



The Kite Call

Ohlone Audubon Society, Inc.

*A chapter of the National Audubon Society
Serving Southern & Eastern Alameda County CA*
**Our Mission: To celebrate and protect birds and their habitats in
Southern and Eastern Alameda County**
www.ohloneaudubon.org

Calendar

- Apr 5 GENERAL MEETING
Via Zoom
- Apr 10 FIELD TRIP
Birding by Ear- Garin RP
- Apr 13 FIELD TRIP
Sunol Reg Park
- Apr 23 FIELD TRIP
Pine Cyn, Walnut Creek
- Apr 24 FIELD TRIP
Mill Creek Rd, Fremont
- May 3 GENERAL MEETING
Via Zoom
- May 14 FIELD TRIP
Mitchell Cyn, Mt. Diablo

May Meeting

Date May 3, 2022 Time: 7:30PM
Via Zoom

Topic to be announced!
Watch our website and Facebook
page for coming details!
<https://ohloneaudubon.org>

Membership Meetings

The Magic and Mystery of Migration

By Bruce Mast

Date: April 5, 2022 Time: 7:30PM Location: Online via Zoom
(Zoom details below)



Next summer, somewhere in Canada, a Blackpoll Warbler will hatch, fledge, and grow to young adulthood. Come August, this half-ounce bird will fly 3,000 miles to the Maritime provinces and then out over the Atlantic Ocean to catch a northwest tail wind that will take it south to around Bermuda. A northeast trade wind will carry it back to land to

complete its 80-hour journey over 2,000 miles of open ocean. Why? Join Bruce Mast for an exploration of the magic and mystery of bird migration. We'll consider why birds migrate, how they know when and where to go, and how we can help them arrive safely.

Bruce Mast is a veteran birder, field trip leader, lecturer, photographer, and GGAS board member. His birding quests have taken him to far-flung corners of Africa, Southeast Asia, Central and South America, as well as all over North America. When he's not birding, Bruce likes to help people reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from their homes.

ZOOM MEETING INSTRUCTIONS:



Due to the COVID-19 risk Ohlone Audubon's membership meetings will continue to be online via Zoom for the next two meetings. Registration is needed for OAS's membership meetings in 2022. As before, you only need to do it once for ALL meetings. **Click the URL / link below to register for OAS's 2022 membership meetings:** (After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meetings.)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88107564735?pwd=dEpPajh4bGJKWjJHYmZFU1dVSStJdz09>



Field Trips

Birding by Ear for Beginners - Garin Regional Park

Sunday, April 10, 10:00am - noon
Leaders: Bill Scoggins and Maggie Clark
RSVP: bill.scoggins@yahoo.com

Join us for an exploration into the audible world of the stream, woods, pond, and marsh of Garin Regional Park. Bring your "inside voice" and practice listening with us for the song of harder-to-see birds like Common Yellowthroat, for the buzz of newly-arrived Allen's and Rufous Hummingbirds, and for the distinctive melody of spring's Bullock's Orioles. Review the calls of old friends like Marsh Wren, Song Sparrow, American Coot, and Mallard. One familiar sound is the buzz of the mosquito - bring your insect repellent as well as sunblock. Heavy rain cancels. RSVP is required to the email address above. The trip will be limited to 10 participants only, and aimed at birding-by-ear beginners.

Directions: From I-880, go east on Tennyson or Industrial Parkway to Mission Blvd. in Hayward. Go south on Mission and turn left on Garin Ave. Go east up into the hills to reach the park. \$5 parking fee if the kiosk is staffed.

Sunol Regional Wilderness

Wednesday, April 13, 8:00am - 11:00am
Leaders: Vicki Robinson and
Mike Christopherson
vickirobinson@comcast.net

Join us for a chance to enjoy spring at one of our great regional parks, Sunol Regional Wilderness. We hope to find nesting activity near the foot bridge and visitor's center. Migration will be in full swing, so we'll also be on the lookout for migrants, like vireos, flycatchers, and warblers. Our route 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.

