



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

- Nov 27 FIELD TRIP**
Vargas Plateau
- Dec 1 FIELD TRIP**
Cranes- Cosumnes
- Dec 2 CBC Pre-count Meeting, Hayward**
- Dec 4 GENERAL MEETING**
Livermore
- Dec 12 FIELD TRIP**
Garin Park
- Dec 14 CBC**
East Alameda Co
- Dec 16 CBC**
Hayward-Fremont
- Jan 1 FIELD TRIP**
Arrowhead Marsh
- Jan 6 FIELD TRIP**
N. Livermore/Springtown
- Jan 8 GENERAL MEETING**
Fremont

Membership Meetings

Holiday Cookie Exchange, Members' Photo Show And More!

A special presentation by John Muir Land Trust on Almond Ranch in Martinez

Date: December 4, 2018
Time: 7:30 PM
Location: Robert Livermore Community Center,
4444 East Avenue, Livermore CA 94550
Meeting room: Palo Verde



NOTE: OAS IS MEETING IN LIVERMORE!

Come and join us for our annual holiday cookie exchange and more! **Once again as in years' past, we are inviting members to bring ten of their favorite photo images slides to share.** Please have your photos on a flash drive.

After this special visual treat, and our members' photos, our traditional annual holiday **Cookie Exchange** will follow as we socialize. If you would like to bring a plate of cookies and copies of your recipe, it would be great. However, all are welcome to attend whether you bring delicious cookies or not. There are always plenty of cookies to go around!

This fun-filled evening first begins with a short presentation on the John Muir Land Trust's (JMLT) current campaign to preserve and permanently protect Almond Ranch, a 281-acre open space land south of downtown Martinez.

Our speakers from JMLT are **Krista Vossekuil** and **Hannah Hodgson**. **Krista** has worked for various Bay Area nonprofits over a decade and currently
(continued on page 2)

NOTE JANUARY MEETING DATE: JANUARY 8, 2019

Convincing Details And Other Birding Fiction

Joe Morlan



Date: January 8, 2019
Time: 7:30 PM
Location: Carlton Plaza
3800 Walnut Avenue, Fremont

Many articles have been published detailing how to write convincing bird descriptions, but who are we trying to convince? How many of those details are remembered correctly and how many are a product of wishful embellishment? Are we convincing a records committee, an eBird reviewer, or maybe we are trying to convince ourselves? Joe Morlan will discuss how to prepare bird descriptions while exploring the importance of integrity in birding. He will include a brief history of scientific and ornithological fraud in what promises to be an informative and entertaining presentation.
(continued on page 2)

December Program*(continued)*

works as Associate Director of Development and Communications with JMLT where she oversees institutional giving, community engagement, and supports individual giving as well as marketing efforts. Krista graduated from the University of California, Davis with a Bachelor's Degrees in English and Political Science, and a minor in Women and Gender Studies. She lives in Martinez and in her spare time enjoys birding, hiking, and spending quality time with friends.

Hannah Hodgson

spearheads JMLT's community programs: connecting people with natural habitats, and inspiring people to become ambassadors to protect open spaces.

Hannah graduated from

U.C. Santa Cruz with a B.A. in Community Studies with a focus in Economic Justice and a certificate in Experiential Leadership. A Martinez native, she first fell in love with nature in the oak grasslands and continues to live on a small Martinez horse ranch with her family.

Livermore December Meeting Directions:

From Hwy 580 in Livermore, Exit First Street / Springtown Blvd., right to First Street, left on N. Mines Road, right on East Ave.

Note: The front of the building has a tall flag pole. There are two parking lots for this large complex. Meeting place has the address "4444 East Ave" on the building.

This is a new meeting venue for OAS as a service to our eastern county members. Hope to see all our regulars and some new faces!

January Program*(continued)*

Joe Morlan has taught field ornithology at City College of San Francisco since 1978. He is the coauthor of **Birds of San Francisco and the Bay Area** and **Birds of Northern California**. He has served as Chair of the California Bird Records Committee and was the recipient of the 2010 ABA Ludlow Griscom Award for contributions to regional ornithology.

