



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

- Oct 3 GENERAL MEETING
Via Zoom
- Oct 6 FIELD TRIP
Hawk Hill
- Oct 14 FIELD TRIP
Coyote Hills
- Nov 5 FIELD TRIP
Big Break
- Nov 9 GENERAL MEETING
Via Zoom
- Nov 12 FIELD TRIP
Hayward Shoreline
- Nov. 18 FIELD TRIP
Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area
- Dec 17 Hayward-Fremont CBC

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ZOOM MEETING INSTRUCTIONS:
Welcome! You are invited to join a meeting: Ohlone Audubon Membership Meetings. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email about joining the meeting.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIsf-iupj4iGNwWOZRGoiFQxSQ-ANIL8dNP#/registration>

Membership Meetings

California Condor Recovery in Northern California: Prey-go-neesh Flies Free



Tiana Williams-Claussen, Director, Yurok Tribe Wildlife Dept.

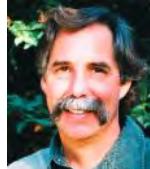
Chris West, Senior Wildlife Biologist,
Northern California Condor Restoration Program Manager

Tuesday, October 3, 2023 7:30PM via ZOOM

(Click on link to the left—ZOOM meeting instructions)

Full details for this most exciting program see last issue

Is Extreme Heat Causing a Reduction in Local Riparian Breeding Birds?



By David "Doc Quack" Riensche

Tuesday, November 7, 2023 7:30PM via ZOOM

Historical records show that diverse Canaries in our “coal mine” environment generally have been disappearing, despite protections. Since 1994, consistent breeding bird censuses in a protected riparian area on San Francisco Bay have been conducted. An overall decline in breeding birds, though not always steady, has been detected there, hypothetically corresponding to steadily increasing human activity in adjacent areas. Bird data has been compared with weather records to test these hypothetical effects. Trends in comparing general weather and breeding bird data might not be clear in such coastal, relatively benign climates, within

(continued on page 2)

(November Program continued)

birds' adaptations. Yet occasional, extreme environmental events, particularly in a protected area avoiding much habitat degradation, appears to have additional major negative, lasting effects on these breeding populations.

David “Doc Quack” Riensche is the Wildlife Biologist II, Certified Wildlife Biologist, for the East Bay Regional Park District, a biology and ecology professor at Las Positas College in Livermore, California., and one of our Directors at Large. He and Christopher L. Kitting, a professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at California State University East Bay, conducted the research and co-authored the paper on this presentation's topic.

COMING DECEMBER 5, 2023—ANNUAL COOKIE EXCHANGE AND MEMBER PHOTO SHARE

Field Trips

Hawk Hill, Marin County
Friday, October 6, 10:30am - 1:30pm
Leader: Bob Toleno

Overlooking the Golden Gate Bridge, Hawk Hill sits near the southernmost end of the Marin County peninsula. Throughout the fall, raptors migrating south along the Pacific coast flyway prefer not to fly over water, so the tip of the peninsula funnels a large number over this spot. Early October can be one of the best times to see hawks and falcons of all kinds, including some rarely seen along the coast, like Swainson's, Ferruginous, and Broad-winged Hawks. Bring a scope and a folding chair and we'll sit at the top of the hill and watch the raptors fly out over the Golden Gate. If hawk activity is slow that day, we might drive down to bird at Rodeo Lagoon.

Directions: Take the Richmond Bridge to Hwy 101 south, then exit on Alexander Rd (exit 442). Make a left on Bunker Rd, go through the tunnel, make a left on McCullough Rd, then at the traffic circle, turn right on Conzelman Rd. Drive about a half mile and park in the lot that overlooks the Golden Gate Bridge, where we'll meet.

