



# 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

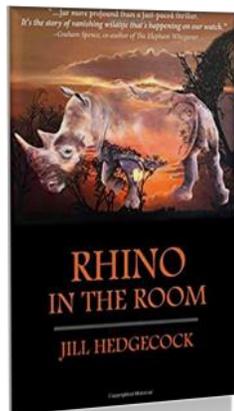
- Feb 23 FIELD TRIP**  
Redwood Reg Park  
Oakland
- Mar 3 FIELD TRIP**  
Quarry Lakes,  
Fremont
- Mar 5 GENERAL MEETING**  
Livermore
- Mar 6 FIELD TRIP**  
Raptor Chase  
Livermore
- Mar 9 FIELD TRIP**  
Lake Solano
- Mar 24 FIELD TRIP**  
Don Edwards NWR-  
Alviso
- Mar 30 FIELD TRIP**  
Mt. View Cemetery,  
Oakland
- Mar 31 FIELD TRIP**  
**Beg Birders by Ear**  
Garin Reg Park
- Apr 2 GENERAL MEETING**  
Castro Valley
- Apr 6 FIELD TRIP**  
Del Valle Reg Park  
Livermore
- June 22-23 FIELD TRIP**  
Lassen NP  
(reservations needed))

### Membership Meetings

#### Birds and Rhinoceros Poaching in South Africa and Botswana

**Jill Hedgecock**

**Date:** March 5, 2019  
**Time:** 7:30 PM  
**Location:** Robert Livermore  
Community Center, 4444 East Avenue,  
Livermore CA 94550  
*Meeting room: Palo Verde*



**Birds and  
Rhinoceros  
Poaching: The  
Best and Worst  
of South Africa  
and Botswana**

South Africa and Botswana are home to 829 and 550 bird species, respectively. As amazing as Africa's abundant wildlife is, in 2015, a new record was set for the largest number of rhinoceros poached, fueled by the demand for their horns in Asian markets as an ingredient for traditional medicine. An ounce of rhinoceros horn, made up of essentially the same material as our fingernails, keratin, is considered more valuable than gold. A single rhinoceros horn can sell for a half-million dollars. If the rate of poaching in 2015 is not curtailed,  
*(continued on page 2)*

#### Avian Olfaction:

#### The road less travelled

**Gabrielle Nevitt**



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

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

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



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**March Program** (continued)

wild rhinoceros could become extinct within the next few decades. Recently, rhinoceros poaching numbers have been decreasing and is the reason that there is still hope for this species.

**Jill Hedgecock** will present the myriad solutions that are being considered to address the rhinoceros poaching problem as well as pictures of Africa's colorful birds; for example, the shimmering blue starlings, multi-colored lilac rollers, vibrant bee-eaters, and the Big Five: rhino, elephant, buffalo, lion and leopard, as well as the Ugly Five.

Jill has long-standing roots with the Mount Diablo Audubon Society, serving as the International

Conservation Coordinator in the early 1990s and a long-term leader of the Black Diamond Mine Christmas Count Circle. She has a Master's Degree in Environmental Management from the University of San Francisco.

Jill's recently published novel: ***Rhino in the Room***, will be available for purchase and signing. A portion of the book sales will go towards rhinoceros conservation and educational organizations: International Rhino Foundation and Rhino Record.

**Directions:** From Hwy 580 in Livermore, Exit First Street / Springtown Blvd., RIGHT to 1st 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.

**April Program** (continued)

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

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

**Directions:** Castro Valley Adult School: multipurpose room/gym <http://www.cvadult.org/contact/map-and-directions>

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

The multipurpose room is downstairs to the right.

# Field Trips



**Redwood Regional Park, Oakland**  
**Saturday, February 23, 8:15-11:15 AM**  
**Leader: Jerry Ting**  
**[fieldtrips@ohloneaudubon.org](mailto:fieldtrips@ohloneaudubon.org)**

We are going to bird around the meadow area and along the stream on both sides. Pacific Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Varied Thrush, Hairy Woodpecker and Brown Creeper are species on the watch list.

**Directions:** From I-580 W, follow signs for Oakland/San Francisco. Keep right at the fork to continue on CA-13N/ Warren Fwy, following signs for Berkley. Take exit 1 for Carson St toward Redwood Rd. Follow Redwood Rd for about 3.2 miles. Turn left at the sign for the Park. Meet at the Canyon Meadow Staging Area parking lot (end of park entrance road) at 8:15am. A \$5 entrance fee will be collected at the kiosk if you are not an EBRPD member.

