



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

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

Calendar

- May 18 FIELD TRIP**
Lake Chabot
- May 22 FUNDRAISER**
PELICAN DREAMS
Niles Silent Theatre
- May 25 FIELD TRIP**
Niles Hot Spots
- June 4 Field Trip Planning Mtg**
Hayward
- June 7 Annual Potluck Meeting**
50th Anniversary
Pleasanton
- June 14 BOARD MEETING**
(Call E. Cormier for details)
- June 15 DEADLINE KITE CALL**
- June 25-26 FIELD TRIP**
Sierras—Yuba Pass

**NO MEETINGS IN JULY AND
AUGUST. SEE YOU IN
SEPTEMBER!**

Follow us on Facebook!

***See updates and photos
from our activities that you
can share with your friends!***

***Find us by doing a Face-
book search for Ohlone
Audubon Society***



50th Anniversary Celebration Annual Potluck Picnic

*Date: June 7 Time: Setup: 5:00 PM Dinner: 6:00 PM
Location: Alviso Adobe Community Park 3465 Old Foothill Rd, Pleasanton*

*Installation of 2016-2017 OAS Board of Directors
Ohlone Interview Video*

*Jenny Papka of Native Bird Connections
"The Secret Lives of Raptors"
Annual Potluck Celebration and Cake*

Join us for a very eventful evening! We will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary. A group of people first met as Ohlone Audubon Society in May 1966, with full chapter status achieved by the end of the year. Come help us celebrate this monumental event!

We are inviting everyone to bring your old photos of past Ohlone events for a bulletin board from which we will scan photos and add to our scrapbook!

Special events of the evening include installation of officers, a video by Sam High, who interviewed Evelyn Cormier, Stephanie Floyd, and Phil Gordon about Ohlone, and **Jenny Papka**, and her "wildlife ambassadors" of **Native Bird Connections**.

(continued next page)

Meeting (continued)

Jenny will present to us a lively and informative program focusing on how raptors see their world. Meet several live non-releasable birds and learn their stories. Questions encouraged!

Jenny has been in the field of raptor management since 1988 when she first started volunteering at Lindsay Museum. She was mentored by Diana Granados, who, in turn, mentored by Gary Bogue. Both were pioneers in the field of bird rehabilitation. Since then Jenny has worked with over 30 species of raptors from the tiny pygmy-owl all the way to the Andean condor! Jenny was honored and received the William Penn Mott Jr Environmental Award from the Orinda Association in 2010. Natural Bird Connections is a non-profit organization that offers educational presentations, teaching respect for birds, using rehab feathered friends. OAS has sponsored these programs for school groups.

Alviso Adobe Community Park in Pleasanton features a

1920's and museum set in 7 acres of parkland. If you like, come early and bird among the large oaks on and near the grounds.

And we will eat well! Please bring your own table service and a favorite dish to share (about 10 to 12 servings). Last names: (**A–K: Entree**); (**L– Z: Vegetable, salad or side dish**). Remember no desserts, as we will be having cake! Beverages will be supplied courtesy of OAS. (Please note no alcohol is allowed in the park.)

Directions: To reach Alviso Adobe from Fremont or Contra Costa, take I-680 toward Pleasanton to the Bernal exit. Drive west on Bernal to Foothill and turn right. Follow Foothill a little more than 1/2 mile to the Alviso Adobe on your left. From Hayward, take I-580 to the Foothill exit and follow Foothill about 3 miles to the Alviso Adobe on your right. Meet in the Milking Barn.

FIELD TRIPS



Lake Chabot Regional Park

May 18, Wednesday, 8:30 AM - noon

Leaders: Rich Nicholson and Kathy Robertson
fieldtrips AT 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 & 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.



OHLONE HATS

Spring is in the air! The sun is shining and the birds are singing.

Ohlone has something new for you that will help you appreciate both. New Ohlone Audubon hats. Protect yourself from those UV rays and reduce the glare to better see those birds in their breeding plumage. Only \$10.00 each while they last. Hats will be available for sale at our monthly membership meetings or you can contact me directly to make other arrangements. Mona dennisonaatoutlook.com. 510/537 0311

Niles Hotspots

May 25, Wednesday, 8:30 - 11:30 AM

Leaders: Kathy Robertson and Stephanie Floyd
fieldtrips AT ohloneaudubon.org

We will visit several great birding spots in the Niles area along the Alameda Creek channel and in the woods in hopes of seeing spring migrants and nesting birds including Hooded Orioles, warblers, and waterfowl. Meet at Niles Community Park.

