



# 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

- Oct 6 GENERAL MEETING  
Via Zoom
  - Oct 10 FIELD TRIP  
Tilden Reg Park
  - Oct 17 FIELD TRIP  
Big Break/Blk Diamond
  - Nov 1 FIELD TRIP  
Hayward Shoreline
  - Nov 8 FIELD TRIP  
Pacific Commons
  - Nov 10 GENERAL MEETING  
Via Zoom  
(Note date change to 2nd  
Tuesday due to Election)
  - Nov 18 FIELD TRIP  
Ward Creek, Hayward  
**TENTATIVE**
- CBC is scheduled for  
12/20/20

**BE SURE TO CHECK WEBSITE  
AND/OR FACEBOOK  
BEFORE VENTURING OUT TO  
CHECK STATUS OF TRIPS**

#### 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

## Membership Meetings

### Trans-Pacific Migrations

By Peter Pyle

**Date:** October 6, 2020  
**Time:** 7:30PM  
**Location:** Online Video  
Conference via **Zoom**  
(Details on page 2)

### Shorebird ID

By Ed Harper

**Date:** November 10, 2020  
(note date change!)  
**Time:** 7:30PM  
**Location:** Online Video  
Conference via **Zoom**  
(Details on page 2)

### SEE ZOOM REGISTRATION DETAILS NEXT PAGE

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS & OHLONE AUDUBON ACTIVITIES



Dear Ohlone Members and Supporters,

Ohlone Audubon has decided to reinstate our field trips at this time, but with an abundance of safety measures. Please check out the new **field trip safety guidelines** and as the situation may change at any time be sure and check with the leader or on our website before heading out for a field trip. The new safety guidelines are on the next page and must be adhered to.

Debbie Wong, our program chair, has set us up for **ZOOM** virtual meetings thru the end of the year. Please connect and tune in! See the details next page. If you did not register last month, please do so now to join our programs. If you already registered for the September meeting no need to register again. Details are on page two.

Remember, we can make a difference in the spread of Covid -19 by being vigilant in wearing masks and social distancing. Getting outdoors is so important for both our mental and physical health.

We hope you are all well , staying safe, and enjoying your "backyard" birding.

**Stay Safe      Stay well      Practice Social Distancing**  
**Take care of each other      Stay Connected!**

# MEETINGS DETAILS

## October 6, 2020 Meeting

We are very fortunate to have **Peter Pyle** as our presenter. He will be discussing his research on **Trans-Pacific Migrations**. Please see the last issue for a full description of this upcoming program.



## November 10, 2020 Meeting

Join us, via Zoom, which promises to be a very informative, enlightening and exciting program, as we welcome Ed Harper back. Ed always challenges with educational bird ids. This month his focus will be the shorebirds.

**Ed Harper** is one of our favorite presenters and is an avid photographer. He has dazzled us in the past with his excellent photos and has photographed over 2000 species of birds, including 750 species in North America. He will be joining us via zoom from the Sacramento.

## December 1, 2020 Meeting

Get ready — our December meeting will be a Show-and-Tell. Members will be invited to share their favorite photos online with other members via ZOOM. Details will be provided in the next **Kite Call** and our program Chair, Debbie Wong, has offered to instruct all of us how to do this! Pull out those photos!



*White-headed Woodpecker, Mono Co Hwy 395 rest stop 9/20 (P. Gordon)*

*In these unprecedented times, thank you to all the dedicated firefighters and first responders doing their best to keep us safe and save our forests and wildlife.*



## ZOOM MEETING INSTRUCTIONS:

Due to COVID-19, Ohlone Audubon's membership meeting will be online via Zoom for the rest of 2020. To participate for the monthly meetings: **October 6, November 10, and December 1**, members need to use a computer or smart phone.

**Pre-registration request for meeting participation is needed. If you already registered for the September meeting no need to register again.** No need to be a member to join the meeting. Using Zoom to participate in the meetings is free. Members should familiarize themselves with using Zoom. For those who would like to join the meeting please go to the Ohlone Audubon website ([www.ohloneaudubon.org](http://www.ohloneaudubon.org)) to send pre-registration requests.

