



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

- May 19 FIELD TRIP**
Devil's Slide
- May 23 FIELD TRIP**
Lake Chabot
- May 30 FIELD TRIP**
Niles' Hot Spots
- June 3 FIELD TRIP**
Hayward Shoreline
- June 5 GENERAL MEETING**
Pleasanton
- June 9 FIELD TRIP**
Tule Ponds, Fremont
- NO MEETINGS IN JULY/AUGUST**

Membership Meeting

Annual Potluck Dinner Installation of Officers Equipment Show-N-Tell and Birder's Faire!

Date: June 5, 2018 **Time:** Setup: 5:00pm Dinner 6:00pm
Location: Alviso Adobe Community Park 3465 Old Foothill Road, Pleasanton

It is our annual potluck dinner again and much more this year!



Time to catch up with fellow members about birds, happenings, or life, over delicious food.

Please bring your own table service, service utensils, and a dish to share (about 10 to 12 servings). Last names: **A-G: Dessert ; H-O: Vegetable, salad or side dish; P-Z: Entree.** Beverages will be supplied, courtesy of OAS. Visitors are requested to refrain from alcoholic beverages in the park.

This year we will host our first equipment show-n-tell event. Members are encouraged to bring their birding equipment: binoculars, scope, or even phone apps, etc., tools that you use for bird watching. We will also have a binocular cleaning station! This is a chance for individuals to try out other equipment in a non-sales setting. We can hear from each other about the pros and cons of our equipment. Please bring yours to make it fun, comparative, and successful!

There will also be a Book and Birding Paraphernalia Faire!

We have many birding guides to faraway places through the generous donations of our members. Want to bird Bhutan? We have just the book! We also have several bird feeders in excellent condition and lots of other birding equipment—pouches, packs, etc. All funds collected this evening will be dedicated to **Saving Tesla Park.** Pick up a book, make a donation!



Our next meeting will be **September 4** at Carlton Plaza in Fremont, with a presentation by one of our favorite speakers: **Bob Lewis, on Greater Antilles.**

Directions to June meeting: *From Fremont or Contra Costa:* Take I-680 toward Pleasanton to the Bernal exit. Drive west on Bernal to Foothill and turn right. Follow Foothill about 1/2 mile to Alviso Adobe on your left.

From Hayward/CV: Take I-580 to the Foothill exit and follow Foothill about 3 miles to the Alviso Adobe on your

Directions: (See to the left)

Field Trips



Devil's Slide Trail County Park, Pacifica
Saturday, May 19, 9:00 AM-Noon
Leader: Gerry McChesney
fieldtrips@ohloneaudubon.org

Gerry McChesney, the speaker at our May meeting who presented a terrific program on the Common Murres, has generously offered to lead this special field trip to the site of the colony.

The Devil's Slide Trail is a 1.3-mile multi-use coastal trail, converted from a former segment of Hwy1 between Half Moon Bay and Pacifica. The paved trail provides luxurious coastal views and is a great spot to enjoy some coastal birding. Viewed from the trail is Devil's Slide Rock (or, Egg Rock to some locals), the site of an intensive project to restore a colony of Common Murres. We'll spend time viewing the breeding murres on the rock and learning about this amazing project. We'll also look for other nesting seabirds such as Brandt's Cormorants, Pelagic Cormorants, Western Gulls and Pigeon Guillemots. Peregrine Falcons are often sitting by their cliff nest site or flying overhead. Nesting Rock Wrens are often seen along the trail. Late lingering flocks of scoters and grebes should be present just offshore. Bring a spotting scope if you have one.

Directions: We'll meet at the Devil's Slide Trail South Parking Lot. From Half Moon Bay, take Hwy 1 North past Montara and Gray Whale Cove State beaches. At the traffic light just before the entrance to the Tom Lantos (Devil's Slide) Tunnel, turn left into the trail parking lot. From Pacifica, take Hwy 1 South. Immediately after passing through the tunnel, turn right at the traffic light into the parking lot. We'll meet by the rest room at the trailhead. Parking is limited so carpooling is highly recommended. Please meet at the Starbucks at 245 W. Jackson St., Hayward, at 7:45 AM to arrange carpools. From there, it is about 40 miles to the trail parking lot.

SIERRA WEEKEND TRIP (JUNE 23-24) IS FULL!

To be put on waiting list email Phil and Pat Gordon at pagpeg@aol.com. Details of trip will be emailed to participants.

