



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

- Nov. 27 **FIELD TRIP**
Vargas Plateau
- Dec 3 **GENERAL MEETING**
Livermore
- Dec 5 **CBC Pre-count**
meeting Hayward
- Dec 7 **FIELD TRIP**
Cranes!
- Dec 12 **FIELD TRIP**
Garin Park
- Dec 15 **CBC-Hayward/**
Fremont
- Dec 20 **CBC—East County**
- Jan 5 **FIELD TRIP**
No. Livermore
- Jan 7 **GENERAL MEETING**
Fremont
- Jan 10 **FIELD TRIP**
Arrowhead Marsh



NEXT MEETING:

JANUARY 7, 2020



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See updates and photos from our activities that you can share with your friends! Find us by doing a Facebook search for Ohlone Audubon

Membership Meeting

Holiday Cookie Exchange, Members' Photo Show and "Least Tern Recovery and Monitoring at Eden Landing"



by Ben Pearl, SFBBO

Date: Tuesday, December 3, 2019
Time: 7:30 PM
Location: Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Avenue, Livermore (Palo Verde Rm)



Come and join us for our annual holiday cookie exchange and more! Once again as in years' past, we are inviting members to bring ten of their favorite photo images slides to share. There are some great photographers in our group and many of us have traveled this year so we are looking for an exciting evening. Please have your photos on a flash drive.

This fun-filled evening first begins with a short presentation by **Ben Pearl**, Director for the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory (SFBBO), who will talk about the upcoming Least Tern recovery and monitoring program at Eden Landing in the spring of 2020 and the need for volunteers to participate to make this program a success. (See more details on page 2)

After this special visual treat, and our members' photos, our traditional annual holiday Cookie Exchange will follow as we socialize. If you would like to bring a plate of cookies and copies of your recipe, it would be great. However, all are welcome to attend whether you bring delicious cookies or not. There are always plenty of cookies to go around!

Directions: From Hwy 580 in Livermore, Exit First Street / Springtown Blvd., right to First Street, left on N. Mines Road, right on East Ave. Note: The front of the building has a tall flag pole. There are two parking lots for this large complex. Meeting place has the address "4444 East Ave" on the building.

December Program (continued)

Since 2017, endangered California Least Terns have been nesting alongside threatened Western Snowy Plovers at pond E14 in Eden Landing Ecological Reserve. Least Terns were attracted to the site by a large oyster shell enhancement plot designed to increase the breeding success of Snowy Plovers at their most important breeding site in the bay. Least Terns were very successful in 2017, with 21 nests producing 20-28 fledglings. In addition, Snowy Plovers appeared to benefit from the defense provided by the tern colony, as their hatch rate in the pond increased from 26% (n=37) before colony establishment, to 75% (n=47) after colony establishment. Although Least Terns returned to breed at Eden Landing in greater numbers in 2018 and 2019, with over 100 nests monitored each year, both they and Snowy Plovers experienced poor reproductive success due to increased predator activity. In an effort to increase Least Tern breeding success, the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory (SFBBO) plans to conduct a large habitat

enhancement project prior to the 2020 breeding season. SFBBO also plans to significantly increase the size and frequency of our volunteer tern monitoring program, which will help us to keep better track of the colony throughout the breeding season. Similar programs at Alameda Point, Hayward Shoreline, and Southern California colonies have been instrumental to their success.

SFBBO has been conducting Snowy Plover monitoring since 2003, and is recognized as regional authorities in their recovery. SFBBO first began Least Tern monitoring in 2007-2009 when several pairs unsuccessfully attempted to breed at Eden Landing. Since Least Terns returned to the site in 2017, SFBBO has been working to develop a complete program dedicated to the recovery of this species as well. 2020 will mark the first year of a three year grant that SFBBO was awarded to work towards Least Tern recovery at Eden Landing. California colonies have been instrumental to their success.



Field Trips

Sandhill Cranes - Cosumnes River Preserve, Staten Island, and Woodbridge
December 7, Saturday, 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Leader: Stephanie Floyd
fieldtrips@ohloneaudubon.org

Vargas Plateau
November 27, Wednesday, 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM
Leaders: Vicki Robinson & Jerry Ting
fieldtrips@ohloneaudubon.org

Join us as we explore this East Bay park. Vargas Plateau rises from the bay plain to an elevation of 1,000 feet, overlooking Niles Canyon, Fremont, Union City, Newark and the San Francisco Bay. A prime location for birdwatching, especially raptors, we will look for golden eagles and hawks such as red-tailed and cooper's, along with owls, turkeys, and other birds.

