



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

Volume 49, Number 5

www.ohloneaudubon.org

January 1—February 15, 2016

Calendar

- Jan 5 MEMBERSHIP MEETING**
San Leandro
- Jan 7 FIELD TRIP**
Pescadero, San Mateo Co.
- Jan 12 BOARD MEETING**
(Call E. Cormier for details)
- Jan 16 FIELD TRIP**
Don Edwards NWR, Fremont
- Jan 23 FIELD TRIP**
Shadow Cliffs, Pleasanton
- Jan 30 FIELD TRIP**
Panoche Valley
- Feb 1 DEADLINE—KITE CALL**
- Feb 2 MEMBERSHIP MEETING**
Fremont
- Feb 6 FIELD TRIP**
*Don Schmoldt Memorial
Sutter Buttes*
- Feb 9 BOARD MEETING**
(Call E. Cormier for details)
- Feb 13 FIELD TRIP**
Quarry Lakes, Fremont
- Feb 17 FIELD TRIP**
Fremont Central Park

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Subspecies for Birders

Presenter: Joe Morlan

Date: January 5, 2016

Time: 7:30PM

Location: San Leandro Library
300 Estudillo Ave, San Leandro 94577

When we see a bird that looks different, or doesn't quite match the picture in the book, is it a different species or perhaps just a different subspecies or other type of variation? Modern field guides now illustrate some distinctive subspecies, but what exactly is a subspecies? How do subspecies differ from other kinds of variation within or between species? How are these variations properly classified and why are these distinctions important? Joe Morlan will outline some of the more identifiable subspecies while providing a perspective on the subspecies concept itself in what promises to be an entertaining and informative presentation.

Citizen Scientists

Date: February 2, 2016

Time: 7:30PM

Location: Math-Science Nucleus
4074 Eggers Drive
Fremont 94536

Our February meeting will feature citizen scientists who voluntarily contribute his or her time, effort, and resources toward scientific research. Specifically, we will learn about some of their efforts in programs conserving birds and their habitats. All featured programs are conducted by the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory (SFBO), a nonprofit in Milpitas, CA, who has been conducting scientific research and outreach to conserve birds and their habitats for over 30 years.

We will have citizen scientists **Bill Rose, Cathy Loewen, Laurie Bechtler, Susan Teefy, and Michael and Peter Grunow** to share the research they are doing on Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets, Snowy Egrets, Double-crested Cormorants, and Black-crowned Night-Herons that nest at Sycamore Grove Park in Livermore, Shadow Cliff's Regional Park in Pleasanton, the Sunol Water Temple, Lakeshore Park in Newark, Ruus Park in Hayward, Chabot Regional Park in Hayward, and near the Dumbarton Bridge towers in Fremont.

(continued page 2)

Joe Morlan teaches Ornithology at City College of San Francisco. He has been a member of the California Bird Records Committee of Western Field Ornithologists since 1981 and currently serves as committee chair. He received the prestigious American Birding Association's Ludlow Griscom Award for outstanding contributions in regional ornithology in 2010 and is the coauthor of two books on birds in Northern California.

Directions: from I-580, take the Estudillo exit. Follow Estudillo to library on the right. From I-880, take the Davis St. exit, head east, passing under BART tracks. Go thru light at E. 14th St (Davis becomes Calan). Continue 1½ blocks to library on right. We'll meet in the Karp rm.



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.

Membership Meetings (continued)



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Citizen Scientists **Christina Garcia** and **Bill Hoppes** will share their experiences at the Coyote Creek Field Station and answer questions about the work they do. Citizen Scientists **Diane** and **Tom Bennett** will talk about their experiences in a study of the Western Burrowing Owls that nest in the Warm Springs Area of Fremont.

FIELD TRIPS

Birding the Coast: Pescadero and Half Moon Bay Leaders: Leaders: Mona Brauer and Stephanie Floyd

Wintering warblers, sparrows and thrushes are commonly seen along the coast. In past years, rarities showed up, too. On this trip in 2015 we had a remarkable sighting of 500 Black-vented Shearwaters in a feeding frenzy off the coast of Pescadero State Beach. We'll check out a small park in Half Moon Bay and then move on to scenic Pigeon Point Lighthouse where from the bluffs we may see a variety of gulls, cormorants, shorebirds such as oystercatchers and surfbirds, guillemots, loons, and maybe even a passing whale. As time allows, we'll visit other hotspots in the area where good birds have been sighted. One year, we took a short drive up Pescadero Creek Road to see a rare

Several presenters are Ohlone members and most projects are happening in our region. Come and be inspired, you may become a citizen scientist too!

