



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

- Sept 3 GENERAL MEETING
Fremont
- Sept 8 PELAGIC
FIELD TRIP
- Sept 11 FIELD TRIP
Alameda Southshore
- Sept 21 MEMBER
APPRECIATION
DAY!
- Sept 25 FIELD TRIP
Lake Elizabeth
- Sept 29 FIELD TRIP
Pt. Reyes
- Oct 1 GENERAL MEETING
Fremont
- Oct 5 FIELD TRIP
Coyote Hills

Coming in October:

Sahul — A Paradise for Birds

Presenter: Bob Lewis

Date: October 1, 2019
Time: 7:30 PM
Location: Niles Discovery
Church, 36600 Niles Blvd,
Fremont, CA 94536

See details on Page 2

Membership Meetings

Ecology & Conservation of the Gulf of the Farallones

Presenter: Peter Pyle

Date: September 3, 2019 **Time:** 7:30 PM
Location: Carlton Plaza 3800 Walnut Avenue, Fremont



The Gulf of the Farallones lies within an "Eastern Boundary Current System," one of five such current systems around the world, where cold ocean currents and other environmental factors lead to high ocean productivity; an estimated 85-95% of the world's seafood originates from these five systems. Peter's talk will cover the ecology and conservation of the Gulf's marine vertebrates, from birds to pinnipeds to cetaceans, with emphasis on his main research species, breeding and pelagic seabirds, and Great White Sharks. We will not only learn about some of the Gulf's keystone species, but will look in on the excellent research that has been undertaken in the Gulf and the conservation and management actions that have been a result.

(continued on page 2)

MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2019 at SHADOW CLIFFS
10:30 AM FIELD TRIP NOON LUNCH (DETAILS INSIDE)

RSVP to PAGPEG@AOL.COM



September Program (continued)

Peter Pyle is an ornithologist and marine biologist. During the late 1970s and early 1980s he partook in the Hawaii, Micronesia, and Samoa Forest Bird Surveys. From the early 1980s through the early 2000s much of his research was conducted on birds and white sharks at the Farallon Islands, California. He has developed a special interest in bird molt and how it can be used to age birds, and has published many papers and taught many workshops on this subject in North and Latin America. Among bird banders, he is best known for his Identification Guides summarizing molt, ageing, and sexing information for North American birds in the hand. He is a Research Associate both at the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, and the B.P. Bishop Museum,

Honolulu. To date, he has authored over 120 papers in scientific journals and three books, and has been a co-author on over 70 additional scientific papers and an on-line monograph on the birds of Hawaii. He currently works for the Institute for Bird Populations in Point Reyes Station, California.

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

October Program –Sahul with Bob Lewis



Ribbon-tailed Astrapia

Australia, New Guinea and Tasmania are all part of the Australian geological plate, or Sahul. Bob will discuss a bit of geological history, a bit of taxonomy, and look at examples of many of Papua New Guinea's (PNG) 70 bird families. Our virtual journey begins with a brief visit to O'Reilly's, a wonderful jungle lodge near Brisbane, Australia. Next, we will travel to Port Moresby, the capital PNG. Our route in PNG will take us from the lowlands in the south of the island to the highlands on the western border, and then on to Mount Hagen, a 12,000' extinct volcano. PNG has 708 species of birds and 5 endemic families, and is home to most species of spectacular Birds of Paradise and fascinating Bowerbirds.

Bob's second career is very avian. He has served on the GGAS board where he led the Adult Education Committee. He is an award-winning photographer and world traveler, and frequent public speaker on avian topics at libraries and Audubon Societies. Bob co-teaches Master Birding, Avian Evolution and Bay Area Birds, and his bird life list stands at 4992. He is hoping to reach 5000 on GGAS' Namibia tour in August.