Directions: From I-680 in Fremont, exit at Vargas Road and go north. Drive about 1.6 miles to Morrison Canyon Road and turn right. The staging area is about 0.4 miles up on the left.



More Field Trips page 3!

Each fall Sandhill Cranes return to the Central Valley where they feed, socialize and rest in the fields and fly in to roost in the wetlands for the night. Tundra Swans, Cackling Geese, Snow and Ross's Geese, rafts of winter ducks, and other waterfowl and raptors are commonly seen. We'll bird the boardwalk at Cosumnes River Preserve and drive by the Desmond Road ponds, check out Staten Island, and make our way to Woodbridge Ecological Reserve for sunset fly-in at 4:45 PM. The field trip ends at Woodbridge where you can easily get back on I-5 for the drive home. Rain, flooding, or heavy fog cancels. Wear layers and bring snacks and water. All are welcome, and pre-registration is not required. Cosumnes River Preserve is about 70 miles from Livermore.

Directions: Take I-580 east to I-205 east to I-5. Take I-5 north to the Twin Cities Road exit. Go east on Twin Cities Road about 1 mile and turn right on Franklin Blvd. Continue about a mile or so to the visitor center (facilities available). Look for the group in the parking lot or on the boardwalk.

Note: CDFW requires you to carry a Lands Pass at Woodbridge. For general information on Lands Passes go to <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/licensing/lands-pass>. To purchase a Lands Pass to print at home go to: <https://www.ca.wildlifelicenses.com/InternetSales/>. You can purchase a day pass and print online for \$4.58.

Field Trips (continued)

Garin Regional Park
December 12, Thursday, 9:00 AM-11:30 AM
Leaders: Judy & Jerry Steenhoven
fieldtrips@OhloneAudubon.org

The outdoors in late fall can be especially beautiful - fresh and clear with deciduous plants shedding spent leaves that have turned yellow and brown. We'll spend our morning in Garin Park, looking for wintering sparrows, warblers, and thrushes. Be prepared for rain and cold. Heavy rain cancels. All are welcome, and pre-registration is not required.

Directions: To reach Garin Park, take Mission Blvd. in Hayward to Garin Avenue, just south of Industrial Pkwy. Follow Garin Avenue uphill until you reach the park. Meet at the barn.

North Livermore/Springtown
January 5, Sunday, 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM
Leaders: Steve Huckabone & Kathy Robertson
fieldtrips@ohloneaudubon.org

We will walk along the Arroyo where we can expect many wading birds such as stilts, avocets, herons, ducks, teal, and many songbirds. Raptors are around- a Golden Eagle was observed a few years ago. Wide, level trails make walking easy. Pre-registration is not required. Beginners are welcome and encouraged. Bring your scope if you have one.

Directions: Take I-580 east to exit 54 for First Street/Springtown Blvd, turn left onto First Street and continue onto Springtown Blvd. Turn right (east) on Bluebell Dr. and continue about a mile and a half to Marlin A. Pound Park (North Livermore Neighborhood Park). We will meet at the bridge crossing the Arroyo. Park on either side of the road. Heavy rain cancels. No restrooms are on our route, so you may wish to make a pit stop before arriving at the meeting point.

Arrowhead Marsh: Martin Luther King Regional Shoreline
January 10, Friday, 9:45 AM- 12:00 PM
Leaders: Stephanie Floyd & Mona Brauer
fieldtrips@ohloneaudubon.org

A 7.9' high tide will hit Arrowhead Marsh at 11:08 AM, creating an opportunity to see Ridgway's Rails, Virginia Rails, and Soras. Wintering ducks and shorebirds will be plentiful. The area is completely

Arrowhead Marsh (continued)



paved, so if it's raining, we'll still go as rain and high tide are optimum conditions for seeing rails. One year a very rare Yellow Rail was seen here in cold, driving rain! Dress in layers and raingear as needed. This is a wheelchair-accessible bird walk. Pre-registration is not required, and all are welcome.