**Field Trips continued on page 3**

**Field Trips (continued)**

**Quarry Lakes Regional Rec Area, Fremont  
Sunday, March 3, 8:30-11:30 AM  
Leaders: Jerry Ting & Stephanie Floyd  
fieldtrips@ohloneaudubon.org**

Join us at Quarry Lakes in Fremont to explore the lakes and marsh for wintering waterfowl. Pelicans, grebes, ospreys, loons, ducks, cormorants, and sometimes rare gulls are found at the lakes, while the trees hold woodpeckers, kinglets, Yellow-Rumped Warblers and more. Bald Eagles moved in in Fall 2015, and it's not unusual to see Peregrine Falcons and Merlins. We'll be on the lookout for early spring arrivals. Be prepared to walk about 2 1/2 miles on flat, gravel paths. Scopes are helpful. Parking fee \$5 unless you have an EB Parks annual pass. Heavy rain cancels. Pre-registration is not required, and all are welcome.

**Directions:** Exit I-880 at Decoto Road and go northeast (away from the bay, towards the hills). Turn right on Paseo Padre Parkway, then left on Isherwood Way. Continue on Isherwood past the Isherwood staging area through several stop signs to reach the main park entrance on your right, on Quarry Lakes Drive. From Mission Blvd., take Nursery Avenue to Niles Blvd. and go west (away from downtown Niles). Turn left on Osprey Drive, then left on Quarry Lakes Drive. After entering the park at the kiosk, follow the sign to head left and park by the swim beach to meet the group.

**Livermore to Mountain House Raptor Chase  
Wednesday, March 6, 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM  
Leader: Rich Cimino  
fieldtrips@ohloneaudubon.org**

**ADDED TRIP!!!!!!!!!!!!**

We'll bird from Springtown Preserve area to South Vasco Rd., plus local hot spots, searching for raptors, Burrowing Owls, Mountain Bluebirds and other winter residents. Bring lunch or a snack, and water. Meet at 9:30AM at Starbucks in Livermore.

**Directions:** Starbucks is located in Lucky's Market on North Livermore Ave and Portola Ave. Take I-580 E to exit 52- N. Livermore Ave. and turn right onto N. Livermore Ave. Go about a half mile and turn right into Lucky's.

**LASSEN WEEKEND TRIP JUNE 22-23, 2019**  
**Limited to 20 participants. To be put on the list email Phil and Pat Gordon at pagpeg@aol.com.**

**Lake Solano County Park  
Saturday, March 9, 9:00 AM -late lunch  
Leaders: Phil and Pat Gordon,  
pagpeg@aol.com**

Lake Solano lies along Putah Creek below Lake Berryessa and the town of Winters. We expect to get good looks at wintering waterfowl - the "hoodies and woodies", golden-eyes, and ring-necked ducks. Bald Eagle and Osprey are often seen. We will check the park's trees for resident Phainopeplas, Lewis's Woodpeckers and others, and we can expect to see wintering raptors. Dress warmly and bring snacks, water, and a spotting scope if you have one. After a great morning of birding, join us for lunch at the Putah Creek Café!

**Directions:** The scenic route from the bay area, with good birding along the way, is to take I-80 east and between Fairfield and Vacaville exit at Lagoon Valley Road toward Cherry Glen Rd. Go north on Cherry Glen Rd. which soon becomes Pleasants Valley Rd. and takes you right to the park. If you prefer to stay on the freeway, take I-80 east to Vacaville and exit onto I-505 north. Take the exit for Highway 128/Winters. Turn left on Highway 128 and drive through Winters. Turn left onto Pleasants Valley Road to reach the park. Parking fee \$5. Drive time is a short 2 hours.

**Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge - Alviso  
Sunday, March 24, 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM  
Leader: Vicki Robinson & Rich Nicholson  
fieldtrips@ohloneaudubon.org**

**NOTE DATE CHANGE!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Part of the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay Wildlife Refuge complex, the Environmental Education Center in Alviso is the gateway to salt ponds that in winter fill with waterfowl and shorebirds. Commonly seen are avocets, stilts, egrets, pelicans, cormorants, and wintering ducks along Coyote Creek, but rarities also turn up here, such as Ruff and Black Tern. We could find a Burrowing Owl in the nearby fields or a Peregrine Falcon on a power tower. If time allows, we'll also visit the marshland and salt ponds of Alviso Marina County Park. We'll walk a few miles on boardwalks and flat, paved and unpaved levee paths. It can be cold and windy. Heavy rain cancels. Pre-registration is not required, and all are welcome.