Crested Berrypecker

Brown Sicklebill



Directions:

From the South or West via 880, Take Mowry Avenue exit. Follow Mowry across Fremont (toward the hills) to Mission Boulevard, turn left. You will pass Niles Blvd and the Sullivan Underpass. Turn left at Nursery Ave. Turn left on Niles Blvd. You will see the church just on the left after the turn. **From the North via 880** :Take Alvarado Niles Boulevard (east): From the freeway exit, turn left to go over the overpass, then in approximately four miles (through Union City and into the Fremont city limits), you will see the church on your left (just after Nursery Ave.). **From Pleasanton or Livermore, or other points to the east of the hills:** take 680 to the first Mission Blvd. exit, and turn right onto Mission. Stay on Mission until you get to Nursery Avenue, and turn left. Turn left on Niles Blvd. You will see the church just on the left after the turn. **From the North via Mission Boulevard** Turn right on Nursery, and left on Niles Boulevard. You will see the church just on the left after the turn.

REMEMBER TO RSVP to PAGPEG@AOL.COM



SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday September 21, 2019

Ohlone Audubon Society invites you to:

MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION DAY

Saturday, September 21, 2019—noon



**Shadow Cliffs Regional Park,
Pleasanton
Lago del Sol Picnic Area**

In recognition and appreciation of the great support of our members, you and your family are invited to a catered (no charge!) luncheon at Shadow Cliffs Regional Park in Pleasanton. Come and meet other members. Please join us for:

Field Trip
10:30 AM
Kathy Robertson
Steve Harkness

LUNCH
NOON

**Meet the
Board of
Directors**

**Give input to
your
organization**

**Drawing for
scope and
other items**

**Free
optics
cleaning**

Members will have the opportunity to meet the Board of Directors, field trip leaders, and discuss our trips, education, programs, and conservation.

Where would you like to go on a field trip?
What programs would you like to see?
What conservation items should we be working on?

Help out with education for the next generation? We will have tables set up so you give us your input!



Save the date! Hope to see you there!
Please RSVP to Pat Gordon, pagpeg@aol.com





Field Trips



OHLONE AUDUBON TRIP!

Leader: Dorian Anderson

**Join other OAS members on this
co-promoted trip with Alvaro's
Adventures**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2019

We will have plenty of information on what parts of the ocean have been hot this season and we will try to maximize the seabird list by heading to these areas. Late August to mid-September are when diversity peaks out there not only for birds but the whales as well. Trip cost: \$140.

**Pay with PayPal on website or e-mail
us – alvaro@alvaroadventures.com;
650-504-7779**

**Alameda South Shore
Wednesday, September 11 9:30 AM-12:30 PM
Leaders: Judy & Jerry Steenhoven,
stenhoven@sbcglobal.net**

This area usually provides good views of shorebirds as they arrive from northern breeding grounds. Bring binoculars and a scope if you have one. Pre-registration is not required, and all are welcome. This is planned as a 3-hour trip. We'll end at Crab Cove Visitor Center in Alameda.

Directions: From Hayward or San Leandro, take I-880 to Davis Street. Exit west and go to Doolittle Drive. Turn right on Doolittle and follow it to the bridge to Alameda, where the street becomes Otis Drive. Turn left at Broadway, drive southwest to Shoreline Drive, and park along the street. Meet at the Elsie Roemer Bird Sanctuary viewing platform where Broadway meets Shoreline Drive.

**Lake Elizabeth - Fremont Central Park
Wednesday, September 25, 9:00 AM - Noon
Leaders: Stephanie Floyd and Park Ranger
Sandy Ferreira
fieldtripsATohloneaudubon.org**

By popular demand, we've added a new field trip to Lake Elizabeth during fall migration. Winter geese and ducks may be starting to arrive. In the reeds that line the lake and in the willows along the creek we may find herons, woodpeckers, sparrows, and, if there's been rain, the puddles may hold Killdeer and snipe. Yellow-rumped Warblers will be moving in as Yellow Warblers move out. Ranger Sandy may update us on how this year's Tree Swallow nesting program went. As time allows, we'll check out productive Gomes Park, too. Plan to walk about 2 1/2 miles on paved paths. Rain cancels.