## CLOSING STATEMENT

June 2020

### CURRENT ASSETS

CASH IN BANK - CHECKING	\$76,200.99	
PAYPAL	\$808.18	
Savings (birds of prey holding)	\$849.06	
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT	\$30,342.62	
INVENTORY ESTIMATED*	\$0.00	
Deposit in Vanguard	\$146,957.22	
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>\$255,158.07</b>

### PROPERTY PLANT & EQUIPMENT

TOTAL PP&E	\$0.00	
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>\$255,158.07</b>

### CURRENT LIABILITIES (cks not cleared)

<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		\$497.41
Birds of Prey Foundation	\$849.06	
Vanguard investment	\$150,000.00	

Total Assets less liability and equity \$103,811.60

<b>NET ASSETS @ 7/1/19</b>	\$71,089.45	
<b>NET INCOME--YTD</b>	\$32,722.15	
<b>TOTAL LIABIL AND NET ASSETS</b>		<b>\$103,811.60</b>

## OAS BUDGET FY 202021

### INCOME

NAS DUES	\$2,712
CHAPTER DUES	\$5,700
SALES	\$0
CONTRIUTIONS	\$9,000
DIVIDEND/INTEREST	\$38
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$17,450</b>

CONSERVATION	\$2,400
EDUCATION	\$600
CBCs	\$1,000
FUND RAISING	\$700
BW MEM GARDEN	\$200
scholarship	\$700
SALES TAX	\$100
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$17,450</b>

### EXPENSES

KITE CALL	\$5,500
MEM MEETINGS	\$3,100
PURCHASE MDSE	\$0
OPERATING EXP*	\$3,150

\*Operating income 0

- Gail Ryzjuin



# Field Trips

**BE SURE TO CHECK WEBSITE AND/OR FACEBOOK BEFOREHAND TO CHECK STATUS OF OUR TRIPS**

**Coyote Hills Reg Park**  
**Saturday, October 3, 8:00 - 11:30 AM**  
**Leaders: Jerry Ting and Vicki Robinson**  
**fieldtrips@OhloneAudubon.org**  
**CANCELLED**

**Tilden Reg. Park**  
**Saturday, October 10, 8:00 AM - Noon**  
**Leader: Bob Dunn**  
**Registration required thru**  
**fieldtrips@ohloneaudubon.org**

The park offers a great variety of birding opportunities including lakes, grasslands and pine forests. We will bird the Inspiration Point area looking for warblers, nuthatches, woodpeckers and many more. It's easy to spend a whole day in this park, but we should finish in 3 to 4 hours. Be prepared for a moderate hike.

**Directions:** Meet at the free parking lot at Inspiration Point (restrooms available). From Highway 24 at Orinda Crossroads, take the Orinda-Moraga exit. Go east on Camino Pablo 2 miles and left onto Wildcat Canyon Rd. Drive 2.5 miles up the hill to Inspiration Point. You can also Google your favorite way in, but check for road closures. For a map of the park showing Inspiration Point (look at the top middle of the map) go to <http://www.ebparks.org/parks/tilden>

**Big Break/Black Diamond Mines**  
**Saturday, October 17, 9AM—12:30PM**  
**Leader: Rich Nicholson & Bob Dunn**  
**Registration required thru**  
**fieldtrips@ohloneaudubon.org**

Big Break offers a good assortment of birds on both land and water from sparrows and warblers to ducks, grebes, and gallinules. This is an interesting new place for us to bird and well worth the hour and a half drive. We will then move on to Black Diamond Mines, which is the former site of the Hazel Atlas Mining company. Here, we'll look for Canyon Wren, quail, swifts, woodpeckers, raptors and more. Once again, these parks are well worth the effort. *(Continued on page 4)*

**FIELD TRIP RULES/SUGGESTIONS**

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, Ohlone Audubon Society has canceled all field trips out of an abundance of caution for the safety of our members, and to comply with the shelter-in-place rules in Alameda County and California. As those rules have changed and the science around how the coronavirus is generally transmitted has become better understood, we now feel that with certain rules and suggestions, OAS can once again start holding field trips.