**Directions:** To reach the EEC, exit I-880 south at CA-237 and go west towards Mountain View. Take the Zanker Road exit and keep right at the fork, following signs for Waste Disposal Facility. Turn right onto Zanker Road. Continue onto Los Esteros Road.

*More trips on page 4*

## Field Trips (continued)

**Mountain View Cemetery, Oakland**  
**Saturday, March 30, 8:00 AM– 11:00 AM**  
**Leaders: Stephanie Floyd and Phil Georgakakos**  
**fieldtrips@ohloneaudubon.org**

We will walk uphill scanning the ponds for ducks, grebes, and roosting herons, and the banks for sparrows. After the ponds, we will head towards the ridge top, looking for finches and other songbirds. From there we will walk back down under the oaks looking for woodpeckers and birds perching on tombstones, and end where we started. The route should take between 2 and 3 hours depending on our pace. Walk difficulty: moderate 2-3 miles on mostly paved roads, but with some elevation change, and dirt trail/ grass walking throughout. Rain cancels. All are welcome; no fee and no pre-registration required.

**Directions:** Mountain View Cemetery is at the NE end of Piedmont Ave. in Oakland. After passing under the gate, continue to the roundabout, and take the 1st exit, which leads just right of the main drive adjacent to a large grass patch. Park here on the road behind the large building. We will meet on the grass patch.

**Birding by Ear for Beginners -**  
**Garin Regional Park**  
**Sunday, March 31, 9:00 - 11:00 AM**  
**Leaders: Bill Scoggins**  
**bill.Scoggins@yahoo.com, (510-581-5186) and Maggie Clark**



Join us for an exploration into the audible world of the stream, woods, pond, and marsh of Garin Regional Park. Bring your "inside voice" and practice listening with us for the song of harder-to-see birds like Common Yellowthroat, for the buzz of newly-arrived Allen's and Rufous Hummingbirds, and for the distinctive melody of spring's Bullock's Orioles. Review the calls of old friends like Marsh Wren, Song Sparrow, American Coot and Mallard. One familiar sound is the buzz of the mosquito - bring your insect repellent as well as sunblock. Heavy rain cancels. Pre-registration is not required, and all are welcome.

**Directions:** From I-880, go east on Tennyson or Industrial Parkway to Mission Blvd. in Hayward. Go south on Mission and turn left on Garin Ave. Go east up into the hills to reach the park. \$5 parking fee if kiosk is manned.

**Del Valle SRA**  
**Saturday, April 6, 8:30 AM - noon**  
**Leader: Steve Huckabone**  
**fieldtrips@ohloneaudubon.org**  
**NOTE DATE CHANGE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

We will take a ~3 mile route looking for seasonal and resident birds including sparrows, Purple Finches, Merlins, eagles and Phainopeplas. Warning: the hike involves some steep, potentially muddy terrain so would be considered strenuous by most birders. Bring walking sticks if you like. Restrooms and water are available at the north end of the lake (turn right after the entry kiosk.) Heavy rain cancels. Pre-registration is not required, and all are welcome. Meet at the parking lot at the west end of the bridge at the south end of the lake (straight ahead after the entry kiosk.)

**Directions:** To reach the park, exit I-580 in Livermore at North Livermore Avenue. Head south and proceed through town. North Livermore Avenue will become south Livermore Avenue. About 1.5 miles outside town, turn right at Mines Road, go about 3.5 miles and continue straight onto Del Valle Road (Mines Road turns left) to the park entrance (\$6 fee unless you have an EB Parks annual pass).

## BIRDING OBSERVATIONS

Winter 2019  
 By Stephanie Floyd

At the end of 2018, Sharon Jue led a field trip to Brushy Peak Regional Park where they saw 6 **Golden Eagles**, a **Prairie Falcon**, and 2 **Ferruginous Hawks** just to name a few! As we moved into 2019, wet, windy and wild weather set in and created some challenging birding conditions, but the weather was fine for our annual New Year's Day field trip to Arrowhead Marsh where we saw **Ridgway's Rails** and **Soras**, thousands of scaups and other winter ducks. **Eurasian Wigeons** were seen here and there throughout the month. Winter sparrows, including an elusive, rare, golden-orange **Nelson's Sparrow** were also seen at Arrowhead by patient birders during January along with hard-to-see **Virginia Rails**. A bright red **Summer Tanager** lured birders to the trails at Claremont Canyon Regional Park. Out in eastern Alameda County, lucky birders saw a **Rough-Legged Hawk** on Midway Road where one has often been seen this time of year in the past. A large flock of **Mountain Bluebirds** put on a show at Cedar Mountain Winery in the foothills of the Altamont. At our annual field trip to Shadow Cliffs, we saw a mated pair of **Bald Eagles** at their nest, an **Osprey**, **Great-Tailed Grackles**, **Hooded Mergansers**...about 50 species in all. And next thing we know it'll be spring...