Directions: To reach MSN 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.



January 7, Thursday, 9AM—3:30PM fieldtripsATohloneaudubon.org

Black-Throated Blue Warbler! Be prepared for cold and wind. Scopes are helpful at the lighthouse. Bring a lunch or join us at Chez Shea in Half Moon Bay for a late sit-down lunch after the field trip. Rain cancels.

We'll meet in Hayward to form carpools and then caravan over the San Mateo bridge. Go east on Jackson from I-880 and turn right on Santa Clara (the first right after you leave the freeway). Go past the Lucky's, make a U-turn at the first light, and park along the street by the apartments. If you prefer to meet us at the coast, contact the leaders to arrange a meeting site.

Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR Leaders: Rich Nicholson and Maggie Clark

We'll search the marshes, mudflats, salt ponds and possibly the open bay as time allows. There's always a good variety of shorebirds, waterfowl, raptors and passerines here. This field trip features easy walking on mostly paved paths. Heavy rain cancels.

January 16, Saturday, 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM fieldtripsATohloneaudubon.org

Directions: To reach Don Edwards, take I-880 to Decoto Rd./Dumbarton Bridge exit. Take the Thornton/Paseo Padre exit, turn left at the bottom of the ramp and go south over the freeway. Turn right at the entrance and park in the first lot on the right.

Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area, Pleasanton Leaders: Steve Huckabone and Kathy Robertson

Join us at Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area to explore the lake, levees, and marsh for wintering waterfowl such as Common Gallinules, egrets, herons, and grebes. Ospreys are found around the lake and ponds, while the trees hold woodpeckers and nuthatches. Notable sightings in past years included Bald Eagle, Golden Eagle, Great-tailed Grackles, California Thrasher, Common Loon, Common and Hooded Merganser, Wilson's Snipe, and Peregrine Falcon. Wide, level trails make walking fairly

January 23, Saturday, 9:00 AM - Noon fieldtripsATohloneaudubon.org

easy except for one short, steep uphill section to get onto the levee. Scopes are helpful.

Directions: From I-580 eastbound, take the Santa Rita Road exit, keep right and follow signs for Downtown to merge onto Santa Rita Road. Turn left on Valley Avenue and left on Stanley Boulevard. Meet in the 3rd parking lot by the Boat Rentals building. \$6 parking fee unless you have an East Bay Parks annual pass. Heavy rain cancels.

Panoche Valley Area Leaders: Juli Chamberlin and Bob Toleno

We'll meet at 8:30AM at the dirt parking lot above the dam that holds Little Panoche Reservoir, just about four miles down Little Panoche Road from I-5. We'll start at the reservoir, bird a few spots in Little Panoche Valley (including Mercey Hot Springs for Long-Eared Owls), then

January 30, Saturday, 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

continue through Panoche Valley and the surrounding hills and finish in Paicines around 5:00 PM. We'll be looking for all the area specialties, especially Ferruginous Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Phainopepla, Mountain Bluebird, Vesper, Lark, and Rufous-crowned Sparrows, and of course Mountain

FIELD TRIPS (continued)

Plovers. Last winter, the plovers never showed up in the valley, but this year, there have already been a number of reports, so our chances should be good.

This year is an important one for Panoche Valley as construction on a large-scale solar energy facility is slated to start in the valley this winter. This could mean big changes for the sensitive and threatened life in the valley, so conservationists--especially birders who visit the valley--have been asked to document what they see, especially roadkills.

RSVP as soon as possible to Bob and Juli at birding@toleno.com, or call Bob 415-596-3684 or Juli 510-332-7061 for more information. Virtually no restaurants are in the valley, so bring a lunch. Only heavy rain will cancel the

trip. Some walking may be involved, but no more than a mile or so, and nothing difficult. A small per-person fee may be required to enter Mercey Hot Springs; Bob will let you know as soon as he knows.

Directions: Please follow these directions carefully as signage in the area may be confusing. From Castro Valley, head east on I-580, connect to I-5, and head south on I-5 past Los Banos. Before arriving at our meeting place, you may wish to make a pit stop at Firebaugh Travel Plaza (Chevron, Subway, restrooms.) If so, take exit 385, Paul Negra Road. Then continue south on I-5, take exit 379 (Shields Avenue/Mendota) and turn right onto Little Panoche Road. Go west about 4 1/2 miles to Little Panoche Reservoir. The destination is 118 miles from Castro Valley. Allow more than 2 hours for the drive.