Directions: From I-880, exit at Stevenson and go east towards the hills. Turn right at Paseo Padre Parkway and follow the signs for the Aqua Adventure Waterpark. The parking lot for the Waterpark dead ends at the south end of the lake. Meet at the five tall palm trees at the end of the parking lot.

**"BEST BIRD MAGNET" -
POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE
Sunday September 29th 8:30am – 12:30pm
Leaders: David "Doc Quack" Riensche
and Bob Toleno
fieldtripsATohloneaudubon.org**

Come explore this peninsula which protrudes seaward from the mainland and provides a "landing strip" for many miss-oriented migrants that you can add to your species list. During the fall season we may see as many as twenty warbler species in one day with the high probability of one-or-two of them being eastern vagrants! We will start our avian exploration by meeting at the **Bear Valley Visitor Center**(0830). Birding will be easy around the Visitor Center with plenty of raptor, woodpecker, warbler, wren, nuthatches, thrushes, and sparrow species to enjoy. We will then visit **Abbotts Lagoon** which is an excellent spot to watch a wide diversity of waders, waterfowl and shorebirds.

(continued on page 5)

Field Trips (continued)

(Pt Reyes continued)

While more than 30 bird species are present year-round, this number can climb to over 100 bird species during migration. This site has recorded 42 types of shorebirds including rarities such as the Hudsonian and Bar-tailed Godwits, Sharp-tailed and Buff-breasted Sandpipers. Sanderling and threatened Western Snowy Plovers may be seen running along the sandy beaches.

Our next stop will be the grassland areas along the **Estero Trail** which will provides hawk watching opportunities, while Great Egrets, Great Blue Herons, loons, terns, gulls, grebes, ducks (Eurasian Wigeon, cinnamon teal), shorebirds and other waterbirds occur in the Drakes Estero. Due to the distinct habitat types (bay, beach, dune, mudflat, marshes, grassland, and coastal scrub), Drakes Estero annually produces more than 60 bird species including three types of loons, four types of grebes, both pelican species, Ring-necked Duck, Canvasback and Red-breasted Merganser!

Directions *To reach the park from the town of Olema, turn right onto Highway 1 and proceed approximately 100 yards, and make a left turn onto Bear Valley Road and travel west about .5 miles and follow signs to Bear Valley Visitor Center.*

GPS 38.041146 N -122.80023 W to Bear Valley Visitor Center

Coyote Hills Regional Park
Saturday, October 5, 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM
Leaders: Jerry Ting and Vicki Robinson
fieldtripsATOholoneAudubon.org

Fall is one of the best times to bird Coyote Hills. Winter's sparrows and raptors are back, and migrating shorebirds and songbirds will still be passing through. Depending on water levels, plenty of winter ducks should be on hand. 60 species are possible when conditions are good! Come help us find them. Rain cancels. Meet at the Visitor Center. \$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 Road to enter the park.*

BIRDING OBSERVATIONS

July 2019

By Stephanie Floyd

Shorebirds are starting to move! That's why we schedule an annual July field trip to the Hayward Shoreline. During this year's evening Frank's



Bar-tailed Godwit, Hayward Shoreline, 7/21/19 (Jerry Ting)

Dump trip led by outstanding leaders Bob Toleno and Juli Chamberlin, Jerry Ting spotted a rare **Bar-tailed Godwit** amidst hundreds of **Marbled Godwits**. A life bird for many! We also saw **Surfbirds**, **Black-bellied Plovers** and **Ruddy Turnstones** still in colorful breeding plumage, tiny **Least Terns** diving headlong into the chop, a **Black Skimmer** flying along beside us just off the surface of the bay, and dozens of lovely **Red Knots**.