# Conservation

## Altamont Open Space Advisory Committee considers land protection targets

The Altamont Open Space Advisory Committee had scheduled a retreat in February in which they planned to establish criteria to highlight properties where good conservation opportunities exist. Funds for acquisition of open space lands in eastern Alameda County are available as part of a legal settlement in connection with expansion of the Altamont Landfill.

The Committee, composed of representatives from Alameda County, the City of Livermore, the City of Pleasanton, and the Sierra Club, decides which properties receive funding. According to the settlement, biological diversity and habitat are the top focus for areas to be acquired, followed by scenic views and recreation.

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

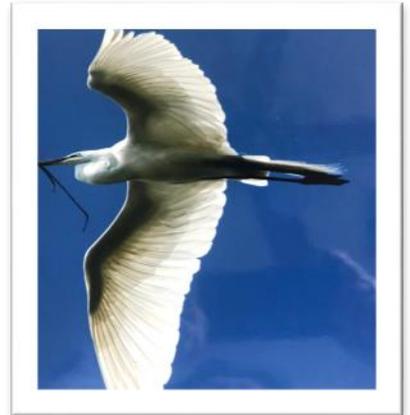


*Ohlone sends a warm welcome and thank you to the following new and renewing chapter members:*

Vinnie Bacon, Bob Battagin, Peter Beirsdorfer, Beatrice Bolesworth, Forrest Bottomley, Patricia Ann Brennan, Marie Brower, Thomas Browne, Carol Castro, Malca Chall, Juli Chamberlin, LaVonne Coleman, Maggie Clark, Susie Claxton, Marilyn Davis, East Bay Nature, Don & Margaret Emery, Raymond Fontaine, Jeff & Carol Garberson, Christina Garcia, Grant Gladman, Helen Hancock, Mary Ann Hannon, Philip Hirschberg, Bill & Tanya Hoppes, Ted Iijima, Irene Jones, Karen Kenney, Joseph & Angie Kilzer, Joanna Koch, Donna Krehbiel, Maurice Krumrey, Craig Lanway, Joan Lewis, Sherman & Alison Lewis, Audrey LePell, Sherry Mattson, Michael McDonnell, John Mena, Mary Lou E. Morris, Marty Morrow, Hans & Alvera Mortensen, Wendy Naruo, Phuc Nguyen, Rich Nicholson, Hank & Julie O'Brien, Kathy O'Sullivan, Wendy Parfrey, Hans Peeters, Ana Penny, Donald Person, Laurel & William Quirk, Tamara Reus, Pam Reuling, Margaret Ryan, Pam Ryan, Linda Sandifur, Shawna Sorenson, Susan Stanton, Jerry & Judy Steenhoven, Robert Sygiel, David Thomas, Lawrence Thompson, Diane & Irv Tiessen, Bob Toleno, Jo Wang, Joyce Wilson, Debbie Wong, Marge E. Wood

## 2018-2019 Appeal

*We thank the following for their continued and much appreciated support:*



Snowy Egret (S. Ferreira)

*Vinnie Bacon  
Peter Beirsdorfer  
Forrest Bottomley  
Patricia Ann Brennan  
Thomas Browne  
Carol Castro  
Malca Chall  
Juli Chamberlin  
LaVonne Coleman  
Maggie Clark  
Susie Claxton  
East Bay Nature  
Don & Margaret Emery  
Lynn Feindel  
Sandy Ferreira  
Christina Garcia  
Helen Hancock  
Mary Ann Hannon  
Erica Herron  
Philip Hirschberg  
Bill & Tanya Hoppes  
Ted Iijima  
Irene Jones  
Michael Karpinko,  
Esther Eve Keller  
Karen Kenney  
Donna Krehbiel  
Maurice Krumrey  
Craig Lanway  
Joan Lewis  
Sherman & Alison Lewis  
Sherry Mattson*

*Nancy Mendoza  
Lois Moore  
Marty Morrow  
Hans & Alvera Mortensen  
Wendy Naruo  
Phuc Nguyen  
Rich Nicholson  
Hank & Julie O'Brien  
Ana Penny  
Donald Person  
Laurel & William Quirk  
Tamara Reus  
Kathy Robertson  
Pam Reuling  
Margaret Ryan  
Shawna Sorenson  
Mary Steel  
Jerry & Judy Steenhoven  
David Thomas  
Lawrence Thompson  
Diane & Irv Tiessen  
Jo Wang  
Julice A. Winter  
Debbie Wong  
Marge E. Wood*

