



# 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*

### Calendar

- Apr 2 FIELD TRIP**  
North Livermore
- Apr 5 MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
Castro Valley
- Apr 12 BOARD MEETING**  
(Call E. Cormier for details)
- Apr 13 FIELD TRIP**  
MLK Shoreline, Oakland
- Apr 17 FIELD TRIP**  
Mines Rd, Livermore
- Apr 24 FIELD TRIP**  
Lake Elizabeth, Coyote Hills, Fremont
- Apr 30 FIELD TRIP**  
Garin/Dry Ck Pk, Hayward
- May 1 DEADLINE KITE CALL**
- May 3 MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
Fremont
- May 4 FIELD TRIP**  
Sunol Reg Park
- May 7 FIELD TRIP**  
San Joaquin River NWR
- May 10 FIELD TRIP**  
Sibley Volc Reg Preserve
- May 15 FIELD TRIP**  
Del Puerto Canyon
- May 18 FIELD TRIP**  
Lake Chabot
- June 25-26 FIELD TRIP**  
Sierras—Yuba Pass

## MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

### BIRD IDENTIFICATION PANEL

**Presenter:** Ed Harper

**Date:** April 5, 2016

**Time:** 7:30PM

**Location:** Castro Valley Adult School 4430 Alma Ave, CV 94546

Our April meeting will be entertaining and educational! Come learn the finer points of bird id by witnessing the deduction and identification process of fellow OAS experienced birders on artfully photographed bird pictures, in partial or obstructed views, hosted by Ed Harper.

Ed Harper is a retired mathematics professor from American River College in Sacramento. His interest in birds began during his early childhood while growing up in Montana. An excellent birder and photographer, he has traveled to every continent. He has photographed 801 species of birds in North America and many more elsewhere. His exquisite photographs have appeared in many books and

publications. Actively involved in birding, he is a past president of the Sacramento Audubon Society and recently served on the Board for Western Field Ornithologists.

Beyond his annual presentations at California's Central Valley Birding Symposium, his lively and informative talks are in high demand from many birding festivals, community groups, and Audubon societies. Ed first started leading bird tours for the Massachusetts Audubon Society in 1980. Presently, he leads many tours with his wife, Susan Scott. Their company, Sandpiper Journeys, specializes in small groups with some of their favorite destinations being Montana and East Africa. (**DIRECTIONS** next page)

### BIRDS (AND MORE) OF SOUTH GEORGIA AND FALKLANDS

**Presenter:** Doug Cheeseman

**Date:** May 3, 2016 **Time:** 7:30PM

**Location:** Math-Science Nucleus, 4074 Eggers Dr, Fremont, CA 94536

*(continued next page)*



Antarctic Fur Seal cheesemans.com

## Membership Meetings (continued)



Doug Cheeseman will transport us to two very special island groups: **South Georgia** and the **Falklands**.

**South Georgia** is home to the largest colonies of King Penguins in the southern hemisphere as

well as breeding colonies of Macaroni and Gentoo penguins and the northern most colony of Chinstrap Penguins. Also breeding on South Georgia are Wandering Albatross, Light-Mantled Sooty Albatross, Grey-headed Albatross, species of petrels, skuas, and the only passerine in the Sub-Antarctic region the South Georgia Pipit. This fascinating pipit, which survives on carrion in the winter months, has made a remarkable recovery with the removal of rats from the island. Antarctic Fur Seals, Southern Elephant Seals, and Leopard Seals will not be neglected in this very fast-paced and informative program.

From the **Falklands**, Doug will show images of the largest colonies of Black-browed Albatross in the world, located on Steeple Jason Island, as well as Rockhopper Penguins, Striated Caracaras, Brown Skuas, and other amazing birds.

Doug is an emeritus professor of zoology and ecology from De Anza college, where he taught for 35 years. Doug has been active in conservation since 1967 in Santa Clara Audubon, CNPS (CA Native Plant Society), the Sierra Club, and many other organizations. Together with his wife, Gail, and son, Ted, they have been active in Serengeti conservation and the removal of rats on South Georgia Island, in conjunction with the South Georgia Land Trust.

**Directions:** To reach Math-Science Nucleus take I-880 to Mowry, east on Mowry, & left onto Fremont Blvd. The MSN is on the left, at the corner of Eggers. From Mission Blvd. turn right onto Mowry, right onto Fremont Blvd and proceed as above.

**Directions to Castro Valley Adult School (April Meeting):** You may want to get directions from your area to Castro Valley from MapQuest or similar. Once you are on Castro Valley Blvd, find Redwood Rd (in the central part of town) and turn north. Follow Redwood Rd for 1.2 miles to Alma Ave (you will pass Castro Valley High School). Turn right onto Alma Ave. CV Adult School is on your left. Large parking area in back.

## FIELD TRIPS



### North Livermore

**Leader: Ray Fontaine 925-784-5411 rayfontaine2@att.net**

We will walk along the Arroyo where we can expect many wading birds such as stilts, avocets and herons (maybe a nesting Black-Crowned Night Heron), ducks, teal, and many songbirds. Raptors are around, and a Golden Eagle was observed a few years ago. Wide, level trails make walking easy. Beginners are especially 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. Rain cancels.