Migratory Marvels at Coyote Hills Regional Park – Visitor Center, Fremont
Saturday, October 14, 8:30am – 11:30 am
Leaders: David Riensche & Maggie Clark
RSVP: maggieclark99@gmail.com

Fall is one of the best times to bird Coyote Hills. Winter sparrows and raptors are back and migrating shorebirds and songbirds will still be passing through. Depending on water levels, plenty of winter ducks
(continued next column)



*Bird Sightings
Return next month!*

(Coyote Hills continued) should be on hand. 60 species are possible when conditions are good! Come help us find them. Rain cancels. \$5 parking fee payable at kiosk, free to East Bay Parks annual pass holders.

Directions: To reach the park from I-880, take SR-84 towards the Dumbarton Bridge. Exit at Paseo Padre Parkway, turn right on Paseo Padre and go about one mile. Turn left on Patterson Ranch Rd. Meet at the Visitors' Center at the end of the road.

Big Break Regional Shoreline
Sunday, November 5, 9am - noon
Leader: Bill Hoppes
hoppes1949@gmail.com

Big Break Regional Shoreline has an excellent mix of habitats. First off it has one of East Bay Regional Park District's Visitors Centers as well as an excellent 3-D model of the SF Bay and Delta. We will first visit the fishing platform that has excellent views of the “Big Break” and the Carquinez Strait. If you bring your spotting scope this will be a good place to use it. After that we will follow trails that edge willow runs, grasslands and sloughs. Birding is always good here and we have good chances to see anything from Sandhill Cranes to White-faced Ibis to our own White-tailed Kite.

Directions: Take I-880 north to CA-24 east to I-680 north to CA-242 north to CA-4 east to CA-160 toward Sacramento. After half a mile, exit on Main St and make a right, then make a left on Big Break Rd.

Field trips continue on page 5

OAS FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE 2023—2024

| DATE | LOCATION | LEADER(S) |
|-------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Friday, October 6 | Hawk Hill, Marin County | Bob Toleno |
| Saturday, October 14 | Coyote Hills Reg Park | Davie Riensche & Maggie Clark |
| Sunday, November 5 | Big Break Reg Park | Bill Hoppes |
| Sunday, November 12 | Hayward Reg Shoreline | Bob Toleno & Juli Chamberlin |
| Wednesday, November 15 | Vargas Plateau | Vicki Robinson |
| Saturday, November 12 | Hayward Shoreline | Bob Toleno & Juli Chamberlin |
| Sunday, November 18 | Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area | David Riensche |
| Wednesday, December 6 | Elsie Roemer Bird Sanctuary | Kathy Robertson |
| Saturday, December 9 | Cosumnes River Preserve, Staten Island & Woodbridge | David Riensche & Bill Scoggins |
| Sunday, December 17 | Hayward-Fremont CBC | Bob Toleno, compiler |
| Sunday, January 7 | Panoche Valley | Bob Toleno & Juli Chamberlin |
| Saturday, January 13 | Arrowhead Marsh & New Marsh | David Riensche & Maggie Clark |
| Saturday, January 20 | Springtown & North Livermore | Kathy Robertson |
| Sunday, January 28 | Shadow Cliffs | Kathy Robertson |
| Sat, February 17 | Sacramento NWR & Colusa NWR | David Riensche & Maggie Clark |
| Sunday, February 18 | Gray Lodge | Phil & Pat Gordon |
| Wed, February 21 | Lake Elizabeth | TBA |
| Saturday, March 2 | Quarry Lakes | Kathy Robertson |
| Sat, March 9 | Bay Point Reg Park | David Riensche |
| Wednesday, April 3 | Sabrecat Creek Trail, Fremont | Bill Hoppes |
| Saturday, April 13 | Shady Trail, American River | David Riensche |
| Wednesday, April 17 | Sunol Reg Park | Vicki Robinson |
| Saturday, May 4 | Garin Reg Park | David Riensche |
| Saturday, May 18 | Niles Hot Spots | Kathy Robertson |
| Saturday, June 15 | Hayward Interpretative Center | David Riensche & Maggie Clark |

ABA CODE OF BIRDING ETHICS

1. Promote the welfare of birds and their environment

1(a) Support the protection of important bird habitat.