Directions: From I-880, go west on Hegenberger towards the airport and turn right on Pardee. Make a left at Swan and turn right into the entrance to Martin Luther King Regional Shoreline. Follow the entrance road all the way to the end. On the way to the parking lot, drive slowly and keep an eye out for Burrowing Owls on the berms to the right.

BIRDING OBSERVATIONS

Late Fall 2019

By Stephanie Floyd

Waves of fall migrants continue to pass through our parks and gardens. At Coyote Hills, jewel-like **Golden-Crowned Kinglets** can be found in the pines and a **White-throated Sparrow** shows up here and there in flocks of newly-arrived **Golden-crowned Sparrows** and **White-Crowned Sparrows**. A rare **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was also seen in the Coyote Hills nectar garden, where spotted **Fox Sparrows** are scrabbling around by the fountains. Chirping **Yellow-rumped Warblers** are once again one of the most common birds to see.

Further afield, in mid-October birders found a rare **Brewer's Sparrow** in Richmond, a **Clay-colored Sparrow** in Albany, and a **Hammond's Flycatcher** at productive little Creekside Park on the Alameda/Contra Costa county line. A rare **Tropical Kingbird** is back at Heather Farm Park in Walnut Creek. Before Halloween, **Cackling Geese** arrived at Lake Elizabeth and Lake Merritt, and **Greater White-Fronted Geese** were on the move through Danville.

See Special Report on

**Big Day Photo
 Bird-a-thon**

**October 19, 2019 on
 page 4**



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

**HAYWARD FREMONT CBC
SUNDAY DECEMBER 15, 2019**

Join us for the 120th National Audubon Christmas Bird Count. Please come out again this year and participate in this worthwhile Citizen Science. Last year was an incredible year with 177 species logged, 129,833 individuals and 91 participants. This is really one of the great counts in the Bay Area, often placing us in the top 25 nationwide. With the richness of our area being one of the best wintering grounds for shorebirds, we top all counts often in Dunlin, Black-bellied Plovers, Western Sandpipers, Willets and just lots of peeps. Our hill area presents us with surprises every year also. From wood- lands to the shore, you can have your choice!

We need your help to be successful once more. Remember, this is Citizen Science of the highest degree. It must be stressed that our success in securing the important, basic scientific accuracy of the count hinges on coverage and consistency (participants - you!). The count benefits from the hard work of our 17 section leaders, participation of each person who carries out the necessary jobs from recording data, returning borrowed keys, helping with the dinner or just being out there! All are welcome and very much needed. We finish the evening with a delicious free dinner and share stories and results. All are welcome and very much needed.

Want to find out more? A **Pre-count meeting** will be held Thursday, **December 5, 2019** at the home of Phil and Pat Gordon, 1922 Hillsdale St., Hayward 7:30PM. **Contact the compilers, Phil and Pat Gordon at pagpeg@aol.com.** for more information. Attendance at the meeting is not mandatory!

FEEDER COUNTERS NEEDED!

Got a special bird at your feeder? Please count birds at your feeder on Sunday December 15th and submit data to **pagpeg@aol.com**, with species and numbers seen. Include hours watched. This data is very important also. You can check with us to determine if your feeder is in the H-F Count Circle. **(Phil & Pat Gordon, pagpeg@aol.com)**

Photo Bird-a-Thon Big Day



In April 2015 (Spring) Jerry Ting and Davor Desancic went out for a Photo Bird-a-Thon/Big Day of birding in Fremont, finding 133 species and photographing most of them. In October 2019 (Fall) Jerry invited a group of birder/ photographers to try to beat that

record. Birding for 11 hours in small groups at 13 of Fremont's hot spots from the hills of Vargas plateau to the bay and from flatland parks to the canyons, the searchers drove 50 miles and hiked more than 7 miles to pretty much tie the record despite being short-handed at a few major stops. 130 species were found, and nearly all were photographed. "Best bird" was a rare Ruff found by Kitty O'Neil's team on the bayshore at Coyote Hills. Jerry has posted a photo journal of the day for your enjoyment on the Facebook group Fremont Birding Circle (select "photos", then "albums.")