### Garretson Point to Arrowhead Marsh - MLK Regional Shoreline

**Leaders: Rich Nicholson and Stephanie Floyd**

Nice flat paved trails invite you to search for five species of grebes in their breeding plumage along with three species of teal and a long list of resident birds. The weather should be good, and the effort will be well worth it, as MLK Shoreline always offers a rewarding day of birding.

**Wednesday April 13, 9:00 AM - Noon**

**fieldtrips AT ohloneaudubon.org**

**Directions:** To reach Garretson Point, take I-880 to Hegenberger in Oakland. Drive west to Edgewater Drive, then go north until the roads ends at a free parking lot. Heavy rain cancels.

## And more field trips!

### Mines Road, Livermore

**Leader: Rich Cimino, [yellowbilledtours@gmail.com](mailto:yellowbilledtours@gmail.com)**

Some birds are just easier to see on Mines Road than anywhere else in Alameda County, including Bald and Golden Eagles, Phainopeplas, Rufous-Crowned Sparrows, Wrentits, Yellow-Billed Magpies, Violet-Green Swallows, and maybe even a rare Red-Naped Sapsucker or Lewis's Woodpecker or scarce Lawrence's Goldfinches. Join birding guide Rich Cimino for an all-day adventure to see what we can find. The winding road climbs into the mountains for some 30 miles with little room to park on the shoulders. Please only attend if you can stay for the entire field trip and are willing to carpool.

**April 17, Sunday, 7:30 AM - 4:00PM**

Heavy rain cancels. Bring food and water. Facilities are very limited. We will briefly visit Del Valle SRA along our route (\$6 entry fee per car, free to EB Parks Annual Passholders).

**Directions:** Meet at Starbucks, 2050 Portola Ave., Livermore at 7:30 AM to form carpools. From I-580 eastbound in Livermore, take the N Livermore Ave. exit and go south about 3/4 mile to Starbucks. Mines Road is about 10 minutes from this starting point.

### Swallow Festival - Lake Elizabeth and Coyote Hills Regional Park

**Leaders: Phil Gordon, [pagpeg@aol.com](mailto:pagpeg@aol.com), and Park Ranger Sandy Ferreira**

The 13th Annual Return of the Swallows Festival, sponsored by the City of Fremont, Ohlone Audubon Society, and Chabot College, will be held on *Tuesday, April 19, at 11:00 AM at Chabot College*. In conjunction with the festival, we offer a field trip on Sunday, 4/24 to see swallows at Lake Elizabeth and Coyote Hills Regional Park.

**1st Segment on 4/24:** At 10:00, Park Ranger Sandy Ferreira will lead us along Lake Elizabeth and Mission Creek to view several nesting swallow species: Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, Tree Swallow and possibly others.

**Directions:** From I-880, exit at Stevenson Blvd. and go east to Paseo Padre Parkway. Turn right on Paseo Padre and follow the

**April 24, Sunday, 10:00 - 11:30 AM & 12:15 - 2:30 PM**

signs to the Waterpark. We will meet at the five tall palm trees at the north end of the Waterpark lot, south end of the lake.

**2nd Segment on 4/24:** At 12:15 PM, meet Phil on the Visitor Center lawn at Coyote Hills Regional Park to eat your bag lunch, followed at 2:00 by a Marsh and Hills Swallow Trek.

**Directions:** From the Waterpark at Lake Elizabeth, turn right onto Paseo Padre Parkway. Turn left on Stevenson and stay on it to I-880. Go north on I-880 to the Decoto Road/Highway 84/Dumbarton Bridge exit. Go west on Highway 84 to the last exit before the bridge, Paseo Padre Parkway. Turn right onto Paseo, then left on Patterson Ranch Road. \$5 parking fee payable at kiosk unless you have an EB Parks annual pass. Heavy rain cancels

### Garin/Dry Creek Regional Parks

**Leaders: Brenda Senturia and Jerry Steenhoven**

On this relaxed trip we'll explore Garin/Dry Creek Regional Parks from the Dry Creek entrance. Spring is an excellent time to see a wide variety of birds. Residents and newly arrived migrants will be courting and setting up nesting territories. From this entrance, excellent riparian habitat, oak woodland and grazed pasture are accessible. We'll be looking closely at bird behavior: setting up breeding territories, courtship displays and signs of nesting. Birds will be in their finest plumages, and we should

**April 30, Saturday, 8:00 - 11:00 AM  
fieldtrips AT [Ohloneaudubon.org](http://Ohloneaudubon.org)**

find quite a variety: woodpeckers, flycatchers, warblers, wrens, sparrows, and thrushes.

**Directions:** Meet at the Dry Creek Regional Park parking area. Take Mission Blvd. in Hayward south to Whipple Rd. Turn east toward the hills on the continuation of Whipple (May Rd.) past the apartment complex to the parking area on the right. Be prepared for moderate walking.

