



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

No GENERAL MEETINGS in July or August

July 21 FIELD TRIP
Hayward Shoreline
(Frank's Dump)

Aug 11 FIELD TRIP
Hayward Shoreline
(W. Winton)

Sept 3 GENERAL MEETING
Fremont

Sept 8 PELAGIC
FIELD TRIP

Sept 21 MEMBERSHIP
APPRECIATION
DAY!

Membership Meeting



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



SAVE THE DATE

MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION DAY



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

RSVP to PAGPEG@AOL.COM

- ◆ Sign up for Pelagic Trip September 8, 2019
- ◆ RSVP for Membership Appreciation Day September 21, 2019 (RSVP to pagpeg@aol.com)



Northern Saw-Whet Owl, juv., OAS field trip; Lk Chabot 5/22/19 (L. Feindel)



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



Field Trips

**Evening at Hayward Shoreline-
Frank's Dump**

Sunday, July 21 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Leaders: Bob Toleno and Juli Chamberlin
fieldtrips AT ohloneaudubon.org

Join Bob and Juli for a 2- 1/2 mile round-trip walk on flat paved and gravel paths to Frank's Dump at high tide. July is an excellent month to view migrating shorebirds, and we can expect to see Red Knots, Ruddy Turnstones, Short-billed Dowitchers, phalaropes, and Snowy Plovers. July is often the biggest month for "peeps", and we hope to see many thousands of Western Sandpipers, possibly a Semipalmated Sandpiper or maybe even an extreme rarity like the Red-Necked Stint found 2 years ago. Evening light should give us excellent conditions for viewing and photography of shorebirds in breeding plumage. Pre-registration is not required, and all are welcome.

Directions: Take I-880 to West Winton Avenue in Hayward and go west towards the bay to reach the park. Be sure to park outside the gate as the gate will be locked by the time we return.

**Hayward Regional Shoreline -
Grant Avenue Staging Area**

Sunday, August 11 8:30AM - 11:30AM
Leaders: Kathy Robertson and Rich Nicholson
rsn711@yahoo.com

Meet at the Grant Avenue staging area in San Lorenzo for a walk along San Lorenzo Creek to the shoreline and south to reach Oro Loma Marsh. We expect to see shorebirds such as Red Knots, Short-billed Dowitchers, Ruddy Turnstones, and Black-bellied Plovers as well as gulls and terns and maybe a resident Osprey. Bring a scope if you have one.

Directions: In San Lorenzo, from I-880 south take the Washington Avenue exit. Turn right on Washington and right on Grant Avenue. From I-880 north take the Hesperian Blvd. exit. Make a sharp left onto Hesperian and a right on Grant Avenue. In both cases continue west on Grant Avenue to the parking lot on the right near the end of the road.



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@alvarosadventures.com; 650-504-7779

**PELAGIC TRIP
LEAVES FROM HALF MOON BAY!**



OHLONE AUDUBON TRIP!

Leader: Dorian Anderson

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

BIRDING OBSERVATIONS

June 2019

By Stephanie Floyd

It's baby bird season! As we head into summer, now's the time to see many songbirds pairing up, nest-building, and rearing young.

At Joaquin Miller Park in the Oakland Hills, the pretty song of **Swainson's Thrush** accompanies the chatter of **Pygmy Nuthatches** and woodpeckers popping in and out of nest holes in the trees. Fledgling **Wilson's Warblers** and **Orange-Crowned Warblers** hop around in the bushes with their calling parents. **Wrentits** call from steep hillsides in the Berkeley Hills where a **MacGillivray's Warbler** has been seen. **Grasshopper Sparrows** buzz from the tall yellow grass at Garin/Dry Creek park. **Canada Geese** with yellow goslings and colorful **Wood Ducks** with ducklings bob along Alameda Creek in Niles where **Cliff Swallows** busily collect mud to build nests under the bridge. **American Avocet** and **Black-necked Stilt** chicks scamper along behind parents at the Hayward shoreline where **Black Skimmers** are nesting again this year. In our own backyards fledgling **American Crows** honk and pester their parents and the neighborhood **Northern Mockingbird** may be keeping you awake at night as he sings on territory. Everywhere we hear the songs and chatters of wrens. Heron and egret rookeries are in full swing.