A week or two later, besides the more common **Forster's** and **Caspian Terns**, birders found hundreds of **Elegant Terns**, a few **Common Terns**, and **Heermann's Gulls** at Elsie Roemer Bird Sanctuary in Alameda, along with many **Brown Pelicans**. A **Wandering Tattler** showed up at Oyster Bay, and both a rare **Red-necked Grebe** and a **Parasitic Jaeger** were seen in Richmond.

Meanwhile, on July 12 disaster struck the heron and egret rookery near Lake Merritt in downtown Oakland when the nest tree fell apart sending dozens of baby birds to the ground. *International Bird Rescue* rushed in and collected 51 Snowy Egrets, 22 Black-crowned Night-Herons and 17 eggs. Thank you to my fellow volunteers, many of whom had no previous background in wildlife care, for signing up to save these babies and help with other birds at the center during the crisis. I'm happy to report that releases are underway! You can read all about it at blog.bird-rescue.org.

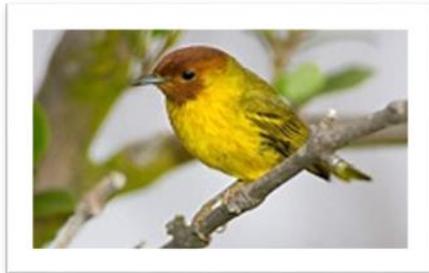
How Did You Help a Bird Today?
Donate to International Bird Rescue
<https://www.bird-rescue.org/get-involved/donate>



Rescued baby Snowy Egrets (International Bird Rescue)

President's Corner

Greetings from Puerto Ayora on Santa Cruz Island in the Galápagos Islands. The diversity of nature continues to amaze. I was sitting in the cafe today watching



Mangrove Yellow Warbler

Yellow Warblers, but the Yellow Warblers down here are very different than the ones we see in California. Our Yellow Warbler (*Setophaga petechia*) occurs in North and Central America. A subspecies of the Yellow Warbler, often called the Mangrove Warbler (*Setophaga petechia aureola*) is found on into Central America, northern South America and here on the Galápagos Islands. During the breeding season males differ from those of the yellow warbler in having a rufous hood or crown. Same species but look totally different.

There are other amazing stories. I am sure you've read the recent story in the news of a single feral cat that destroyed an entire nesting colony of over 200 Fairy Terns. In Australia? Have you ever heard of *Philornis downsi*? It is species of fly that was first recorded in Trinidad and Brazil in the 1990s and was accidentally introduced to the Galapagos Islands. Adult *P. downsi* feed on fruit. Eggs are laid in bird nests and hatch into parasitic larvae which reside in the nest material and emerge at night to feed both internally and externally on the blood and flesh of developing nestlings. The parasite is causing significant mortality in Darwin's finch nestlings and threatens the survival of some rarer species such as the Mangrove Finch (*Camarhynchus heliobates*) and the Medium Tree Finch (*C. pauper*). In order to protect the threatened finch populations, insecticide-laced cotton has been supplied as nesting material for the finches, with the results being highly successful in combating *P. downsi* infestations.

The Galapagos has to be on any birder's "must do" list. I haven't met anyone who has been here that wasn't amazed by what they saw.

Wherever you are the birds are happening. Fall migration is starting in the Bay Area. It is only going to get better birding every day. Get out as much as you can.

-Bill Hoppes

2019-2020 Annual Budget



INCOME

NAS DUES	\$2,712.50	
CHAPTER DUES	5,700.00	
SALES	0.00	
CONTRIBUTIONS	9,000.00	
INTEREST/other	37.50	
TOTAL INCOME		\$17,450.00

EXPENSES

KITE CALL	\$5,500.00	
MEMBER MEETINGS	3,100.00	
PURCHASE MDSE	0.00	
OPERATING EXP	3,850.00	
CONSERVATION	2,400.00	
EDUCATION	600.00	
C'MAS BIRD COUNT	1,000.00	
FUND RAISING	700.00	
BW MEM GARDEN	200.00	
Other	0.00	
SALES TAX	100.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$17,450.00

Notes from the Treasurer, Gail Ryujin:

We finished our last fiscal year within budget. All the board members did a great job of managing their expenses.