### Sunol Regional Wilderness

**Leaders: Vicki Robinson and Jerry Ting**

Join the leaders for a chance to enjoy early spring at one of our great regional parks, Sunol. We hope to find early nesting activity near the foot bridge and visitor's center. Our route from there will depend on recent sightings. In any case, plan for moderate hiking. Meet at the first parking lot on the left after entering the park.

**May 4, Wednesday, 8:00 - 11:00 AM  
fieldtrips AT [Ohloneaudubon.org](http://Ohloneaudubon.org)**

**Directions:** To reach the park, take the Calaveras Rd./SR-84 exit from I-680 and drive southeast about five miles to Geary Road; turn left (east) on Geary and continue to the park (watch for wild turkeys along the road!) Parking fee \$5; free to East Bay Parks annual pass holders.

## Field Trips continued

### San Joaquin River NWR, Stanislaus County - Pelican Nature Trail **May 7, Saturday, 8:00 AM - mid-PM** **Leader: Steve Huckabone, [shuckabone@comcast.net](mailto:shuckabone@comcast.net)**

A 4+ mile foot-access nature trail, opened in 2011, meanders through seasonal wetlands, restored riparian woodlands and old-growth valley oak stands. The trailhead features interpretive kiosks and picnic areas. Open sunrise to sunset daily. We will search for late spring migrants and breeding birds such as Black-chinned Hummingbird and Yellow Warbler.

**Directions:** You can reach the Pelican Nature trailhead by taking I-580 to CA-132 East (towards Modesto). Take a right on River Road and go 3 miles; then take a left on Dairy Road and go 1.5 miles. The parking area is approximately 40 minutes from Livermore. This is a 1/2 to 3/4 day trip, so pack a lunch and bring water. Restrooms are available at beginning of walk. Trail is primarily gravel flat levee road

### Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve **Leaders: Jim and Linda Hargrove**

**May 10, Tuesday, 9:00 - 11:30 AM**  
**fieldtrips AT [Ohloneaudubon.org](http://Ohloneaudubon.org)**

Join us for a pleasant walk through some small woods into a typical grassland habitat. The birds should be on territory and singing. We can expect to see, or at least hear, California Thrasher, Lazuli Bunting, and several species of sparrows. In previous years, a pair of Golden Eagles has nested on the microwave tower on the hill, and we hope to see them again this year. The hike is along a gravel path and some paved areas, involving a moderate uphill slope. We'll proceed slowly, so most will have no trouble with the walk. Bring water and sunscreen.

**Directions:** We'll meet at the visitor's center on Skyline Blvd., near the intersection with Grizzly Peak. The simplest route is to take CA 13 and exit at Park Blvd. Turn left on Mountain Blvd and right onto Snake Rd. Stay on Snake Rd until you reach Skyline. Take a sharp left onto Skyline and look for the entrance to the parking lot.

### Del Puerto Canyon **Leaders: Phil and Pat Gordon, [pagpeg@aol.com](mailto:pagpeg@aol.com)**

**May 15, Sunday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM**

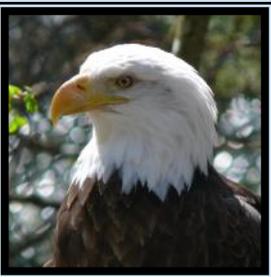
Del Puerto Canyon is the most diverse natural environment in Stanislaus County, with habitats ranging from grasslands along the western valley floor to chaparral, blue oak woodland, and pines. Over 150 species of birds have been observed in Del Puerto Canyon, including Yellow-breasted Chat, Costa's Hummingbird, Greater Roadrunner, and Grasshopper Sparrow.

south for about 60 miles (about 75 minutes). Take Del Puerto Canyon Road, exit 434, and go east a short distance to Rogers Road. Go north a very short distance and meet the group at the Starbucks on Speno Drive in Patterson. From the I-5, we'll head southwest up Del Puerto Canyon, birding along the way for about 15 miles. At the Mines Road junction, we'll turn northwest and bird 28 miles down into Livermore, emerging at Tesla Road where the field trip will end. Bring food and water and a full gas tank. Facilities are very limited on this route.

**Directions:** We'll be starting at the eastern end of the canyon, in Patterson. From the bay area, go east on I-580 to I-5, then

### Lake Chabot Regional Park **Leaders: Rich Nicholson and Kathy Robertson**

**May 18, Wednesday, 8:30 AM - noon**  
**fieldtrips AT [ohloneaudubon.org](http://ohloneaudubon.org)**



Lake Chabot Regional Park offers a variety of habitats for birdwatching: riparian, grassland, oak savannah, marshy shoreline, and open water. We'll look for spring migrants and nesting residents. We might see the Bald Eagles that nested at the park last year!

**Directions:** Meet at the parking area across from the Police and Fire Headquarters. Take Lake Chabot Road north from Castro Valley Boulevard for 1.6 miles. Turn right just before the East Bay Regional Park District sign. Follow the road uphill for .7 miles to the parking area on the left. We will hike a few miles over mostly moderate terrain with a few steep hills. Heavy rain cancels.