*And to Tri-city Ecology Center for their donation to Shinn Park*

*And to Jean King in memory of George Bing*

*The Ohlone Board of Directors wishes to thank each of you for your generous donation and hopes to meet each of you one day at a meeting or a field trip and personally thank you!*



# President's Corner

## A sad tale

I do bird banding twice a month for SFBBO (San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory) down near Milpitas. One morning, I spotted a Red-tailed Hawk standing on the side of the access road when I was heading out to the nets. That was not too unusual. What was strange was that when I got close to him he didn't fly off. We watched him for awhile and realized that he was not well. It had rained the night before, so we thought he might just be cold and stressed. One of our team bundled him up and took him to the Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley. The next day we learned that he had a severe case of avian pox and had to be euthanized because he had a poor chance of recovery and the risk of infecting other birds at the shelter. It is not unusual for us to see birds we net infected with Avian Pox.



What is Avian Pox? Avian Pox is a viral disease of birds caused by a member of the pox virus family. It is a widespread disease that is found in a large number of bird families and is naturally occurring in North America. There are different strains, and most are species specific. However, strains have been known to cross family groups and infect new individuals. To date, there is no evidence that Avian Pox can infect humans. Avian Pox is a slow-developing disease that generally causes mild to moderate skin lesions (no I am not going to show you icky pictures, you can find enough on the internet) and rarely causes death directly, but does have a debilitating effect on the birds. These lesions mostly occur on the featherless regions on the face, legs and feet. However, when Avian Pox affects the mucous membranes in the oral cavity or respiratory tract, respiration can be impaired and results in death.

Transmission of the Avian Pox virus occurs only when active virus particles enter the body of a bird through a breach in the skin. The most common form of transmission is via biting insects after they have fed on an infected bird and then bite a susceptible individual. Where we come into play is through the second most common means of transmission and that is through direct contact with contaminated objects such as bird feeders, perches, and nesting material. Avian Pox virus is very resistant to environmental degradation and can survive for years on dry surfaces like the perches of our bird feeders. Unclean feeder perches can also spread house finch eye disease (the colloquial name for mycoplasmal conjunctivitis, which can infect more than just the finches), salmonellosis (caused by salmonella bacteria), and aspergillosis (a fungal respiratory disease).

So, if you have feeders, do your part to prevent the spread of Avian Pox and other bird diseases. The Audubon Society recommends the following steps.

1. Clean feeders regularly. Rinse the feeder well with soapy water, then dunk it into a 1:9 bleach-water solution every month. A diluted vinegar solution (three-to-one) or non-fragranced biodegradable soap should be used on wood to minimize fading. Dry out the feeder before hanging it back up.
2. Clean below the feeder. This can mean raking or shoveling up feces and hulls (seed casings)—particularly those that are moldy, wet, or spoiled—and throwing them out. Bird food scattered on the ground also can attract rodents.
3. Spread the seed around. Spread out food among a couple feeders so there's less opportunity for sick birds to touch and contaminate each other. Crowding only expedites the spread of disease.

**-Bill Hoppes**

**Photos from southern SJ Valley refuge and Panoche Valley OAS trip 2/2 -2/3/19 (photos by Andrey Semyonov)**



**Horned Lark**



**Mountain Bluebird**



**Cassin's Kingbird**



**Yellow-billed Magpie**



**Many rainbows !**



## 2018 Christmas Bird Count Highlights

91 strong in participants and a new high of **177 species!** We also had two additional birds added for Count Week, a Short-eared Owl and Red Phalarope, that remained elusive on count day. This most successful Hayward-Fremont CBC took place on Sunday December 16, 2018. Weather was okay in the morning, but turned to heavy showers by the afternoon, with many of us surrendering at 3:30 or so!

We thank each and everyone of you who helped out – from our hard-working section leaders, drivers, spotters, recorders, to Jackie and Allen Bertillion who arranged a delicious dinner, and the Dr. Joyce Blueford at the Math-Science Nucleus, who provided us a warm and dry place to gather. We also thank the agencies for access, including East Bay Regional Park District, the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR, and the California Fish and Wildlife Service. We also happily encourage those who brought young birders along – Ethan Monk with Ted Robertson, Thomas Butler with the Bradleys, Erika Constanza with her Brownies with ranger Sandy Ferreira at Lake Elizabeth, and the Tennyson High School Outdoor Club with Phil Gordon. Big thanks also go to our feeder counters – John Cant and Ann Krysiak (who found our only **Pines Siskins** this year). Special thanks also to Bill Chen who spent his day at Gomes Park watching for the stake out **Swamp Sparrows** and our superb owl, Paul Smith!