Our first field trips TENTATIVELY will be in October. **These are the rules that must be followed** on all Ohlone Audubon field trips for the foreseeable future, as well as some suggestions to participants:

- 1) **Masks** must be worn by all field trip participants, including leaders, at all times during the field trip
- 2) **Carpooling** is not permitted, except between members of shared households or "social bubbles" (as defined by the Alameda County order)
- 3) **A minimum distance** of six feet must be maintained at all times between participants who are not in the same social bubble
- 4) **No sharing** of optics or any other gear is permitted
- 5) **No one who has a fever or any symptoms** of illness, or who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days should not attend
- 6) **All participants must pre-register** for the trip at [fieldtrips@Ohloneaudubon.org](mailto:fieldtrips@Ohloneaudubon.org)
- 7) **Maximum field trip size** will be restricted to 10 participants and will be strictly enforced through the reservation system
- 8) **Many East Bay parks**, even though they are open for hiking, have closed bathrooms, so it is recommended that participants plan for that eventuality and "go" before they arrive
- 9) **All participants** are encouraged to bring hand sanitizer in case of accidental contact

**Bob Toleno, Field Trip Chair**

## Field Trips (continued)

**Big Break (continued) Directions:** To get to Big Break take Hwy 4-E to exit 30 for CA 160. Continue on CA 160 and take exit CA-4 to Stockton/ Oakley. Then turn right on Main St. and then left on Big Break Rd then right into the park. From the south, take N. Vasco Rd to exit CA-4, then right on Main St and left on Big Break Rd. into the park. Arrive at 69 Big Break Rd. Approx. 1h 30min. To get to Black Diamond Mines, return to CA-4 west to Somersville Rd. Continue west up the hill to the visitor center. Parking is free.

**Ward Creek Canyon, Hayward**  
**November 18, Wednesday, 8:30 - 11:30 AM**  
**Leaders: Vicki Robinson**  
**Registration required thru**  
**fieldtrips@ohloneaudubon.org**  
**TENTATIVE**

The trail along Ward Creek in Hayward runs through a heavily wooded greenbelt and offers the possibility of locating some hard-to-find species: Pacific Wren, Varied Thrush, and Golden-crowned Kinglet. We will also look for Hairy Woodpecker, Brown Creeper, Red-breasted Sapsucker and wintering warblers. We will meet at East Avenue Park, bird the park, and descend the greenbelt trail, birding the route down to Campus Drive. There are some steep parts of the trail. Heavy rain cancels. Restrooms are available at East Ave. Park.

**Directions:** Locate the intersection of Second St. and E St. (large Catholic Church). Take E St. east and, at a 'Y' junction, bear right on East Ave. and continue to East Avenue Park at the end. (1.8 m from 2nd St.)

**Hayward Regional Shoreline - Mt. Trashmore & Frank's Dump**  
**Sunday, November 1, 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM**  
**Leaders: Bob Toleno and Juli Chamberlin**  
**Registration required thru**  
**fieldtrips@ohloneaudubon.org**

Join Bob and Juli for a walk in the best grassland habitat at Hayward Regional Shoreline, "Mt. Trashmore," followed by a visit to "Frank's Dump," a favorite high-tide roost for shorebirds. November is a good time to look for elusive Lapland Longspurs and Aleutian Cackling Geese, and see many other grassland and raptor species on Mt. Trashmore. We'll visit Frank's Dump as the tide rises. Bring your scope if you have one, and wear comfortable shoes for a fairly long, though flat, walk.

**Directions:** Take I-880 to West Winton Avenue in Hayward and go west toward the bay to reach the park at the end of the road. Meet at the paved parking lot inside the gate.

**BIRDING OBSERVATIONS**  
**FALL 2020**  
**By Stephanie Floyd**

Summer ended with raging wildfires and smoke and Spare the Air days. In September, some birders braved the eerie orange skies and unhealthy air quality and found migrant **Black-Throated Gray** and **Yellow Warblers** and a **Western Wood Pewee** at Heather Farms in Walnut Creek. Jerry Ting had a **Solitary Sandpiper** along Alameda Creek at Quarry Lakes in Fremont (found by Alex Henry), and mid-month **Brian Fitch** reported a **Bar-Tailed Godwit**, probably a returnee from last year, on the Emeryville mud flats. Derek Heins found a rare **Green-tailed Towhee** on Vollmer Peak. Later in the month birders added **Hutton's Vireo** and **Wilson's** and **Townsend's Warblers** to the passerine count at Heather Farms. Aaron Maizlish and Mark Rauzon had good luck in finding a rare **Northern Waterthrush** and a **Western Tanager** at Creekside Park in Albany, and a **Blackpoll Warbler** was spotted near the Burrowing Owl site at Cesar Chavez Park.