**Yuba Pass and Sierra Valley **June 25-26 Saturday and Sunday****  
**Meet both days at Yuba Pass Snow Park parking lot: 7:30 a. m. Saturday and 6:30 a. m. Sunday.**  
**Leaders: Phil and Pat Gordon [pagpeg@aol.com](mailto:pagpeg@aol.com)**

**SEE FULL DETAILS IN LAST KITE CALL—FEB 16—MARCH 31, 2016**  
**([www.ohloneaudubon.org](http://www.ohloneaudubon.org))**

# BIRDING OBSERVATIONS FEBRUARY— thru MID-MARCH

By Stephanie Floyd

February brought record-breaking heat and plenty of winter ducks. Blue-Winged Teal and Eurasian Wigeon swam on the marshy ponds at Coyote Hills, and a Redhead showed up at Pacific Commons. Reports flew in of Pine Siskins and Red Crossbills in the Oakland hills. A Northern Pygmy-Owl perched out in the open at Little Yosemite, about a mile's walk up the hill at Sunol RW, with a Western Screech-Owl seen about a half mile farther out. Cackling Geese and Greater White-Fronted grazed in grassy areas - but not for long.



No. Pygmy Owl V. Robinson

When March blows in, we start to see fewer Yellow-Rumped Warblers, and now they're molting into rich breeding plumage. Rufous and Allen's Hummingbirds have returned to Lake Elizabeth and Hayward shoreline. By mid-March, Common Yellowthroats, Marsh Wrens, and Song Sparrows vie in the marshes for territory and loudest song! Bald Eagles are on the nest again at Del Valle. At Quarry Lakes, Western Grebes engage in courting displays, carrying nesting material and running across the water. Orange-Crowned Warblers are singing in the woods at Sunol. Colorful Wood Ducks line up on the banks at Lake Temescal. Tree Swallows hang from nest boxes, and Barn Swallows, Violet-Green Swallows, and Northern Rough-Winged Swallows are back. California Towhees pair up in our backyards to squeal their duets and chirp at dawn. By the third week of March, Pacific-Slope Flycatchers and Wilson's Warblers are calling from the woods over the creek at Garin RP. Warbling Vireos are back. Western Bluebirds perch on nest boxes, and paired-up Northern Mockingbirds squabble over whose tree is whose. Now the fun really begins. - SF



Garin Pk Western Bluebird S. Floyd

# President's Message

Believe it or not 2016 marks the 50th year of Ohlone Audubon Society. Sixty years ago Phil Gordon and a group of intrepid lovers of wildlife launched the Ohlone Audubon Society. The name was chosen to honor one of the Native American tribes that had lived in this area for many generations. The world has changed a great deal since that auspicious beginning, but the goal has endured - to care for the habitat and the creatures that inhabit it. So in June, at our annual meeting, we will honor this momentous achievement. And if you have been around for a number of those years and have things to share or want to be part of a committee to plan for this event, let any of the board members know of your interest. We are looking forward to a significant event and a launch to the next 50 years.

- Evelyn Cormier



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**OHLONE TELSA FUNDRAISER**

**SUNDAY MAY 22, 2016**

**NILES SILENT THEATER**

**SEE DETAILS PAGE 9**

# NOMINATIONS 2016-2017

It is that time of year again when we have the opportunity to elect board members. Want to help out? We are always looking for new faces and new ideas. Bill Hoppes is working on our slate of officers for this coming year. Contact him at hoppes1949@gmail.com if interested. We will find a place for you!

A slate of officers will be presented at the May General Meeting and voting will take place at the June potluck.

**Don't forget  
your reusable  
cup at meetings!**



# CONSERVATION

## Tesla Expansion decision put off until summer, 2016



The February 5 public hearing on the Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) expansion to the Tesla site drew over 60 speakers commenting on the Carnegie SVRA General Plan/Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Commission staff is currently reviewing these comments. In a recent release, the OHMVR stated that once this process is complete, a Draft General Plan and Final EIR will be posted to the project website and an email notification will be sent out. An OHMVR Commission meeting will then be scheduled for the Commission to consider approval of the Carnegie SVRA General Plan/EIR. The OHMVR Commission meeting will be preceded by a 30-day public notice and is anticipated to occur in summer 2016.

## Doolon Canyon designated habitat for recovery of California Tiger Salamander

As reported in *The Independent*, Doolan Canyon been selected by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) as an area to encourage habitat recovery for the threatened tiger salamander species. The designated unit represents 1178 acres, with Collier Canyon on the east and the City of Dublin on the west. Another designated area is located just south of the Alameda County line, on the eastern shore of Calaveras Lake, which is behind Calaveras Dam. It covers 619 acres.

Doolan Canyon made the list because of perceived threats to the habitat by urban development, agricultural land conversion, and road construction. The Calaveras land is on the list for the same reasons, and also for invasive non-native species. The designation area is not a final one. There is a 60 day comment period, which opened March 11, and closes on May 10. For more information, see the FWS home page, at <http://www.fws.gov/sacramento/>

## Caltrans Niles Canyon Projects

A revised Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Alameda Creek Bridge replacement is expected to be released and recirculated soon. The proposed safety improvements EIR is scheduled to be released this fall.