All photos by Jerry Ting except "Jerry Ting" by Sally Hall 10/19/19



EASTERN ALAMEDA COUNTY CBC

FRIDAY DECEMBER 20, 2019

You are invited to join the 2019 Eastern Alameda County Christmas Bird Count that will take place on **Friday December 20th**. This is the 11th year of the count. Many of you have been on board since the beginning. This CBC count is centered in the Pleasanton area. The EAC-CBC has contributed to the bird population data during the drought, Sierra Nevada forest fire species in flux, and has been a contributor documenting the wintering raptor populations of eastern Alameda County. Jeff Miller always makes the dinner species count review exciting and sometimes humorous, so consider joining us. The post count dinner will be held again at the Pleasanton Callippe Golf course on Happy Valley Rd, Pleasanton. Directions to the dinner will be sent to those who confirm participation. Please consider joining this CBC which OAS co-sponsors. **Contact Jeff Miller at jeff@alamedacreek.org**

President's Corner

Listing and Delisting

I was remarking to a fellow birder at the Coyote Hills field trip that the grassy hills in the park used to be filled with Western Meadowlarks and now I rarely see one. That is something I have noticed about meadowlarks throughout the Bay Area. I miss their wonderful song. I am trying to see if data bear this out. As I was researching this I ran across news that the Kirtland's Warbler has been taken off the endangered species list because it had recovered! When I started birding, the Kirtland's Warbler was a poster child for endangered species.

These songbirds were among the first animals in the United States identified as being at risk of extinction. In 1967 the species gained federal protection under the Endangered Species Preservation Act, a precursor to the 1973 passage of the Endangered Species Act. The Kirtland's warbler wasn't discovered in the United States until 1851. Six years later, Dr. Spencer Baird, a naturalist at the Smithsonian Institution named the bird for Jared Kirtland, the Ohio doctor who had presented the first specimen to the museum. The warbler's nesting range remained unknown until 1903. Its wintering ground in the Bahamas was found earlier in 1897. The warbler nests only in young jack pine forests in Michigan, Wisconsin and



Ontario. The birds' population dipped to an all-time low of only 167 pairs in the early 1970's. During that period, the jack pine forests near Grayling, Michigan were one of the only places in the world that the birds would reliably return each spring to breed after overwintering in the Bahamas, primarily on the Island of Eleuthera.

The severe population decline was due in part to inadequate habitat as a result of wildfire suppression, which prevented a crucial natural process necessary to the jack pine ecosystem. The birds' numbers were also hurt by the parasitic behavior of Brown-headed Cowbirds, who lay their eggs in warbler nests, where the chicks out-compete their smaller warbler nest mates.

Thanks to dedicated conservation efforts the warbler population rebounded. Now, the Kirtland's Warbler population is estimated to be around 2,400 pairs, over double the goal identified in the species' recovery plan.

That is a remarkable recovery and shows the potential when State and Federal agencies and local nonprofits work together to support endangered species. Checking the Federal Register there are other species that are being

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:



Mary Ashby, Robert Beggs, Barbara Benda, Kate Buddeman, John Cant, Roger and Donna Case, Juli Chamberlin, William Chestnut, Michael Christopherson, J and D Clark, Pattie

Cole, Barbara Correra, Laura DeMare, Joanna Dixon, Wendy Eros, Norma Foss, John Giles, Alan Goggins, Diane Grubbe, Lee Hartman, Lloyd Hartshon, Angela Ippolito, Jeanette King, Paula and Gordon Krauter, Patricia Joki, Don and Roberta Lenkeit, Gaard Logan, Karen Marcus, Manish Marweh, Lori Moon, Paul Nissler, Lisa Oliver, Duke Otoshi, Narayana Presanna, Kerri Duggins Raines, Stephen Rentmeesters, Nancie Ryan, Shelly Sack, Carol Schneider, Marlina Selva, Peter Shen, Donald Simpson, Joanne Smith, Vicki and Stan Stadelman, Carlos Stahlhut, Lynn Stinnet, Paul Svec, Karen Swift, Genie Swyers, Susan Teefy, Harvey Trop, Carol and Paul Weicker, Vivana Wolinsky

Donations Michael Christopherson, Norma Foss, Alan Goggins, Diane Grubbe, Pat Kite, Paula and Gordon Krauter, Duke Otoshi, Carol Schneider, Joanne Smith, Paul Svec

Hawaiian Hawk (what was wrong with 'io?)
Hawaiian Goose (I will always call it the Nene)
Inyo California Towhee
Interior population of the Least Tern
Red-cockaded Woodpecker
Hawaiian Stilt (I like ae'ō better)
Wood Stork

Unfortunately the same article counts nine bird species (eight from Hawaii) for delisting due to extinction. So not all good news, but we need to take the victories when they come.
-Bill Hoppes

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!)