*Solitary Sandpiper,  
Alameda Creek  
9/8/20 (Jerry  
Ting)*



**Pacific Commons Linear Park**  
**Sunday, November 8, 8:30 AM - Noon**  
**Leaders: Rich Nicholson & Mike Christopherson**  
**Registration required thru**  
**fieldtrips@ohloneaudubon.org**

Fremont's Pacific Commons Linear Park is a productive winter birding site. The ponds are excellent for many waterfowl species. Waders such as American Bittern inhabit the pond edges and wetlands. The fields are productive for wintering sparrows and possibly Tricolored Blackbirds or even a stray Yellow-Headed Blackbird. We have a good chance at seeing interesting raptors such as Ferruginous Hawk. Snow, Ross's and Cackling Geese often visit this time of year. Bring a scope if you have one. Heavy rain cancels.

**Directions:** To reach the park, exit I-880 in Fremont at Auto Mall Parkway. Go west on Auto Mall Parkway for a mile to a small pull-off area on the left at an entrance sign, and park along the road. No facilities at Pacific Commons, but you pass a Starbucks on the north side of Auto Mall Parkway on your way to the park.

# Conservation



## Groups push for Alameda County to complete comprehensive solar policy before considering approval for solar farm in north Livermore.

During a 2011 hearing on a solar farm project, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors directed staff to complete a solar policy for the entire county stating that lack of a solar policy "would increase the probability that poorly planned, environmentally damaging projects" would be approved. Staff assured the Board of Supervisors that a plan would be developed, but the plan was never completed.

A proposal for a utility scale solar energy facility is pending in the North Livermore Area. This area has agricultural soils ranging in production quality from marginal to excellent, in addition to varying levels of biological resources. Residents of North Livermore, the county Agricultural Advisory Committee, the City of Livermore and several environmental groups, including Ohlone Audubon, expressed concern over the lack of a comprehensive solar policy to guide development of solar projects, and the potential environmental impact of solar farm development in North Livermore. They recommended no new projects be approved until a county-wide solar siting policy was finally developed.

Currently the Alameda County Planning Department recommended that the Board of Supervisors provide direction to staff as to whether to proceed with the preparation of solar policies prior to approval of these projects.

A major unavoidable environmental impact of opening Tesla Park to off-highway vehicle recreation is air pollution. With air quality already hit hard by climate change & wildfires, this is the wrong use for public land. During the Spare the Air Days declared in September, Carnegie continued to operate.

In addition, Valley Fever (*Coccidioidomycosis*) is endemic in the Corral Hollow area where Tesla's located. UCB Professor, John Taylor's 2016 warning of increased health risks of this extremely serious fungal disease from dust-generating OHV recreation was dismissed by State Parks. [http://www.teslapark.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Carnegie\\_DEIR\\_Response\\_Taylor\\_J\\_r\\_20160204.pdf](http://www.teslapark.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Carnegie_DEIR_Response_Taylor_J_r_20160204.pdf)

Is the right place for this park? Unfortunately, there was no opportunity to get Tesla into a natural resources bill before the legislative session closed 8/31/20. However, both Assemblyperson Rebecca Bauer-Khan and Senator Bob Wieckowski continue to support the re-designation of Tesla as a preserve and we thank them for their support.

Increase support for Tesla by following Tesla Park on Twitter at @tesla\_park, #saveteslapark and @SFBaySierraClub and at [SaveTeslaPark](#) on Face book or at [www.teslapark.org](http://www.teslapark.org)

Thank you for your continued work to Save Tesla Park!

## Fremont Master Park Plan

Watch for an OAS alert when the next revision from the city becomes available. Ohlone requested a meeting with the city, via Zoom, to voice our concerns regarding the park plan. We were turned down. They are considering another focus group to include all interested parties.

## VICTORY: 177,000 Tricolored Blackbirds Saved in 2020!



Tricolored Blackbird. Photo: James Scott



Ready to hear some good news about 2020? We are thrilled to report that 100% of the fifteen Tricolored Blackbird colonies located on agricultural fields across four counties in California were protected this year!  
*(continued page 6)*

**Tricoloreds Saved** *(continued from page 5)*

The trill and white flash of the Tricolored Blackbird is an indelible part of landscapes across California, and especially in the Central Valley. Working closely with dairy producers, we protected more than 177,000 birds in 2020.