## Zone 7 board postpones endorsement of the California Water Action Plan and WaterFix (the delta tunnels)

At a March 16 public meeting, staff of Zone 7, which supplies water to much of the Tri-Valley, gave a presentation to the Zone 7 Board recommending that the Board support the California Water Action Plan Update, which includes the California WaterFix (the delta tunnels). Over thirty members of the public spoke out against the recommendation, pointing out the lack of certainty on funding, whether the delta tunnels would provide additional water to the Zone 7 service area, and the potential impacts to the Delta. Despite initial statements of support for the recommendation by the staff, the Board finally agreed to postpone any action until the Final Draft Environmental Impact Statement (FDEIS) on the Water Plan is completed, and that there is more certainty on the financial impacts of the project on Zone 7 rate-payers.

## Dumbarton Bridge

Facebook has announced they are funding a \$1 million study that would explore short and long-term solutions to traffic congestion on the Dumbarton Bridge. Of concern is an alternative that would involve "repurposing" of the rail bridge south of the Dumbarton Bridge that was abandoned after suffering damage during the Loma Prieta earthquake. The tidal marsh that the old rail bridge crosses through is the largest tidal marsh complex and supports an important population of the endangered salt marsh harvest mouse. Any proposal to "repurpose" that bridge would likely require significant reconstruction and enlarging of the of the bridge approaches to bring everything up to current safety standards and to address issues of sea level rise. Such work could have significant negative impacts on the tidal marsh complex and the sensitive species that call that marsh home.

## Newark Slough

The Corps has issued a Public Notice (PN) for a proposed wetlands mitigation bank proposal near Newark Slough. Of concern is the fact that there is a noticeable lack of information provided in the PN including the amount of fill that would be placed in existing waters of the U.S. or how much of the site is already jurisdictional. Mitigation banks are set up so projects that fill wetlands and waters of the U.S. can purchase credits for filling wetlands and waters of the U.S. or for impacts to endangered species, to develop their projects. Of additional concern, is that fact that a lot of the surrounding area already is flooded at high tides and especially during King tides.

## CONSERVATION continued

### Alameda Naval Air Station

This is not within OAS's geographic sphere, but as an FYI, the Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge (CCCR) will be commenting that the VA should not be mitigating for filling 12 acres of wetlands for their hospital and columbarium by purchasing mitigation credits at a bank located in Redwood City. Instead they should work on improving, restoring, expanding the wetlands that occur on site and were affected by soil remediation activities.

### Habitat Means Home Poster Contest

The awards ceremony at Coyote Hills will be 10 am on May 14th. Poster entry forms will be distributed to children in Fremont, Newark and New Haven school districts This is an OAS sponsored event . The purpose of the contest is to provide educational outreach and to make sure students understand "habitat" is more than just

an abstract concept - a "habitat" is "home" for plants and animals. We also want to make students and their families aware that they can find a diverse array of "habitats" for wildlife and plants right in their own community at Coyote Hills Regional Park and not just in exotic places like the rainforests of Central America.

### The San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC)

BCDC held their second workshop regarding Adapting to Rising Tides this past month...there is recognition of the need for regional leadership regarding this issue. The environmental community hopes the protection of undeveloped shoreline areas and low lying areas for natural resource migration in the face of sea level rise will be recognized and something that needs to be taken more seriously by local agencies.

## Clean and Healthy Bay Ballot measure Measure AA

### San Francisco Bay ballot measure would restore vital bird habitat, provide clean water and ensure flood protection

In a move that seeks to breathe new life into one of the Western Hemisphere's most important natural places, the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority recently voted to place the San Francisco Bay Clean Water, Pollution Prevention, and Habitat Restoration Program, known as the "Clean and Healthy Bay Ballot Measure," on the **June 7, 2016 ballot** in all nine Bay Area counties.

Audubon California immediately threw its support behind the measure, which will raise approximately \$500 million for tidal marsh restoration throughout San Francisco Bay. The Clean and Healthy Bay ballot measure will create a \$12 per parcel tax for the next twenty years. It is expected that these monies will leverage additional state and federal funding for bay restoration.

From Brigid McCormack, Executive Director of Audubon California, "In a state that offers so many natural treasures, San Francisco Bay stands apart for both its beauty and its importance to birds and wildlife. This ballot measure offers residents the opportunity to not only restore what has been lost over time, but to also invest in the future. Restored wetlands and cleaner water will support shorebirds and waterfowl that use the bay, which is one of the anchors of the Pacific Flyway. Increased public access to the bay shoreline will provide recreational and educational opportunities."