We donated to the following organizations: International Bird Rescue, Audubon California, SFBBO, Elephant Seal Rescue, Tri-city Ecology, Alameda Creek Alliance, Math Science Nucleus, Feather River Land Trust, Tri Valley Conservancy, Point Blue, Hayward Area Planning and MDAS (Bluebirds). We also provided seed money for the Junior Wildlife Rangers. We have paid any sales taxes to the state and have filed our income taxes to the State and Federal agencies.

Thank you all for your generous support for this past year.

BALANCE SHEET July 2019

CURRENT ASSETS		
CASH IN BANK - CHECKING		41,272.78
PAYPAL		743.40
Savings (Birds of Prey holding)		849.06
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT		30,311.95
INVENTORY ESTIMATED		0
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		73,177.19
PROPERTY PLANT & EQUIPMENT		
TOTAL PP&E		0
TOTAL ASSETS		73,177.19
CURRENT LIABILITIES (cks not cleared)		775.36
TOTAL LIABILITIES (Birds of Prey Foundation)		849.06
		71,552.77
NET ASSETS @ 7/1/19	71,089.45	
NET INCOME--YTD	463.32	
TOTAL LIABIL AND NET ASSET		71,552.77
out of balance:		0

Conservation



Tri-Valley Conservancy breaks ground on bridge linking five regional parks

SB 767, which would allow California State Parks to sell the Alameda-Tesla Expansion Area to an entity interested in permanent protection of the natural resources, has moved onto the next step in the legislative process, currently in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. The Committee is expected to have voted on it about August 14 with a final decision to hold on suspense or pass onto the floor by August 30! Stay tuned for update by the end of the month.

The Tri-Valley Conservancy (TVC) hosted a groundbreaking ceremony last week to mark the start of construction on a new bridge at Sycamore Grove Park that will permanently connect a 44-mile trail through five parks from Livermore to Fremont. The project has taken TVC several years to coordinate with multiple public agencies and private supporters, including purchasing 74 acres of land where the trail will connect. The bridge will be built on the Arroyo del Valle Trail near the Arroyo Road entrance to Sycamore Grove. The bridge will allow improved access linking trail systems in Del Valle Regional Park, Ohlone Regional Wilderness, Sunol Regional Wilderness and Mission Peak Regional Preserve. Once completed, bridge will allow year-round use for park visitors with horses, bicycles, strollers and wheelchairs. The previous footbridge was not accessible to all users and the area was plagued by flooding issues during the wet months. The bridge will be officially named after late former county supervisor Edward R. Campbell, who helped spearhead the South Livermore Valley Plan, which protects the natural and agricultural land in south Livermore.

B. Hoppes

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the authors and co-sponsors of the bill including our local legislators: Senators Glazer and Wieckowski and Assemblypersons Quirk, Bauer-Khan and Chu. Also much thanks to Ohlone members who responded to our plea and phoned their legislators which helped to keep this bill moving forward and those members of Ohlone and the Castro Valley Huddle group who attended the Sacramento hearings in June and July.

Check the **Friends of Tesla Park** website for updates:
www.teslapark.org. or Pat Gordon at pagpeg@aol.com



Patterson Ranch

In mid-July, the East Bay Regional Park District released the Final Environmental Impact Report for their public access and restoration plans for the 296-

acres of Patterson Ranch that were donated to the park district in 2014. Members of the Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge, Ohlone Audubon Society and Friends of Coyote Hills have attended two of the three public hearings to request that the proposed 100-space paved parking lot and picnic trail be moved to the south of Patterson Ranch Road, perhaps in the vicinity of the area already disturbed by the non-sanctioned parking area, to protect the willow grove area to be restored from human disturbance and from nuisance species that are attracted to areas of human activity. In addition, we requested that one or both of the spur trails and observation decks leading to Patterson Slough be removed.