Directions: 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 and Yellow-billed Magpies along the road!) Pre-registration is not required, and all are welcome. Heavy rain cancels. Parking fee \$5 payable at kiosk; free to East Bay Parks annual pass holders

Pine Canyon, Walnut Creek

Saturday, April 23, 8:30am - noon
Leaders: Rich Nicholson and Bob Dunn
rsn711@yahoo.com

Enjoy a nice walk through oak woodlands in the Diablo foothills. Paved trails and moderate hills will give us a chance to see birds such as Cassin's Vireo, Rock and Canyon Wrens, and possibly nesting Peregrine Falcons. Scopes can be useful in certain areas, but they are not necessary. If time permits, we will visit the nearby Borges Ranch. Meet at the Diablo Foothills Staging Area parking lot (1700 Castle Rock Rd.) at 8:30 am

Directions: Take 680/24 to Ygnacio Valley Rd. Turn right onto Ygnacio and then turn right again at Walnut Ave. (NOT Walnut Blvd.). Follow Walnut Ave. to the turn circle and bear right onto Castle Rock Rd. Drive past the horse stables to Diablo Foothills parking area, 1700 Castle Rock Rd.

Mill Creek Road, Fremont

Sunday, April 24, 8:30am - noon
Leaders: Juli Chamberlin & Megan Jankowski
juli@cattywampus.net

Mill Creek Road is an underappreciated birding hotspot in Fremont. It parallels Mill Creek, which creates a rich riparian habitat that flows from Mission Peak. In late April, we hope to see migrants like Ash-throated Flycatcher, Cassin's Vireo, migrating warblers, as well as Rufous Hummingbird, and maybe even a Calliope Hummingbird. Resident Rufous-crowned Sparrow should be singing, and we'll likely hear the song of the recently arrived Grasshopper Sparrows, too. Lazuli Buntings and Black-headed Grosbeaks should be abundant and singing on their breeding territories. We'll walk about 1.5 - 2 miles on a paved road up the fairly gentle hill and then back again. (Directions next page)



Field trips continued on page 3



Field Trips continued

Mill Creek Directions: From 880 S, take Auto Mall Pkwy east, then get on 680 N for 2 miles, exit on Mission Blvd, turn right, then turn left on Mill Creek Rd after just a couple blocks. Park on the street near the corner of Mill Creek Rd and Linmore Dr. There are no restrooms, so be sure to stop at the McDonalds or a gas station on Mission Blvd beforehand to use the facilities

Mitchell Canyon, Mt. Diablo State Park
Saturday, May 14, 8:30am - noon
Leaders: Rich Nicholson and Bob Dunn
rsn711@yahoo.com

Enjoy an easy to moderate walk on a dirt road for a two to three mile round trip. Migration will be in full swing, so we'll be looking for flycatchers, thrushes, vireos, and warblers, in addition to the resident woodpeckers and raptors. Scopes can be useful, but they are not necessary. Lunch is optional as we recap the list after the walk.

Directions: Take SR-24 east or 680-north to Walnut Creek; exit at Ygnacio Valley Rd. Proceed east 8.5 miles to Clayton Rd; turn right. Drive one mile to Mitchell Canyon Rd.; turn right. At the end of the road, enter the park after paying the \$6 entry fee. Meet at the parking lot. Restrooms are available.

President's Corner



**Oriental Turtle Dove,
the bird that wasn't there**

If you follow the local rare bird alerts you heard that an **Oriental Turtle-Dove** was hanging around a yard in Palo Alto for the past month or so. The dove is native to Asia.

of which was “chase a rarity”. So I made my way over to Palo Alto, found the location where folks had been seeing the bird and waited patiently for 2 hours for it to make an appearance. Of course it never showed. So I re-learned a lesson on chasing rarities. Get there early. It is easier to spot a rare bird if you have 50 other birders helping you look for it.

