cost \$140. Leaves from Princeton Harbor in Half Moon Bay. Trips fill fast!



**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

**See other great summer field trips  
next page!**

# Field Trips



## Evening at Hayward Shoreline: Frank's Dump

**Sunday, July 15                      3:00 PM - 6:00 PM**

**Leaders: Bob Toleno and Juli Chamberlin  
(fieldtrips AT ohloneaudubon.org)**

Join Bob and Juli for a 2-1/2 mile round-trip walk on flat paved and gravel paths to Frank's Dump at high tide. 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 many thousands of Western Sandpipers, possibly a rare Semipalmated Sandpiper or maybe even a mega rarity like the Red-Necked Stint found a couple of 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.

## Hayward Reg. Shoreline - Grant Ave Staging Area

**August 19, Sunday                      9:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

**Leaders: Kathy Robertson and Rich Nicholson  
(rsn711@yahoo.com)**

Meet at the Grant Avenue staging area in San Lorenzo for a walk along the canal 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 a resident Osprey. Bring your scope if you have one. Pre-registration is not required, and all are welcome.

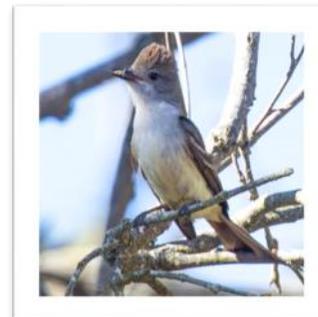
**Directions:** From I-880 south take the Washington Avenue exit. Turn right on Washington and right on Grant Avenue. From I-880 north take the Hesperian Blvd. exit. Make a sharp left onto Hesperian and a right on Grant Avenue. In either case continue west on Grant Avenue to the parking lot near the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

## BIRDING OBSERVATIONS

May 2018

By Stephanie Floyd

Spring blew in with gray, cloudy skies, cool temperatures, wind... and migrants. Suddenly our regional parks were ringing with the songs and calls of **Warbling and Cassin's Vireos, Hooded and Bullock's Orioles, Ash-Throated and Pacific-slope Flycatchers, Western Wood-Pewees** and **Western Tanagers,**



Ash-throated Flycatcher, Dry Creek, 6/12/18 (Vicki Robinson)

**Black-Headed Grosbeaks,** and **Lazuli Buntings.**

At the old Alameda Naval Air Station **Brown Pelicans** arrived in big flocks, and birders were excited to see a rare **Brown Booby** roosting and feeding with the cormorants and gulls on a breakwater levee next to the USS Hornet. **Elegant Terns** came back, and the **Least Tern** colonies in Alameda and Hayward began to fill. A rare **Black Tern** joined the colony at Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center where Bob Richmond also spotted a (possibly returning) **Laughing Gull.** By the end of the month, **Black Skimmers** started to arrive on their nesting island near the tern colony.



California Least Tern, Hayward Shoreline, 6/1/18 (Vicki Robinson)

On the "outgoing" side, **Cedar Waxwings** gathered in big flocks near Alameda Creek preparing to leave for northern breeding grounds, somewhere between southeastern Alaska and northwestern California.

# Conservation



## SB 1316 – Alameda-Tesla Expansion Area

SB 1316 has passed the state Senate and is on the way to the state Assembly. Official hearing dates had not been scheduled, but were possibly being held June 26 and 27, 2018. Watch the Friends of Tesla website for updates: [www.TeslaPark.org](http://www.TeslaPark.org).

Ohlone joined with other groups in the bay area and sent a letter to the Assembly Natural Resources and Water Committee urging the passage of this bill. To follow the progress of the bill, see [https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id+201720180SB1316](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id+201720180SB1316). Our local agencies, environmental groups, and community organizations are working together for purchase of this site and prefer discontinuing the current litigation and controversy.

We thank all of you who donated to the cause at our June meeting, by making contributions for books and other birding equipment. But, we still have more—more to do and many more books and birding equipment to sell. (see to the right for **Gift Ideas**). Donations can also be made directly to Friends of Tesla at [www.TeslaPark.org](http://www.TeslaPark.org).