Directions:

From I-880 :Take I-880 to the Mowry Ave exit in Fremont, then Mowry east (inland) to Fremont Blvd. Turn right on Fremont Blvd., then left on Walnut Avenue . Carlton Plaza is on Walnut between Fremont Blvd. and Paseo Padre Pkwy.

From Mission Blvd., turn west onto Walnut Avenue in Fremont and Carlton Plaza will be on the left, between Paseo Padre and Fremont Blvd.

Field Trips

**Vargas Plateau****November 27, Tuesday, 8:30 - 11:30 AM****Leaders: Vicki Robinson & Jerry Ting****fieldtripsATOhloneAudubon.org**

Join us as we explore this East Bay Regional Park. Vargas Plateau rises from the bay plain to an elevation of 1,000 feet, overlooking Niles Canyon, Fremont, Union City, Newark and the San Francisco Bay. A prime location for birdwatching, especially raptors, we will look for Golden Eagles and hawks such as Red-tailed and Cooper's, along with owls, turkeys, and other birds.

Directions: *From I-680 in Fremont, exit at Vargas Road and go north. Drive about 1.6 miles to Morrison Canyon Road and turn right. The staging area is about 0.4 miles up on the left. Carpooling is strongly recommended as the staging area parking is limited and there is no street parking in the area.*

Sandhill Cranes - Cosumnes River Preserve, Staten Island, and Woodbridge**December 1, Saturday, 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM****Leader: Stephanie Floyd****fieldtrips@ohloneaudubon.org**

Each fall Sandhill Cranes return to the Central Valley where they feed, socialize and rest in the fields and fly in to roost in the wetlands for the night. Tundra Swans, Cackling Geese, Snow and Ross's Geese, rafts of winter ducks, and other waterfowl and raptors are commonly seen. We'll bird the boardwalk at Cosumnes River Preserve and drive by the Desmond Road ponds, check out Staten Island, and make our way to Woodbridge Ecological Reserve for sunset fly-in at 4:45 PM. The field trip ends at Woodbridge where you can easily get back on I-5 for the drive home. Rain, flooding, or heavy fog cancels. Wear layers and bring snacks and water. All are welcome, and pre-registration is not required. Cosumnes River Preserve is about 70 miles from Livermore.

Directions: *Take I-580 east to I-205 east to I-5. Take I-5 north to the Twin Cities Road exit. Go east on Twin Cities Road about 1 mile and turn right on Franklin Blvd. Continue about a mile or so to the Visitor Center (facilities available). Look for the group in the parking lot or on the boardwalk. Note: CDFW requires you to carry a Lands Pass at Woodbridge. For general information on Lands Passes go to <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/licensing/lands-pass>. To purchase a Lands Pass to print at home go to: <https://www.ca.wildlifelicense.com/InternetSales/>*

**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

Field Trips (continued)

Garin Regional Park
December 12, Wednesday, 9:00-11:30am
Leaders: Judy & Jerry Steenhoven
fieldtripsATOhloneAudubon.org

The outdoors in late fall can be especially beautiful - fresh and clear with deciduous plants shedding spent leaves that have turned yellow and brown. We'll spend our morning in Garin Park, looking for wintering sparrows, warblers, and thrushes. Be prepared for rain and cold. Heavy rain cancels. All are welcome, and pre-registration is not required.

Directions: *To reach Garin Park, take Mission Blvd. in Hayward to Garin Avenue, just south of Industrial Pkwy. Follow Garin Avenue uphill until you reach the park. Meet at the barn.*

New Year's at Arrowhead Marsh:
Martin Luther King Regional Shoreline
January 1, Tuesday, 8:00 AM - 10:30 AM
Leaders: Stephanie Floyd & Mona Brauer
fieldtrips@ohloneaudubon.org

A 7.4' high tide will hit Arrowhead Marsh at 8:35 AM, creating an opportunity to see Ridgway's Rails, Virginia Rails, and Soras. Wintering ducks and shorebirds will be plentiful. The area is completely paved, so if it's raining, we'll still go as rain and high tide are optimum conditions for seeing rails. One year a very rare Yellow Rail was seen here in cold, driving rain! Dress in layers and raingear as needed. This is a wheelchair-accessible bird walk. Pre-registration is not required, and all are welcome.