Directions: To reach the park, from I-880, take Decoto Road northeast about 2 miles. Turn right (east) on Alvarado-Niles Blvd. and stay on it for about

2 1/2 miles (it becomes Niles Blvd.) Turn right on H St. The park is at the end of H St. **From I-680**, take Niles Canyon Road (Hwy 84) southwest to Fremont. Cross Mission Blvd. to reach Niles Blvd. and bear right on Niles Blvd. to go through the main part of Niles. Turn left on H St. The park is at the end of H St. **From Mission Boulevard** north or south, turn onto Niles Blvd. and follow the directions above.

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 & Pat Gordon pagpeg@aol.com

SEE FULL DETAILS IN
FEB 16—MARCH 31, 2016 KITE CALL
(www.ohloneaudubon.org)

BIRDING OBSERVATIONS LATE MARCH—APRIL

By Stephanie Floyd

With spring comes the changing of the guard! It's easier now to find a *Wilson's Warbler* singing insistently from the bushes than it is to hear the melancholy song of a *Golden-Crowned Sparrow*. The sparrows are on their way to their northern breeding grounds in British Columbia and coastal Alaska. Other birds are coming here to breed! Now we're enjoying the whistles and squeaks of the colorful *Bullock's Oriole* in the sycamores and the "wheet" of the bright orange *Hooded Oriole* in the tallest palm trees. *Black-Headed Grosbeaks* are visiting bird feeders and sweetly singing in the woods; some say they sound like tipsy robins. *Western Kingbirds* are back in fresh gray-and-yellow plumage, flying out from fence posts to catch insects. A scruffy, rare **Tropical Kingbird** continues at Arrowhead Marsh, probably waiting for a better molt before getting on its way. It's becoming hard to find our west coast "Audubon's"



Great Horned owlets V. Robinson

Yellow-Rumped Warblers that were so plentiful just months ago, but *Pacific-Slope Flycatchers* have arrived, calling in the eucalyptus forests for a mate. *Warbling Vireos* are building nests, and we're starting to hear *Cassin's Vireos*. Our resident *Common Yellowthroats* seem to be up and singing on territory at every wetland. *Brown-Headed Cowbirds* are right there in the midst of all this, looking for a likely nest in which to lay their eggs. Listen for their harsh whistles and chatters.

Tree Swallows and *Western Bluebirds* are feeding young in swallow boxes, *Cliff* and *Barn Swallows* are building mud nests under bridges and eaves, and *Northern Rough-Winged Swallows* are building nests in natural and man-made cavities. *Great Horned Owls* have nested again at Coyote Hills and are raising at least two big owlets. Newly-arriving *Ash-Throated Flycatchers* are calling from the canyons. For a really good time, visit Lakeshore Park in Newark where three islands have been taken over as rookeries by nesting *Great and Snowy Egrets*, *Black-Crowned Night-Herons*, and even a little *Pied-Billed Grebe* on a nest. The *Black-Crowned Night-Herons* are particularly fun to watch with all sizes of nestlings and fledglings. A *Cattle Egret* was seen on one of the islands one day.



P. Gordon Coyote Hills

In terms of rare sightings, nothing can top the **Little Stint** that's been hanging out with other sandpipers in the ponds by Alviso Marina. As birding expert Alvaro Jaramillo explains, "the Little Stint is a European-Asian species that is highly migratory. It is an incredible rarity in California and the east, and they usually are never seen in spring. So this is a Mega Rare species here, and a great find!!!" It's not every day we get an ABA Code 4 bird in the bay area, so make a special trip to see it if you can. Join us on a field trip to see what else we can find out there!

Field Trip Planning Meeting for July 2015-June 2016

June 4, 4:00 PM

Mona Brauer's House (Fairview)

Ohlone Audubon's field trip leaders will gather to plan another year of exciting field trips. Where would you like to go birding with us? Contact us with your ideas and suggestions at fieldtrips@ohloneaudubon.org.



Ranger Sandy and Ranger Laurie checking Western Bluebird box April 24, 2016, Lake Elizabeth (P.Gordon)

CONSERVATION

Western County



South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project

The Final Environmental Impact Statement/Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIS – to satisfy federal environmental review requirements, FEIR to satisfy state environmental review requirements) is now out and available for review.