Lake Chabot Regional Park
Wednesday, May 23, 8:30 AM - Noon
Leaders: Rich Nicholson and Kathy Robertson
fieldtrips@ohloneaudubon.org

Lake Chabot Regional Park offers a variety of habitats for birdwatching: riparian, grassland, oak savannah, marshy shoreline, and open water. We'll look for spring migrants and nesting residents. We might see Bald Eagles that have nested at the park in previous years! . We will hike a few miles over mostly moderate terrain with a few steep hills. Pre-registration is not required, and all are welcome. Heavy rain cancels.

Directions: Take Lake Chabot Road north from Castro Valley Boulevard for 1.6 miles. Turn right just before the East Bay Regional Park District sign. Follow the road uphill for .7 miles to the parking area on the left. Meet at the parking area across from the Police and Fire Headquarters.

Niles Hotspots
Wednesday, May 30, 8:30 - 11:30 AM
Leaders: Kathy Robertson and Stephanie Floyd
fieldtrips@ohloneaudubon.org

We will visit several great birding spots in the Niles area along the Alameda Creek channel and in the woods in hopes of seeing spring migrants and nesting birds including Hooded Orioles, warblers, and waterfowl. Pre-registration is not required, and all are welcome. Heavy rain cancels. Meet at Niles Community Park.

Directions: *To reach the park, from I-880, take Decoto Road northeast about 2 miles. Turn right (east) on Alvarado-Niles Blvd. and stay on it for about 2 1/2 miles (it becomes Niles Blvd.) Turn right on H St. The park is at the end of H St. From I-680, take Niles Canyon Road (Hwy 84) southwest to Fremont. Cross Mission Blvd. to reach Niles Blvd. and bear right on Niles Blvd. to go through the main part of Niles. Turn left on H St. The park is at the end of H St. From Mission Boulevard north or south, turn onto Niles Blvd. and follow the directions above*

Field Trips (continued)

**Behind the Scenes at
Hayward Interpretive Center
Sunday, June 3, 8:30AM– noon
Leaders: Phil Gordon and Maggie Clark
pagpeg@aol.com**

Join us for a very special trip behind the locked gates at the Hayward Shoreline. Maggie has been monitoring nests for EBRPD out there and will guide us. We will have the opportunity to see the nesting islands with California Least and Forster's Terns and possibly the Black Skimmers. We will also view the other shorebird summer inhabitants of the shoreline. Scopes will be essential as we want minimal disturbance to the nesters. We will have to go in together so be sure to arrive on time.

Directions: From I-880 in Hayward, exit onto Hwy 92 West toward the San Mateo Bridge, then take the Clawiter Road/Eden Landing Road. Go straight through the light (Do not turn onto Clawiter). Make the first left onto Breakwater Avenue. Turn left to stay on Breakwater Avenue. Go all the way to the end of the street, and park parallel to the freeway.

**Tule Ponds at Tyson Lagoon
Saturday, June 9, 8:00- 11:00 AM
Leaders: Jerry Ting and Phil Gordon
fieldtrips@ohloneaudubon.org**

Please join us for a special tour to bird at Tyson Lagoon, located in the center of Fremont. Owned by Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and managed by Math Science Nucleus, Tyson Lagoon is a 17-acre land unique in having both natural and constructed wetland combined into a single ecosystem. The site serves as a wildlife sanctuary to the many animals and plants that reside in this area. Over 120 species of birds have been recorded in this area and we anticipate seeing flycatchers, orioles, finches and some wading birds.

Directions: Tyson Lagoon is located at 1999 Walnut Ave, Fremont. From Mission Blvd in Fremont, turn west onto Walnut Ave (between Mowry and Stevenson). The center is on the right before BART; From I-680 South, take exit 16 for Rte. 238/Mission Blvd., go about 2.5 miles north and turn left onto Walnut Ave. The center is on the north side, before the BART. From Hwy 880, take the exit for Mowry Ave, head east and turn right on Rte. 238/Mission Blvd., then right onto Walnut Ave. You can park either inside the park or at the BART parking area next to it. The tour will take 2.5-3 hours.