Directions: *From I-880, go west on Hegenberger towards the airport and turn right on Pardee. Make a left at Swan and turn right into the entrance to Martin Luther King Regional Shoreline. Follow the entrance road all the way to the end. On the way to the parking lot, drive slowly and keep an eye out for Burrowing Owls on the berms to the right.*

North Livermore/Springtown
January 6, Sunday, 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM
Leaders: Steve Huckabone & Kathy Robertson
fieldtripsATOhloneAudubon.org

We will walk along the Arroyo where we can expect many wading birds such as stilts, avocets, herons, ducks, teal, and many songbirds. Raptors are around - a Golden Eagle was observed a few years ago. Wide, level trails make walking easy. Pre-registration is not required. Beginners

are welcome and encouraged. Bring your scope if you have one.

Directions: *Take I-580 east to exit 54 for First Street/Springtown Blvd., turn left onto First Street and continue onto Springtown Blvd. Turn right (east) on Bluebell Dr. and continue about a 1-1/2 miles to*

BIRDING OBSERVATIONS

October 2018

By Stephanie Floyd

October is one of the very best months for birding in the bay area. Common migrants like **Hermit Thrush**, **Cedar Waxwing**, singing **Golden-crowned** and **White-Crowned Sparrows**, and **White-Throated Sparrows** are back along with our winter gulls and ducks such as **Bonaparte's Gulls** and **Northern Shoveler**. **Yellow-rumped Warblers** are once again the most common warbler seen. A beautiful and rare **Chestnut-Sided Warbler** put on



Chestnut-sided Warbler, Ardenwood, 10/18 (Vicki Robinson)

good show for weeks this month at Ardenwood Farm, splashing around and bathing in the fountain in front of the mansion. **Townsend's**, **Wilson's**, **Black-Throated Gray**, and **Yellow Warblers** are also being seen.

Northern Harrier, **White-Tailed Kite**, **Barn**, **Great-Horned** and **Short-Eared Owls** and other raptors are actively displaying, courting, and engaging in territorial shows over our golden hills.

Bob Dunn found an uncommon **Brant** and continuing rare **Pacific Golden-Plover** at San Leandro Marina and a visiting **White-Faced Ibis** at Coyote Hills at the end of the month. Bob Richmond saw an uncommon **Swainson's Hawk** and rare **Stilt Sandpiper** at Hayward shoreline. Photographer/Birder Jason Tanner came across a newly arrived **Varied Thrush** at Coyote Hills. Bob Lewis reported seeing a rare **Tropical Kingbird** at Middle Harbor in Oakland. Michael Park and Dominik Mosur spotted a rare **Williamson's Sapsucker** at Redwood Regional Park on 10/23, and birders found more than one rare **Townsend's Solitaire** at Joaquin Miller Park and Redwood Regional Park over the course of the month.

Wondering how to keep up with local bird sightings on your own? Here are some web sites you can go to:

digest.sialia.com (choose "EBB_sightings");

ebird.org (you can set it up to automatically receive rare bird alerts); Fremont Birding Circle (Facebook) [https://](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1516346665303799/?fref=nf)

[www.facebook.com/groups/1516346665303799/?](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1516346665303799/?fref=nf)

[fref=nf](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1516346665303799/?fref=nf). Ohlone Audubon's field trips are a great way to see birds! Check out our list of field trips at **ohloneaudubon.org** (choose "upcoming events" and "field trips")

Marlin A. Pound Park (North Livermore Neighborhood Park). We will meet at the bridge crossing the Arroyo. Park on either side of the road. Heavy rain cancels. No restrooms are on our route, so you may wish to make a pit stop before arriving at the meeting point.

President's Corner

Fall is well underway and along with all the other big events, there are two that I want to draw attention to.

First are the Audubon Christmas Bird Counts. These annual events are a great way to do some terrific birding and meet your fellow birders. There are two counts focused on the Ohlone area. First is our own **Hayward-Fremont** count. This year it will be held on **Sunday, December 16, 2018**. This is always a great event and we always seem to manage the highest count for some species in the nation. If you want to work the count, contact Phil and Pat Gordon. The second count in the Ohlone area is the **Eastern Alameda County** Christmas Bird Count held on **Friday, December 14, 2018**, in its 10th year. See details for both counts, on this page if you are interested in participating. There are many other counts in our area, check out the Santa Clara, Mount Diablo and Golden Gate chapter websites for more info.