Don Schmoldt Memorial Trip to Sutter Buttes and Gray Lodge in Winter

Leaders: Sally Walters bajaowl@gmail.com; Phil and Pat Gordon pagpeg@aol.com

In years past, the late **Don Schmoldt** would lead us around the Sutter Buttes and Gray Lodge Wildlife Area in winter. Please join us for a memorial field trip in his honor. Don's wife, Sally, will be there with some photos to share at lunch. In the morning, we'll drive along West Butte Road looking for Golden Eagles, falcons, Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks and Mountain Bluebirds. In 2012, we saw an immature Bald Eagle and a Prairie Falcon in these hills and Sandhill Cranes in the wetlands a little farther along. At Gray Lodge, we'll have a picnic lunch, then walk along a dirt road to observe wintering geese and ducks in the afternoon. Eurasian Wigeon is a possibility. Bring water, snacks, and lunch. Please note: the last restrooms before Gray Lodge are at the service station at the corner of Acacia Avenue and Highway 20, about one mile south of our meeting place, or at the fast food restaurants several miles east of Acacia Avenue along Hwy 20.

Directions: Meet at 9:00 AM in the parking lot at the northwest corner of the intersection of South Butte Road and Acacia Avenue in Sutter. From the Bay Area, go east on I-80 to Davis, then north on SR-113 (turns into South

February 6, Saturday, 9:00 AM - Sunset

George Washington Blvd. near Yuba City). Turn left on SR-20, then right on Acacia Avenue to South Butte Road. Sutter is about 7 miles west of Yuba City. An alternate route is to take I-5 to Sacramento and go north on SR-99. At Yuba City take SR-20 west, turn right on Acacia Road to South Butte Road. The drive is approximately 130 miles from Hayward; plan on 2-1/2 hours. Hard rain cancels. Almost all birding is from the car or standing on the roadside; most is wheelchair accessible.

A DFG land pass, good for one year, is required per person at Gray Lodge. The pass costs \$4.32 and may not be available at Gray Lodge the day of the field trip. **OAS will purchase passes in advance for participants who RSVP by January 23, 2016 to pagpeg@aol.com.** Please bring exact change to reimburse OAS for your pass(es) on the day of the field trip. If you prefer, and if you allow 15 days in advance, you can purchase your CDFW land pass online. To purchase a pass online or to see a list of licensing agents go to <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/licensing/lands-pass>.

Quarry Lakes Regional Recreation Area

Leaders: Jerry Ting and Rich Nicholson

Join us at Quarry Lakes in Fremont to explore the lakes and marsh for wintering waterfowl such as pelicans, egrets, herons, and grebes. Ospreys, loons, ducks, cormorants, and sometimes rare gulls are found at the lakes, while the trees hold woodpeckers, kinglets, Yellow-Rumped Warblers and more. A pair of Bald Eagles moved in in Fall 2015, and it's not unusual to see Peregrine Falcons and Merlins. We'll be on the lookout for early spring arrivals. Be prepared to walk about 2 1/2 miles on flat, gravel levee paths. Scopes are helpful. Parking fee \$5 unless you have an EB Parks annual pass. Heavy rain

February 13, Saturday, 8:30 AM -11:30 AM
fieldtripsATohloneaudubon.org

cancels. **Directions:** Exit I-880 at Decoto Road and go northeast (away from the bay, towards the hills). Turn right on Paseo Padre Parkway, then left on Isherwood Way. Continue on Isherwood past the Isherwood staging area through several stop signs to reach the main park entrance on your right, on Quarry Lakes Drive. From Mission Blvd., take Nursery Avenue to Niles Blvd. and go west (away from downtown Niles). Turn left on Osprey Drive, then left on Quarry Lakes Drive. After entering the park at the kiosk, follow the sign to head left and park by the swim beach to meet the group.

And more field trips!

Lake Elizabeth - Fremont Central Park
February 17, Wednesday, 9:00 AM - Noon

Leaders: Stephanie Floyd and Park Ranger Sandy Ferreira, fieldtripsATohloneaudbon.org

Lake Elizabeth in Fremont's Central Park is a great place to find birds in winter. Cackling Geese, Greater White-fronted Geese, and sometimes Ross's and Snow Geese visit the soccer lawns with the Canada Geese. Wintering ducks may be plentiful on the lake. In the reeds that line the lake and in the willows along the creek we often find herons, woodpeckers, sparrows, and sometimes a surprise, such as an American Pipit. Tree Swallows and Allen's Hummingbirds should be arriving. Ranger Sandy may invite us into the garden and classroom at the Nature Learning Center, and she always has great stories to share about the Tree Swallow nesting program and all the different species that use the nest boxes, from Bewick's Wrens to chickadees. Plan to walk about 2 1/2 miles on paved paths. Rain cancels.