You can view the document, including the SBSRP responses to comments submitted, at <http://www.southbayrestoration.org/planning/phase2/>
Comments may be submitted in writing to:

Brenda Buxton, Deputy Bay Program Manager
State Coastal Conservancy,
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor, Oakland, CA, 94612.
Email: Brenda.buxton@scc.ca.gov
Phone: 510-286-0753

Or you may provide oral comments at the May 26th meeting of the governing board of the California State Coastal Conservancy, currently slated to be held in Sacramento, at 10am at:

The Tsakopoulos Library Galleria,
828 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Eden Landing Ecological Area, Hayward

As of noon, Friday, May 6th, public access features were opened at the Eden Landing Ecological Reserve! There will be approximately 4 miles of trails, a kayak launch, and interpretive sites.

Alameda Naval Air Station

Not in OAS's territory, but the Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge (CCCR) submitted a very short comment letter, after coordinating with Golden Gate Audubon Society, regarding the Veterans Administration's development proposal. The Corps Public Notice (PN) stated that mitigation for the fill of 12.96 acres of wetlands would occur at an off-site location such as the San Francisco Bay Wetlands Mitigation Bank (located in Redwood City). Our comments were that ample opportunities exist on-site to expand or create new wetlands. This would benefit migratory and resident birds displaced by the proposed project.

Newark Slough

Comments were submitted on behalf of 5 local environmental organizations, including OAS, in response to a proposal to create a wetlands/endangered species mitigation bank on a property adjacent to the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge (DESFBNWR), and adjacent to Thornton Avenue. The concerns outlined were:

- insufficient information is provided in the public notice,
- insufficient information has been provided regarding existing conditions at the proposed mitigation bank site, including what habitats are currently used by the Ridgway's Rail and Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse,
- insufficient information has been provided regarding the longevity of the mitigation bank, especially given the wetlands adjacent to Newark Slough are already flooded during extreme high tide events,
- and opposition to the suggestion that the impacts creating the mitigation bank (once identified) might be approved through an expedited permit review process that does not provide an opportunity for additional public comment. [Mitigation banks are used by those who fill wetlands or endangered species habitat. Credits are bought to off-set "unavoidable impacts."] The Service Area for wetlands and SMHM would be the entirety of the bay south of the Bay Bridge - which is a smaller geographic area than normally proposed. The Service Area for RIRA would cover impacts anywhere from the South Bay up through the Delta to just west of Sherman Island.

Gateway Station

Comments were submitted by CCCR for a proposed development in Newark that is adjacent to the Plummer Creek Mitigation Site and solar salt ponds (also not far from the proposed Newark Slough mitigation bank). 589 homes are proposed with very little buffer between the developed area and on-site wetlands. There is also an inadequate buffer between the proposed developed areas and habitat that exist on the adjacent properties including the Plummer Creek area.

VOTE JUNE 7!

**DON'T FORGET TO VOTE FOR THE BAY—
MEASURE AA**

Conservation (continued)

Habitat Means Home

Poster Contest

THANK YOU!! to Kate High for collating and organizing the packets to be delivered to schools. THANK YOU to Sam High, Marty Morrow, Jana Sokale, and John Bradley for helping to get the entry forms delivered to the schools. We are aware of at least two classrooms that will be participating. Posters will be hung the week of May 9th. The awards ceremony will be held May 14th at 10 am in front of the Coyote Hills Regional Park visitor center. OAS members are encouraged to visit the park before Memorial Day to view these wonderful creations!
-Carin High

Eastern County

Springtown Golf Course, Livermore

At a recent Monday meeting, the Livermore City Council voted 4-0 to move forward with a process to turn the Springtown Golf Course into public open space. The council also decided not to move forward with a development plan envisioned as a way to keep the golf course open. City staff will now develop language for the November 2016 city ballot that, if approved, would preserve the golf course property as open space. The initiative's wording would preclude any future council from rezoning the 85-acres to residential and then approving housing without a subsequent vote of the public.

Altamont Wind Turbines

The East County Board of Zoning Adjustments' (BZA) 2-0 decision on March 24 approving Sand Hill Wind LLC's 12 new turbines to replace 433 old-style turbines in the Altamont Hills has been appealed to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. The project would be located in three areas totaling 875 acres near Grant Line Road and Interstate 580. The appeal has been set tentatively for the supervisors' May 10 agenda. The project is planned to produce up to 36 megawatts of power. Opponents claim that estimates of bird deaths from the project are too low.– Bill Hoppes

DON'T FORGET TO BUY YOUR TICKETS FOR A SPECIAL VIEWING OF PELICAN DREAMS ON MAY 22ND



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 or via phone at 510-538-3550

President's Message

By the time you read this the meeting will have been held and the vote taken by the Alameda County Planning Commission on whether or not to ban fracking in Alameda County. This vote is not final because the issue must then go to the Board of Supervisors for a vote. At the meeting in April the commission seemed poised to vote to ban fracking. However the staff presented a page of new details which the commission received the day of the meeting and had not had time to even read it carefully. My take on the page was that it contained loopholes. So on Monday May 2, the commission will again take up the issue of fracking.