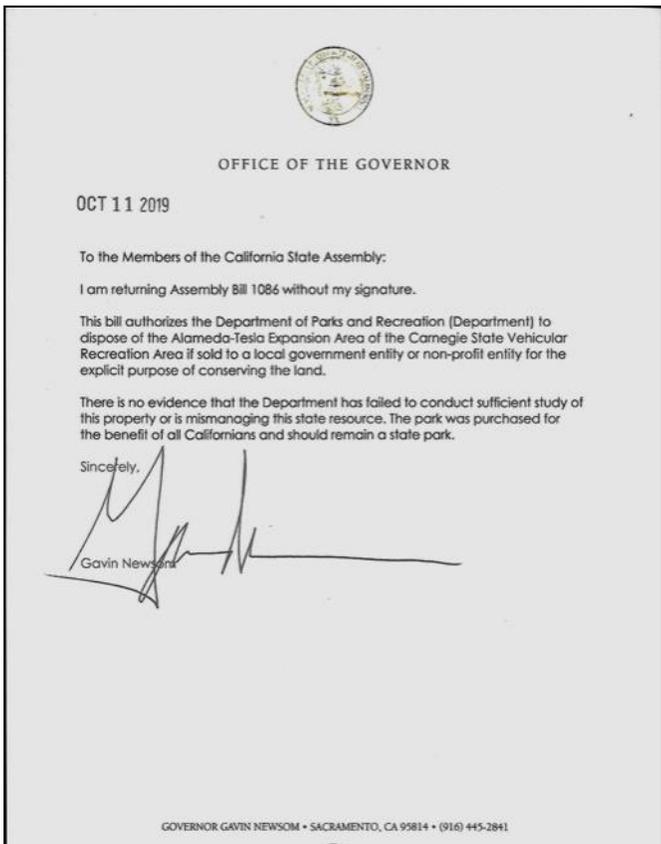
The benefits are a cost savings to our chapter, in both printing costs and postage. Other benefits include getting it quicker and it is **much more colorful!!!!!! GO GREEN!**

Send your request to pagepeg@aol.com

Conservation



We have no words . . .



From Friends of Tesla:

We are working to learn the real determining factors for the veto – raw politics of OHV lobby strength, State Parks opposition, weak leadership, entrenched bureaucracy, etc. – as that is needed to develop the plan that can achieve permanent preservation of Tesla. We will be working with Assembly Member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, Senator Glazer and local leaders on the assessment and next steps to achieve the needed policy change at the State level. We also are still in the midst of the CEQA litigation against OHMVR on the Carnegie SVRA General Plan and EIR, with the hearing set for April 2020, and a likely more litigation beyond that.

This is a disappointing outcome to say the least from a new administration that we hoped would put words into action. All of you put so much effort into the last 2 years to get legislation to the Governor’s desk, not counting the decades to study, analyze, report, teach and advocate for Tesla preservation. But this work is not lost and provides the foundation for our next

(Tesla continued) steps. We remain committed and continue to fight to preserve Tesla.

Rest while we prepare for next steps and help us keep our focus on our goal. We will keep you advised and will certainly need your help for the next stage. In the meantime, we will need to fundraise for more anticipated legal expenses. Donations may be made via PayPal at www.teslapark.org.

Members are encouraged to thank Assembly Member Bauer-Kahan and Senator Glazer for their efforts. Positive comments can be posted to Assembly Member Bauer-Kahan website at <https://www.facebook.com/RBKcalifornia/>



Whistling Wings and Pintail Duck Clubs

By the time you read this article, the City of Newark will have made their decision regarding the 560 acres of lands that were formerly tidal marsh that were subsequently diked off and became known as the Whistling Wings and Pintail Duck Clubs. The names are evocative of the magic of waterfowl in flight. If you’ve ever been fortunate to listen to ducks come in for a landing or flying over head, you too will have heard the whistling of the wind through their wings.