An "oh wow" moment for participants at our late May field trip to Lake Chabot was a close-up look at this season's juvenile **Northern Saw-Whet Owl** (see front page for photo!). As for rare or uncommon birds, a handsome **Brant** has been hanging out with the Canada Geese flock at Arrowhead Marsh.

President's Corner

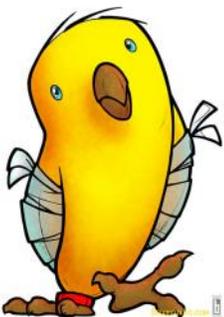


Greetings from Saint Paul in the Pribilof Islands—a place I have wanted to visit since I was single-digit years old and watched Walt Disney's "True Life Adventure-Seal Island". This is a wild, desolate place, full of animals, but not so full as it once was. In visiting the fur seal rookeries and sea bird colonies we were told again and again of precipitous drops in population numbers. Fur Seal numbers that were around 1,000,000 as recently as the 1980s are now in the hundreds of thousands, dropping 7% per year towards a new, lower level that the fish stocks can support. Thick-billed and Common Murre colonies that have raised zero young for multiple years because the adults have to use up so much energy flying further and further north after the retreating fish stocks that they can't catch enough to keep themselves alive and raise young. A disturbing story in a wonderful place. Last month I talked about international programs by Audubon, ABA and others to protect Neotropical migrants and they have similar programs for the Arctic. Please read up on what is happening to wildlife populations in this beautiful place.

Are you still tracking your progress toward 600 birds? When I started birding in the 1970s, seeing 600 birds in the continental US (excluding Mexico and the Caribbean) was quite the birding rite of passage and not very easy to do. With the advent of the internet and bird alerts, easier travel, bird-finding guides, and birding travel, I had assumed this achievement had lost some of its luster. Well maybe not. On our Alaska tour, four of the twelve birders are within striking distance and hoping this trip will put them over. For them and the rest of us on the trip, anyone getting to 600 (and hey ABA, no one includes Hawaii in their count) is still a big deal. How about you, are you still ticking off each life bird, inching towards that goal? Keep at it. You will get there and have tremendous fun along the way. .

- Bill Hoppes

Help With Wildlife



Summer is a busy time of year for wildlife encounters. Maybe it's a baby bird on the ground unable to fly or a gull at the dog park with a broken wing. Fortunately we have some excellent wildlife rehabilitation centers in our area. Most are volunteer organizations. They may keep irregular hours, and none are open 24 hours. In most cases they don't do pickups. If it's after hours, you may have to keep the animal overnight: Follow the directions on their website or recorded telephone information.

Many wildlife situations do not require your intervention. Fledgling birds spend time on the ground as they learn to fly; the parents follow them around feeding them. Unless the bird is injured, leave it alone and let its parents raise it. In an emergency, such as a deer hit by a car, call your city's local animal control services or police or sheriff's department. Call before taking an animal to a wildlife hospital. (S. Floyd)

Ohlone Humane Society Wildlife (Newark) 510-797-9449 <https://ohlonehumanesociety.org/wildlife-rehabilitation/>
Sulfur Creek Nature Center 510-881-6747 Serving Hayward, San Lorenzo, Castro Valley <http://www.haywardrec.org/524/>
Wildlife-Rehabilitation Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley (San Jose) 408-929-9453 <https://wcsv.org>
Lindsay Wildlife Experience (Walnut Creek) 925-935-1978 <https://lindsaywildlife.org/hospital/>

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 TRIP SCHEDULE FOR 2019-2020 (TENTATIVE)