The reasons to oppose fracking are that fracking is the high pressure injection of thousands of gallons of chemicals of unknown toxicity mixed with fresh water thousands of feet into the earth to reach oil bound up in shale. The high pressure injection of lots of fresh water or steam, carbon dioxide, or other waste gases loosens the shale to get at the oil from the geologic formation.

Next concern is the storage of waste fluids which are by products into percolation pits which are notorious for air pollution through evaporation of noxious substances and for ground water pollution from seepage of the chemicals. It is hoped that on May 2, the County Planning Commission will vote to oppose fracking in Alameda County and request the County Board of Supervisors to do the same.

NOMINATIONS

The following are being presented as the slate of officers for the OAS board, serving July 1, 2016 thru June 30, 2017. Members will vote at the May meeting and the new officers will be installed at the June Annual Meeting.

President: Evelyn Cormier

Vice President: Bill Hoppes

Recording Secretary: Helen Sowers

Corresponding Secretary: Deborah Pan

Treasurer: Gail Ryujin

Director at Large 2019: Lynn Feindel

Many thanks to Allen Bertillion, retiring as Vice President and Jackie Bertillion, retiring as Director at Large. But, they both will remain on the Board as Hospitality chairs. Thank you also to Bill Hoppes for arranging the slate for this year.



Tree Swallow (P. Gordon)



A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW AND RENEWING OHLONE MEMBERS!

Ohlone sends a warm welcome and thank you to the following new and renewing chapter members: Cindy Angers, Pamela Ball, David & Dee Butner, Susan Carlson, Debbie Clark, Jane Fogarty, Lisa Garza, Michael Stanley, Elena Thomas, Gail West

Donations: Lisa Garza

Is it time to renew? Look at your mailing label - it will tell you. For example: "Pd Thru 6/1/16" indicates that you are paid thru June 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. Thanks!



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

Happy 50th Birthday Ohlone!



Great leaders have lead great trips in the last 50 years!

We graciously thank all of our past leaders, including Ron & Vi Barklow, Debbie Bedford, Mona Brauer, Art Carey, Juli Chamberlin, Nancy Christensen, Maggie Clark, Rich Cimino, Howard Cogswell, Joe Didonato, Bob Dunn, Art Edwards, Lee Ellis, Edith Evans, Sandy Ferrerira, Stephanie Floyd, Ray Fontaine, Tim Gates, John Giguette, Phil & Pat Gordon, Doris Griffin, Jim & Linda Hargrove, Pat Hayes, Kevin Hintsa, Alice Hoch, Steve Huckabone, Owen Hughes, Norm Kidder, John Luther, Marty Morrow, Rich Nicholson, Elsie and Jerry Richey, Bob Richmond, Kathy Robertson, Vicki Robinson, Allan Royer, Gail Ryujiin, Don Schmoldt, Bill Scoggins, Brenda Senturia, Bev Sloane, Tom Southworth, Jean-Marie Spoelman, Jerry and Judy Steenhoven, Jerry Ting, Bob Toleno, Debbie Viess Bette Wentzel, & Anna Wilcox.

We all enjoyed great field trips to great birding places including our first field trip to Stiver's Lagoon; Honey Lake for Sage Grouse (who can forget those memorable very cold March trips!); a cross country ski birding trip with Norm Kidder to Kirkwood; a monthly wildflower walk with Doris Griffin, and then with the Holdings; winter refuge trips to Sacramento and Los Banos, first led by Dr. Cogswell in January 1971; Sierra weekends led by Elsie Richey

to her Long Barn property (with pancake breakfast included) and later to other Sierra locations like Yosemite, Lassen, and Sierra Valley, by the Gordons; pelagic trips led by Dr. Cogswell (remember Project Meadowlark when Dr. Cogswell netted and then banded a lost Western Meadowlark at sea?); and special trips to Sutter Buttes led by Don Schmoldt.