1(b) To avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger, exercise restraint and caution during observation, photography, sound recording, or filming.

- Limit the use of recordings and other methods of attracting birds, and never use such methods in heavily birded areas or for attracting any species that is Threatened, Endangered, or of Special Concern, or is rare in your local area.
- Keep well back from nests and nesting colonies, roosts, display areas, and important feeding sites. In such sensitive areas, if there is a need for extended observation, photography, filming, or recording, try to use a blind or hide, and take advantage of natural cover.
- Use artificial light sparingly for filming or photography, especially for close-ups.

1(c) Before advertising the presence of a rare bird, evaluate the potential for disturbance to the bird, its surroundings, and other people in the area, and proceed only if access can be controlled, disturbance minimized, and permission has been obtained from private landowners. The sites of rare nesting birds should be divulged only to the proper conservation authorities.

1(d) Stay on roads, trails, and paths where they exist; otherwise, keep habitat disturbance to a minimum.

2. Respect the law, and the rights of others.

2(a) Do not enter private property without the owner's explicit permission.

2(b) Follow all laws, rules, and regulations governing use of roads and public areas, both at home and abroad.

2(c) Practice common courtesy in contacts with other people. Your exemplary behavior will generate goodwill with birders and non-birders alike.

3. Ensure that feeders, nest structures, and other artificial bird environments are safe.

3(a) Keep dispensers, water, and food clean and free of decay or disease. It is important to feed birds continually during harsh weather.

3(b) Maintain and clean nest structures regularly.

3(c) If you are attracting birds to an area, ensure the birds are not exposed to predation from cats and other domestic animals or dangers posed by artificial hazards.

4. Group birding, whether organized or impromptu, requires special care.

Each individual in the group, in addition to the obligations spelled out in Items #1 and #2, has responsibilities as a Group Member:

4(a) Respect the interests, rights, and skills of fellow birders, as well as people participating in other legitimate outdoor activities. Freely share your knowledge and experience, except where code 1(c) applies.

Be especially helpful to beginning birders.

4(b) If you witness unethical birding behavior, assess the situation and intervene if you think it prudent. When interceding, inform the person(s) of the inappropriate action and attempt, within reason, to have it stopped. If the behavior continues, document it and notify appropriate individuals or organizations.

Group Leader Responsibilities [amateur and professional trips and tours]:

4(c) Be an exemplary ethical role model for the group. Teach through word and example.

4(d) Keep groups to a size that limits impact on the environment and does not interfere with others using the same area.

4(e) Ensure everyone in the group knows of and practices this code.

4(f) Learn and inform the group of any special circumstances applicable to the areas being visited (e.g., no audio play-back allowed).

4(g) Acknowledge that professional tour companies bear a special responsibility to place the welfare of birds and the benefits of public knowledge ahead of the company's commercial interests. Ideally, leaders should keep track of tour sightings, document unusual occurrences, and submit records to appropriate organizations.

Please Follow this Code and Distribute and Teach it to Others

The American Birding Association's Code of Birding Ethics may be freely reproduced for distribution/dissemination. Please acknowledge the role of ABA in developing and promoting this code with a link to the ABA website using the url <http://www.aba.org>. Thank you.

Field Trips continued

Hayward Shoreline: Longspurs and Shorebirds Sunday, November 12, 8:00 - 11:00 am
Leaders: Bob Toleno and Juli Chamberlin birding@toleno.com

November is the best month to see longspurs in Alameda County. We'll start this trip walking around the damp shortgrass of Mount Trashmore searching for Lapland Longspurs (or possibly other longspurs), as well as pipits, geese, sparrows, and larks. When we've had our fill of grassland birds, we'll head over

to Frank's Dump where a +6.0 high tide should push lots of shorebirds up into the roost. Rain cancels.

Directions: From Hwy 880, take Winton Ave exit west and drive all the way to the end. We'll meet in the asphalt parking lot inside the gate. Pre-registration is not required, and all are welcome.

Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area – Saturday, November 18, 2023 8:30 to 11:30 am
Leader: David "Doc Quack" Riensche driensche@ebparks.org

Join "Doc Quack" for some "fowl fun" in the shadow of California's capital city, where over 100,000 waterfowl annually winter! The Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area is an Important Bird Area, supporting globally significant numbers of waterfowl, continentally significant numbers of Least Sandpipers and Northern Pintails, and nationally significant numbers of American White Pelican, Canvasback and Dunlin. More than 200 bird species have been recorded here, so bring your scope!

Directions: To reach the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area located approximately 6 miles east of the cities of Davis and 2 miles west of Sacramento, use Interstate 80 and take the East Chiles Road exit. At East Chiles Road (also known as Road 32B) turn left and travel roughly 0.2 miles (east) to the packed gravel access road and follow it up to the top of the levee berm. Here you will make a left turn through the gate and follow the road into the Wildlife Area. The Auto Tour Route is at the end of East Chiles Road

President's Corner

You Win Some, You Lose Some Looks like the American Ornithological Society (AOS, formerly AOU) is lumping the Cordilleran and Pacific-slope Flycatchers back into the Western Flycatcher. The initial split of

the Western Flycatcher was made in 1989, on the basis of a few pairs of mating birds and some differences in song. That was enough evidence to split the Western Flycatcher into the Pacific-slope Flycatcher, residing on the western slopes of mountain ranges in British Columbia, the Cascades, and the Sierra Nevada. The Cordilleran Flycatcher was assigned the eastern slopes of these ranges, and the mountains of the southwestern United States and Mexico. No one could tell these two apart by sight, and few claimed to be able to ID them by song. If you saw a "Western" Flycatcher in the Bay Area, you ticked off Pacific-slope; if you saw one in Utah, you ticked off Cordilleran. However, more recent genetic research of the birds has determined that the Pacific-slope and Cordilleran Flycatchers are the same species. eBird will soon make these changes and will assign all formerly identified Pacific-slope and Cordilleran Flycatchers to Western Flycatcher, which will now be the only choice in eBird for these flycatchers. For those of you who have both species on your life list, your total count is about to go down by one.

Pacific-slope Flycatcher, left and Cordilleran Flycatcher, right. I could never tell them apart either.



Condor Numbers Up

I am always interested in following the status of the California Condor recovery program. An article in the *East Bay Times* got me to check out how their numbers were looking. In December 2020, there were 504 California Condors living in the wild or in captivity. By December 2022, the population had risen to 537, of which 347 lived in the wild. The current wild population existing at the original Sespe site in Southern California consists of 89 birds. New populations have been established at Big Sur (94 birds); the North Rim of the Grand Canyon (116 birds); Sierra de San Pedro Mitar National Park in Mexico (40 birds); and, most recently, in Redwood National Park in Northern California (8 birds). The best spot to see Condors locally is Pinnacles National Park. (ED. NOTE Be sure to watch this month's program!)

-Bill Hoppe

Conservation



Tesla Park

State Parks is embarking on a 2-stage, multi-year process to determine what uses will be allowed on the 3,100 acres of land formerly slated to become part of the Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area. The first stage will be classifying the type of state park the 3,100 acres will become. The second stage will be writing a general plan for uses consistent with the classification.

To become involved in this process, which is critical to protecting the Alameda-Tesla Property's significant natural and cultural values, go to www.AlamedaTeslaPlan.com. On the top menu bar, click on Participate. At the bottom of the Participate page, provide your email address to get notices of public engagement meetings.

There are seven types of California state parks with a wide-range of activities allowed depending on the

park classification. The website describes the various classifications and what is allowed in each. In all likelihood, the Alameda Tesla Property will become either a regular State Park or a State Reserve. Reserves provide the greatest protection of the natural features (State Natural Reserves) or cultural features (State Cultural Reserves). The Alameda Tesla area has a wealth of both natural and cultural features that deserve the highest protection the state system can provide.