Some highlights, besides those mentioned above, included sightings of at least 3 **White-faced Ibis**, singletons of **Blue-winged Teal**, **Ross' Goose**, **Virginia Rail**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, **Glaucous Gull**, **Lapland Longspur**, **White-breasted Nuthatch**, **Orange-crowned Warbler** and a **Hooded Oriole** at Tennyson

High School. Three **Ferruginous Hawks** were found this year along with 11 **Golden Eagles** (details of ages really appreciated!). Continuing on a decline, only one **Ring-necked Pheasant** was found in Area 11. Nice finds also included four **American Bitterns** at Coyote Hills. As possible evidence of our changing climate and migrant patterns, two **Caspian Terns** and six **Barn Swallows** were also noted.

While the species count is important, this is a census. As a testament to our San Francisco Bay being the richest wintering shorebird habitat on the west coast, the Eden Landing Preserve, south of the Hayward-San Mateo Bridge, accounted for 52% of our total of 128,630 individuals found. It should be noted that our “bay” duck numbers were down, including rafts of scoters being absent (weather related?), while inland duck numbers of **American Widgeon**, **Bufflehead**, **Northern Shovelers** and **Ruddy Ducks** remained strong. Shorebird numbers were good including over 6100 **American Avocets**, 3200 plus **Black-bellied Plovers**, almost 7500 **Least Sandpipers**, and an overwhelming number of **Western Sandpipers** – 22, 131 and Dunlin – 22,251. We even totaled 233 **Snowy Plovers**, including a banded one.

We thank these sections leaders: Ned Lyke, Paul Smith, Debbi Brusco, Jerry Steenhoven, Sandy Ferreira, Kathy Robertson, Vicki Robinson, Cathy Loewen, Mike Christopherson, John and Becky Bradley, Rich Nicholson, Maggie Clark, Steve Huckabone, Ted Robertson, Pat and Phil Gordon, Forrest Bottomley, Marty Morrow, Bill Scoggins, Allen and Jackie Bertillion and all those who helped them.

For a complete listing, contact us at [papeg@aol.com](mailto:papeg@aol.com).  
Phil and Pat Gordon, compilers



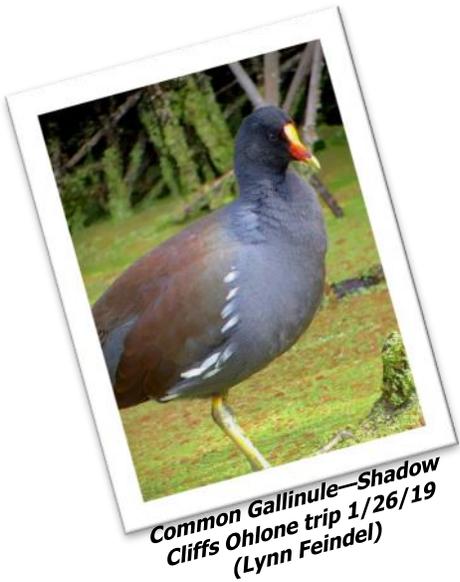
*Some great shots from CBC 2019: Redhead & Swamp Sparrow (Bill Chen); Peregrine Falcon & Aleutian Geese (Sandy Ferreira); Glaucous Gull (Jason Tanner) found by Jerry Ting on count day.*

## Arrivals and Departures of some of our greater Bay Area Birds

### September thru December

(Ever wonder who's leaving for the north and which species will spend the summer with us or just passing through?)