BIRDING OBSERVATIONS

March-April 2018

By Stephanie Floyd



Western Bluebird at Lk Elizabeth
(Ranger Sandy Ferreira 4/18)

Spring brought migrants courting and nesting and baby crows honking! Suddenly Garin Regional Park was bursting with birdsong from **Bullock's Orioles, Pacific-Slope Flycatchers, and Wilson's Warblers. Western Bluebirds and Tree Swallows** took up occupancy in the nest boxes there and at Lake Elizabeth. Ranger Sandy photographed blue eggs in one of them in nest boxes in early April. Cavity-nesting **Northern Rough-Winged Swallows**

and **Violet-Green Swallows** joined in flights with mud-nest building **Barn Swallows** and **Cliff Swallows** as we prepared for our annual Swallow Walk at Lake Elizabeth and Coyote Hills.

Grasshopper Sparrows buzzed from the long grass on Hayward hillsides, and **Allen's and Rufous Hummingbirds** buzzed and performed grand U-shaped flights. Our spring field trip to Del Valle RP in Livermore found **Lawrence's Goldfinches. House Wrens** got busy nest-building, chattering all the while.



Tree Swallow, Lk Elizabeth
(Ranger Sandy Ferreira 4/18)

By the second week of April, reports came in of the "drunken robin" song of the **Black-Headed Grosbeak** and the first **Ash-Throated Flycatchers** turned up. **Hooded Orioles** were back in town, and **Black-Throated Gray Warblers** showed up at Ardenwood Farm.



Wilson's Warbler, Ardenwood, (Vicki Robinson 4/18). Note: fountain is working; statue is broken

At the bayshore we found **California Least Terns, Red Knots and Ruddy Turnstones, Common Murre, Bonaparte's and Heermann's Gulls.**

Conservation



SB 1316 – the Alameda Tesla Expansion Bill, authored by State Senator Glazer, passed the Senate Governmental Organization Committee and is next slated to proceed to the Senate Appropriations Committee, then the entire State Senate floor. Assembly hearings will probably occur in July/August.

SB 1316 allows the Department of Parks and Recreation to sell the portion of the Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area, known as the Alameda-Tesla Expansion for conservation purposes. As a review for our members, this has been a controversial local issue since 2000 when the first failed EIR was attempted, followed by a subsequent EIR, and then a certification of a 2016 version. The 2016 certification is currently under litigation.

SB 1316, in lieu of continuing litigation, proposes that if the Department of Parks and Recreation determines that if it is in the public's best interest, it would be allowed to sell the area and those funds would be returned to the Off-Highway Vehicular Trust Fund. This would then allow the OHMVR Division to pursue property more suitable for OHVs. The Tesla Expansion area (3100 acres) is documented as having a substantive (i.e. Native American history) and rare ecological value. As noted in previous issues, funds are available from the Altamont Landfill Mitigation bank to make the purchase. Support for this is far and wide in Alameda County, including the our local legislators, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, the City of Livermore, East Bay Regional Park District (who may manage it) and many conservation organizations (including OAS) and other agencies.

Donations collected at our June meeting will be dedicated to this important cause. Donations can also be made directly to Friends of Tesla at 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.

To follow the progress of the bill, see https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id+201720180SB1316

We sincerely thank Senator Glazer and our local legislators for moving this bill along. -P.Gordon

SPRINGTOWN GOLF COURSE PONDS

Some issues are harder than others when you can understand the concerns of both sides. That is certainly true of the ongoing conflict between local Springtown residents and the City of Livermore concerning the City's proposal to fill a duck pond and a smaller pond, at the now defunct Springtown golf course. When the golf course shut down, the city began a master plan process for conversion of the golf course area into a network of public open spaces including walking trails, meadows, picnic areas, playgrounds, etc. Unfortunately, the area that is currently occupied by the two ponds would be filled to create a bike and skate park, parking area, splash pad and other areas of active use.

Local residents have voiced concerns regarding the loss of what they see as an aesthetically pleasing feature as well as the impacts to the local ducks, geese, fish and turtles. Some have said they were not notified of the proposed changes. Concerns have been raised about the harassment of ducklings and the potential burying of turtles as the emptied ponds are filled. It sounds horrific and we can understand the concerns of the neighborhood residents.

The city for its part has posted a FAQ sheet on its website regarding the issue. They have stated the actual process of filling the ponds has been delayed because some ducks laid eggs sooner than they had anticipated and the city will wait to implement the project until the ducklings are able to leave the area. Most flightless ducks or geese (suffering from "Angel-Wing") have been relocated already, with a few remaining that staff have not been able to capture. The 6-10 remaining flightless geese and ducks will be captured and relocated as the pond is drained, as will non-native turtle species. A biologist will monitor the draining and filling of the ponds.