Friends of Tesla Park urge that the Alameda Tesla land be classified as a State Reserve. Go to www.TeslaPark.org for more information about the important natural and cultural features that the Tesla land contains. Ohlone Audubon Society is one of many state Audubon Societies that supports protecting Tesla's important biological features.

Dick Schneider

The Alameda County Resource Conservation District (ACRCD) Receives \$7M Grant to Study Wildlife Crossings

The ACRCD will soon begin work on a multi-year project to build three wildlife crossings for East Bay freeways. Starting October 1, a \$7,094,000 grant from the State Wildlife Conservation Board will support the first, 3-year phase of the project, which includes choosing crossing sites, as well as planning and engineering the crossing structures themselves.

The entire effort, including building the crossings, may take as long as 10 years. Previous studies suggest four possible crossing areas: Two at I-580, one on the Dublin grade and one in the Altamont region; one on I-680 near Fremont; and one on State Route 84 near Sunol.

Alameda County Board of Supervisors Approves Cemetery Project in North Livermore that May Violate Measure D

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors voted last week to approve a new 47-acre cemetery planned for unincorporated North Livermore, despite an appeal from the City of Livermore and community groups, including Friends of Livermore and Friends of Vineyards and Open Space. The appeal claimed that the proposed cemetery violated Measure D. An amendment to Measure D was passed by voters in the November 2022 general election to allow more flexibility for the size and location of certain agriculture-related buildings and to expand permitted wine country visitor-serving uses. However, opponents of the cemetery project argue that the planned mortuary building and funeral pavilion are urban uses not permitted outside the urban growth boundary of Measure D.



SAVE NEWARK WETLANDS

One of the most important efforts to protect the future of San Francisco Bay is underway in Newark now, as conservation and climate resilience organizations advocate for the permanent protection of the Newark Area 4 Baylands - over 500 acres of wetlands and uplands that scientists say are a critical conservation priority to support the long-term resilience of San Francisco Bay to climate change, and that have long been identified as a priority addition to the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

However the Newark Area 4 Baylands remain under extreme development threat. For years we've fought a proposal to build as many as 469 housing units on Area 4 from one group of developers. Now, Area 4 is facing a new threat: a second development proposal, that would add more than 200 additional housing units to the site, re-zoning land intended to be a future park and developing it instead.

Newark Area 4 is one of San Francisco Bay's climate resilience hotspots, a rare opportunity where we can protect and restore Bay wetlands, as well as preserve space for wetlands to move inland as sea levels rise. It's such an important opportunity that over 40 prominent San Francisco Bay scientists recently wrote a joint letter calling for the protection of these lands.

While this latest development proposal, named the "Mowry Village" project, would redevelop a current auto scrap yard, which on its face may sound like a good idea, the "Pick-n-Pull" site is on the baylands, surrounded on three sides by wetlands and open space, and has been planned – and zoned - for future parks. By developing this site, the City of Newark is giving away future parkland, and also putting more residents in a flood zone at risk of sea level rise. Instead, the City of Newark should prioritize supporting the clean-up and restoration of the Pick-n-Pull site for future park space as planned, as part of the overall climate resilience and conservation vision for Newark Area 4, and prioritize climate-smart development within the core of the city.

Take Action and sign the petition to the Newark City Council: Say No to the Proposed "Mowry Village" Development! Instead, Preserve and Restore Newark's Baylands to Support the Climate Resilience of San Francisco Bay and the Newark Community.