Ohlone journeyed to all our local favorites – Coyote Hills, Hayward Shoreline, Garin Park, Garretson Point, Lake Elizabeth, Sunol, Del Valle and Mines Road to name just a few. Jean-Marie Spoelman and Anna "Willie" Wilcox began the mid-week trips with their Motley Crew gang, and those mid-week trips continue to this day. We even did a trip one year, totally by public transportation, to Angel Island. We learned our early morning bird choruses with Dr. Cogswell at 5AM at Sunol! It was in October 1972 when "Hawk Hill" was discovered. In 1974 it was decided that there would be one local trip and one longer trip per month, due to the energy crisis and BART would be used whenever possible. In 1976 we began week long trips to the desert in spring, followed by Phil Gordon's transects, across California, Then to far and exotic places-such as Churchill, New Foundland, Trinidad and Trobago. Lately, the group has met at dusk for several years to watch the fly-in of thousands of Vaux's Swifts in San Rafael.

50 Years of Presidents!

1966	Gladys Conklin
1967	Banning Fenton
1968	Owen Hughes
1969	John Luther
1970	Constance Vaughn
1971	Phil Gordon
1972	Harold Chall
1973	Tom Southworth
1974	Bill Bland
1975	Phil Gordon
1976 -77	Elsie Richey
1978	Pat Hayes
1979	John Giguette
1980	Pat Hayes
1981-82	Owen Hughes
1983-84	Treet Pelletier
1985-86	John Page
1987-88	Anna Wilcox
1989	Pat Gordon
1990 -92	Dave Moyles
1993-94	Bette Wentzel
1995	Marie Grubbe
1996 -2000	Vi Saima-Barklow
2001 -02	Helen Sowers
2003-16	Evelyn Cormier

We have traveled to see California Condors, Sage Grouse, Clapper Rails, Blue Grosbeak and Mountain Plovers! So many birds, lifers for some, camaraderie, and a good time by all!



THE WHITE-TAILED KITE

The White-tailed Kite, once known as the black-shouldered kite, is a wonderful bird to watch in action. It is one of the most graceful of raptors. It has the ability to hover about 80 feet up, floating on an air current and watching intently for its prey. When it sees it, the kite drops straight down on it.

The wings are held high in a V, and it reminds me of a superhero dropping to the ground to save the day. I'm sure the mouse or vole that will soon be the kite's lunch is not as enamored of this move as I am.

The main diet of a white-tailed kite is small mammals, mostly rodents. It will also occasionally eat snakes, lizards, smaller birds and insects. The kite hunts in the daytime, often from sunup to sundown.

Mated pairs build nests in the upper reaches of trees. Both the male and the female choose the site, but the female builds the nest, which is a shallow bowl made of twigs and lined with grass and leaves.

During the mating ritual, the male will grab a mouse and offer it to the female. She will fly up to meet him, flip upside down and grab the gift.

The female usually lays four eggs, which take about 30 days to hatch. The male brings food to the female while she's nesting and after the chicks have hatched. It would appear that you have a mated pair in your neighborhood, so keep an eye out for the nest. They like oak trees, but are not exclusive to them.



Joan Morris, Pets & Wildlife columnist, garden notes from the Bay Area News Group, East Bay Times and Mercury News graciously allowed us to share her response to a walnut Creek reader in the April 14, 2016 issue. Thank you Joan!

A little bit of Ohlone history:

Why the name Ohlone? Why the White-tailed Kite?



Once upon a time the Native Americans living in the eastern San Francisco Bay area were referred to as the Costanoan Tribe, but the local tribe in Alameda County was more correctly known as the Ohlones. The Catholic Church had recognized these early Californians, even though the U.S. government did not officially recognize them with a treaty. The Church turned over ownership of the Ohlone Cemetery on Washington Blvd. in Fremont to the Ohlone Tribe. Over 10,000 ancestors who died from an introduced flu epidemic in the late 1700's are buried there.

Phil Gordon knew part of this story and, as a member of a committee to form a new Audubon Society chapter in Southern Alameda County, suggested the name, Ohlone Audubon Society, and it was approved in 1966. Shortly after the name was chosen, Phil also suggested White-tailed Kite, his favorite hawk, as a name for the society's Newsletter. As a student in Dr. L. Richard Mewaldt's ornithology class at San Jose State he was aware of the kite's success story for conservation. In the 1930's, when the population in California was down to fewer than 300, the birds were given legal protection against anyone "taking" (capturing, taking eggs, or killing) them. They began a rapid recovery: today their numbers are estimated to be over 9,000 in the West.

The Ohlone Audubon committee chose "Kite Call Newsletter," and the White-tailed Kite became its logo. The masthead was painted and donated by the eminent wildlife artist, Harry C. Adamson, showing the kite perched in a Valley Oak, one of its nest trees.