Each spring and summer, Audubon California works with landowners and other partners to protect this species across the state. The initiative is a collaboration between farmers, agricultural associations, governmental agencies, researchers, and conservation organizations that have all recognized the importance of a multi-faceted and cooperative approach to promote the long-term survival of the Tricolored Blackbird.



**Fate of Two Missing Condor Chicks**

We are saddened to share the news that two of the five condor chicks previously reported as being in harm's way have perished in the Dolan Fire. Ventana Wildlife Society (VWS) biologist Joe Burnett returned from the field September 10, 2020 in low spirits

with the sad news that two condor chicks, chick #1022 and chick #1029, did not survive the Dolan Fire. Three of the five condor chicks survived, including "Iniko." Iniko was named by the public while viewers around the world watched this chick and its parents on live-streaming camera provided by explore.org. (ED. Note: we watched the live cam as the flames came within 10 feet of the nest). Another chick, chick #1033, was rescued by a team of biologists from Pinnacles National Park and Ventana Wildlife Society a few days before the fire burned over her nest.

There are still nine missing free-flying condors including "Kingpin" #167, "Survivor" #375, "Electra" #678, "Boreas" #773, "Arthur" #789, "Tonks" #875, one condor from the Pinnacles Flock #448, and two wild-raised birds #9001, and #9003. Condor #448 is the father of chick #1022 who perished.

In addition, the sanctuary buildings were also destroyed in the August 21, 2010 fire. Ohlone has made a donation to the Ventana Wildlife Society to help rebuild. You can also donate, as many of us have, to [www.ventananews.org](http://www.ventananews.org).

**The Southwest is Facing an 'Unprecedented' Migratory Bird Die-Off**

Informative article from National Audubon:

*Scientists and birders have found large numbers of migratory species disoriented and dead in recent weeks. Here's what we know so far:*

<https://www.audubon.org/news/the-southwest-facing-unprecedented-migratory-bird-die>



**Survival by Degrees: 389 Bird Species on the Brink**

Read Audubon's new climate report, which finds that two-thirds of North American birds are at increasing risk of extinction from global temperature rise. Find out how species in your state will be affected, and which birds we can help by acting now. You can enter your zip code and see the predicable impacts of climate change in your area and how the local birds will be affected.

<https://www.audubon.org/climate/survivalbydegrees>



# President's Corner

I hope this finds you getting out and doing as much birding as you can under the current circumstances, even if it's just in your backyard. Ohlone Audubon is trying to bring back some semblance of our outings and programs and I hope you will take advantage of them.

We tried our first Virtual Membership Meeting on September 1 on Zoom (what isn't these days). Not only was it a great presentation by Jaan Lepson on the Canary Islands, but it was wonderful seeing everyone again. Debbie Wong, our programs chair, did a terrific job getting our programs restarted in this virtual format. Our next program will be on October 6 with Peter Pyle on Trans-Pacific Migration. If you haven't already done so, head over to the Ohlone website to register. If you have never used Zoom before, it isn't that hard, and we would love to see you.

We are also trying to restart our field trips. There are new conditions on our new field trips given the current situation, so keep checking the Ohlone website for more details on this and future field trips.

Every few years the board of directors takes a look at our constitution and bylaws and considers any needed changes. We have a few this time around. Changes in the bylaws requires a vote of the membership. Take a look in the Kite Call. You will see the proposed changes and how to vote. We handle voting the same way we recently did the Board elections.

Finally, something about birds. I am writing this from Grand Teton National Park, one of the most beautiful places in the United States. Whenever you go somewhere new or haven't been to in awhile, you have to slip back into beginner birder mode. Yesterday, I spent the better part of a pleasant afternoon sitting on a balcony high in the mountains with a refreshing beverage remembering how to tell Black-capped from Mountain Chickadees. Below is a pop quiz. Have fun birding.



**Black-capped and Mountain Chickadees, which is which?**

*-Bill Hoppes*

## Amendments to Ohlone Audubon Society Constitution and Bylaws

Every few years the Ohlone Board directs a review of the Society's Constitution and Bylaws to see if any changes are needed based on current conditions and practices. This year's review has been completed and the board is proposing three amendments to the membership.