Friends of Tesla is an alliance dedicated to establishing Tesla Park as a non-motorized low impact historical and natural resource park and preserve. For more info, contact [FriendsofTeslaPark@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsofTeslaPark@gmail.com). (P. Gordon)

## Controversy continues over removal of Springtown “duck pond”

Springtown residents are continuing their efforts to save the “duck pond” in north Livermore. The pond is being removed in preparation for implementing the Open Space Concept Plan on the former Springtown Golf Course. Springtown residents sent a petition to the City of Livermore and Livermore Area Recreation and Park District requesting the City of Livermore & LARPD save and restore the Springtown Duck Pond, a 52-year old landmark and recreational feature. The City and LARPD state that one reason for removal of the pond is that with the closure of the golf course there is no longer a viable water source to fill the pond. There is no natural source of water for the pond, as it was previously fed by diverted water used to irrigate the golf course. Residents are requesting a fresh water supply to replenish and leave the pond as is, until money is found for a project to replace the pond.

## Livermore Oil Wells

**Livermore oil wells got an extension, with an appeal to the Alameda Board of Supervisors pending.**

The approval of a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for further operation of two Patterson Pass Road rural Livermore oil fields by the East County Board of Zoning Adjustments (BZA) has been appealed to the county Board of Supervisors.

At a meeting in the Pleasanton City Council Chamber on May 24, the BZA voted 2-0 for oil company, E&B Natural Resources, to continue drilling on parcels on Patterson Pass Road. The CUP normally would run for 20 years. A condition attached to the CUP states that they will be reviewed in 10 years. Opponents of the CUP claim that E&B plans to expand its operations, putting underground aquifers at risk, a claim E&B denies. If E&B were to expand operations, another public hearing would be needed. Opponents of the CUP also stated that E&B has a history of toxic spills and procedural violations. No date has been set for the appeal hearing before the County Board of Supervisors. (B.Hoppes)

## GIFT IDEAS?

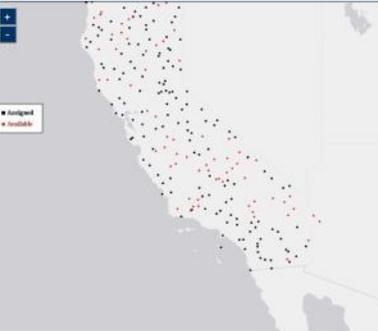


These are just a few of the great books that have been donated to us and available for sale. Funds collected go directly to **Saving Tesla Park**. “The Art of Audubon” includes 16 prints by John James Audubon; the Roger Tory Peterson large format books include both eastern and western albums. These would make beautiful gifts. Any reasonable offer will be accepted! For other items, including bird feeders, come to the September meeting or contact Pat Gordon, [pagepeg@aol.com](mailto:pagepeg@aol.com).

# President's Corner

I am a big fan and participant in citizen science projects. One of my favorites is the North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) run jointly by the U.S. Geological Survey Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and the Canadian Wildlife Service, National Wildlife Research Center. The BBS is a long-term, large-scale, international avian monitoring program initiated in 1966 to track the status and trends of North American bird populations.

Each year during the height of the avian breeding season, participants collect bird population data along roadside survey routes. Each survey route is



approximately 24.5 miles long with stops 0.5-mile apart. At each stop, you record all the birds you hear and see within a 0.25 mile radius during 3-minutes. Surveys start one-half hour before local sunrise and take about 5 hours to complete. Over 4100

survey routes are located across the continental U.S. and Canada.

Once analyzed, BBS data provide an index of population abundance that can be used to estimate population trends and relative abundances at various geographic scales. Trend estimates for more than 420 bird species and all raw data are currently available via the BBS web site.

My wife, Tanya, and I conduct BBS surveys at two locations, one, for over 25 years near San Luis Obispo, and a second for over 15 years near Jackson. The surveys are great fun. You need to up your birding skills though, as most of the first hour is done in the dark and you need to ID mostly by sound.

Over 70 routes remain unassigned in California, so if you want to take on a route, there are plenty available. In the figure above all the red dots represent a route in California that could use your help. You can always do as Tanya and I and pick a route in a spot you like to visit and make a long weekend out of it.

If you are interested in taking on this great citizen science project head to the USGS BBS website at <https://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/participate/> and learn more about it.