Something else comes in the fall and that is the annual Ohlone Audubon Society fund appeal. Your financial support helps Ohlone in five key areas: protection of birds and their habitat, our monthly programs, the *Kite Call*, science education, and our field trips. Your annual membership in Ohlone helps pay some of the costs of these programs, but we could not participate as significantly in protecting habitat like Tesla or at the Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge, or attract the excellent speakers for our monthly programs without the additional financial support you provide in response to the Ohlone Annual appeal. Please read about the successes we've had and our future plans, and please contribute what you can.

-Bill Hopper



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

HAYWARD FREMONT CBC SUNDAY DECEMBER 16, 2018

Join us for the 119th National Audubon Christmas Bird Count. Please come out again this year and participate in this worthwhile Citizen Science. Last year we found 172 species with 81 participants. Our count area is a 15-mile diameter circle centered at Hwy. 880 and Whipple Rd. in Union City and covers from the hills to the shoreline.

Shorebirds? We have lots! San Francisco Bay in one of the richest wintering grounds for shorebirds along the Pacific Coast. Or maybe you prefer woodland species!

We need your help to be successful once more. Remember, this is Citizen Science of the highest degree. It must be stressed that our success in securing the important, basic scientific accuracy of the count hinges on coverage and consistency (participants - you!). The count benefits from the hard work of our 17 section leaders, participation of each person who carries out the necessary jobs from recording data, returning borrowed keys, helping with the dinner or just being out there! All are welcome and very much needed. We finish the evening with a delicious free dinner and share stories and results. All are welcome and very much needed.

Want to find out more? A **Pre-count meeting** will be held **Sunday, December 2, 2018** at the home of Phil and Pat Gordon, 1922 Hillsdale St., Hayward 7:30PM. **Contact the compilers, Phil and Pat Gordon at pagpeg@aol.com.**

FEEDER COUNTERS NEEDED!

Got a special bird at your feeder? Please count birds at your feeder on Sunday December 16th and submit data to pagpeg@aol.com, with species and numbers seen. Include hours watched. This data is very important also. You can check with us to determine if your feeder is in the count circle.

(Phil & Pat Gordon, pagpeg@aol.com or 510-538-3550)



EASTERN ALAMEDA COUNTY CBC

FRIDAY DECEMBER 14, 2018

You are invited to join the 2018 Eastern Alameda County Christmas Bird Count that will take place on Friday December 14th. This is the tenth year of the **Eastern Alameda County** CBC. Many of you have been on board since the beginning. This CBC count is centered in the Pleasanton area. The EAC-CBC has contributed to the bird population data during the drought, Sierra Nevada forest fire species in flux, and has been a contributor documenting the wintering raptor populations of eastern Alameda County. The CBC has a social component: you'll meet new birders and have a chance to meet your friends during the dinner to catch-up. Jeff Miller always makes the dinner species count review exciting and sometimes humorous, so consider joining us. The post count dinner will be held again at the Pleasanton Callippe Golf course on Happy Valley Rd, Pleasanton. Directions to the dinner will be sent to those who confirm participation. Please consider joining this CBC which OAS co-sponsors. **Contact Jeff Miller at jeff@alamedacreek.org**

Conservation

Tri-Valley Conservancy Working to Connect 44 Mile Regional Trail

Tri-Valley Conservancy (TVC) announced that it had secured funding for construction of a new trail connection to link five parks, from Sycamore Grove Park in Livermore to Mission Peak in Fremont. Replacing the missing link with a single permanent trail connection will create an amazing 44-mile regional trail. Construction of the bridge that will complete this trail connection will begin August 2019. For years, thousands of people using a Sycamore Grove Park trail have been forced to stop at the Arroyo Del Valle, where the current trail ends. Tri-Valley Conservancy wants to resolve this problem by building a permanent bridge across the creek, so that hikers, equestrians, cyclists, strollers, and people with disabilities will have year round access to more of the park. TVC took the first step towards making this trail connection possible

by preserving 74 acres between Sycamore Grove Park and Del Valle Regional Park in 2014. The land was added to Sycamore Grove Park, however permanent safe access for all visitors wasn't an option without a bridge suitable for equestrians, bicyclists, strollers and wheelchairs.