It would be wonderful to have folks speak in favor of protecting the habitat for migratory and breeding song birds.

There are some things to note - we are not opposed to the plan to have some form of agriculture, the donation came with a deed restriction that required agriculture continue on part of the land. We are not opposed to public access, public access can build a healthy relationship between members of the public and natural landscapes, but you cannot always have one in close proximity to the other. Relocating the parking and picnic areas south of Patterson Ranch Road could be designed to support the local farm stand the park district hopes will be re-established.

Despite statements made by representatives of CCCR, OAS, and FCH, the Parks Advisory Committee and the Board Executive Committee both voted unanimously to

recommend the Board of Directors approve the plans as they are. The final public hearing will be at the Board of Directors meeting September 3rd at 1:00 p.m. at 2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, CA.

Environmental review documents can be viewed here: <https://www.ebparcs.org/about/planning/#patterson>

- C. High

Conservation continued

SOIL AND FILL TRANSPORT IN ALAMEDA COUNTY

Alameda County is in the process of adopting a new Soil Importing Ordinance. We have submitted comments on this proposed Ordinance and are preparing to submit additional comments before the July 23, 2019 Planning Commission meeting.

The Ordinance came about because there were complaints that the Agricultural community was transporting large amounts of untested and unregulated soil and placing it on their property. Land owners receive the soil at no cost and are often paid by developers to dispose of unwanted soil and fill. The soil may contain toxins that can enter the ponds and stream systems and present significant problems for special status and other species on Agricultural land.

Although the Ordinance places some regulations on the amount and content of transport soil, it does not adequately address concerns for wildlife and at risks species such as the California Red-legged Frog, the

California Tiger Salamander, the Alameda Whipsnake, the Western Pond turtle and many others. In addition, the soil may be used to fill in canyons to be used for agriculture.

Protections for these species are weak and ineffective. The County has not done a CEQA analysis on this ordinance and despite requests by California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the State Water Resources Control Board and many others, has refused to do so as it may cause a hardship for the Agricultural Community.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:
The notice for the Planning Commission meeting is below. Please consider attending the meeting and speaking up for species and habitat. Please contact the office of your Supervisor and voice your concerns.

At the July 23, 2019 Board of Supervisors hearing, the Board of Supervisors remanded the soil Importing Ordinance to the Planning Commission for their consideration and recommendation of the language

that the Board of Supervisors requested be updated in the Ordinance. The Board of Supervisors requested that the updated language, as requested to be updated by the Board of Supervisors themselves (see attached "7-23-2019 Soil Importing FINAL" pdf document), be heard by the Planning Commission, and not by any other body. Therefore, Planning staff has scheduled the Soil Importing Ordinance to be heard by the County Planning Commission. If you have any questions please contact Mtmpreston@comcast.net.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL PUBLIC HEARING

The Alameda County Planning Commission will consider adoption of regulations for the importing of soil onto properties in the unincorporated areas of Alameda County. This action may include establishment of fees and fines to the importing of soil. Said special public hearing will take place on **August 19, 2019, at 6:00 p.m.** in the Public Hearing Room (Room 160), 224 W. Winton Avenue, Hayward.
-T. Preston



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:

Gerri Bischofberger, Natalie Brophy, Karalee Brune, Debbie Clark, Evelyn Cormier, Sandy Ferreira, Bob and Debra Lovendusky, Jeff Nelson, Jennifer Price, Laura Jo Ruffin, and Laurie Stover

Donations: Evelyn Cormier, Jennifer Price, Laurie Stover

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



Remember to bring your own cup to meetings!

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



The following is offered as a guideline to help in contacting our local California legislators. Consider keeping near/on your phone and/or or computer. The information for contacting our federal legislators was included in the April 1 thru May 15, 2017 *Kite Call* and can be accessed thru our website (ohloneaudubon.org, click on Kite Call, online and search for archived issues.) Please consider becoming an activist for our wildlife. As a constituent you can make a difference!