ARRIVALS			DEPARTURES		
<b>February</b>					
<i>Early</i>	<i>Mid</i>	<i>Late</i>	<i>Early</i>	<i>Mid</i>	<i>Late</i>
Allan's Hummingbird	Violet-green Swallow	Cassin's Kingbird		Heermann's Gull	
<b>March</b>					
<i>Early</i>	<i>Mid</i>	<i>Late</i>	<i>Early</i>	<i>Mid</i>	<i>Late</i>
Rufous Hummingbird Barn Swallow Cliff Swallow	No. Rough-winged Swallow Bullock's Oriole	Pac-slope Flycatcher Wilson's Warbler Flammulated Owl		Ruby-crwd Kinglet	Yellow-rmpd Warbler Townsend's Warbler Golden-cr Sparrow
<b>April</b>					
<i>Early</i>	<i>Mid</i>	<i>Late</i>	<i>Early</i>	<i>Mid</i>	<i>Late</i>
Warbling Vireo Caspian Tern Hooded Oriole	Vaux's Swift Ash-th Flycatcher Western Kingbird Cassin's Vireo Swainson's Thrush Yellow Warbler Blk-th Gray Warbler Western Tanager Chipping Sparrow Blk-headed Grosbeak Lawrence's Goldfinch	Sabine's Gull Olive-sd Flycatcher We Wood-Pewee Lazuli Bunting Grasshopper Sparrow	White-cr Sparrow Red-br Merganser	Bufflehead Say's Phoebe Osprey Sharp-sh Hawk American Pipit	American Widgeon Black Scoter Iceland Gull Fox Sparrow Cooper's Hawk Norther Harrier
<b>May</b>					
<i>Early</i>	<i>Mid</i>	<i>Late</i>	<i>Early</i>	<i>Mid</i>	<i>Late</i>
			Northern Fulmar Gr-winged Teal Canvasback Ringed-nk Duck Com Goldeneye Greater Yellowlegs Blk-belled Plover Long-billed Curlew Red Knot Least Sandpiper Wilson's Snipe Mew Gull Varied Thrush Lincoln's Sparrow Grasshopper Sp	Horned Grebe Red-necked Grebe Eared Grebe American Wh Pelican Semi-palmd Plover Wandering Tattler Spotted Sandpiper Ruddy Turnstone Black Turnstone Surfbird Western Sandpiper Dunlin SB Dowitcher LB Dowitcher Blk-legged Kittiwake Sora Rufous Hummingbird Cedar Waxwing	Brant Northern Shoveler Pomarine Jaeger Bonaparte's Gull Sabine's Gull Ruby-cr Kinglet



## Is that a Golden or a Bald Eagle? The problem

By Bill Hoppes

Everyone gets excited when they spot an eagle while out birding. Throughout the US, you really have only two choices, a Bald or a Golden Eagle. Identifying the adult Bald Eagle is a snap, the white head and tail are dead giveaways. However it takes five years for a Bald Eagle to get this full adult plumage. Prior to that age, the immature Bald Eagle plumage is a mixture of brown and white feathers that can look a lot like a Golden Eagle. In places like the central valley wildlife refuges, and even Del Valle Regional Park where Golden and Bald Eagle co-occur, you need to take some time and make sure which species you are seeing. Following are some field marks that can help you.

First question, Is it an eagle?

The first question you need to answer is whether you are looking at an eagle or something else. There are lots of soaring birds out there, hawks, eagles and vultures. Turkey Vulture is the first one to eliminate. Turkey Vultures are large, dark birds with long wings. The black body contrasts with the gray flight feathers and tail. The head is small and red, which you can sometimes see. Best for me is that the vulture holds its wings in a dihedral shape like a Northern Harrier and when it flies, it rocks back and forth. With Turkey Vulture eliminated you need to determine whether it is a buteo (soaring hawk) or an eagle.



***Turkey vulture in flight. Note black and gray coloring, wide separation of primaries and raised (dihedral) wings. They usually rock back and forth when in flight.***

The first thing I notice is that eagles are "BIG" compared to hawks. Bald and Golden Eagles range in size from 7-15 lbs with a wingspan up to 7.5 ft. Red-tailed Hawks, by comparison, weigh about 2.5 lbs with a wingspan up to 5 ft. So if your first thought, after you decide that what you are looking at isn't a Turkey Vulture, is "Wow that's a big bird!" You may be looking at an eagle. The next thing I look at are the primaries. When I look at soaring eagles, the primaries seem more spread apart, in this case similar to Turkey Vultures than hawks. This may not always work, but I have found it useful. So large bird, large wingspan, separated primaries, not a Turkey Vulture. We have an eagle.

Adult Bald Eagles are easy so I'm not going to discuss them any further. The comparisons we need to be able to make are between the adult Golden Eagle and the immature Bald Eagle and between the immature Golden Eagle and the immature Bald Eagle.



***Golden Eagle left, Swainson's Hawk center, and Ferruginous Hawk right. Note how the primaries on the hawks seem more compressed than the eagle.***

### Adult golden eagle characteristics

Adult Golden Eagles are large brown birds with no large areas of white. Adults can show white in the underwing linings in spring and summer due to the loss of individual feathers of the underwing coverts during molt. The top of the head and the nape of the neck have tawny or bronzed feathers. This can be hard to see, but if you are patient, a soaring bird will eventually turn so the sun hits it right and you will see these "bronzed" feathers.