2019		
SUNDAY, 7/21	EVENING AT HAYWARD SHORELINE (W WINTON)	BOB TOLENO & JULI CHAMBERLIN
TBD	ELKHORN SLOUGH SAFARI	LYNN FEINDEL
SUNDAY, 8/11	HAYWARD SHORELINE	KATHY ROBERTSON & RICH NICHOLSON
SUNDAY, 9/8	<i>HALF MOON BAY PELAGIC</i>	PHIL & PAT GORDON
WEDNESDAY, 9/11	ALAMEDA SOUTH SHORE	JERRY & JUDY STEENHOVEN
WEDNESDAY, 9/25	LAKE ELIZABETH & GOMES PARK	STEPHANIE FLOYD & SANDY FERREIRA
SUNDAY, 9/29	PT REYES NAT SEASHORE	TBD
SATURDAY, 10/5	COYOTE HILLS	JERRY TING & VICKI ROBINSON
SATURDAY, 10/12	TILDEN REGIONAL PARK	RICH NICHOLSON & BOB DUNN
TBD	ARDENWOOD	JERRY TING & CHRISTINA GARCIA
WEDNESDAY, 11/6	EASTERN ALA COUNTY & CLIFTON COURT FOREBAY	RICH CIMINO
SUNDAY, 11/10	PACIFIC COMMONS	RICH NICHOLSON & MIKE CHRISTOPHERSON
WEDNESDAY, 11/20	WARD CREEK (HAYWARD)	VICKI ROBINSON & LYNN FEINDEL
NOVEMBER POP-UP (DATE TBD)	LONGSPURS: HAYWARD SHORELINE	BOB TOLENO & JULI CHAMBERLIN
NOVEMBER POP-UP (DATE TBD)	GOMES PARK	JERRY TING
WEDNESDAY, 11/27	VARGAS PLATEAU	JERRY TING & VICKI ROBINSON
SATURDAY, 12/7	SANDHILL CRANES (LODI)	STEPHANIE FLOYD
THURSDAY, 12/12	GARIN REGIONAL PARK	JERRY & JUDY STEENHOVEN
SUNDAY, 12/15	FREMONT-HAYWARD CBC	PHIL & PAT GORDON (COMPILERS)
FRIDAY, 12/20	EASTERN ALA CO. CBC	JEFF MILLER (COMPILER)
2020		
SUNDAY, 1/5	NORTH LIVERMORE/ SPRINGTOWN	STEVE HUCKABONE & KATHY ROBERTSON
FRIDAY, 1/10	ARROWHEAD MARSH	STEPHANIE FLOYD & MONA BRAUER
SATURDAY, 1/18	LAS GALLINAS PONDS	PHIL & PAT GORDON
SATURDAY, 1/25	SHADOW CLIFFS RRA	STEVE HUCKABONE & KATHY ROBERTSON
SATURDAY - SUNDAY, 2/1-2/2	SACRAMENTO NWRs	PHIL & PAT GORDON
WEDNESDAY, 2/12	LAKE ELIZABETH & GOMES PK	STEPHANIE FLOYD & SANDY FERREIRA
SATURDAY, 2/22	REDWOOD REG. PARK	JERRY TING

2020 (cont'd)

SUNDAY, 3/1	QUARRY LAKES	JERRY TING & KATHY ROBERTSON
SATURDAY, 3/7	LAKE SOLANO	PHIL & PAT GORDON
SATURDAY, 3/14	DON EDWARDS NWR – ALVISO	RICH NICHOLSON & VICKI ROBINSON
WEDNESDAY, 3/18	MINES ROAD	RICH CIMINO
SATURDAY, 3/21	MOUNTAIN VIEW CEMETERY	PHIL GEORGAKAKOS & MEGAN JANKOWSKI
SUNDAY, 3/29	BIRDING BY EAR AT GARIN FOR BEGINNERS ONLY	BILL SCOGGINS & MAGGIE CLARK
SATURDAY, 4/4	DEL VALLE SRA	STEVE HUCKABONE
WEDNESDAY, 4/8	ALAMEDA SOUTH SHORE	JERRY STEENHOVEN & MAGGIE CLARK
SATURDAY, 4/11	BIRDING BY EAR MILL CREEK RD, FREMONT	JERRY TING
SATURDAY, 4/18	PINE CANYON	RICH NICHOLSON, BOB DUNN, & PHIL GEORGGAKAKOS
WEDNESDAY, 4/22	SUNOL REGIONAL WILDERNESS	JERRY TING & VICKI ROBINSON
SATURDAY 4/26	SWALLOW WALK: LAKE ELIZABETH & COYOTE HILLS	SANDY FERREIRA & PHIL GORDON
SATURDAY, 5/2	SAN JOAQUIN NWR PELICAN NATURE TRAIL	STEVE HUCKABONE
TUESDAY, 5/5	<i>GARIN REGIONAL PARK SPECIAL FEE PROGRAM</i>	NATHAN PIEPLOW (DEBBIE WONG)
SATURDAY, 5/9	VARGAS PLATEAU	VICKI ROBINSON
THURSDAY, 5/14	DRY CREEK REG. PARK	JERRY & JUDY STEENHOVEN
SATURDAY, 5/16	MITCHELL CANYON	RICH NICHOLSON
WEDNESDAY, 5/20	LAKE CHABOT	RICH NICHOLSON & KATHY ROBERTSON
WEDNESDAY, 5/27	NILES HOTSPOTS	KATHY ROBERTSON & STEPHANIE FLOYD
SATURDAY, 6/6	<i>FIELD TRIP PLANNING MEETING AT THE GORDONS</i>	LYNN FEINDEL & STEPHANIE FLOYD
SUNDAY, 6/7	BEHIND THE SCENES @ HAYWARD SHORELINE INTERPRETIVE CENTER	MAGGIE CLARK, PHIL & PAT GORDON
SATURDAY-SUNDAY, 6/20-21	YUBA PASS, SIERRA VALLEY	PHIL & PAT GORDON