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



Elegant Tern being chased by Parasitic Jaeger, Moss Landing, Monterey County, 9/ 8/15, Photo by Polly Krauter

BIRDING OBSERVATIONS NOVEMBER TO MID-DECEMBER

By Stephanie Floyd



A highlight of November, into December, was the arrival of flocks of **Red Crossbills** in Contra Costa and Alameda counties, primarily in Tilden and Joaquin Miller Regional Parks. These colorful finches - males red, females yellow - put on quite a show as they use their distinctive bills to dig seeds from cones high in the ever-green forest.

At our mid-November OAS field trip to Pacific Commons in Fremont, led by Rich Nicholson and Mike Christopher-son, we had a mated pair of **Ferruginous Hawks** in the fields. A trio of loons - **Common, Red-Throated, and Pacific**—put in an appearance at Ballena Bay in Alameda in mid-November. Three **Red-Throated Loons** were off the point at Cesar Chavez park in Berkeley on December 9.

Also mid-November, a flock of **"Aleutian"** Cackling Geese (with one or two "minimas" mixed in) and a few Snow Geese wandered the wide open space on top of Mt. Trashmore at the Hayward shoreline, and some birders found the season's **Lapland Longspurs** up there among the pipits and Horned Larks.

Nelson's Sparrow turned up at Arrowhead Marsh in Oakland joining a continuing **Tropical Kingbird**. A king tide on November 25 resulted in many swimming Soras and other rails.



A **Lewis' Woodpecker** continues since October at Ardenwood Farm in Fremont as does a **Bald Eagle** at Quarry Lakes in Fremont. A **Hooded Merganser** has shown up on Alameda Creek in Niles

just in time for CBC - hope the others stick around, too!
 (Photos by V. Robinson)

NEW

THE BIRD BOX

Got a bird question that needs an answer? Submit your question to pagpeg@aol.com And we will get an answer!



CONSERVATION

Eastern County:

Altamont Wind Farm Saga:

A decision to allow an often-criticized wind power provider in the Altamont to swap out old turbines with modern, more bird-friendly models was postponed amid the concerns of environmentalists and homeowners. The East County Board of Zoning Adjustments made it clear they were supportive of the spirit of the proposal from Altamont Winds Inc. but unsure about the how far seven of the turbines would be set back from homes and nearby Brushy Peak. The reservations were significant enough to ask for further information.



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In another stage of this multi-year saga, Altamont Winds wants to swap out 569 of its old turbines with 33 new ones in the eastern Altamont hills. The proposal was scheduled for reconsideration at the Board's December 10 meeting.

Bishop Ranch Open Space Addition: Some 362 acres of prominent ridge land above the San Ramon Valley is being bought by the East Bay Regional Park District to connect two regional parks and plug a 2-mile gap in the Calaveras Ridge trail from Sunol to Lafayette. The Park District agreed Tuesday to pay \$2 million to buy and preserve the rolling hills and pasture land from the Wiedemann family, which has grazed cattle there since the 1860s. The purchase will more than double the size of the Bishop Ranch Regional Open Space Preserve -- bringing it to 800 acres -- and connect that park to Dublin Hills Regional Park. Buying the land will also allow for a 2-mile-long extension of the Calaveras Ridge Regional Trail. Now about a third complete, the route eventually will allow people to walk and ride on a continuous trail 44 miles through six regional parks between Sunol and Lafayette. (Bill Hoppes)