*Bill Hoppes*

## BUDGET FY 2018-2019

	FY 2018	FY 2019
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>budget</b>	<b>budget</b>
NAS DUES	2,712	2,712
CHAPTER DUES	6,615	6,200
SALES	400	400
CONTRIBUTIONS	9,235	9,250
DIVIDEND/INTEREST	38	38
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>19,000</b>	<b>18,600</b>

<b>EXPENSES</b>		
KITE CALL	5,500	5,500
MEMBER MEETINGS	2,800	2,800
PURCHASE MDSE	400	400
OPERATING EXP	3,725	3,725
CONSERVATION	1,575	2,000
EDUCATION	2,100	2,600
C'MAS BIRD COUNT	800	1,000
FUND RAISING	500	275
BW MEM GARDEN	200	200
Scholarship	1,300	0
SALES TAX	100	100
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>19,000</b>	<b>18,600</b>

Approved by BOD 5/10/18

*Gail Ryzujin*

### A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW AND RENEWING OHLONE MEMBERS!



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

Mary Ashby, Bob & Liz Bathgate, Ray Bedford, Robert Beggs, Debbie Clark, Loree Clavell, Barbara Correa, Sandy Ferreira, Ruth Ann Hunt, Ted Iijima, Bruce & Judy Jund, Jeanette King, Don & Roberta Lenkeit, Bob & Debra Lovendusky, Pat Mascata, Steven Oppenheimer, Bill Rose, Armida & Harley Schultze, Robert Wieckowski,

**Donations:** Bob & Liz Bathgate Ruth Ann Hunt, Jeanette King, Robert Wieckowski



#### PLEASE CONSIDER ELECTRONIC KITE CALL!

We are urging members to switch over to an electronically issued *Kite Call*

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!** Thank you for considering this!

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

# OAS FIELD TRIPS

<b>2018</b>		
SUNDAY, <b>7/15</b>	EVENING AT HAYWARD SHORELINE (W WINTON)	BOB TOLENO & JULI CHAMBERLIN
SUNDAY, <b>8/5</b>	ELKHORN SLOUGH SAFARI	LYNN FEINDEL
SUNDAY, <b>8/19</b>	HAYWARD SHORELINE (GRANT AVE)	KATHY ROBERTSON & RICH NICHOLSON
THURSDAY, <b>9/6</b>	ALAMEDA SOUTH SHORE	JERRY & JUDY STEENHOVEN
SATURDAY, <b>9/15</b>	HALF MOON BAY PELAGIC	PHIL & PAT GORDON
SATURDAY, <b>9/29</b>	BODEGA BAY	PHIL & PAT GORDON
SATURDAY, <b>10/6</b>	COYOTE HILLS	JERRY TING & VICKI ROBINSON
SATURDAY, <b>10/13</b>	TILDEN REGIONAL PARK	RICH NICHOLSON & BOB DUNN
WEDNESDAY, <b>10/24</b>	BIG BREAK/BLACK DIAMOND MINES	RICH NICHOLSON & BOB DUNN
WEDNESDAY, <b>11/7</b>	OLD SAN JOAQUIN/ MOUNTAIN HOUSE SLOUGH	RICH CIMINO
SUNDAY, <b>11/11</b>	PACIFIC COMMONS	RICH NICHOLSON & MIKE CHRISTOPHERSON
WEDNESDAY, <b>11/14</b>	WARD CREEK (HAYWARD)	VICKI ROBINSON & LYNN FEINDEL
NOVEMBER POP-UP (DATE TBD)	LONGSPURS: HAYWARD SHORELINE (W. WINTON ENTRANCE)	BOB TOLENO & JULI CHAMBERLIN
WEDNESDAY, <b>11/28</b>	VARGAS PLATEAU	JERRY TING & VICKI ROBINSON
SATURDAY, <b>12/1</b>	SANDHILL CRANES (LODI)	STEPHANIE FLOYD
WEDNESDAY, <b>12/12</b>	GARIN REGIONAL PARK	JERRY & JUDY STEENHOVEN
FRIDAY, <b>12/14?</b>	EASTERN ALAMEDA CO. CBC	JEFF MILLER (COMPILER)
SUNDAY, <b>12/16</b>	FREMONT- HAYWARD CBC	PHIL & PAT GORDON (COMPILERS)
<b>2019</b>		
TUESDAY, <b>1/1</b> (HIGH TIDE 7.4', 8:35 AM)	ARROWHEAD MARSH	STEPHANIE FLOYD & MONA BRAUER
SUNDAY, <b>1/6</b>	NORTH LIVERMORE/ SPRING-TOWN	STEVE HUCKABONE & KATHY ROBERTSON
SATURDAY, <b>1/19</b>	LAS GALLINAS	PHIL & PAT GORDON
SATURDAY, <b>1/26</b>	SHADOW CLIFFS RRA	STEVE HUCKABONE & KATHY ROBERTSON
SATURDAY - SUNDAY, <b>2/2-2/3</b>	MERCED NWR & PANOCHÉ RD	PHIL & PAT GORDON
WEDNESDAY, <b>2/13</b>	LAKE ELIZABETH & GOMES PK	STEPHANIE FLOYD & SANDY FERREIRA
SATURDAY, <b>2/23</b>	REDWOOD PARK	JERRY TING
SUNDAY, <b>3/3</b>	QUARRY LAKES	JERRY TING & STEPHANIE FLOYD
SATURDAY, <b>3/9</b>	LAKE SOLANO	PHIL & PAT GORDON