- P. Gordon

EARLY HISTORY OF THE OHLONE AUDUBON SOCIETY

A common failing of small groups of people who combine for the purpose of ~establishing volunteer membership-type organizations is that early activities are sometimes documented on a fragmentary basis, if at all . When such an organization becomes successful and continues to grow, there is a need for a historical account . Ohlone Audubon is no exception in this regard, and the purpose of this paper - is to provide a basic history at a time when most of the people involved in the organizational effort are still available for first hand input .

On the basis of available documentation and personal discussions with most of the organizers of Ohlone Audubon, the author feels that the following account is accurate and essentially complete. If important events or people have been omitted it is so purely because of the absence of personal knowledge, or the unavailability of such information at the time of writing .

During a period of time prior to early 1966 , Gladys Conklin headed up a Bird Club along with her regular duties as librarian for the Hayward Public Library . As the time of her retirement from the library approached and the fate of the-Bird Club was in doubt, Jo McLelland became concerned because she saw interest and value in this type of activity, especially for young people. Jo was determined to preserve the Bird Club in some form, and went to work to this end .

At some date prior to March 4, 1966, Jo McLelland, Gladys Conklin, Virginia Thompson, Marshall Stoddard, Howard Cogswell, Al Bruen, and perhaps others, met and started investigating various ways of continuing Gladys Conklin's Bird Club. Essentially, two approaches were taken. Jo took the matter to the Hayward Area Recreation District (HARD) via Mr. Stoddard and Mr. Stanley . One of the other s ~ (Virginia Thompson ?) discussed the matter with Golden Gate Audubon Society (GGAS) , an organ-ization of close to 50 years experience even in 1966 . Miss Bertna Underhill, then GGAS Vice-President was to prove especially helpful. It should be noted that Golden Gate Audubon was among our earliest friends, and has remained steadfastly as such to t he present time .

Discussions with both HARD and Audubon apparently indicated that a Junior Audubon type group would be expected to be more successful if it were to be an activity within an adult organization. Contacts were established with Bill Goodall , then the National Audubon Western Representative, who was operating out of El Monte in Southern California. Subsequently, a meeting was announced for the purpose of finding out about the Audubon organization and its purposes, and to take the local pulse for indications of interest in such matters . This announcement , which was the first of a series soon to become known as the "Kite Call " is reprinted below .

"POTENTIAL NEW AUDUBON SOCIETY BRANCH TO MEET IN HAYWARD ."

"A group of interested citizens are meeting on Tuesday, March 8(1966)at 7 : 30 at the Meek Estate (HARD Community Center) , Boston and Hampton Roads, Hayward, to dis cuss the formation of a Hayward Area or Southern Alameda County Audubon Society . Mr. William Goodall, Western Representative of the National Audubon Society, will attend and answer questions . Purposes of the National Society and its branches as conservation organizations will be explained, and there will be discussions of the need f or natural area conservation i n the South County area as we ll as possible future meeting and field trip programs . Plans for a field trip on March 19 to nearby bay shore areas will be detailed ."It is hoped that all persons interested in participating will come to this meeting at which a new branch of the National Audubon Society maybe started . "

Suffice to say, the meeting of March 8, 1966 was successful , and again the parent group went to work. The "Bulletin From the Hayward Area Audubon - Society" , dated April, 1966, indicates the progress : The first monthly meeting of the Hayward Area Audubon Society (later to become Ohlone Audubon Society) was held on April 5, 1966 with Gladys Conklin as President pro tempore ; Virginia Thompson, Secretary pro tempore, read the proposed Constitution and By-Laws ., which were slightly amended and accepted (This act established April 5. 1966, as our founding date); the matter of an official name for the organization was discussed, and it was decide d to delay it for more consideration; the first field trip of the organization, ' held on March 19, 1966 at the Hayward shoreline near the San Mateo Bridge and led by Howard Cogswell was discussed, (thirty-two bird species were logged.) It was announced that Mr. Stennett Heaton would be presenting his program showing microscopic slides of insects and feathers a t the May 3, 1966 meeting; it was announced that all persons joining the organization by May 3, 1966 would be regarded as Charter Members .