On a down note, the USFWS will soon declare another eleven bird species extinct. In addition to finally throwing in the towel on the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, eight Hawaiian birds are on the list as are Bachman's Warbler, last confirmed sighting in the 1960s, and the Bridled White-eye on Guam. The number one threat to Hawaiian birds is avian malaria transmitted by non-native mosquitos. The last refuges of Hawaiian birds are the higher elevations where cooler temperatures prevent mosquitos surviving. The White-eye is still abundant on several islands of the Northern Marianas but the subspecies on Guam is extinct due to habitat loss and predation by the introduced Brown Tree Snake.

Introduced diseases, introduced species and habitat destruction, birds everywhere are having a tough time.

At first I thought it must be an escapee but others said, no, they are not part of the pet trade and although very far from home, it was in fact the third record for California in addition to other sightings in the Pacific Northwest. So then the internal debate began, did I want to drive all the way from Livermore to Palo Alto to try to see this bird. I hemmed and hawed for a few weeks until the reports of the bird fell off the rare bird reports. Then a couple of weeks ago there were new scattered reports on eBird and I remembered my List of new year's resolutions, one

- Bill Hoppes

BIRDING OBSERVATIONS

March 2022
By Vicki Robinson

Winter birds are still here but will soon be moving on as spring approaches.

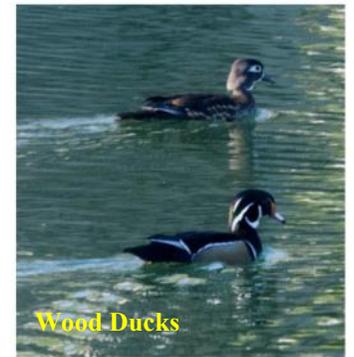


Oriental Turtle –Dove

The *mega-rarity* of the season was an **Oriental Turtle-Dove** seen in a backyard in Palo Alto. This Asian bird seen only a few times in California has attracted droves of birders from all over to see and photograph this unusual vagrant.

Our year-round residents are getting their breeding colors, building nests and finding mates.

Wood Ducks, which we missed on the Christmas Bird Count, are once again paired up and cruising Alameda Creek.



Wood Ducks

The **Bald Eagle** pair that had been seen at Quarry Lakes have built a nest at Ardenwood Farm and some behavior has been seen indicating that they might be tending at least one egg.



Scaly-breasted Munia

A **Scaly-breasted Munia** was seen at Lake Elizabeth collecting nesting material indicating we will have more babies this year.

Male **Red-winged Blackbirds** are staking out their territory in local marshes and calling for females to choose them.



Red-winged Blackbird (male)



Tree Swallow

Tree Swallows and **Western Bluebirds** have been finding mates and using wooden nest boxes to build nests and lay eggs. **Violet-green** and **Northern Rough-winged**

Swallows are building nests in tree cavities and cliff crevices. **Barn** and **Cliff Swallows** are building nests in man made structures like eaves and under bridges.



Allen's Hummingbird

Allen's Hummingbirds have arrived and can be seen at fountains and fighting with our year-round **Anna's Hummingbirds**. Similar to the **Allen's**, **Rufous Hummingbirds** will be soon passing through and stopping by on their way to breeding grounds north.

House Wrens are arriving and staking out nesting areas at Garin, Sunol and other parks.



House Wren

(All photos by Vicki Robinson, except Oriental Dove by Bob Toleno)

Conservation

Lawsuit on Aramis Solar Project in North Livermore goes to hearing

A lawsuit filed by Save North Livermore Valley, the Ohlone Audubon Society and the Friends of Open Space and Vineyards to overturn Alameda County’s approval of the 347-acre Aramis solar energy facility in North Livermore was scheduled for a March 15 hearing. Along with concerns about harm to the natural habitat and agricultural water supply, opponents of the utility-scale solar project say the supervisors should have found it inconsistent with Measure D, the East County Area Plan, and the General Plan’s Scenic Route and Open Space Elements.