# OAS FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE 2018-2019

	<b>2019 (cont'd)</b>	
SATURDAY, <b>3/16</b>	DON EDWARDS NWR – ALVISO	RICH NICHOLSON & VICKI ROBINSON
SATURDAY, <b>3/30</b>	MOUNTAIN VIEW CEMETERY	PHIL GEORGAKAKOS & STEPHANIE FLOYD
SUNDAY, <b>3/31</b>	BIRDING BY EAR AT GARIN FOR BEGINNERS ONLY	BILL SCOGGINS & MAGGIE CLARK
SUNDAY, <b>4/7</b>	DEL VALLE SRA	STEVE HUCKABONE
WEDNESDAY, <b>4/17</b> (HIGH TIDE 11:19 AM)	ALAMEDA SOUTH SHORE	JERRY STEENHOVEN & MAGGIE CLARK
SATURDAY <b>4/20</b>	SWALLOW WALK: LAKE ELIZABETH & COYOTE HILLS	SANDY FERREIRA & PHIL GORDON
WEDNESDAY, <b>4/24</b>	SUNOL REGIONAL WILDERNESS	JERRY TING & VICKI ROBINSON
SATURDAY, <b>4/27</b>	MT. DIABLO STATE PARK/ MACEDO RANCH	RICH NICHOLSON, BOB DUNN & PHIL GEORGAKAKOS
APR-MAY POP- UP (DATE TBD)	EGRET/HERON ROOKERY@ THE LAKE, NEWARK	STEPHANIE FLOYD
SATURDAY, <b>5/4</b>	SAN JOAQUIN NWR	STEVE HUCKABONE
THURSDAY, <b>5/9</b>	DRY CREEK REGIONAL PARK	JERRY STEENHOVEN & MONA BRAUER
SATURDAY, <b>5/11</b>	ARDENWOOD	JERRY TING
SATURDAY, <b>5/18</b>	MITCHELL CANYON	RICH NICHOLSON & BOB DUNN
WEDNESDAY, <b>5/22</b>	LAKE CHABOT	RICH NICHOLSON & KATHY ROBERTSON
WEDNESDAY, <b>5/29</b>	NILES HOTSPOTS	KATHY ROBERTSON & STEPHANIE FLOYD
SATURDAY, <b>6/1</b>	FIELD TRIP PLANNING MEET- ING AT THE GORDONS ?	LYNN FEINDEL
SUNDAY, <b>6/9</b>	BEHIND THE SCENES @ HAYWARD INTERPRETIVE CENTER	MAGGIE CLARK & PAT GORDON
SATURDAY-SUNDAY, <b>6/22-23</b>	LASSEN NP	PHIL & PAT GORDON

# Habitat Means Home Poster Contest

Each spring, for the past 11 years, Ohlone Audubon in partnership with the Citizen's Committee to Complete the Refuge and the Friends of Coyote Hills, has sponsored a poster contest to celebrate the diverse habitats and species of Coyote Hills Regional Park. The contest is called "Habitat Means Home" and is open to all K-6 public school students in Fremont, Newark, and Union City.



1st Place Naomi S (6th grade)



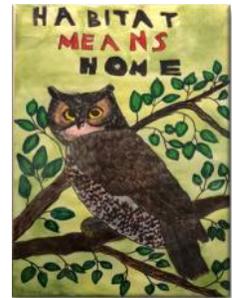
The posters are to be colored drawings of plants or animals in the habitats which can be found at Coyote Hills. Along with the poster there must be a short written piece describing the plant or animal and the reasons why its habitat is important. See some examples here.

The posters are judged and First, Second, and Third prize winners are chosen and prizes awarded at an early June gathering at Coyote Hills.