Conservation



The **Good News** is that 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 passed out of the state Senate and is on its way to the Assembly, but there is still work to do! There is a concern that the opposition may try and amend or weaken the bill. OAS and other groups have sent in letters of support for permanent protection. We are appreciative for the co-sponsorship of our Assembly members Bill Quirk and Kansen Chu.

The bill was scheduled to be heard before the Assembly Water Parks and Wildlife Committee June 18, as we are going to press. Several members and representatives from other groups in our area, traveled to Sacramento to give their support before the committee. OAS members in these two districts were also asked to call into Assembly Members Quirk and Chu's offices, thanking them for their continued support.

Check the **Friends of Tesla Park** website for updates: www.teslapark.org.

Alameda County Soil Import Ordinance

The ordinance is certainly something that is needed as there have been instances of illegal landfills being created for profit but the proposed ordinance as currently written will not adequately protect wetlands, creeks or rare or listed species from the adverse impacts of soil import activities. Terry Preston, our newest Director at Large, submitted comments (FROM THE ROAD!!!) for OAS.

Dumbarton Rail Project

Cross Bay Transit Partners (Facebook & Plenary Group - the Plenary Group website describes the company as "a long-term investor, developer and manager of public infrastructure." They have infrastructure projects around the world.) plan to hold two public scoping sessions within 4-6 weeks-these are public comment periods held in advance of the preparation of a state environmental impact report (EIR) and federal environmental impact statement (EIS). The impacts of rebuilding or constructing the rail line through the tidal marsh complex of the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge and the many rare and listed species that occur in the marsh complex are of concern. We have repeatedly asked that alternatives be considered and adopted that will be protective of the Refuge's important

Dumbarton (continued)

resources. This is an issue that has not really been discussed during the public workshops that have been held to date and it is an important issue that we hope will be addressed with thoroughness and sensitivity during the environmental review process.



Coyote Hills Regional Park Land Use Plan Amendment(LUPA) and Restoration and Public Access Draft

Several members of OAS and CCCR (Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge) attended the EBRPD Board of Directors meeting on May 21st to provide comments during the public comment portion of the meeting. Copies of the group scoping comment letter, the CCCR/FCH/OAS comment letter, Scott Cashen's comment letter and resume and both Sierra Club comment letters were submitted directly to members of the board.

In our oral comments we conveyed our deep disappointment with the park district's failure to provide an alternate that locates new infrastructure and multi-use trails away from areas proposed for restoration and for the failure to recognize the regional and ecological significance of the opportunity that has fallen into their hands - namely the opportunity to preserve, protect and restore and expand the willow grove habitat. We commented that the opportunity to restore the willow grove habitat is unique to the south and central bay - that this is basically the only location where this type of restoration can occur. The public access features as currently planned are not compatible with restoring habitat that has identified ecological value for resident, migratory and nesting birds.

It is possible that the Final Environmental Impact Report will be before the EBRPD's Board of Directors in September. We hope that the final document will provide a plan that is more ecologically sensitive. - C. High

SUCCESS! 178,500 Tricolored Blackbirds Saved this Spring



California Audubon has reported Tricolored Blackbirds just finished a phenomenal breeding season, with .90% of threatened colonies protected. During this season, the team found nesting colonies in 15 different farms in 4 counties in the Central Valley. Partnerships with 90% of farmers were established to delay harvests for 6 weeks until chicks could fly off the nest. Continued support is needed. Go to ca.audubon.org (Audubon California) to make a donation. \$5 saves 5 birds!