Pumas in Pleasanton

Police and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife cornered a mountain lion spotted in the 3800 block of Hopyard Road in Pleasanton last month. Authorities tracked the animal to some bushes located at 3825 Hopyard Road, near the intersection of Hopyard and West Las Positas Boulevard near the Arroyo Mocho Trail. Police administered four doses of tranquilizer while trying to safely capture the male puma, which is believed to be about 9 months to a year old. Officials said the wayward mountain lion will be released back into the wild.

In other conservation news -

OAS joined with Audubon California in urging Congress to reauthorize the **Magnusen-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act**. This 1976 law governs management of ocean fish in the U.S. federal waters and has served as the nation's road map to sustainably managed fisheries. For more info see <https://www.audubon.org/news/why-law-protects-fish-matters-birds>.

work by fellow Audubon staff, consultants, and external reviewers. It is an interesting read.

San Francisco Bay is an ecologically rich estuary, significant for its large eelgrass beds, spawning areas for Pacific herring, and tens of thousands of wintering waterbirds and other wildlife. Herring is a significant food source for many species of marine wildlife, yet habitats such as eelgrass on which they depend are in decline. Without the eelgrass-herring ecosystem, tens of thousands of wintering and migrating birds would lose a vital energy source, which could jeopardize bird populations across the Pacific Flyway (a major north-south migration route along the Pacific Coast). Many species of waterbirds forage on and in eelgrass beds, including Brant Geese and Surf Scoters, underscoring the value of the eelgrass food web. For details see <http://ca.audubon.org/conservation/eelgrass-herring-and-waterbirds-san-francisco-bay-threats-and-opportunities>.

Audubon California Releases White Paper on "Eelgrass, Herring, and Waterbirds in San Francisco Bay: Threats and Opportunities"



This comprehensive report identifies the greatest threats to eelgrass, herring, and waterbirds in San Francisco Bay—and the opportunities to address them. It also represents two years of hard

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW AND RENEWING OHLONE MEMBERS!



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

Karl Anderson, John and Becky Bradley, Helen Changras, Norma Foss, Grant Gladman, Lenore Hagerty, Joyce Hurt, Joanna Koch, Paula Krauter, Simi Rama, Kathy Robertson, Carol Schneider, James Watt, Paul and Carol Weicker. **Donations:** Norma Foss, Paula Krater, and Carol Schneider

OAS Education Chairperson Needed!

Our current Education Chair, Marty Morrow is retiring and we are in need of a replacement. There will be plenty of help during this transition and a few projects to attend to: *Habitat is Home* poster contest, classroom visits, and evaluating new software for children. We do need your help, even if you can only help on the committee. This is important for our upcoming generations. Contact Marty at **mfmorrow@comcast.net** if you can help us out.

Arrivals and Departures of some of our greater Bay Area Birds

September thru December

(Ever wonder who's leaving for the south and which species will spend the winter with us?)