**The following amendments to the OAS Constitution are being proposed. Members will be asked to vote via email. A 2/3 affirmative vote of those submitting an email ballot is needed for passage.**

Article III Board of Directors Section 2: No one individual shall serve for more than six (6) consecutive years as a member of the Board of Directors.

**Justification for proposed change: Ohlone has not followed this requirement for at least the past couple of decades. Despite this, there has been regular turnover of board members over the past few years. The proposal is to eliminate this Section.**

Article IV: Officers Section 1: The elected officers of OAS shall be a President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer. All officers shall be elected to serve for one (1) year terms, **but no individual may hold the same office for more than three (3) consecutive terms**

**Justification for proposed change: Ohlone has not followed this requirement for at least the past couple of decades. Since officers are re-elected each year, membership can ensure turnover without losing experienced officers to term limits. The proposal is to delete the bolded text.**

Section 8: All checks and drafts of OAS shall be signed by any **two** of the following officers: President, Vice President, Treasurer or Membership Chair.

**Justification for proposed change: In the Covid-19 era in-person actions and meetings have become more difficult and infrequent. The proposed change is to allow checks and drafts to be signed by any one of these officers. The proposal to delete the word "two" in this section.**

**An email ballot will be sent to members who we have emails for or you may send your yea/nay to [pagpeg@aol.com](mailto:pagpeg@aol.com)**

# More Tough Pairs for Birders

By Bill Hoppes

## Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs

These two shorebirds can be found all year round in our area, but are less abundant in the summer months. They are long-legged birds-yes the legs are a bright yellow. They don't occur in large flocks but usually are off by themselves or in groups of 2-4 individuals.

They prefer marshy edges rather than the open mudflats where you see all the other peeps. Just as in Coopers and Sharp-shinned Hawks, there is a distinct size difference in these two species. Greater Yellowlegs are about half again as big as the Lesser. This is pretty obvious when you have both species together, but I have never been able to judge it on solitary birds. Thankfully there are other field marks to use. The most reliable one is the bill.



**Body size comparison of Lesser (left) and Greater Yellowlegs.**

The Greater Yellowlegs' bill is roughly 1.5 times the length of its head, while the Lesser Yellowlegs' bill is barely longer than its head. The Greater Yellowlegs bill also has a very slight upturn at the end, while the Lesser Yellowlegs' bill is straight. Look carefully and you will see it and can use this reliably as a field mark. Finally, when they take flight they give themselves away. When taking off, the Greater Yellowlegs has a 3-4 note call, while the Lesser Yellowlegs has a 1-2 note call. Thus a "greater" number of notes for the Greater Yellowlegs.



**Bill shape on Greater (left) and Lesser Yellowlegs. Note on Greater that the bill is about 1.5 times the length of the head and has a slight upturn. The bill of the Lesser is about as long as the head and is straight.**

## Mourning Dove and Eurasian Collared-Dove

No other avian species has colonized North America at the speed of the Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*). First found nesting near Miami, Florida in 1982, this nonnative dove has rapidly spread from Florida to Alaska. Its original range is temperate and subtropical Asia from Turkey east to southern China and south through India to Sri Lanka. In 1838 it was reported in Bulgaria, spreading throughout the Balkans in the early 1900's, reaching Germany in 1945 and Great Britain by 1953. Subsequent spread reached Norway, Russia east of the Ural Mountains, and northern Africa at the end of the 20th century. In the east of its range, it spread northeast to central and northern China and Japan. In 1974, 50 Eurasian Collared-Doves escaped captivity in Nassau in the Bahamas. From the Bahamas, the species spread to Florida, and is now found in nearly every state in the U.S. as well as Mexico. Collared-doves are abundant in our area, often exceeding native Mourning Doves in numbers. Contrary to other invasive species, researchers found Collared-Dove abundance did not negatively impact the abundance of native doves. Collared-doves do best in landscapes highly-modified by human activity. A likely reason for their rapid expansion.