Sign petition here https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/tell-newark-protect-newark-baylands-say-no-to-mowry-village-project?link_id=2&can_id=937f2a113c5d0e9d026f0e391e14c84c&source=email-san-francisco-bay-shoreline-under-threat-again-in-newark-2&email_referrer=email_2047304&email_subject=urgent-new-petition-to-save-newarks-baylands

--Carin High



The "Pick-n-Pull" auto scrap yard in Newark's baylands, proposed for development into over 200 houses. (Photo credit: Derell Licht)

A Hard-to-ID Raptor We are Seeing Much More These Days

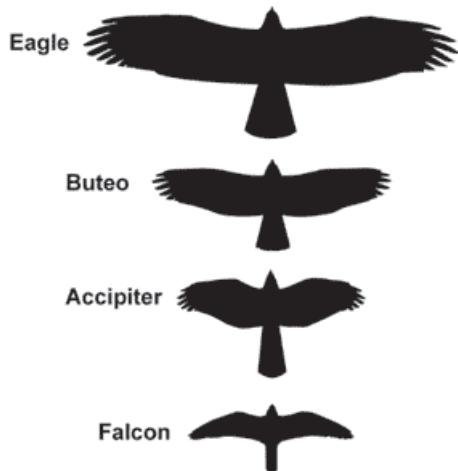
by Bill Hoppes

Raptors are always an ID challenge. I've written in the past about juvenile Golden and Bald Eagles, and Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks. This time it is about a raptor that is a tough ID challenge, but we seem to be getting more frequent reports the past few years -- the Merlin. The Merlin is a small, fierce falcon. Some have described it as, pound for pound, the toughest bird out there. It is found throughout the northern hemisphere, breeding in the boreal forests and wintering in more southern latitudes in the western hemisphere, down to Mexico and Central America. That's when we have them here. Earliest records in our area are from late September, continuing until early May. So there you have a clue. If you are in the June through August window, it's very unlikely you have a Merlin. eBird has no records of Merlins in our area during this summer interval.

There are three subspecies of Merlin in North America:

- ◆ *Falco columbarius columbarius*, or the taiga subspecies, breeds in Canada and the northern US. It winters in southern North American (this is the bird we see in our area), Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, and northern South America.
- ◆ *Falco columbarius richardsonii*, or the prairie merlin, breeds in the great plains from Alberta to Wyoming, and winters in the same general area.
- ◆ *Falco columbarius suckleyi*, or the black merlin, breeds along the Pacific Coast of North America, from southern Alaska to northern Washington state. It also winters in the same general area.

There are an additional six subspecies in the eastern hemisphere.



Above is a series of silhouettes of raptors. Note the long tapered wings of the falcon on the bottom.

So let's start talking about ID. What are the other raptors that might give us trouble when trying to ID the Merlin? There are five.

First there are the other falcons, the Peregrine and Prairie falcons and the American Kestrel. We will see, however that, except for the female Kestrel, it is not too hard to tell the Merlin from these guys. The other two are the Cooper's Hawk and the Sharp-shinned Hawk. Again, Cooper's is not too hard. The one likely to give us the most trouble is the Sharp-shinned. First, let's make sure we can identify a falcon.

Falcons are small to medium- sized birds of prey. They have longish tails compared to those of buteos, and have distinctive, long pointed wings. I have found that this is easier to see in a diagram than in the field.



Size comparison, Merlin on the left, the size of a Kestrel, and Peregrine on the right, the size of a crow.

There are differences in flight pattern. The Sharp-shinned Hawk, the one we are most likely to confuse with a Merlin, often has what is called "twinkling flight". This means rapid wingbeats followed by a short glide, then repeat. Falcons do not do this; they have powerful, direct flight with consistent strong wingbeats.

So, it is October through May, we see a small raptor with long pointed wings and a long tail, flying powerfully along with consistent wingbeats. Likely we have a falcon. How do you know it isn't a Peregrine or a Prairie Falcon? Here size helps. The Merlin is the size of an American Kestrel; the (continued on page 9)

(continued from page 8) Peregrine and Prairie are the size of a crow. The flight characteristics, plus size, leads us to Merlin or Kestrel. You should have no trouble telling a Kestrel from a Merlin. Merlins are dark birds with a slaty blue back. Kestrels are much more colorful. Here they are side by side; should be no problem.



Male American Kestrel, left, and Merlin, right; not too hard to tell these two apart



Female American Kestrel on left and Merlin on right. Note the banding on the tail. One dark terminal band on the Kestrel and multiple dark bands on the Merlin

You can get confused when comparing a Merlin and a female American Kestrel in flight. I didn't say this was going to be easy, did I?