Twenty-five or so Honorable Mention prizes are also awarded. The posters then hang in the halls of Coyote Hills for several weeks before moving on to hang in the board room of the East Bay Regional Park Headquarters for a couple of months. Finally, the posters travel to the office of Sen. Robert Weickowski in Fremont where they spend another couple of months. The senator often holds a festive ice cream party for the winners to acknowledge their achievements! -M. Morrow



2nd Place Aneesh P (4th grade)



3rd Place Suhas Y (K)

## What Do Our Backyard Birds Eat?

- Chestnut-backed Chickadee**
- Red-winged Blackbird**
- Western Bluebird**
- Mourning Dove**
- Northern Flicker**
- House/Purple Finch**
- Lesser/American Goldfinch**
- Black-headed Grosbeak**
- Allan's/Anna's Hummingbird**

- Steller's Jay**
- Dark-eyed Junco**
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet**
- Red-breasted/White-breasted Nuthatch**

- Bullock's/Hooded Oriole**

- California Quail**
- Pine Siskin**
- American Robin**
- California Scrub-Jay**
- Sparrow ( Song, White-crowned, Golden-crowned, Fox)**
- Western Tanager**
- Oak Titmouse**
- Downy/Nuttall's/Hairy Woodpecker**
- Bewick's Wren**

sunflower chips, striped sunflower, peanut chips, suet  
 cracked corn, suet, white proso millet  
 insects, fruit, suet, mealworms  
 cracked corn, white proso millet, suet, sunflower chips  
 sunflower seeds, suet, fruit  
 nyjer, sunflower chips, suet, fruit  
 nyjer, sunflower chips, suet, fruit  
 striped and black oil sunflower, white proso millet, suet  
 plant nectar, small insects, sugar water (4 parts water,  
 1 part sugar, no coloring)  
 peanut kernels, black oil sunflower, whole peanuts, suet  
 white proso millet, black oil sunflower, nut meats  
 suet, suet mixes  
 peanut chips, sunflower chips, suet, black oil sunflower,  
 nut meats  
 plant nectar, small insects, sugar water (8 parts water,  
 1 part sugar, no coloring)  
 cracked corn, white proso millet  
 nyjer, black oil sunflower  
 suet, mealworms, berries, nut meats,  
 peanut kernels, black oil sunflower, whole peanuts, suet  
 white proso millet, peanut kernels, black oil sunflower,  
 suet  
 suet, fruit, mealworms  
 sunflower chips peanut chips, suet, cracked corn  
 suet, meat scraps, fruit, nuts, sunflower seeds  
 suet, suet mixes, nut meats



White Proso Millet Seed



Black Nyjer Seed



Mealworms

## Monarchs and Milkweeds

By Bill Hoppes

Monarch butterflies (*Danaus plexippus plexippus*) are in trouble. Populations dropped a 96.5 percent nationwide (95% in California) from 1 billion in the mid-1990s to just 35 million in early 2014. In May 2018 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) determined that monarch butterflies may need protection under the Endangered Species Act.



Monarchs face numerous threats along their migration route between the U.S. and central Mexico, but their decline has resulted from one primary factor: the similar decline in milkweed (plants from the genus *Asclepias*). Monarchs depend on milkweed—it's the only plant they eat, and they lay their eggs on milkweed leaves during the summer breeding season. Research published in 2017 found that milkweed populations in the U.S. dropped 21 percent between 1995 and 2013. The vast majority of that milkweed loss overlapped prime monarch breeding areas.

Much of milkweed decline is tied to the expanded use of herbicide-resistant crops, specifically Monsanto's Roundup Ready plants. These crops can withstand treatment of the herbicide Roundup (glyphosate), but milkweed cannot. This has all-but wiped out milkweed on soybean and corn farms in the Midwest, reducing monarch butterfly habitat by more than 66 million hectares. Other factors have affected the monarchs' decline. Logging threatens their wintering grounds in the mountains of Mexico. Other pesticides kill the butterflies. Weather and climate have also had disastrous effects: a winter storm in 2002 killed 500 million monarchs.

The western monarch population—which breeds west of the Rocky Mountains—migrates to and overwinters in forested groves along the Pacific Coast stretching from Mendocino, California, south into western Baja, Mexico. Each spring, monarchs leave these overwintering grounds to seek out milkweed in their spring and summer breeding range, which is broadly distributed across North America as far north as southern Canada. In the West, monarchs are thought to breed continuously from spring through fall in California, Nevada, and Arizona, with later generations traveling north and east into the interior of the continent throughout the summer.