The Charter Members, As taken from the list dated October, 1966, are : Marshall A . Stoddard, Mr. & Mrs. . Henry W. Christensen, Mrs. L . R. Arnold , W. K. Prinkey, Mr. & Mrs. Laurence O . Salaber, Mr. & Mrs. J . Null, Avaneil Storti , Mr. & Mrs. Carl Coleman , Mrs. Elizabeth H. Shepherd, Ada Mavis Hickey, Inger H. Allen, Mr. & Mrs. James Thompson, Thelma Fraser, Banning Fenton, Mr. Ted Swenson, Mrs. Josephine S. McLelland, Mr. & Mrs. B. A . Daehler, Mr. Stephen Abbors, Mrs. Joan E . Law, and Miss Marie M. Blois .

(continued next page)

Phil Gordon led his first Ohlone Field Trip on May 21, 1966, to Stiver's Lagoon in Fremont (now mostly covered by Lake Elizabeth). It is significant to note that from the very beginning and up to and including the field trip for January, 1968 (at least), Dr. Howard Cogswell and/or Phil Gordon had led all Ohlone Audubon field trips.

Although they have by no means faded from the scene, they did, in those "early days", set examples of expertise, enthusiasm, and grass root camaraderie which prevail to this day. Thus was the successful future of the society provided for.

The Annual Report for Fiscal year 1966, constructed in retrospect, shows the receipts as: 4-5-66, \$1.00 - Doris Griffin ("to help defray postage"), and also on 4-5-66, \$100.00 - Golden Gate Audubon Society (seed money). The name "Ohlone Audubon Society", as proposed by Phil Gordon, was selected as the official name of the organization at the May 1966 meeting. It was pointed out that "Ohlone" (1) was the name of the Indians who lived in the area long before Europeans knew the land. It was also determined at this meeting that sufficient new Audubon memberships had been obtained to allow application for provisional branch (later to become Chapter) status. This status was applied for on June 27, 1966.

The first Nominating Committee Chairman was Owen Hughes who, at the June 4, 1966 meeting, held in the "Green Barn" at Sunol Valley Regional Park, presented the following slate of officers: Mrs. Irving (Gladys) Conklin, President; Mr. Banning Fenton, President-elect; Mrs. Henry (Juanita) Christensen, Treasurer; and Mrs. James (Virginia) Thompson, Secretary. This slate was duly elected. Chosen as Director was Howard Cogswell, and the following Committee Chairmen were designated: Banning Fenton, Programs; Juanita Christensen, Financial; Agnes Salaber, Memberships; Philip Gordon, Field trips; and Virginia Thompson, Editorial.

Prior to May 24, 1967 the required 50 members (no more than 15 of which could already be Audubon members) to qualify for full Branch Status had been obtained. On that date, Ohlone Audubon became a "full-fledged" branch of NAS. The Charter members listed previously, plus those following, constitute the membership of Ohlone as of June, 1967: Mike & Geri Alcomo, Bill Alwood, Eugene Berg, Mrs. B. G. Binkley, Harold Chall, Janette Christensen, Robert Clark, Howard Cogswell, Paul Collett, Mr. & Mrs. James Dale, Dorothy and Marjorie Gansberger, Philip Gordon, Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Greig, Doris Griffin, Mr. & Mrs. Owen Hughes, Mr. & Mrs. W. Hurd, L. E. Housman, Maye Jorgensen, Mrs. Robert Kolkmann, Jane Landry, Gene Ossond, R. J. Peterson, Mr. & Mrs. M. Ragle, Mr. & Mrs. Ben Ravekes, Mary Samson, R. J. Sampson, Mr. & Mrs. R. Sekerak, Mrs. Milson Stewert, Mr. & Mrs. D. C. Stout, Mabel Sweeney, Constant & John Vaughn, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Vetterlein, Mrs. Dudley Winter, and Mrs. Maynard Witte. If the careful reader finds what appear to be chronological discrepancies in

relationship to related events preceding this list, bear in mind that - Charter members are by definition "New" Audubon numbers. Some of those in the second list had long since been NAS members, and doubtless members of other branches. At that time there was even a "National only" classification.

At the October 4, 1966 meeting, the name "The Kite Call", as suggested by Phil Gordon, received the most votes, and was thus selected as the name for the Ohlone Audubon Society monthly bulletin. The first issue to carry this name was Vol. 1, No. 6, October, 1966.

Ohlone Audubon became involved in Christmas Bird Counts early in its history. The first such involvement was in the 1966 Count when a small group, including Virginia Thompson and Bill & Eleanor Prinkey, were assigned the Oakland Airport area as parties to the Oakland Count (GGAS). This was a new experience for these people, but to others such as Howard Cogswell, Phil Gordon, etc., it was an annual event of some long standing. The first Ohlone Count, under the name as Hayward-Fremont, took place in 1967 with Howard Cogswell as compiler. The yearly counts after 1967 were compiled by John Luther, and Hayward-Fremont has ranked among the top listings for the past three years.