***The bronzed feathers on the back of the neck of an adult Golden Eagle***

*(Continued from page 9)*

**Immature Golden Eagle characteristics**

Immature Golden Eagles are dark brown, with white patches at the base of the primaries in the wing and at the base of the tail. They also have the bronzed feathers on the nape of the neck. As the bird ages and gets adult plumage, the white changes to dark brown. Aging immature Golden Eagles is difficult and all you can basically say is that the bird is an immature, not how old it is.



**Adult Golden Eagle left and immature on the right.**

**Note the white patch underneath each wing and the mostly white tail feathers on the young bird**



**Immature Bald Eagle Characteristics**

Immature Bald Eagles are where things get complicated. They take five years to reach the full adult plumage that we know so well. Prior to that that, their plumage is a mix of brown and white. This is when birders can mistake them for adult and especially immature Golden Eagles.

Immature Bald Eagles have mostly dark head and tails, their brown wings and bodies are mottled with white in varying amounts. The immature Golden has distinct white patches at the base of the primaries and at the base of the tail.



**Plumage patterns of immature to adult Bald Eagle**



**Immature Golden (left) and Bald (right) eagles. Note the distinct areas of white at the base of the primaries and at the tail in the Golden Eagle and of dark and white mottled pattern of the Bald Eagle**

So this shouldn't be too hard. First, ID that you have an eagle, then it should be easy for adult Bald Eagle. If the eagle is dark with no extensive white patches or mottling, you have an adult Golden Eagle. Whether the bird has distinct white patches at the base of the tail and base of the primaries or is mottled white all over should help you ID whether it is an immature Bald or Golden Eagle. Regardless if whether you can tell them apart, it's an EAGLE!!!!

# Announcements

## DON'T FORGET!

The next GBC is  
**February 15-19, 2019**  
[BirdCount.org](http://BirdCount.org)

Go to the website [gbbc.birdcount.org](http://gbbc.birdcount.org) for information needed to participate. Included are instructions, a video, checklists, and much more!



### ALAMEDA CREEK ALLIANCE

The Alameda Creek Alliance hosts habitat stewardship workdays for volunteers on the third Saturday of each month this winter and spring. Much of our work revolves around trash pick-up and invasive plant removal at our adopted site along Alameda Creek in Niles.

We'll also have some special events around the watershed, including this February 16th when we'll co-host an invasive plant training program at the Nature Education Center in Fremont. You can find more information about each event and register on ACA's [Eventbrite page](#).

Upcoming ACA stewardship workdays include:

- February 16<sup>th</sup>, 10 am – 12 pm: **Special Invasive Plant Training for Volunteers**, Nature Education Center, Central Park, Fremont

- March 16<sup>th</sup>, 10 am – 12 pm: Alameda Creek/Niles Habitat Stewardship, Niles Staging Area, Fremont
- April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2 pm – 4 pm: Alameda Creek/Niles Habitat Stewardship, Niles Staging Area, Fremont. **Special Plant Mapping and Monitoring**
- May 18<sup>th</sup>, 10 am – 12 pm: Alameda Creek/Niles Habitat Stewardship, Niles Staging Area, Fremont

Other habitat stewardship opportunities in the Alameda Creek watershed include 1st and 3rd Saturdays with Living Arroyos in Livermore, and ongoing habitat restoration days on Sabrecat Creek in Fremont.

Your participation helps keep our creeks and watersheds healthy for everyone to enjoy and appreciate!



### Sunol Wildflower Festival

SUNOL Reg Park - The hills are bursting with colors, as we celebrate the season. Hikes throughout the park get people into the blooms, while games, crafts, and activities offer something for everyone on the valley floor.

Carpooling encouraged. Offsite parking with shuttle will be provided.

No registration, drop-in, for info: (510) 544-3249

#### PLEASE CONSIDER AN ELECTRONIC KITE CALL!

We are urging members to switch over to an electronically issued *Kite Call* (but you don't have to!)

The benefits are a cost savings to our chapter, in both printing costs and postage. Other benefits include getting it quicker and it is **much more colorful!!!!!!**

**GO GREEN!**



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



Is it time to renew?

Look at your mailing label - it will tell you. For example: "Pd Thru 3/19" indicates that you are paid thru MARCH 2019. A **"RENEW?"** indicates that this is your last Kite Call! **If you receive your Kite Call electronically**, look for a reminder in your email box.

If you see a **"JOIN LOCAL?"** on your label this indicates that you have joined the National Audubon Society, but alas, **not** your local **Ohlone chapter**. **We would love to have you join us!**

To **renew** or **join** us please send a \$25 check to Pat Gordon, Membership Chair, 1922 Hillsdale Street, Hayward, CA 94541-5428. Thank you!

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



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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.**