ARRIVALS			DEPARTURES		
September					
<i>Early</i>	<i>Mid</i>	<i>Late</i>	<i>Early</i>	<i>Mid</i>	<i>Late</i>
Canvasback Pomerine Jaeger** Cedar Waxwing	Gr-winged Teal Ring-necked Duck Dunlin Black-legged Kittiwake Say's Phoebe Ruby-crowned Kinglet American Pipit Fox Sparrow	Horned Grebe Bufflehead Common Goldeneye Mew Gull Herring Gull Varied Thrush White-crwd Sparrow Golden-crwd Sparrow		Olive-sided Flycatcher Western Kingbird Grasshopper Sparrow Bullock's Oriole	Lazuli Bunting Barn Swallow
October					
<i>Early</i>	<i>Mid</i>	<i>Late</i>	<i>Early</i>	<i>Mid</i>	<i>Late</i>
Yellow-rumped Warbler Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Black Scoter "Thayer's" Iceland Gull		Wilson's Phalarope We Wood-Pewee Ash-th Flycatcher Cliff Swallow Blk-hd Grosbeak	Sabine's Gull** Caspian Tern Vaux's Swift Pac-slop Flycatcher Cassin's Vireo Warbling Vireo No R-w Swallow Swainson's Thrush Yellow Warbler Blk-th Gray Warbler Western Tanager Chipping Sparrow	Wilson's Warbler
November					
<i>Early</i>	<i>Mid</i>	<i>Late</i>	<i>Early</i>	<i>Mid</i>	<i>Late</i>
			Buller's Shearwater** Red-necked Phalarope Elegant Tern Common Tern Violet-green Swallow		Lesser Yellowlegs
December					
<i>Early</i>	<i>Mid</i>	<i>Late</i>	<i>Early</i>	<i>Mid</i>	<i>Late</i>
			Parasitic Jaeger** (L. Dec. MTY & ALA).		Red Phalarope**

Adopted from the Web Site for Marin Audubon Society: "Birds: Arrival and Departure Dates" (1 Nov. 2018). Adapted and updated, in part, by Phil E. Gordon (see species noted with double **; used to designate species more likely found in Marin County, than in Alameda County. Added notes (Notes) refine data to other counties
-Phil Gordon

Bird Names

by Bill Hoppes

One of the areas I have always been interested in is how birds get named. Song Sparrow and Black Phoebe are pretty easy, but what about the birds named after people? I learn quite a bit about the history of American ornithology by looking up the people honored by having birds named after them. Below are some of my favorites.

Cooper's Hawk

Cooper's Hawk was first described by French naturalist Charles Lucien Bonaparte in 1828. Bonaparte was born in Paris and raised in Italy. In 1822, he moved his family to Philadelphia. Before leaving Italy, Charles (Carlo) had already discovered a warbler new to science, the Moustached Warbler, and on the voyage to America he collected specimens of a new storm-petrel. On arrival in the United States, he presented a paper on this new bird, which was later named after Alexander Wilson—Wilson's Storm-Petrel.



Bonaparte then set about studying the ornithology of the United States and updating Wilson's American Ornithology. In 1824, Bonaparte tried unsuccessfully to get the then unknown John James Audubon accepted by the Academy of Natural Sciences. Bonaparte named the Cooper's Hawk after naturalist William Cooper, one of the founders of the New York Lyceum of Natural History (later the New York Academy of Sciences) who first collected a specimen in 1828.

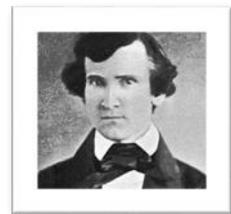
Swainson's Hawk



Swainson's Hawk was named after William Swainson, a British naturalist. In 1806 Swainson accompanied the English explorer Henry Koster to Brazil and returned to England in 1818 in his words with "a bee loaded with honey", and a collection of over 20,000 insects, 1,200 species of plants, drawings of 120 species of fish, and about 760 bird skins. It is for the quality of his illustrations that he is best remembered. Swainson became the first illustrator and naturalist to use lithography, which was a relatively cheap means of reproduction and did not require an engraver. He was honored by several famous ornithologists.

- John James Audubon named Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*)
- Charles Lucien Bonaparte named Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)
- Thomas Nuttall named Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*)

Townsend's Warbler



John Kirk Townsend was born in Philadelphia and trained as a physician and pharmacist. He developed an interest in natural history in general and bird collecting in particular. In 1833, he was invited by botanist Thomas Nuttall to join him on Nathaniel Jarvis Wyeth's second expedition across the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean.

Townsend collected a number of animals new to science. These included birds such as the Mountain Plover, Vaux's Swift, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Black-throated Grey Warbler, Townsend's Warbler and Sage Thrasher, and a number of mammals such as the Douglas Squirrel. On his return, Townsend wrote *The Narrative of a Journey across the Rocky Mountains to the Columbia River* and a *Visit to the Sandwich Islands* (1839).