The Kite Call for November-December, 1969, Vol. 4, No. 3 & 4, was the last to be edited by Virginia Thompson, who had been the editor from the very beginning. Virginia, as you have seen, was one of the parent group who got Ohlone Audubon started. At first she not only wrote and produced the bulletin, but served as Secretary as well. The success of the Society can, in no small measure, be attributed to the tireless efforts of Virginia Thompson. Under her editorship, the Kite Call was a kind of serialized poem, and the sharp transition to the style of Bill Hurd, who assumed the editorship with the January, 1970 issue, was startling to some, and may well have remained so.

As we approach midterm in our seventh year, Ohlone Audubon can look back with pride of accomplishment. From a handful of dedicated organizers in 1966, we have grown to some 365 memberships, attained nonprofit corporate and tax exempt status, and advanced from only monthly field trips to a full compliment of midweek outings and periodic pelagic trips. Future growth and success would seem to be dependent only upon continuing dedication and enthusiasm.

Bill Hurd

(Bill Hurd served as Editor from 1970-1974 and was instrumental in the formation of Ohlone Audubon Society and San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge)

(1) The early California histories usually regarded as authentic fail to make mention of an Indian tribe whose name was Ohlone. However, it seems to have been accepted locally as a fact - ed) . _/

The September, 1968 issue of the Kite Call was the first to carry the drawing of the White-tailed Kite at its masthead. This masthead was reproduced from the beautiful pen and ink artistry of Harry Adamson, who drew it especially for Ohlone Audubon.

Be an Informative Plover Docent with SFBBO



Are you interested in helping SFBBO protect Western Snowy Plovers? Join our new Plover Docent Team!

We'll train our docents to communicate with the community, share information on breeding ecology, and show plovers to the public using binoculars and spotting scopes.

Docents will be stationed at Ravenswood Open Space Preserve by Bedwell Bayfront Park (near the Facebook campus in Menlo Park) and at Eden Landing's Pond A14 in Hayward. They will volunteer for a few hours about once a week from May through September and will encourage public support and advocacy for these rare birds and discourage public trespass into sensitive areas.

This type of program has been hugely successful in other areas, and SFBBO is excited to start it here, too! For information, please send an email to outreach@sfbbo.org.

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

MAY 22nd 2016

- 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.

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.testapark.org

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

RETURN OF THE TERNS



Crab Cove Visitor Center
Saturday, June 18, 2016
10am-4pm

FREE! Slide Presentation at the Crab Cove Visitor Center - learn about least tern natural history before the bus tour: 10:15am, 11:30am, and 12:45pm.
FREE! Watch Terns with a Naturalist at the Crab Cove Visitor Center (binoculars available): 3:30pm.

Please join us to celebrate the return of the endangered California least terns! Visit their nesting colony at the VA Alameda Point and observe adult terns bringing food to their camouflaged chicks - a rare opportunity!



Bus Tours
 11am (# 13021), 12:15pm (# 13026), and 1:30pm (# 13028)
 Reserve a one hour bus trip to the Alameda Wildlife Reserve, led by a USFWS wildlife biologist - \$9. To register, call 888-EBPARKS or go to <http://www.ebparks.org>. (8+ years).

ADVANCE REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED SINCE BUS TOURS FILL UP!

16TH ANNUAL
Butterfly & Bird Festival
 Sunday, June 5, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
 Celebrate Our Winged Friends:
 • Get up-close and personal with nature's "flying critters"
 • Learn to create a wildlife-friendly habitat in your backyard
 • Garden tours
 • Educational speakers
 • Photo presentations
 • Family hands-on activities
 • Music and more

East Bay Regional Park District
 Coyote Hills Regional Park
 8000 Patterson Ranch Road, Fremont, CA 94555
 Info: www.ebparks.org or 1-888-327-2757, option 3, ext. 3220

Program co-sponsored by:

Crab Cove Visitor Center & Aquarium, EBRPD
 1252 McKay Ave.
 Alameda, CA 94501
 510-544-3187

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**Please renew your Ohlone membership by the date shown on your address label.
Direct questions about Kite Call delivery to the Membership Chair.**

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Yes, I want to Join Ohlone Audubon Society!



Please sign me up today

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By mailing a \$25 check payable
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OAS Membership
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Hayward, CA 94541

[] I prefer to receive the Kite Call by e-mail [] Please send me e-mail updates and action alerts.

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