Conservation continued

CALIFORNIA BUMBLE BEES WIN LISTING AS CESA CANDIDATE SPECIES

In a major win for wildlife, despite strong opposition from the Agricultural and Pesticide Industry, the California Fish and Game Commission (FDC) voted 3-1 in favor of designating four species of bumble bees as candidate species for listing under the California Endangered Species Act. The June 12, 2019 decision by the Commission started the clock for a year of review before the final listing of these species as Endangered under the California Endangered Species Act.

Responding to a petition from Defenders of Wildlife, Xerces Society and the Center for Food Safety the Fish and Game Commission concluded that the petition to list **Crotch bumble bee, Franklin’s bumble bee, Suckley cuckoo bumble bee, and western bumble bee** as endangered species *“does provide sufficient information to indicate that the petitioned action may be warranted based on the information in the record before the Commission, and directs staff to issue a notice reflecting this finding and that Crotch bumble bee, Franklin’s bumble bee, Suckley cuckoo bumble bee, and western bumble bee are candidates for threatened or endangered species status.”*

The opposition to listing the bees included the Almond Alliance, California Association of Pest Control Advisers, California Citrus Mutual, California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association, California Farm Bureau Federation, Western Agricultural Processors Association, Western Growers Association, and the Wonderful Company. Those supporting listing of these species under the CESA included over 30 insect research scientists, research institutions, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and others. The Ohlone Audubon Society submitted a letter of support to the FGC for the listing of these species.

The next step requires the Department to produce, within 12 months of the Commission’s acceptance of the petition, a peer reviewed report based upon the best scientific information available that advises the Commission whether the petitioned action is warranted. Finally, the Commission, based on that report and other information in the administrative record, then determines whether or not the petitioned action to list the species as threatened or endangered is warranted.

These California bee species have suffered significant decline due to habitat loss and the heavy use of agricultural pesticides in or adjacent to their habitat.

Terry Preston (mtmpreston@comcast.net)

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:

Cindy Angers, Ray Bradford, Patricia Brennan, Bruce Brown, Art Carey, Juli Chamberlin, June Colby, Evelyn Cormier, Rita David-Malig, Sandra Hermerding, Bruce and Judy Jund, Leslie Koenig, Anne Krysiak, Susan Lee, Ron Locatelli, J. Mendiola, Paul Preusser, David Robinson, Jeanne Robinson, Scott Whitaker



Donations: Ray Bradford, Patricia Brennan, Bruce Brown

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

Jean Richmond

Local birding legend Jean Richmond passed away May 27, 2019 at the age of 92.

Jean was a member of Mt. Diablo Audubon, editing their newsletter, the *Quail*, for 11 years. She was an mentor to me, as a young beginning editor of the *Kite Call*. Jean was also a good friend, sharing her passion for birding with many of us. I especially remember all the Yuba Pass trips. She led many field trips and many times we ran into her birding. Loved her energy and great smile! Many of you likely knew her, and many more grew to know Bay Area birding sites through her book, *Birding Northern California* (1985).

Ohlone extends our heartfelt sympathies to her family, especially her son Bob. Jean, we will miss you. (PG)



Maybe some of those flycatchers aren't so hard after all !

By Bill Hoppes

After sparrows and wintering shorebirds, I think birders find flycatchers some of the hardest birds to identify. Any bird with the name *Empidonax difficillus* gives you an idea what you are in for. At some point we do get better and we can ID the two local phoebes, Ash-throated Flycatcher and Western Kingbird. There is another tier of flycatchers that come though our area that, with practice, you should be able to identify with confidence, or at least justify your sighting to the eBird moderator. These are: **Pacific-slope Flycatcher**, **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, and **Western Wood-Pewee**. First off, make sure you can identify that a bird is a flycatcher. Flycatchers are large headed, big-billed passerines that usually sit on a high exposed perch or wire. They sit tall, proud and upright not hunched over like a vireo or warbler. They are rarely on the ground. From its high, exposed perch, flycatchers scan the area looking for flying insects. When they spot one, they "fly" and "catch" it, often returning to the very same perch. Okay so we have spotted a flycatcher and eliminated the four easy ones. What do we need to look for to see if it is one of these other three.