The site, despite the current manner in which the lands are managed, continues to support waterbirds and over a dozen special status species including the Northern Harrier, Loggerhead Shrike, Alameda Song Sparrow, Bryant’s Savannah Sparrow, and San Francisco Common Yellowthroat, which are state species of special concern; and the White-tailed Kite and American Peregrine Falcon, which are state fully protected species that can potentially nest in the study area.

The site also has been documented to support the federally listed endangered salt marsh harvest mouse - the only mammal known to live in tidal marshes and which only occurs in the marshlands of the San Francisco Bay Area.

The landowners propose to import approximately 1.67 million cubic yards of fill to raise the "UPLANDS" out of the 100-year flood plain. The 5-15 feet of fill will consume lands that are vital to the recovery of the salt marsh harvest mouse and other marsh species, especially as sea level rises. The development as proposed would leave only the banks of a flood control levee that runs through the site and the 2:1 riprap slopes of the developed areas for the endangered mouse to escape rising waters. **(cont’d page 7)**

(Newark continued)

Certainly our emphasis is on the impacts of the project to ecosystem biodiversity, but the project also has societal impacts. It encourages people to get into their cars to conduct their daily business as it is not located near any transit hubs. The project would not provide any flood protection to the adjacent Union Pacific railroad tracks or to the developed areas to the east of the rail corridor, and there is the concern that the proposed project will require additional protective measures in the future to prevent inundation from rising sea levels.

Not insignificantly, the site has only one road in and out of the project site that requires the construction of an overpass spanning the existing railroad tracks. An emer-

gency vehicle access (EVA) road that will be padlocked could provide an exit point at Mowry Avenue but would require opening of the padlock by emergency responders. This EVA will also serve as a pedestrian/bicycle trail that terminates at the at-grade railroad tracks and switching yard causing concern for pedestrians (e.g. children) and bicyclists, particularly since the California Rail Plan envisions commute trains running every 30 minutes during peak hours in the future.

We are urging the Newark City Council to suspend approval of the project until a Supplement Environmental Impact Report is prepared and circulated for agency and public review and comment. With the escalating predicted rates of sea level rise, it is time to re-evaluate our thinking about putting people in harm's way. - Carin High

Hello Ohlone Audubon Members,

The Board of Directors would like your opinion on a matter that has come before them. The proposal is to benefit the efforts of the John Muir Land Trust to buy the **Almond Ranch**. Below is a summary from the John Muir Land Trust website.



*John Muir Land Trust is actively raising funds to acquire **Almond Ranch**, a top priority of land conservationists for decades. This stunning 281-acre property south of downtown Martinez is the proverbial “missing piece” — a place at the heart of the open space we have worked so hard together to protect. If we succeed, the ranch will expand a preserve of vital natural resources and establish a hub that connects major trails and adjacent landscapes for the very first time. The trust has raised \$3.75 million of the \$4 million purchase price. If they fail, the property will be sold for development.*

The proposal is as follows: *for every membership that approves this benefit to support the purchase of the Almond Ranch by John Muir Land Trust, Ohlone Audubon will donate \$25.00 to this cause.* For example, if 100 membership households approve of the proposal, Ohlone Audubon would send the John Muir Land Trust a check for \$2,500.

The board will cut off this effort on December 15th, 2019.

If you approve of this proposal, please send an email to either **Mona Brauer**, dennismona@gmail.com or **Gail Ryujin**, gailryujin@yahoo.com. The email can state, "I approve of the proposal to send \$25 to the John Muir Land Trust." Please sign your name.

If the John Muir Land Trust reach their goal of \$4 million before we finish our survey, we would not send a check.

Thank you for your input.

Ohlone Audubon Board of Directors

ED NOTE: see original article October 1 to November 15, 2018 Kite Call.

Bird Plumage Terms

By Bill Hoppes

I have always been interested in how birds get their names. Previously I wrote about birds named for individuals. There are also birds named after colors or anatomical features. Some of these are easy to understand such as White-crowned Sparrow or Cinnamon Teal. Others are harder to understand and below are some of my favorites.