A number of mammals and birds are named for Townsend. Many of these were described from specimens he collected during his travels including Townsend's Ground Squirrel, Townsend's Chipmunk, Townsend's Mole, Townsend's Vole, Townsend's Big-eared Bat, Whitetail Jackrabbit (*Lepus townsendii*), Townsend's Warbler and Townsend's Solitaire. Townsend died of arsenic poisoning. He had developed a formula used in taxidermy preparations and arsenic was the "secret" ingredient.

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(Continued from page 7)



Nuttall's Woodpecker

Nuttall's Woodpecker was named after naturalist Thomas Nuttall in 1843. Nuttall was an English botanist and zoologist who lived and worked in America from 1808 until 1841. In 1810 he travelled to the Great Lakes and in 1811 he participated on the Astor Expedition up the Missouri River. Although Lewis and Clark had travelled this way previously, many of their specimens had been lost. Therefore, many of the specimens collected by Nuttall on this trip were unknown to science.

From 1818 to 1820 Nuttall travelled along the Arkansas and Red Rivers, returning to Philadelphia and publishing his *Journal of Travels into the Arkansas Territory* during 1819. He was elected an Associate Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1823 and became curator of the botanical gardens at Harvard University. He published his *Manual of the Ornithology of the United States and of Canada* (1832 and 1834). In 1834 he resigned his post and set off west again on an expedition led by Nathaniel Jarvis Wyeth, this time accompanied by the naturalist John Kirk Townsend. They travelled through Kansas, Wyoming and Utah, and then down the Snake River to the Columbia. Nuttall then sailed across the Pacific Ocean to the Hawaiian Islands. He returned in the spring of 1835 and spent the next year botanizing in the Pacific Northwest. On the Pacific coast, Nuttall heard of the ship *Alert* leaving San Diego in May 1836 and bound for Boston. It is here that he encountered Richard Henry Dana Jr., a former student of his at Harvard who had set sail from Boston on a two-year voyage to the California coast at about the same time that Nuttall had begun his expedition. Dana writes in his *Two Years Before the Mast* of his amazement at seeing his old professor "strolling about San Diego beach, in a sailor's pea jacket, with a wide straw hat, and barefooted, with his trousers rolled up to his knees, picking up stones and shells."

The World Register of Marine Species lists 44 marine genera and species named after Nuttall. Various plants and birds were also named after him, including Nuttall's Woodpecker (*Picoides nuttallii*) by his friend William Gambel, and Yellow-billed Magpie (*Pica nuttalli*) and Common Poorwill (*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*) by John James Audubon. He is also commemorated in the Pacific Dogwood (*Cornus nuttallii*), Nuttall's Larkspur (*Delphinium nuttallianum*), Nuttall's Oak (*Quercus texana*), the Catclaw Briar (*Mimosa nuttallii*), Nuttall's Violet (*Viola nuttallii*), Nuttall's Saltbush (*Atriplex nuttallii*), and Nuttall's Rayless Goldenrod (*Bigelovia nuttallii*). The Nuttall Ornithological Club of Cambridge, Massachusetts, is named after him.



Say's Phoebe

Say's Phoebe was named for Thomas Say (1787-1834) an American entomologist, conchologist, and herpetologist. His definitive studies of insects and shells, numerous contributions to scientific journals, and scientific expeditions to Florida, Georgia, the Rocky Mountains, Mexico, and elsewhere made him an internationally known naturalist. Say has been called the father of American descriptive entomology and American conchology. He served as librarian for the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia (ANSP), curator at the American Philosophical Society, and professor of natural history at the University of Pennsylvania. To collect insects, he made numerous expeditions to the frontier.

In 1818, Say accompanied his friend William Maclure, then the ANSP president and father of American geology, and other members of the Academy on a geological expedition to the off-shore islands of Georgia and Florida, then a Spanish colony. In 1819-20, Say joined Major Stephen Harriman Long's exploration to the Rocky Mountains and the tributaries of the Missouri River. Their official account of this expedition included the first descriptions of the Coyote, Swift ffx, Western Kingbird, Band-tailed Pigeon, Rock Wren, Say's Phoebe, Lesser Goldfinch, Lark Sparrow, Lazuli Bunting, Orange-crowned Warbler, Checkered Whiptail Lizard, Collared Lizard, Ground Skink, Western Rat Snake, and Western Ribbon Snake.