The ponds were artificially constructed in uplands and once constructed the ponds had no naturally sustaining water supply. Water was diverted into the ponds from the State Water Project for golf course irrigation. Now that the golf course is gone, the rationale for diverting the water has gone as well.

The irrigation of the golf course introduced perennial flows to seasonal streams. That might seem like a good thing at first glance. The problem is the natural habitats and native species of this area are attuned to our seasonal pattern of rainfall. While federal listed amphibians would certainly be attracted to more persistent waterbodies, so too is the very invasive and voracious non-native predator, the bullfrog. Other non-native species such as the red-eared slider (turtle) and carp were introduced to the pond (not sanctioned by the city) over time.

(continued pg. 5)

Conservation (continued)

(Springtown continued)

Populations of species like the threatened California red-legged frog, which is known to occur in the area, are in decline due to habitat loss, habitat fragmentation and predation by invasive non-native species like the bullfrog. The pond also supports non-native red-eared sliders that can out-compete the native western pond turtle for available food sources.

While the water diversion was taking place, the city was required to maintain an active invasive species and predator control program to protect the sensitive and listed native amphibians and reptile. The ponds also required aeration to reduce the problems associated with low dissolved oxygen levels and algal blooms.

The situation regarding the ponds is a sticky wicket as you can see. While we certainly can understand the local residents' sense of loss over losing the ponds, we can also understand the ongoing risk they posed to declining populations of native species. While it seems the ponds will be lost, we hope the city will work with the local residents to provide a more aesthetically pleasing replacement for the ponds than the concrete landscape of a bike-skate park and parking lot.

-C.High

NEW ACCESS OPENS TO PLEASANTON RIDGE PARK

Pleasanton Ridge is a 9,090-acre, long, linear park on an oak-covered ridge overlooking Pleasanton and the Livermore Valley. Up until recently, the only park district access was from the southern part either from Foothill Road or Sunol. That changed on March 10 when the East Bay Regional Park District opened the new Castleridge trailhead, close to the intersection of Foothill Road and Old Foothill Road and west of the city's Alviso Adobe Community Park. From this trailhead, a multi-use trail extends to the northern ridgeline of Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park, serving as a new and important public access point to the northern areas of the park, as well as helping the district connect wildlife corridors and protect

ALAMEDA CREEK ALLIANCE CLAIMS CAMP PARKS DEVELOPMENT IMPACTING BURROWING OWLS

The Alameda Creek Alliance recently claimed that Dublin Crossing developer SunCal would be destroying one of the largest burrowing owl colonies in Alameda County if residential development at Camp Parks moves forward. In response, a SunCal representative stated that "Our plan for development of the Dublin Crossing community is sensitive to wildlife and the environment, and we are striving to ensure that the burrowing owl population in this area continues to be viable".



(Burrowing Owls continued)

The City of Dublin's land exchange with the U.S. military will allow residential and commercial development on 189 acres of mostly open grassland at Camp Parks Reserve Forces Training Area. Alameda Creek Alliance fears that the residential development will threaten one of the few remaining breeding colonies of burrowing owls in Alameda County. Other than the burrowing owl population at Altamont Pass, the colony at Camp Parks is the largest in Alameda County and the Livermore-Amador Valley.

Proposition 68:
**THE CALIFORNIA
CLEAN WATER
& SAFE PARKS ACT**

BAY AREA

Specific Funding for the Bay Area

- \$290 million formula allocation to Bay Area park districts for local and regional parks (per capita and other programs) (Ch. 3)
- \$21.25 million for San Francisco Bay Conservancy Program (Coastal Conservancy) (Ch. 9)
- \$20 million for restoration grants to match Measure AA (Coastal Conservancy) (Ch. 7)
- \$14 million for the Ocean Protection Trust Fund (Coastal Conservancy)
- \$3 million for Los Gatos Creek and Upper Guadalupe River (Natural Resources Agency) (Ch. 7)
- \$3 million for Russian River (Natural Resources Agency) (Ch. 7)

Bay Area Eligible Competitive Funding Opportunities

State and Local Parks, Greenways, and River Parkways

- \$725 million for the creation and expansion of parks in "park-poor neighborhoods" (Ch. 2)
- \$290 million in funding for local parks (per capita and other programs) (Ch. 3)
- \$218 million in funding to "create, expand...and improve state parks and park facilities" (Ch. 4)
- \$30 million for trail and greenway investments (Natural Resources Agency) (Ch. 5)
- \$25 million for recreational programs and parks in rural communities (State Parks) (Ch. 6)