How to contact our local California Legislatures

In the current political climate, it is imperative that we all get involved and contact our representatives on issues that affect birds, wildlife, and habitat. Here is a cheat sheet to help you provide regular feedback to your elected officials.

- Phoning is better than emails, but if you can't get through, try emailing or writing a letter.
- Contact only your own representatives; they only want to hear from their constituents. The exception would be to thank a representative supporting something you favor.
- When your call is answered, tell the staffer that you are a constituent, where you are calling from, the issue, and your position pro or con. Include the bill number if it concerns legislation. Include a SHORT personal story, such as situations you have experienced or witnessed with direct relation to the issue, but don't ramble on or repeat yourself!

Call as many times as you like on as many issues as you like. Call a couple of times a week, rather than one huge daunting session.



Don't forget to attend the Ohlone Picnic!

Member Appreciation Day September 21!
(See enclosed flyer!)

Field trip 10:30AM
Catered lunch at noon!
Give input to your chapter!
Drawings!
Get your optics cleaned!
Silent Auction for Scope and tripod

Let us say thank you for all your support!
RSVP pageg@aol.com



State Senate

District 10—Senator Robert Wieckowski

(represents San Leandro, San Lorenzo, Hayward, Castro Valley, Fremont, Union City, Newark)
Capitol Office State Capitol, Room 4085, Sacramento, CA 95814-4900; **(916) 651-4010**
District Offices 39510 Paseo Padre Parkway, Suite 280, Fremont, CA 94538 **(510) 794-3900**

District 7—Senator Steve Glazer

(represents Pleasanton, Livermore, Sunol, San Ramon, Dublin)
Capitol Office State Capitol, Room 5108, Sacramento, CA 95814-4900; **(916) 651-4007**
District Offices 51 Moraga Way, Suite 2, Orinda, CA 94563; (925) 258-1176
 420 W. 3rd Street, Antioch, CA 94509; **(925) 754-1461**

State Assembly

District 16—Rebecca Bauer-Kahan

(represents Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin, San Ramon)
Capitol Office State Capitol P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0016; **(916) 319-2016**
District Office 2440 Camino Ramon, Suite 345 San Ramon, CA 94583_ **(925) 328-1515**

District 18—Rob Bonta (represents San Leandro)

Capitol Office State Capitol P.O. Box 942849 Sacramento, CA 94249-0018 **(916) 319-2018**
District Office 1515 Clay Street, Ste. 2204 Oakland, CA 94612 **(510) 286-1670**

District 20—Dr. William Quirk

(represents San Lorenzo, Hayward, Castro Valley, Union City, northern Fremont, Sunol)
Capitol Office State Capitol P.O. Box 942849 Sacramento, CA 94249-0020 **(916) 319-2020**
District Office 22320 Foothill Blvd, Suite 540 Hayward, CA 94541 **(510) 583-8818**

District 25—Kansen Chu

(represents Newark, southern Fremont)
Capitol Office State Capitol P.O. Box 942849 Sacramento, CA 94249-0025 **(916) 319-2025**
District Office 1313 N. Milpitas Blvd Suite #255 Milpitas, Ca 95035 **(408) 262-2501**

2019 AOU Checklist Changes By Bill Hoppes

The 2019 Changes to the AOU checklist came out and except for some scientific nomenclature changes, reordering a whole number of species and death to hyphens there wasn't too much for birders in our area to get excited about. But there is always hope. I wrote elsewhere about the Yellow and Mangrove Warbler, a split we are likely to see in the future. There are others that haven't quite made the cut yet that may add a species or two to your life list. Here are three such cases.