Phil Gordon, Pinnacles, 11/15

Pinnacles Field Trip Report: In the breezy air came a straight line, soaring Condor, going East to West, right over all our heads. The trip's first good look at a flying adult. One photo revealed it to be #36. Phil Gordon checked the Condor archives and found our bird really was #236 – aka "Tiny." She was hatched 3/22/01 at San Diego Zoo (making her 14 yr. 8 mos. old, this day!). Her name was derived from her small size and her under-weight status, below average by 3–4 lbs. At 1 yr. 9 mos. (12/12/02) she was released into the Pinnacles wild. By Spring, April 2015, "Tiny" had paired with #340 producing an egg 1.5 months before, which was about to hatch. Her sibling, "Survivor", #375 (released 6/4/06), was named when she survived both a gun shot and curing of lead poisoning; she had paired with #313 (he'd been "widowed" losing his 1st mate to lead poisoning). They produced an offspring, #597, "Lupine." "Survivor" is currently solo, having lost her mate, #313 also due to lead poisoning. So, the two sibling "widows", "Tiny" & "Survivor," still see each other in the skies of Pinnacles, with years of history behind them. A successful Thanksgiving adventure at Pinnacles! (Phil Gordon)

(See more trip details on website. www.ohloneaudubon.org)

eBird

Global tools for birders, critical data for science

Have you been noticing lately that more and more birders seem to be pulling out their cell phones while in the field birding? What are they doing? Taking notes? keeping a list? Actually they are doing just that — and so much more. Using an app called **eBird** is the latest thing for citizen science and highly encouraged for all birders to use. In this time of climate change we can use all the information we can get to assess and anticipate needs.

Below is a good summary copied from the **eBird** website (ebird.org). Please go to the website yourselves to explore all the possibilities of this current high-tech collaboration between professional and amateur birders.

- Record the birds you see
- Keep track of your bird lists
- Explore dynamic maps and graphs
- Share your sightings and join the eBird community
- Contribute to science and conservation

A real-time, online checklist program, **eBird** has revolutionized the way that the birding community reports and accesses information about birds. Launched in 2002 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, **eBird** provides rich data sources for basic information on bird abundance and distribution at a variety of spatial and temporal scales.

The observations of each participant join those of others in an international network of **eBird** users. **eBird** then shares these observations with a global community of educators, land managers, ornithologists, and conservation biologists. In time these data will become the foundation for a better understanding of bird distribution across the western hemisphere and beyond.

(Marty Morrow)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

Vinnie Bacon, Kristin Baker, Allen & Jackie Bertillion, Forrest Bottomley, Mona Brauer, Patricia Ann Brennan, Richard Broadwell, Tom Browne, William B. Chew, Loree Clavell, Marilyn Davis, Frank Delfino, Joanna Dixon, Denis Dugas, Beth Farmer, Norma Foss, Al Goggins, Mark Greenstein, Helen Hancock, Georgeann Hardy, Connie Holm, William & Tanya Hoppes, Kay Inouye, Judy Jund, Jerelyn Leinweber, Joan Lewis, Patricia Lindsey, David Lovejoy, Carolyn Norman, Pam Reuling, Marie Ross, Steven Rothi, Gail Ryujin, Jill Shuey, Donna Stanley, Mr. & Mrs. Gail Stanton, Sue Stanton, Jean-Marie Spoelman, Mary Steel, Ron Thompson, Irv & Diane Tiessen, William Sweeney, Mr. & Mrs. Vetterlein, Martin Vitz, Carolyn Whittle, Susan Wijeyesekera, George & Wendy Winsted, Stanley Winterman, Stephanie Woods, Judy Wuelfing, The Zermeno Family



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

Is it time to renew? Look at your mailing label - it will tell you. For example: "Pd Thru 2/1/16" indicates that you are paid thru February 2016. A "RENEW?" indicates that /this is your last Kite Call!

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**. **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 94541-5428. You can also renew thru PayPal on our website www.ohloneaudubon.org. Thanks!

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO DONATE!

Send your donation to Treasurer. 3067 Montevideo Drive, San Ramon, CA 94583 or thru PayPal on our website: www.ohloneaudubon.org



AND MANY THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS TO OUR APPEAL!

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GBBC is Coming! Are You In?

Feb 12—15, 2016

Greetings from the **Great Backyard Bird Count** team at Audubon, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and Bird Studies Canada! We want to remind you to mark your calendars for the 19th GBBC, coming up **February 12 through 15, 2016**. Because the GBBC is integrated with the eBird program you can start practicing now.

Bird watchers of all ages count birds to create a real-time snapshot of where birds are.

Details at www.BirdCount.org

Be sure to check out the eBird article on pg 5

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bird-A-Thon – Fund Raising Event



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

THE BIRD BOOK SAGA

By Helen Sowers

How do you sell over 900 bird and biology books? I wish I knew—there are over 650 still on bookshelves in my garage. But it was not for lack of trying.