Blackpoll Warbler

This one took me awhile to figure out. You need to break Blackpoll in half and consider "poll" first. It comes from Middle English and Middle Low German *polle* meaning "hair of the" head, or top of a tree. It is also akin to Danish *puld*, and Swedish *pull* meaning crown of the head. Once you add in the "black" to the name and look at the bird, Blackpoll makes sense.



Cerulean Warbler

Cerulean comes from the Latin *caeruleus*, which means "dark blue" which derives from "*caelum*," the Latin word for "sky." An artist rendering a sky of blue in oils or watercolors might choose a tube of cerulean blue pigment.

Semipalmated Sandpiper

Semipalmated refers to the bird's feet in that its toes are joined only part way down with a web. This type of webbing is pretty common in birds. This characteristic is found in some plovers and sandpipers (semipalmated sandpipers, stilt sandpipers, upland sandpipers, greater yellowlegs and willet), avocets, herons, all grouse, and some domesticated chickens.



Pectoral Sandpiper

I found a couple of reasons for this term. Pectoral generally refers to a conspicuously colored breastplate. A more specific reason refers to the inflatable air sac in the male's chest which is puffed out during his bizarre hooting flight display over the Arctic tundra. If you search the web you can find some video and other recordings of this display. This just reaffirms to me that the shorebirds we see poking around in the mudflats are totally different birds on their breeding grounds up north.

Glaucous Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull

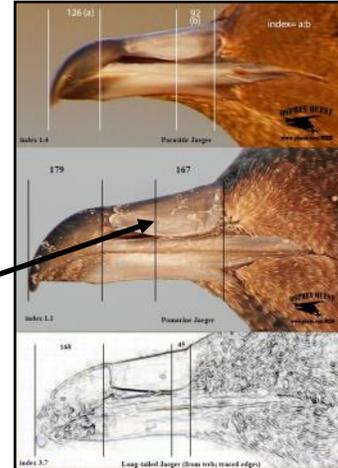
Glaucous came to English, via Latin *glaucus* and Greek *glaukos*, meaning "gleaming" or "gray," and has been used to describe a range of pale colors from a yellow-green to a bluish-gray which fits the colors of these birds. The word is often found in horticultural writing describing the pale color of the leaves of various plants as well as the powdery bloom that can be found on some fruits and leaves. The stem *glauc-* appears in some other English words, the most familiar of which is *glaucoma*, referring to a disease of the eye that can result in gradual loss of vision. *Glauco-* also appears in the not-so-familiar *glaucope*, a word used to describe someone with fair hair and blue eyes

*(Plumage Terms continued)***Roseate Tern, Roseate Spoonbill**

Roseate means resembling a rose especially in color. It's clear how this fits with the spoonbill. Roseate in the tern refers to the bird's pink breast in breeding plumage. "Roseate" comes from the Latin adjective *roseus*, and ultimately from the noun *rosa*, meaning "rose." Use of "roseate" began in the 16th century. Uses of "roseate" are often found in descriptions of sunrises and sunsets. "Through yon peaks of cloud-like snow/The roseate sunlight quivers," wrote Shelley in Prometheus Unbound.

Pomarine Jaeger

Since the Jaeger is a seabird bird, I assumed that the term pomarine referred to something maritime. It is nothing like that. Pomarine refers to having the nostrils roofed over by the horny plate forming the ridge of the bill. In the figure on the left, the Pomarine Jaeger is in the middle. You can easily see the plate they are taking about.

**Flammulated Owl**

This one is pretty straight-forward. Flammulated means having flame-shaped markings, or when referring to the plumage of certain birds, pervaded with a reddish color.

Saw-whet Owl

This doesn't refer to a color, but is too much fun to leave out. The Saw-whet Owl's name comes from the "skiew" call it makes when alarmed. The sound has a resemblance to that made when whetting a saw, so Saw-whet.

Ferruginous Pygmy Owl, Ferruginous Hawk

Again another simple one as the term refers to resembling iron rust in color.

Berylline Hummingbird

Berylline means like beryl, especially in color. Beryl is a mineral consisting of a silicate of beryllium and aluminum of great hardness that occurs in colorless hexagonal prisms when pure and in various colors, green, blue, yellow, or pink, when not pure. Below are pictures of the mineral and the bird. I think they got it right.