Save the Bay, the Bay Area Council and the Silicon Valley Leadership Group – along with Audubon California – are part of a broad coalition of environmental and business groups supporting the measure. **OAS, along with a number of other Bay Area Audubon chapters have also stated their support for the measure.**

More than a million shorebirds and waterfowl use San Francisco Bay habitat at the height of migration, and the area includes 12 spots designated as Important Bird Areas due to the high number of rare and endangered bird species as well as the sheer number of birds supported by the bay and surrounding wetlands. Perhaps the most numerous of these birds are the Greater and Lesser Scaup, along with Bufflehead and Ruddy Ducks. Surf Scoters – with their white, red, yellow and black bills – were once plentiful in San Francisco Bay, but have declined considerably in recent years. Wetlands restoration will also greatly help the recovery of the federally-endangered Ridgway's Rail. Other birds include Western and Clark's Grebes, Wigeon, Pintails, Coots, Cormorants and Loons. San Francisco Bay in 2013 was designated a "Wetland of International Importance" under the Convention on Wetlands, also known as the Ramsar Convention. It has also been recognized by the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, which ranks it as being of "Hemispheric Importance" to shorebirds.

Tidal marsh restoration funded by the measure would improve water quality and control pollution by reducing the trash and other toxins that flow into the Bay and ocean. It would increase natural habitat for hundreds of species of wildlife beyond birds, including Pacific salmon and Dungeness crab, porpoises, sea lions, and shorebirds.

Restoring San Francisco Bay's wetlands will protect shoreline communities from rising waters attributable to climate change. More than \$60 billion in homes, businesses, and crucial infrastructure is at risk, including ports, airports, roads, office buildings, and entire neighborhoods at or below sea level. A March 2015 report commissioned by the Bay Area Council found that an extreme storm event could cost our region \$10.4 billion, almost as much as the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Tri-colored Blackbird Listing

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has issued an appeal for public comment on a proposal to list the Tricolored Blackbird as a threatened or endangered species. CDFW is soliciting public comment regarding the species' ecology, biology, life history, distribution, abundance, threats and habitat that may be essential for the species, as well as recommendations for management of the species. Comments, data and other information can be submitted by email [wildlifemgt@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:wildlifemgt@wildlife.ca.gov). If submitting comments by email, please include "Tricolored Blackbird" in the subject heading. Comments may also be submitted by regular mail to:

California Department of Fish  
and Wildlife  
Nongame Wildlife Program  
Attn: Neil Clipperton  
1812 Ninth St.  
Sacramento, CA 95811



All comments received by 6/1/16 will be evaluated prior to submission of the CDFW report to the Commission.

## FIELD IDENTIFICATION, LIFE STYLES, & ECOLOGY OF LOCAL BIRDS

**Alice Hoch's** next Birding Field Trips class will be held on four consecutive Tuesdays from May 24 thru June 14th. (Note: The change to consecutive Tuesdays for this class, due to the birds' schedule.) The class will bird a different excellent birding site each Tuesday from 9:30AM to noon. This is the time to see birds in their breeding plumage (usually their brightest) and to see them nesting and caring for their young. It's the time to hear them singing and the time they will be the easiest to see. It's the time to observe their behavior and appreciate their lifestyles. Besides all that... the weather should be our best.

Treat yourself to 4 Tuesday mornings of enjoying the birds, the butterflies, the flowers, nature, & the great outdoors with a really nice group of like-minded, helpful companions! Alice's field birding class is different because it is a small class (limited to 15 students) and consists of tutoring during actual birding.

Alice has been teaching Birding Field Trips for over 40 yrs. and is an active member of OAS. Her classes are filled with friendly, helpful people at all levels from absolute beginner to very experienced. They would love to have you join them! Class size is limited, so register early. Questions about class and registration info: [amhoch@aol.com](mailto:amhoch@aol.com) or 510-657-0475

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Ohlone sends a warm welcome and thank you to the following new and renewing chapter members:**

Pamela Ball, Thomas Colby, Ellen Collins, Evelyn Cormier, Joanna Dixon, Lynn Feindel, Judith Felber, Jim Holland, Helen Keating, Leslie Koenig, Donna Krehbiel, Audrey LePell, John Marshall, Dina Oakes, Wendy Parfrey, Hans Peeters, Bernt Pettersson, Jeanne Robinson, Joan & Harry Smith, Stephen Taylor, Ronald Thompson. and Judy Zlatink

**AND MANY THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS !**

Ellen Collins, Evelyn Cormier, Judith Felber, Jim Holland, Donna Krehbiel, and John Marshall



**E-Kite Call? You can now receive your Kite Call via email! An electronic version (with color!) can be sent to your email address. Save trees! Saves \$\$\$\$. Please consider and let us know at [pagpeg@aol.com](mailto:pagpeg@aol.com)**

Is it time to renew? Look at your mailing label - it will tell you. For example: "Pd Thru 5/1/16" indicates that you are paid thru May 2016. A **"RENEW?"** indicates that this is your last Kite Call! **If**



**you receive your Kite Call electronically, look for a reminder in your email box.**

If you see a **"JOIN LOCAL?"** on your label this indicates that you have joined the National Audubon Society, but alas, **not** your local **Ohlone** chapter.

To renew or join us please send a \$25 check to Pat Gordon, Membership Chair, 1922 Hillsdale Street, Hayward, CA 94541-5428. You can also renew thru PayPal on our website [www.ohloneaudubon.org](http://www.ohloneaudubon.org). Thanks!