Ocean, Bay, and Coastal Protection

- \$20 million for coastal forests
- \$35 million for marine protected areas and sustainable fisheries
- \$5 million for coastal dune, wetlands, and estuary protection
- \$30 million for "lower cost coastal accommodation grants"
- \$75 million for California Ocean Protection Trust Fund (Ch. 9 & Ch. 10); including \$40 million to assist coastal communities and fisheries with climate change adaptation, including projects that address sea-level rise, acidification and habitat protection

Climate Preparedness, Habitat Resiliency, Resource Enhancement, and Innovation

- \$443 million to various agencies including:
 - \$48 million for wildlife corridors & open space (Wildlife Conservation Board)
 - \$115 million for fishery and riparian restoration projects (Dept. of Fish and Wildlife)
 - \$60 million for agricultural land conservation and stewardship (Dept. of Conservation)
 - \$50 million for "for ecological restoration of forests" including urban forests (CalFire)

Other

Local Water Supply & Management, Flood Protection

- \$1.1 billion statewide for safe drinking water, groundwater sustainability, flood protection, and other water-related programs

**Audubon California and
Ohlone Audubon
support Proposition 68**

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TRICOLORED BLACKBIRDS ARE LISTED!

Tricolored Blackbirds got a little help in April when the California Fish and Game Commission voted to designate them as Threatened under the State Endangered Species Act.



These birds used to nest in marshes, but much of that natural habitat is gone. Now they've adapted to nesting in the fields farmers use to grow grain for dairy cows. Unfortunately, often the farmers must harvest their fields before the chicks can fly. Thousands of chicks can die in just a few minutes. Already this season several massive colonies on dairy farms have been found that need protection. Tricolored Blackbirds need our help – they once numbered in the millions, but we only have about 178,000 left. During nesting season, we have a very short window of time to help them.

Our contributions will help California Audubon partner with farmers to delay harvest so the young birds have time to fledge, as well as create safe habitat for the birds. Ohlone Audubon has made a contribution to California Audubon and invite others to do so also. Donations: go to the California Audubon website at ca.audubon.org and navigate to the Tricolored photo.

President's Corner

Hope you are getting out and seeing birds. Ohlone has been having some great field trips-14 during April and May. I want to recommend another type of field trip for you that is coming up—**Audubon Advocacy Day** in Sacramento.

Last June 8, 2017 Audubon activists from all over California visited the State Capitol to talk with their elected representatives about issues related to birds and nature. Ohlone Audubon has several members attend (yours truly included) and we met with our local Assemblypersons and Senators on issues such as Tesla and reform of the Off-road Vehicle Commission. If you have ever thought about going, even if you don't usually do such things, I highly recommend it. California Audubon staff give a great overview of the statewide issues they are working on, then you break up into small groups to make the legislator visits. I was teamed with some great folks from Mount Diablo Audubon so it is a great day to meet fellow birders.

You don't need to be an expert in a topic, just have a couple of talking points on an issue that is important to you and your area. I found the legislators and their staff uniformly courteous, interested and glad to see us. If you have ever thought of taking part, please do. Audubon even provides lunch.

This year's **Audubon Advocacy is June 20**, and you can register at the Audubon California website at <http://ca.audubon.org/get-involved/> 2018-audubon-california-advocacy-day
Bill Hoppes

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:

Patricia Aquilera, Pamela Ball, Natalie Brophy, Ann Brown, Bruce Browne, Veronica Burke, Linda Burns, Susie Claxton, Julie Clark, Joanna Dixon, Jan Eldred, Lynn Feindel, Lloyd Hartshorn, Mary Krentz, Anne Krysiak, Craig Lanway, Hensl Lise, Michelle Lovett, Eva Gayle Marion, Karen Marcus, Bonnie Marzo, John Mena, Rich Nicholson, Dina Oakes, Wendy Parfrey, Deborah Pan, Stephen Rentmeesters, Linda Sandifur, Joanne Smith, Joseph Smith, Peter Szuta, Helene & Darrell Victor, Gail West, Judy Wuelfing, David Yeamans

Donations: Julie Clark, Jan Eldred, Anne Krysiak, Michelle Lovett, Joseph Smith, Peter Szutu.

NOMINATIONS

The following board of Directors were voted in during the May General Meeting, to serve from July 1, 2018 thru June 30, 2019. The new officers will be installed at the June Annual Meeting.