Every fall, thousands of monarchs arrive to overwinter in the forested groves along the Pacific Coast; however, their numbers today are a small fraction of the millions of butterflies which aggregated in the past. A long-term citizen monitoring effort, the Xerces Society Western Monarch Thanksgiving Count, provides annual estimates of the number of monarchs overwintering in coastal California since 1997. Data from this effort and similar historical data show a population decline of 74% since the 1990s.

In some of the monarch's key breeding areas of the West, including areas of intensive agriculture—the Central Valley of California, Snake River Plain in Idaho, and Columbia Plateau agricultural practices often remove milkweed and nectar plants from field edges, reducing the available habitat for monarchs and other wildlife. Glyphosate use has also increased dramatically in these areas since the 1990s.

Breeding habitat for Monarchs consists, at a minimum, of milkweed, but often includes other flowers for nectar and trees or shrubs for shade and perching. Migrating habitat includes flowers, which provide nectar for adults during the spring and fall migration period, as well as roosting habitat, which is thought to be particularly important during the fall migration. Milkweed is not necessary during fall migration as adult butterflies are typically in reproductive diapause.

Lack of milkweed in the west may not be a key problem. Many areas of the West have native milkweed, and in many cases, the milkweed stands are used by monarchs at low rates or not at all. The Xerces Society's, a major monitor of the monarch's conservation status, established the following priorities for monarch conservation in the west:

1. Identify, protect, and manage existing habitat to maintain its value for monarchs.
2. Enhance existing habitat to improve its value for monarchs.
3. Restore habitat in areas where it occurred historically, but has been lost.

**(Monarchs continued)**

One thing you can do while you are out birding is be on the lookout for native milkweed stands. There are fifteen species of milkweed native to California, three are key native species in our area.



Narrow-leaved milkweed (*Asclepias fascicularis*) Flowers are pink and white and grow to 3 feet. Narrow-leaved milkweed is the most widespread species in California, It is usually found in open sunny areas in valley grasslands, wetland-riparian areas, foothill woodlands, and chaparral, and clearings within yellow pine, red fir, and lodgepole pine forests.



Showy milkweed (*Asclepias speciosa*) Flowers are also pink and white growing to 5 feet. Showy milkweed grows open, sunny areas especially in disturbed sites along roadsides, railways, and waterways.



California milkweed (*Asclepias californica*) flowers are pink and purple and grows to 3 feet. California milkweed grows on flats and grassy or brushy slopes in many plant communities, including valley grassland, foothill woodland, pinyon juniper woodland, and chapparel.

You can also participate in citizen science projects to monitor Monarchs. Check out the Xerces society web page at [xerces.org](http://xerces.org) to learn about them. One is the annual Thanksgiving Monarch Count. The society has identified Monarch overwintering sites in California and recruits individuals to count. It is somewhat like our Christmas Bird Count, but focused on a single species. Another is the Western Monarch Milkweed Mapper where you can submit observations of milkweed or breeding monarchs, throughout the west.

A complete list of citizen science projects can be found at <https://xerces.org/citizenscience/>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**DEAD BIRD INFECTED WITH WEST NILE VIRUS  
CONFIRMED IN ALAMEDA COUNTY**



***First indication of West Nile virus in Alameda County for 2018***

HAYWARD, CA - The Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District is reporting a dead bird that tested positive for West Nile virus. This is the County's first indication of active virus transmission this year. The bird was collected from Union City and tested at the District laboratory on May 24, 2018.

Reduce the risk of contracting mosquito-borne diseases by following these guidelines:

- DUMP/DRAIN standing water on your property because that is where mosquitoes develop.
- DAWN/DUSK is when mosquito activity peaks, limit outdoor activities during this time.
- DEFEND yourself from mosquito bites by wearing long pants and long-sleeved shirts and apply insect repellent containing EPA-registered active ingredients such as DEET, Picaridin, IR3535, or Oil of lemon eucalyptus.
- DOOR/window screens should be in good repair with no tears or holes.

For information about mosquitoes, West Nile virus, or to request any of the District services visit [www.mosquitoes.org](http://www.mosquitoes.org) or call (510) 783-7744.

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**WEBSITE:** *http://OhloneAudubon.org*  
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Bill Hoppes (East)  
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