## Learn Bay Area Bird Songs

The Environmental Action Committee of West Marin (EAC) has produced a boxed set of 2 CDs which include more than 100 Bay Area bird songs. Each song can be repeated. The songs are arranged by habitat type. The CDs are narrated by EAC's Carolyn Longstreth. You can order the CDs at <http://eacmarin.org/online-store>, or call 415-663-9312 to order your set. All proceeds go to EAC's bird conservation program.



Ohlone Audubon Society presents

**A RED CARPET SCREENING EVENT**

# PELICAN DREAMS

a filming to raise awareness of biodiversity in the Bay Area  
by Judy Irving

**MAY 22nd 2016**

at the historical  
**Essanay Silent Film Museum**  
37417 Niles Blvd, Fremont, CA 94536

VIP reception with meet & greet **1 pm**  
Screening of Pelican Dreams **2 pm**  
Q&A with filmmaker and composer, Friends of Save Tesla, and members of the Ohlone Audubon Society **3:30 pm**  
RAFFLE winners announced **4:15 pm**  
•Second screening **4:30 pm**

**Early bird tickets \$10**  
(limited available before May 1st)  
**Regular ticket price \$15**  
**VIP ticket price \$25**  
(limited number available)

proceeds to support  
**SAVE TESLA PARK**

VIP ticket includes pre-screening reception meet & greet with the film maker, members of Ohlone Audubon Society, and members of the Essanay Silent Film Museum, a raffle ticket, and special seating in first three rows.

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**Friends of Tesla Park** is an alliance of individuals and organizations working to SAVE TESLA PARK. We are dedicated to protecting the biologically unique and culturally significant landscape known as Tesla Park as a non-OHV historic and natural resource preserve.  
[www.teslapark.org](http://www.teslapark.org)

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**The Ohlone Audubon Society** provides conservation and environmental advocacy towards the protection and persistence of valuable habitat for birds and other native species throughout the southern and eastern Alameda County. In addition we provide educational programs including bird watching field trips led by knowledgeable leaders and monthly membership meetings featuring well-known scientists and journalists.  
[www.ohloneaudubon.org](http://www.ohloneaudubon.org)



**ORDER YOUR TICKETS NOW AT WWW.OHLONEAUDUBON.ORG.**

**Look for the Telsa link.**

**(More details on next page!)**

## SAVE TESLA PARK PELICAN DREAMS SCREENING FUNDRAISER

Please join the Ohlone Audubon Society and the Friends of Save Tesla for a screening of **Pelican Dreams**. Created by Judy Irving maker of acclaimed Parrots of Telegraph Hill, the film is about wildness: How close can we get to a wild animal without taming or harming it? Why do we need wildness in our lives, and how can we protect it? Pelican Dreams stars "Gigi" (for Golden Gate) and "Morro" (a backyard pelican with an injured wing), as well as the wildlife professionals who care for them.

Funds raised through this event will be used to support protecting the wilderness of the Tesla Park property. Friends of Tesla Park is an alliance of individuals and organizations working to SAVE TESLA PARK. They are dedicated to protecting the biologically unique and culturally significant landscape known as Tesla Park as a non-OHV historic and natural resource preserve

**Sunday, May 22, 2016** from 1:00 to 4:30 PM Essanay Silent Film Museum - 37417 Niles Blvd, Fremont, CA 94536

- 1 pm VIP Meet & Greet reception
- 2 pm Screening of Pelican Dreams
- 3:30 pm Q&A with filmmaker & composer, Friends of Save Tesla, & members of the OAS
- 4:15 pm Raffle winners announced

Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/save-tesla-park-fundraiser-pelican-dreams-screening-tickets-23531816296> to purchase tickets online. If you wish to purchase tickets via check you can do so the day of or by contacting Pat Gordon via email at [pagpeg AT aol.com](mailto:pagpeg@aol.com) or via phone at 510-538-3550

### RETURN OF THE SWALLOWS TO CHABOT COLLEGE

Come and help celebrate the return of the Cliff Swallows to Chabot College!



**Tuesday April 19, 2016  
11AM—1:30PM**

**Cesar E. Chavez Plaza,  
Chabot College, Hayward**

**Be sure to check out the Field Trip following on  
Sunday, April 24! (See Field Trips)**

### RETURN OF THE TERNS

**Crab Cove Visitor Center, Alameda  
Saturday, June 18, 2016**

Please join us to celebrate the return of the endangered California least terns! FREE! Slide Presentation at the Crab Cove Visitor Center - learn about least tern natural history FREE! Watch Terns with a Naturalist at the Crab Cove Visitor Center (binoculars available)