Look at the pictures to the left. Superficially they look alike, but take a close look at the tails. The female Kestrel has one dark terminal band, while the Merlin has several dark bands. This may be hard to see, but we are not trying to identify every Merlin out there, but to see enough of them that we are confident in our ID.

Finally, maybe we are lucky enough to have a perching bird. First look at size. Does it look the size of a Kestrel, or the size of a crow?

If the size of a Kestrel, we may have Merlin. So, what are the birds we could confuse a Merlin with? -- female Kestrel and Sharp-shinned Hawk.

So here are pictures of all three. If you remember Sesame Street, you can sing "one of these things is not like the other.....". Do you see it? I will give you a minute..... On two birds the streaks on the breast are heavy and vertical. On the other, they are light and horizontal. The bird with the horizontal streaking is the Sharp-shinned. Can you look at the other two and figure out which one is the Kestrel and which one is the Merlin? The Kestrel has the traditional black tear drop of falcons and will have a rufous back regardless of sex. If the Merlin has a tear drop, it will be very light.



(continued on page 10)

(Merlin—continued from pg 9)

So, not in summer, flying birds, crow size or Kestrel size, long pointed wings, powerful direct flight. Can you see the tail? One terminal band or multiple dark bands? A small falcon with multiple dark bands on the tail. You likely have a Merlin. Perched bird, Kestrel sized, vertical breast streaking with no rufous on the back and no prominent black tear-drop. It's a Merlin.

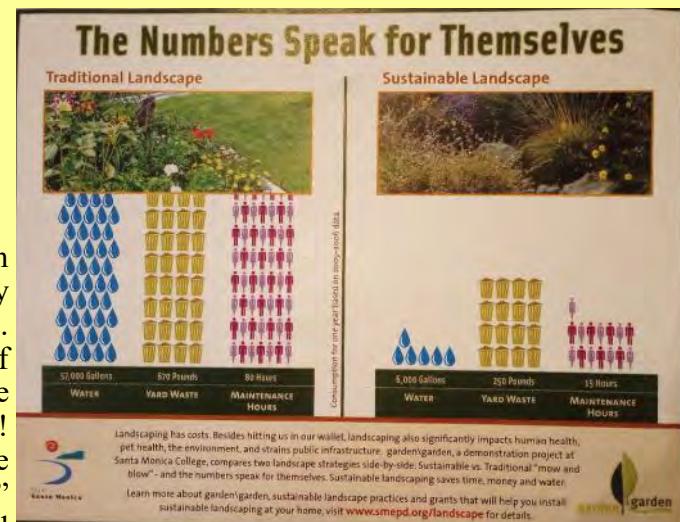
IDing a Merlin isn't easy. Focus on being able to tell a falcon from other raptors. Then focus on size; be able to tell a Kestrel-sized bird from a crow-sized bird. If you can get this down with confidence, then it is pretty easy. Then look at the other characteristics: the banding on the tail, the streaking on the breast, and the lack of a prominent black tear drop. With care, you will get this lifer.

Pollinator Pathways

Carol Garberson, Ohlone member and a Director on the board of the Alameda County Resource conservation (ACRCD) is heading up a project, working with other groups, to encourage the use of native plants in municipal landscaping. Carol recently spoke about this “**Pollinator Pathway**” project at our Member Appreciation Picnic, talking about the need to plant natives for the health of our planet—for the benefit of our insect populations and the pollinators. More has to be done to educate our municipalities and other agencies particularly, of the importance of our native plants. Many of us have made the conversion in our yards, but we need to go further. It also needs to be pointed out that drought resistant plantings are not necessarily native plants. Non-natives plants do not serve our native bees, moths, butterflies, and other insect populations well. And our birds or course!