So let's tell these two apart. Mourning Doves have a tan or grayish-brown body, with slightly lighter coloring on their chests. Their wings have several dark spots on them, often nearly black; tail feathers are usually somewhat darker than their



**Eurasian Collared -Dove on the left and Mourning Doves on the right. Hard to tell from photos, but collared dove is slightly larger. Note overall lighter color and the prominent black crescent on the neck of the Eurasian Collared -Dove**

(Continued from pg 8) body color, with white tips and edges. When they fly their tail feathers extend to a sharp point. Tail shape is one of the best ID marks for these two species. Eurasian Collared-Doves are larger than Mourning Doves. Their upper-parts are uniformly sandy brown. Their most prominent mark is a black crescent on their neck. When they fly, instead of the pointed tail of the Mourning Dove, their tail appears squared off or rounded with contrasting dark and light feathers. With practice their songs make it easy to tell them apart. Collared-Dove males have a three note koo-KOO-kook song. The song may be repeated 3–12 times with the middle syllable much longer than the first and last. The Mourning Dove has a five note song with the second note koo-koooOO-koo-koo-koo rising in inflection. Listen to them

both and this will make ID easier. You will eventually be able to tell these two apart by their calls alone.



**Eurasian Collared -Dove (left) and Mourning Dove (right) in flight. Note the rounded tail and contrasting dark and white tail feathers of the collared dove compared to the pointed tail of the Mourning Dove.**

### Western and Least Sandpiper

If there are two species that give beginning, and experienced birders more grief than Cooper’s and Sharp-shinned Hawks, it is these two. Both occur in the thousands on the mudflats around SF Bay in the Fall, Winter and Spring. They are probably two of the most abundant birds in our area, but many beginning and experienced birders have a tough time with them. The field marks I am going to discuss won’t enable you to ID every individual, but they should help you scan the thousands of peeps out there on the mudflat and be confident that you have correctly identified individuals of both species.



**This Snowy Plover has a short "plover bill". Much shorter than the long bills of sandpipers .**

I am not going to confuse things by comparing these two to the rarer sandpiper species, such as Baird’s, Semipalmated, and Pectoral, that sometimes occur in our area. First we need to be able to ID these species as Sandpipers and eliminate from consideration other similar abundant species that occur in our area.

There are all kinds of little guys running around on the mudflat. The first thing you need to be able to do is tell the sandpipers from the small plovers. The key here is the bill. The small plovers, most commonly the Snowy and Semipalmated, have short plover bills. The sandpipers have comparatively longer bills. So. After we look at the bill we know it is a sandpiper. Ok so now let’s figure out if it is a Least and Western.

As with many birds, size is a good first starting point. Here is a good photo of a Least (left) and Western (right) sandpiper. Don’t worry yet about any field marks just get a sense of the comparative size. The Least, not surprisingly is the smallest local sandpiper. At first the size difference may not seem like much but if you focus on it and practice, eventually you can tell the difference in the field. The second field mark I use is leg color. The legs on the Least are yellowish-green and on the Western, black.



**Least Sandpiper on the left with Western on the right. The size difference may not seem like much but with practice would will become good at picking it out. Also note the longer bill on the Western.**

Below is a good photo that shows this. The bird on the top has the yellow legs of the Least Sandpiper while the one on the bottom, the black legs of the Western. With them walking around in the mud and in all lights you won’t see this in all birds, but if



**Least Sandpiper, above and Western Sandpiper below. Note the yellow-green legs on the Least and the black legs on the Western. Note the bill on the Least is about as long as its head and the bill on the Western is longer than its head.**

*(continued on page 10)*

(Cont'd from pg 9)

at the end. There are other field marks such as degree of streaking on the breast (Least has more-you can also see it on the photo). The back on the Least is a warmer brown than the Western's gray tone. Western has a larger white patch in the shoulder. I have never been able to see these and remember them. Do not depend on any one of these three field marks (size, leg color, bill length). Get a sense of the size, check for leg color and then length of bill. If all three line up you likely have it right. You won't be able to ID each of the 10000 peeps running around out there but you will be able to ID some.



**Sanderling. These guys are constantly in motion on the mudflats. Note the overall gray color without the dark brown back of the Least and Western.**

Before we leave these two, lets discuss two other birds out on the mudflats that could confuse you, the Sanderling and the Dunlin. Sanderlings are about the same size as the Western Sandpiper, however when we see them here, in their non-breeding plumage they are very pale overall: light gray above and white below, with a blackish mark at the shoulder. They don't have the brown back of the sandpipers. Sanderlings are also constantly in motion running back and forth in sync with the waves. Dunlin are half again bigger than Western Sandpipers. Their bills are even longer than Western Sandpipers with a definite droop at the end. If you are lucky some will have breeding plumage and you will see the extensive black on the belly.