Where did I get so many books? I had space in my garage when the previous OAS library caretaker moved, so I offered. On moving day 6 Ohlone board members arrived with bookshelves and boxes and boxes and more boxes of books—labeled with appropriate alphabet letters. They filled the bookcases, four 8 x 3 ft. sets of shelves. The lowest shelf was taller to accommodate the coffee table size books. Since then the Ohlone library has languished in my garage for over 5 years. The books were supposed to be for our members to check out, but this happened only once or twice a year. So—the Ohlone board recently made the decision to sell them so they would be of value to someone, and the organization could use the proceeds to support out commitment to save birding habitats. (I also think they recognized I was getting ancient and might not be around to deal with them.)

We decided the sale would be on the first weekend in November, 10 to 5 each day. Most of the books would be offered for \$3 for 1 book, \$2 each for three or more. In the meantime I priced them on Abebooks and Amazon, finding that most went for between \$3 and \$10. However there were about 75 that were worth more, sometimes much more—as over \$100. Fortunately I had started the pricing several months ago.

We had to select out the more valuable books, put on our price, along with the web price range, and display them on separate tables. More work.

The week before the sale 4 or five board members and I rearranged the garage to accommodate the customers. Unfortunately, my daughter's new companion had sold his house in Redwood City and a lot of his belong-

ings were being stored in the garage. These include a kayak and other sporting goods (my daughter said he had equipment for all the sports known to man), furniture, boxes, tools, etc. etc. We pushed the stuff into reasonably compact piles and covered them with sheets. The kayak went outside, upside down on sawhorses. (Although I might have been glad to sell the stuff, also, I don't think he would have approved.)

Oh, yes, there also was my new renter's bicycle, which went in the entryway. We removed cobwebs, swept the floor, set up tables and a checkout area. And covered the wooden tire stops on the floor with chairs so people wouldn't trip on them. Although we had painted them yellow, we discovered the hard way that wasn't enough. We also asked the board to bring plastic bags and boxes (we were hopeful) to put the bought books in.

Of course, the success of the sale depended on publicity. We put it on our website, in our Newsletter, and announced it at meetings, field trips, and classes. We knew we needed to reach a larger audience, so we sent information to the other Audubon Chapters in the extended Bay Area and included central California. We contacted other birding groups—you'd be surprised how many there are—as well as CSUEB, UCB, and put up posters in the library and senior center. The herbarium at UC sent out a large emailing to their contacts. We crossed our fingers and hoped to attract numerous buyers.

On the fateful day 4 of us eager sellers put flyers on the street corner and the bottom of the driveway, and about 9:45 opened the garage doors (One was an "in" door, the other, with the checkout table, the "out" door. One of the Board helpers had made appropriate signs, with Japanese symbols as well as English.) Fortunately for our psyches four groups of people with long lists (yes!) in their outstretched hands were waiting. One couple had come from Merced. My supposition that the birders most eager to take advantage of the bargains would be the first to come was

true. The couple from Merced left with 3 or 4 boxes and spent over \$100. At \$2 apiece that is a lot of books. Customers trickled in for most of the day and I kept taking bunches of \$20 bills up into the house. Even in the afternoon another buyer also spent over \$100. We were pleased by the first day's results, but there were still a lot of books. We kept track of the ones sold by crossing them off the 24-page list.

We anticipated that the second day would not be so active, so there were only two of us working. Yes, we mostly twiddled our thumbs. While we sat, bored, a few sporadic buyers appeared. Ohlone's treasurer came in the middle of the afternoon to collect the money. A rough count totaled over \$730. Toward 4 o'clock a mother and her 8-year-old daughter appeared. They had seen the poster in the library. (Yes, that one paid off!) The daughter was interested in birds but was shy. She had the overwhelming attention of two expert birders (not me) to help her select books. They bought about \$20 worth and were our last customers. Before 4 PM despairing of anyone else, we folded up the tables, put display books away, folded the sheets, and cleared the parking area in the garage so I could put my car back in.

Since then a couple of board members asked for a few books, or paid what they owed. Our proceeds will slightly exceed \$800. But what will we do with the 650 left-over books?

COME AND BUY BIRD BOOKS—CHEEP!

Contact Helen at hmsowers@comcast.net

Thank yous to Helen Sowers, Carol Lyke, Mona Brauer, Carin and Sam High, Maggie Clark, Marty Morrow, Debbie Wong, Debbi Brusco, Phil Gordon, and Gail Ryugin for a big job well done.



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Direct questions about Kite Call delivery to the Membership Chair.**

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