A set of brochures have been developed, along with information from the California Native Plant Society and other sources, to begin the educational process. Municipalities need to be updated on their choice of plantings and the follow-up maintenance and the importance of such things as mulching and leaf litter! As more funding is obtained educational workshops are planned. The first step is a “Plant This – Not That” informational sheet to show native plants that are good alternatives to non-natives in landscape settings. It will be distributed at outreach events and will be available for other groups to distribute as well.

As in all good things, funding is needed. Donations can be made to **ACRCD 3585 Greenville Rd., Suite 2 Livermore CA 94550-6710** Please note on check for **Pollinator Pathway**



Lodi Sandhill Crane Festival
Nov 3 - 5, 2023
Hutchins Street Square CC
Street, Lodi, California

ART SHOW - Featuring fine arts & photography. Calling all artists to register on our website by Oct 10. Winners will be judged & announced @ festival's reception on Nov 3

TOURS - Calling wildlife enthusiasts of all ages to checkout our tours on our website. We offer a wide range

of tours featuring cranes, raptors, eagles and their wetland habitat. Cost varies based on the tour

RECEPTION - We are turning 25 this year, come and celebrate with us at our reception on Friday, Nov 3. For more details & registration, check our events page

Much more - We'll be hosting presentations, workshops, vendor stalls, food and much more for you to have a fun filled and memorable visit, check our website for details [Register here \(https://lodisandhillcrane.org/about-the-festival/\)](https://lodisandhillcrane.org/about-the-festival/)

Thanks to the following for joining or renewing with us!

Lawrence Abbott

Debra Bedford

Maurice & Victoria Cloutier

Karen Jefferson

Elizabeth Judge

Pat Kite

Kerri Duggins Rames

David Riensche

Kathy Robertson

Jim Ross

Stephen & Rosanne Slingsby

Kathleen Stone

Nancy William

Kathleen Yamamoto

Donations

Lawrence Abbott

Mary Norton

Kerri Duggins Rames

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!!!!!!*** See all of these beautiful photos in color! Also, note that links are live! **GO GREEN!**

Send your request to 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 Hillsdale Street, Hayward, CA 94541 or thru PayPal on our website www.ohloneaudubon.org

ALL IN THE FAMILY!

New Managers for Zoom and Ohlone Website

Bill and Sam Hoppes will be taking over responsibility for the Ohlone website and Zoom, respectively, from Leslie Koenig this fall. Thank you Leslie for years of great service, supporting Ohlone in both of these areas.

Bill, known as Bill the Kid, was born in Burlington, Vermont, but lived most of his life in Livermore. He graduated with a BA in economics from Willamette University in Salem, Oregon, and an MA in International Studies at Texas A&M Bush of Government (he's a Bushie not an Aggie). He is currently working as a data scientist and living in Houston Texas.

Sam, known as Sam the Man, was born in Woodstock, Virginia, but also spent most of his life in Livermore. He graduated with a BA in Marine Transportation from Cal Maritime in Vallejo. He currently serves as a second officer on container ships sailing from the west coast to either Hawaii or China. When not at sea, he resides in Portland, Oregon.

Both boys promised to write these bios themselves, and to provide a pix by deadline. Since they failed to deliver, I get to choose the picture of them to use. - **Bill Hoppes, Dad**

ED.NOTE: Thank both of you for stepping up! Much appreciation!



RETURN TO:
 OHLONE AUDUBON SOCIETY
 1922 HILLSDALE STREET
 HAYWARD, CA 94541

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**Please renew your Ohlone membership by the date shown on your address label. For those receiving our electronic copy, an email will be sent.
 Direct questions about Kite Call delivery to the Membership Chair.**

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Yes, I want to Join Ohlone Audubon Society!



Please sign me up today

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Join Ohlone Audubon Society
 By mailing a \$25 check payable
 To OAS with this coupon to:

Pat Gordon
 OAS Membership
 1922 Hillsdale St.
 Hayward, CA 94541

I prefer to receive the Kite Call by e-mail [] (Recommended) Please send me e-mail updates and action alerts [].

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.