**Finally, a Dunlin (right) and a Western Sandpiper. Note the Dunlin is almost twice as large with a much longer bill that droops at the end. If there is any trace of breeding plumage the Dunlin will have black feathers on the belly .**

So yellowlegs, doves and sandpipers. Getting these birds down will take some practice. The sandpipers particularly can seem frustrating. But keep at it and you will develop your confidence with these tough pairs.

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



Lawrence Abbott, Gary & Chris Bard, John & Becky Bradley, Diana Brumbaugh, Joanna Dixon, Stephanie Floyd, Georgeann Hardy, Erica Herron, Jacqueline Mendiola, Janice Mitchell, J. Moran, Kathryn Morimoto, Roberta Ritchie, Kathy Robertson, Anne Rouse, Ken Roux, John Sack, Donald Simonson, Rita Sklar, Joanne Strickland, Family Thurston, Harvey Trop

**Donations :** Lawrence Abbott, Gary & Chris Bard, John & Becky Bradley, Diana Brumbaugh, Linda Thurston

**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. A **"RENEW?"** indicates that this is your last *Kite Call*. A **cmp** means you are chapter membership paid; a **nnmp** means you are a national member only and a **"JOIN LOCAL?"** on your label indicates that you have joined the National Audubon Society, but alas, **not** your local Ohlone chapter. **We would love to have you join us. If you receive your Kite Call electronically, look for a reminder in your email box.**



**To renew or join us please send a \$25 check to Pat Gordon, Membership Chair, 1922 Hillside Street, Hayward, CA 94541 or thru PayPal on our website. [www.ohloneaudubon.org](http://www.ohloneaudubon.org)**

### Attention Grandparents and Parents!

Ohlone has generously supported this program



**Are you looking for a fun, free, safe, and educational activity outdoors for your kids this summer?**

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At Junior Wildlife Ranger, we believe the outdoors is for everyone. Our nonprofit project cultivates the next generation of environmental stewards through fun, outdoor educational activities in your neighborhood and at local public lands. Visit [juniorwildliferanger.org](http://juniorwildliferanger.org) for more info.

Visit [juniorwildliferanger.org](http://juniorwildliferanger.org) and earn your Neighborhood Badge today!

### "Wild Things" Features Paintings of Birds by Rita Sklar



The Hayward Arts Council presents an on-line show of award-winning local artist **Rita Sklar's** paintings of birds (and **OHLONE** member!). Ms Sklar is a Signature member of the California Watercolor Association—and an avid birder. Her awards include a special prize from The San Francisco Flyway Festival for her "Winged Migration in Black and White." The American Association of University Women (AAUW) selected two of her bird paintings to feature on greeting cards. She received a Distinguished Artist award from the National Museum of Women Artists.

Her show, "Wild Things," features an exploration of the wonders of nature and the decline of many of our beautiful creatures. The compositions resonate with color and vibrant shadows, and Sklar's unique style imparts a sense of weight and structure to the paintings, not usually associated with watercolor. Critics describe her paintings as a mix of abstraction and realism, giving the paintings a feeling of movement and immediacy and praise her work as "capturing the subtle mood of the mystery of nature."

Sponsored by the Hayward Arts Council, you can see Rita Sklar's paintings at <http://haywardartscouncil.org/>. For a preview, visit her website at [www.ritasklar.com](http://www.ritasklar.com).



**Surreal Turkey Vulture in Judy Wuelfing's backyard, Castro Valley**

### Photos from members during their COVID time.



**Black-necked Swan, Oak Grove Park Stockton 8/30/20 Jeff & Carol Garberson**

### Sad News



We are saddened to announce the passing of **Helen Sowers**, September 16, 2020 on her 96th birthday. Helen served as president, treasurer and recording secretary of Ohlone for many years. As Evelyn Cormier, our current past president said, Helen was a real trooper and I always said I wanted to "grow up" to be like Helen. Our condolences to her family.

-Pat Gordon

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



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