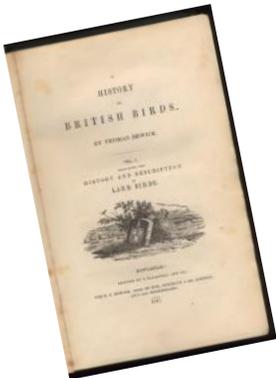
In 1827, Say married Lucy Way Sistare. She was an artist and illustrator of specimens and was elected as the first woman member of the Academy of Natural Sciences. Say described more than 1,000 new species of beetles, more than 400 species of insects of other orders, and seven well-known species of snakes. Other zoologists honored him by naming several taxa after him: (Continued page 9)

(continued from page 8)

- *Calliostoma sayanum* (Dall, 1889) – a sea snail in the family Calliostomatidae
- *Diodora sayi* (Dall, 1899) – a sea snail in the family Fissurellidae
- *Oliva sayana* (Ravenel, 1834) – a sea snail in the family Olividae
- *Sayella* (Dall, 1885) – a genus of sea snails in the family Pyramidellidae
- *Propeamussium sayanum* (Dall, 1886) – a saltwater clam in the family Propeamussiidae
- *Appalachina sayana* (Pilsbry in Pilsbry & Ferriss, 1906) – a land snail in the family Polygyridae
- *Pituophis catenifer sayi* (Schlegel, 1837) – the bullsnake
- *Sayornis* (Bonaparte, 1854) – a genus in the tyrant flycatcher family;

Woodhouse's Scrub– Jay

Samuel Washington Woodhouse was a surgeon-naturalist from Philadelphia who accompanied a U.S. Army survey expedition in the U.S. Southwest in 1849-1851. During the expedition, Woodhouse collected four species new to science, Cassin's Sparrow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-throated Swift, and another bird which became known as Woodhouse's Jay. In 1931, the American Ornithologists' Union decided that Woodhouse's Jay was the same species as the Western Scrub Jay and Woodhouse's Jay was lost. However in 2016, this decision was reversed and Woodhouse's Jay is again considered a separate species and also gained a hyphen in the official name: Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay.



Bewick's Wren

John James Audubon is credited with first describing the Bewick's Wren, collected in 1821. He named the Bewick's Wren after his friend Thomas Bewick, an English engraver and natural historian. Thomas Bewick is best known for his *A History of British Birds*, published in two volumes: *History and Description of Land Birds* in 1797 and *History and Description of Water Birds* in 1804. The book is considered the forerunner of all modern field guides.

Lincoln's Sparrow

This bird was named by Audubon after his friend, Thomas Lincoln of Maine. In 1833-4, Audubon made an expedition to the coast of Labrador when he was working on his huge project, painting every bird known in North America. Lincoln shot the bird on a trip with Audubon to Nova Scotia and Labrador in 1834, and Audubon named it "Tom's Finch" in his honor. He took along Thomas Lincoln, the 21-year-old son of a friend. Audubon wrote about the discovery of the sparrow in his *Birds of America*:

But if the view of this favoured spot was pleasing to my eye, how much more to my ear were the sweet notes of this bird as they came thrilling on the sense, surpassing in vigour those of any American Finch with which I was acquainted, and forming a song which seemed a compound of those of the Canary and Wood-lark of Europe. I immediately shouted to my companions, who were not far distant. They came, and we all followed the songster as it flitted from one bush to another to evade our pursuit. No sooner would it alight than it renewed its song, but we found more wildness in this species than in any other inhabiting the same country, and it was with difficulty that we at last procured it. Chance placed my young companion, Thomas Lincoln, in a situation where he saw it alight within shot, and with his usually unerring aim, he cut short its career. On seizing it, I found it to be a species which I had not previously seen; and, supposing it to be new, I named it Tom's Finch, in honour of our friend Lincoln, who was a great favourite among us. Three cheers were given him, when, proud of the prize, I returned to the vessel to draw it, while my son and his companions continued to search for other specimens. Many were procured during our stay in that country.



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