Pacific- slope Flycatcher

When I started birding back in the 1970s this bird was called the Western Flycatcher. Because ornithologists can't leave well enough alone, in 1989, the American Ornithologists' Union split the Western Flycatcher into two species: Pacific-slope Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*) and Cordilleran Flycatcher (*Empidonax occidentalis*). Ever since then, these two species have been causing headaches for birders all across western North America. They are impossible to identify by plumage alone even in the hand. Voice of singing males and genetic analysis are the only way to tell them apart. Fortunately for us the ranges of these two species, for the most part do not overlap with Pac-slopes confined to the Pacific coast and Cordillerans to the intermountain West. Pac-slopes breed from British Columbia south to northern Baja' wintering in western Mexico. They arrive on their breeding grounds late April through May, heading south in September. The first thing to notice about this species is that

it is overall yellowish-green. The other two species discussed here are dark gray or "dusky". The second thing to look for are two buffy wing bars. Finally it has a bold eye ring. So, a small yellow-green flycatcher with buffy wing bars and an eye ring-you have a Pacific-slope Flycatcher. See not that hard. It also has a distinct call note described as "churwee" rising on the second syllable. Listen to it on your birding app and it should help. Beginning birders can mistake it for Western Wood Pewee so until you get confident, depend on other field marks. If you have a flycatcher that isn't yellowish-green but instead is dark gray, you need to consider the other two.



Pacific-slope Flycatcher.
Note overall yellow-green color, wing bars and teardrop shaped eye ring.

Olive-sided Flycatcher



Olive sided Flycatcher-
note the large dark head, overall large size and clear "vest"

Over half of the population of Olive-sided Flycatchers breed in the boreal forests of Alaska and Canada. Other individuals breed in coniferous forests of the western U.S., and the northern Midwest and eastern states. Their wintering range is concentrated in the mid-elevations of the Andes in western South America, though they also overwinter in Central America and even the lowlands of the Amazon. They have one of the longest migration routes of

North American birds. When we see them here they are just passing through. This big-headed flycatcher is sooty gray above and paler below. At first glance it is a "chunky" bird with a relatively short tail, and no eye ring so the head looks uniformly dark. The dark gray sides of the breast contrast with white in the center, making it look as if the bird is wearing a vest. From the rear, large white tufts at the sides of the back are sometimes visible. It usually perches on the very tip top of exposed branches. Here call notes are helpful as the Olive-sided Flycatchers gives its famous "quick-three beers" call. Listen to it on your birding app. So a large, gray and dark headed flycatcher sitting atop the highest exposed branch that looks like it is wearing a vest, you probably have this guy.

Western Wood-Pewee

This brings us to the last of these flycatchers. Western Wood-Pewee is another overall gray, dark headed, no eye ring flycatcher that perches in the tops of trees. My first impression of them is a long, slim bird with very long wings extending well down the tail. They have two pale wing bars. The underparts are whitish with smudgy gray on the breast and sides that can make them look like they are wearing a partially buttoned vest. This can fool you into thinking you have an Olive-sided so make sure to check the other field marks Western Wood-Pewees breed from eastern Alaska, the Mackenzie River area and Manitoba south through the western United States. It winters in the tropics down through the forests of the northern Andes. Calls can help here too as the Pewee gives a harsh nasal "pee-eeer", sort of like its name. Listen to it on your bird app. So you see a flycatcher at the tippy-top of an old dead snag. You've

eliminated the phoebes, kingbird and Ash-throated. Is the bird overall yellowish-green with an eye ring and wing bars? Then you likely have a Pacific-slope Flycatcher. Instead you see a dark headed bird with no eye-ring. Is your first impression of the bird "my what a slender, trim bird this is and aren't those wings long" or "that bird needs to push away from the table more". Be patient until you get a good look at the breast. Is it a smudgy gray with a faint hint of a vest or is it distinct dark and white with a clearly visible vest? Listen for any call notes. Put the field marks together until you are confident of your ID. Now you should be up to seven local flycatchers you can identify with ease.



Western Wood -Pewee.
Note overall slim build. See the appearance of the "vest". It isn't like that of the Olive-sided. Don't be fooled.

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

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SAN LEANDRO, CA
PERMIT NO. 5759

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED



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

PRESIDENT: Bill Hoppes, *President@OhloneAudubon.org*
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2021: Vicki Robinson *Director2021@OhloneAudubon.org*
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