Split of Harlan's Hawk from Red-tailed Hawk



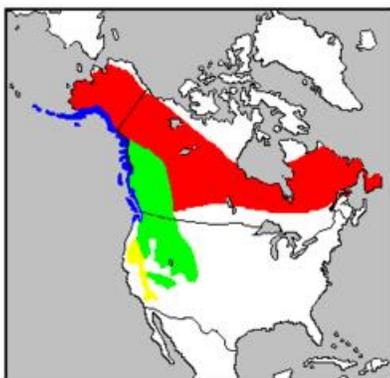
Harlan's Hawk has been considered a separate species from Red-tailed Hawk and then lumped back in at least twice over the years. It breeds from central Alaska to northwestern Canada, with the largest number of birds breeding in the Yukon or western Alaska, reaching their southern limit in north-central British Columbia. The Harlan's Hawk is restricted as a breeder to pure taiga habitat. Harlan's

Hawks winter from Nebraska and Kansas to Texas. Harlan's Hawk is markedly different from all other red-tails. Throughout the morphs of this subspecies, the

plumage is predominantly blackish, lacking any warmer or brownish tones (save the tail). Apart from a variably white-streaked throat, their underparts are usually mostly black with variable white streaking and barring on the thighs or crissum. There are up to four main variations from the typical one shown: extreme dark morph (where even throat is black and no pale streaking is present), dark morph (with barring still present from tarsus to underside), rare pale morph (with few blackish blobs on belly and generally whiter head) and perhaps even rarer types where the base color is grayish. The typical tail of a Harlan's hawk is white with a thick black subterminal band but individuals may vary considerable and the tail may be reddish, dusky, whitish, or gray and can be longitudinally streaked, mottled, or barred.

Split Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*) into four species

Major taxonomic authorities currently differ in their treatment of the Fox Sparrow complex. The *IOC World Bird List* and *HBW* and *BirdLife International Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World* treat each of the four subspecies groups listed below as a separate species, while the AOU currently treats the complex as a single species.



Red Slate-colored
Sooty Thick-billed

- **Red Fox sparrow**, *P. i. iliaca* – this subspecies breeds in the taiga of Canada and Alaska and winters in central and eastern North America. This is the brightest colored group.
- **Sooty Fox Sparrow**, *P. i. unalaschensis* – this subspecies breeds along the Pacific coast of North America from the Aleutian Islands south to northwestern Washington, and winters from southeastern Alaska south to northern Baja California. It is browner and darker than the red fox sparrow. This is the one we see mostly in our area.
- **Slate-colored Fox sparrow**, *P. i. schistacea* this subspecies breeds in interior western North America and winters to the south and west. It has a gray head and mantle, brown wings, brown breast streaks, and a russet tail.
- **Thick-billed Fox Sparrow**, *P. i. megarhyncha* this subspecies is mostly restricted to California and Oregon. This group is similar in coloration to the slate-colored fox sparrow, but features a particularly thick bill.

(Continued on page 11)



Red Fox Sparrow



Slate-colored Fox Sparrow



Sooty Fox Sparrow



Thick-billed Fox Sparrow

Don't get too excited about counting any of these four yet. There are multiple hybrid zones and more DNA work to be done before any final split is likely. But you will likely be able to add another Fox Sparrow or two before too many years

Split White-breasted Nuthatch into four species.

Two recent studies suggest that White-breasted Nuthatches actually represent four distinctive and largely isolated populations that may deserve full species status. Based on DNA analysis, both studies suggested the existence of four distinctive populations: Eastern, Pacific, Eastern Sierra Nevada, and Rocky Mountain-Great Basin-Mexico. The genetic differences in combination with long-recognized morphological and vocal differences, gives added weight to proposals that all four populations could

be given full species status.

Only the IOC has made any move to consider this proposal, noting "potential splits" of Pacific Nuthatch, Great Basin Nuthatch, and Mexican Nuthatch from White-breasted Nuthatch.



Be patient. The proposals have high bars to surmount before they are officially adopted. Bird taxonomy isn't the best funded area of research either. While waiting for resolution on these you can spend your time tracking the controversy over dropping the 's in birds named after people (e.g., Cooper Hawk, Wilson Warbler)- another proposed change that didn't quite make it.



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