- President:** Bill Hoppes
- Vice President:** Marty Morrow
- Recording Secretary:** Kathy Robertson
- Corresponding Secretary:** Jackie Bertillion
- Treasurer:** Gail Ryujin
- Director at Large 2021:** Vicki Robinson

IDENTIFYING THE SEX OF SPECIES WITHOUT USING PLUMAGE

By Bill Hoppes

Most of the time when we see birds in the field, it is easy to tell males from females. Almost always there are distinct differences in breeding plumage. Warblers, tanagers, finches and most ducks are the good examples. These birds exhibit strong sexual dimorphism. For many other species, such as most sparrows, wrens, and flycatchers, males and females are virtually identical. I have always been interested in methods of identifying the sex of a bird by nonplumage cues. One most people are familiar with are raptors. Most birders know that in raptors, the female is usually larger than the male. If you spot a breeding pair side by side, you can often tell which one is larger and thus the female. There are species where you can use non-plumage cues to identify the sex. Here are four such species that are common in

our area. The first three are shorebirds.

It turns out that a common trait in shorebirds is that the length or form of the bill is significantly different in males and females. Generally, females have a significantly longer bill. One idea for the reason for this is the same reason scientists believe there is size dimorphism in raptors. Different sized bills mean that males and females can capture different prey. This has two potential benefits: 1) males and females don't compete for the same food source, and 2) they are able to capture a wider range of prey to feed offspring. Regardless of the reason, for some species this bill size difference is large enough to identify in the field.



Long-billed Curlews are an excellent example. Here are male and female side by side. The male on the left is smaller, and has a distinctly shorter bill. This might not be obvious on individual birds, but should be evident when comparing birds in a flock.



Another great example is **American Avocet**. Here is another side by side view of a male and female. What is also interesting is that the female on the left has a much more upturned bill. Again this might be hard to spot on individual birds, but next time you are scoping that flock of 200 avocets, you ought to be able to spot the difference.



A third example are **Marbled Godwits**. In the picture on the left, the difference in bill length isn't so noticeable, but the male is clearly on the left. In addition as godwits approach breeding, the male gets an orange tinge at the base of the bill that the female lacks. The picture on the right shows the bill difference more clearly. Not only is the female's bill longer, but it has more of an upturn. These features are harder to spot, but I bet the next time you are scoping that flock of 500 godwits you can pick out a few of each.



Finally just to show this isn't restricted to shorebirds, we have **Bushtits**. All bushtits are born with black eyes, shortly after leaving the nest, the iris of female bushtits turns "yellow". Here are examples of a female on the left and a male on the right. Early in the breeding season you can't be 100 percent sure that a "black-eyed bushtit" is a male or a hatch year female. But later on, and during the non-breeding season, this is a pretty sure bet.

There are other species of birds that show this type of sexual dimorphism, but these four species are common enough and distinct enough that you should be able to spot them in the field. Happy birding.

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PRESIDENT: Bill Hoppes, President@OhloneAudubon.org
VICE PRES: Marty Morrow 510-357-1615
PAST PRES: Evelyn Cormier 510-471-0475
TREASURER: Gail Ryujin Treasurer@OhloneAudubon.org 925-829-1895
REC SECTY: Kathy Robertson Secretary@OhloneAudubon.org
CORR SECTY: Jackie Bertillion 510-782-4874
DIRECTORS:
2018: Vicki Robinson Director2018@OhloneAudubon.org
2019: Lynn Feindel Director2019@OhloneAudubon.org
2020: Debbi Brusco Director2020@OhloneAudubon.org

WEBSITE: <http://OhloneAudubon.org>
CONSERVATION : Carin High (**West**) Conservation@OhloneAudubon.org
Bill Hoppes (**East**)
EDUCATION: Marty Morrow education@ohloneaudubon.org 510-357-1615
EDITOR: Phil & Pat Gordon, editor@Ohloneaudubon.org 510-538-3550
FIELD TRIPS: Lynn Feindel, FieldTrips@OhloneAudubon.org
HOSPITALITY: Allen & Jackie Bertillion 510-782-4874
MEMBERSHIP: Pat Gordon Membership@Ohloneaudubon.org 510-538-3550
PROGRAMS: Debbie Wong, Programs@OhloneAudubon.org
PUBLICITY: Vicki Robinson, Director2018@OhloneAudubon.org
NAS CALIFORNIA : 765 University Ave, Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95825
916-649-7600, <http://www.ca.audubon.org>

WEBMASTER: L. Koenig webmaster@OhloneAudubon.org

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Please sign me up today

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