### BIRD-A-THON –

### FUND RAISING EVENT

Quest for more than 146 Birds in a Day

**Saturday, April 30, 2016**

Are you interested in participating in an exciting, renewing and rewarding birding adventure while helping to generate funds to support the East Bay Regional Park District's Wildlife Volunteer Program? During this "Quest for more than 146 Birds in a Day", Saturday, April 30, you will get "nose to beak" with birds, while visiting several active bird research and restorations sites. Our dawn to dusk adventure, supported by local Audubon Society Chapters, will take us through numerous locations recording the "Feathered Jewels" they contain, while generating tax-deductible donations to meet the mission of protecting and enhancing California Least Tern and Western Snowy Plover nesting habitat in the District. (Registration \$50)



Space is limited. Register by contacting Doc Quack at [docquack@ebparks.org](mailto:docquack@ebparks.org). (Registration must be received no later than Friday, April 15, 2016)

## Healthy, Responsible Bird Feeding

By  
Stephanie Floyd

It's fun to feed birds! Along with the enjoyment of bird-feeding, we have a responsibility to be conscientious and aware of what's going on with our feeders and birds. Wild birds move around, and while a flock may feed for a few days in one area or even on one berry-producing tree, in nature they are almost never concentrated into one small place. With bird feeders, bills are poking into a few small holes, feet are perched in the same spots repeatedly, droppings happen, and it's pretty much impossible for contamination not to occur. **Avian pox, mycoplasma, and salmonellosis** are three infectious and in some cases fatal bird diseases associated with bird feeders. None of these is contagious to humans. Here's how to spot these diseases and what to do if a sick bird comes to your feeder.

**Avian pox** is a highly infectious disease caused by a virus. You'll see wart-like lumps usually on unfeathered parts of the bird such as the face, legs, or feet, but sometimes protruding through the feathers. Pox doesn't kill a bird outright. Instead, these growths interfere with feeding or breathing or seeing or getting around. Pox exists in the wild population, and not all birds die of it. Those who recover may go on to be carriers, and some birds who never show the disease outwardly are carriers. Pox is spread through direct contact with infected birds, contact with contaminated surfaces such as perches and bird feeders, and ingestion of water and food that has been contaminated by sick birds. It can also be spread by mosquitoes (mosquito bites infected bird, then bites uninfected bird).

**Mycoplasma conjunctivitis**, a bacterial eye infection, is commonly seen at bird feeders. You'll see birds with red, swollen, runny, or crusty eyes sitting quietly, often fluffed; the disease may have blinded the bird, subjecting it to starvation, exposure, and predation. This disease is highly infectious. Direct contact between birds isn't required: they can get it by landing on or feeding from a feeder that a sick bird was previously on. It even spreads by airborne particles.

Recently, California Department of Fish and Wildlife alerted the public to an outbreak of **Salmonellosis**, a bacterial infection. Birds catch the disease from food, water, and feeders that are contaminated by bird

droppings, and for some, particularly Pine Siskins, it is highly fatal with death coming in as little as 24 hours. Sick birds are lethargic, fluffed, and show labored breathing.

### Prevention & action are key!

To prevent the spread of disease, clean feeders and bird baths at least weekly or between seed refills and water changes. The Lindsay Wildlife hospital recommends that you wash them with soap and water, then disinfect with a 10% bleach solution for 10 minutes. Rinse and let dry. Metal and plastic feeders are best; it's hard to properly disinfect wood feeders. Keep an eye on your birds, especially the House Finches, siskins, and goldfinches. If you see a sick bird at your feeder, take quick action. Remove and disinfect your feeders, then leave them down for two weeks. This allows time for the birds to disperse. Initially, the birds will still come looking for food - and it can be hard to refuse! Never fear; when you put the feeders back up, they'll return.

If you have a sick bird that is so compromised that you can catch it, take it to your local wildlife hospital right away (go to <http://www.sfbaywildlife.info/resources/rescue.htm>.)

Photos of the diseases mentioned in this article can be seen at Cornell Lab's Project FeederWatch site: <http://feederwatch.org/learn/sick-birds-and-bird-diseases/>

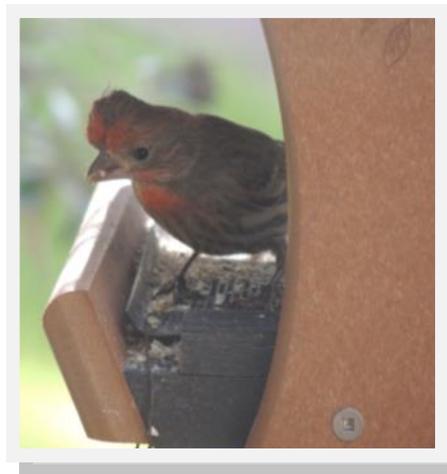


Photo by C. High

### THE BIRD BOX

Got a bird question that needs an answer? Submit your question to [pagpeg@aol.com](mailto:pagpeg@aol.com)  
And we will get an answer!



RETURN TO:  
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1922 HILLSDALE STREET  
HAYWARD, CA 94541

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



Please sign me up today

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Join Ohlone Audubon Society  
By mailing a \$25 check payable  
To OAS with this coupon to:  
  
Pat Gordon  
OAS Membership  
1922 Hillsdale St.  
Hayward, CA 94541

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**National Audubon Society membership dues are separate from those of Ohlone Audubon Society.**