**Downy Woodpecker**

The Downy Woodpecker is a Linnaean species—named not by an American scientist, but by Carl Von Linne, also known as Linnaeus, the father of the science of taxonomy. Linnaeus never saw a Downy Woodpecker, instead basing his description on the work of the American colonial naturalist Mark Catesby. It was Catesby who gave the species its common name, with "Downy" a reference to the soft white feathers of the white stripe on the lower back, in contrast to the similar, but more hair like feathers on the lower back of the Hairy Woodpecker.

(continued on page 10)

(Plumage Terms continued)**Plumbeous Vireo**

Plumbeous refers to the dull gray color of lead. The images of the mineral and the bird. Yes, dull and gray.

**Pileated Woodpecker**

Pileated means having a crest covering the pileum. The pileum refers to the top of a bird's head, extending from the base of the bill to the nape.

Prothonotary Warbler

The word prothonotary is recorded in English since 1447, as "principal clerk of a court," from Latin *prothonotarius* and Greek *protonotarios* "first scribe". The Prothonotary was originally the chief of the college of recorders of the court of the Byzantine Empire. In the Roman Catholic Church, protonotaries apostolic are prelates in the Roman Curia who perform certain duties with regard to papal documents. Prothonotary in the warbler compares its showy plumage to that to the colorful robes worn by its human counterparts. Here are images of avian and human prothonotaries.

**Vesper Sparrow**

Another non plumage example, but I couldn't leave it out. Vesper Sparrows sing a sweet tinkling song during the day and well into the evening hours—the twilight of vespers, prompting its name. Naturalist John Burroughs, feeling that it sang most impressively in the evening, gave it the name of Vesper Sparrow. Vespers is a sunset evening prayer service in the Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Eastern Catholic, Anglican, and Lutheran churches. The word comes from the Greek "hespera" and the Latin vesper, meaning "evening". It is also referred to in the Anglican tradition as evening prayer or evensong.



Is it time to renew? Look at your mailing label - it will tell you. For example: "Pd Thru 12/19" indicates that you are paid thru December 2019. A **"RENEW?"** indicates that this is your last Kite Call! A **cmp** mean 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) Thanks!



Monarchs and Milkweed:

Problems with Tropical Milkweed - Part II

There seems to be some confusion in our article published in the last issue (Volume 53, No. 3 October 1 thru November 15, 2019, page 9) regarding "native" milkweeds (*Asclepias* sp.) To clarify, the information published last month came directly from the Xerces Society and several of us contacted the Xerces Society and received this reply from Emma Pelton (emma.pelton@xerces.org):

*Just to clarify: Xerces promotes planting native milkweeds where in habitats where naturally occur and are locally native. **A. tuberosa** is not native to California. I'd recommend **A. speciosa, A. fascicularis, A. cordifolia, etc. instead.***

*You can explore the milkweed profiles on our Western Monarch Milkweed Mapper website to learn more about each species and it's range & appropriate habitats. **www.monarchmilkweedmapper.org.***

*I think the confusion here may stem from our blog "**Tropical milkweed: a no-grow?**" <https://xerces.org/2018/04/19/tropical-milkweed-a-no-grow/>. In it, it says "as an alternative to tropical milkweed, consider planting orange butterflyweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) if it is native to your area. It has a similar habit as tropical milkweed and the same bright orange colors." This species advise is applicable to much of the US where *tuberosa* is native, but not to California and some other western states where it is not (hence the "if it is native to your area").*

In addition, Ohlone member, Carol Schneider noted that the California Native Plant Society, Xerces, and the Monarch Joint Venture all believe it is very important to use only locally-evolved, native species. They also strongly recommend planting nectar sources for the butterflies, such as California Goldenrod (*Solidago velutina*) (Personal comment). Members may also reference Bill Hoppes article published in the July 1 thru August 2018 Kite call, Vol. 52., no.1) Thank you everyone for help in clarifying this.

ΔΣΠ
CSU East Bay's Delta Sigma Pi Presents

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With the help of the City Hayward

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Sat, December 7, 11-5 pm

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- Tour of museum

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