WATCH FOR UPDATES ON AREA 4, NEWARK WETLANDS, AND TESLA!

Nominations 2022-2023

In accordance with the Bylaws of our organization, the slate of officers nominated for the upcoming year must be presented to the membership, followed by the election of officers to occur at the May monthly meeting. In view of the current situation, the slate of Officers for the Board of Directors 2022-2023 FY is listed below and members will be asked to vote “virtually” or by mail. Other board positions are appointed by the President.

Please send your vote (yea or nay) electronically via this link <https://forms.gle/Wh6cpuBGDBeE2H1t5> or via our Facebook page or via mail to 1922 Hillsdale St, Hayward, CA 94541.

Write-ins are also accepted. Please vote by May 31, 2022. Thank you.

Slate of Officers for FY 2022-2023

- President: Bill Hoppes
- Vice President: Marty Morrow
- Treasurer: Gail Ryujiin
- Recording Secretary: Kathy Robertson
- Corresponding Secretary: Jackie Bertillion
- Director at Large (2025) Dave Riensche

I accept the above slate of Officers Yea ___ Nay ___
Write in: _____



Have you responded yet????

We Want to Hear from You: Participate in our East Bay Trails Survey!

Right now the East Bay Regional Parks District is developing new trail policies and approaches that will shape the way we experience the trails in the East Bay Parks for years to come.

We believe that our members (you!) can provide valuable insight and feedback to assist the park district in making wise decisions during this critical time of park policymaking, and we have joined several partner organizations in developing a survey to gather our members' experience and feedback.

Please click here to participate in our East Bay Trails Survey!

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeh1NWozcKdxCiPUT-n7rJTii7hrJRRb-bM03yd0gR-71tLA/viewform>

It will take approximately 10 minutes to complete -- and will help us ensure that your voice is heard when it comes to the management of East Bay Parks trails across the Park District’s 125,000+ acres.

*Please note that this survey link is unique for Ohlone Audubon members, and we ask that you not share it beyond our membership at this time. Thank you!

ACTION ALERTS

Want to be included in our action alerts when items come up that need your help?
Please send an email to pagpeg@aol.com.
(We do not share contact information)

PLEASE CONSIDER AN ELECTRONIC KITE CALL!

We are urging members to switch over to an electronically issued *Kite Call* (but you don’t have to!)

The benefits are a cost savings to our chapter, in both printing costs and postage. Other benefits include getting it quicker and it is **much more colorful!!!!!!** See all of these beautiful photos in color! Also, note that links are live!

GO GREEN!

Send your request to pagpeg@aol.com

*New Members
and Renewals*



Mary Ashby
Carolyn Baranouskas
Barbara Benda
David & Rosa Bazzani
Linda Burns
Kimberly Clark-Fenk
Carol Drake
Diane Grubbe
Mike Hall
Jim Margrove
Patricia Joki
Helen Keating
Jeanette King
Ilyun Lazik
Audrey LePell

Siv S. Maharty
Kate Marchetti
Laurie Matthews
Jennifer Moran
Donna Nowell
Michael O'Brien
Maria Ochoa
Dave Riensche
Anna Rouse
Rita Sklar
Susan Steckler
Steve Taylor
John Tyler
Angela Zinn

Donations

Linda Burns
Diane Grubbe
Jim Hargrove
Patricia Joki

Laurie Matthews
Jennifer Moran
Mary Norton
Rita Sklar



Tis baby bird season!

Contacts for help when finding an abandoned baby bird (be sure it is abandoned!)

Lindsay Wildlife Museum <https://lindsaywildlife.org/found-animal/>

From **Ohlone Humane Wildlife Rehab Center:** FOR WILDLIFE EMERGENCIES, DO NOT LEAVE MESSAGES ON THE INFO LINE, EMAIL or FACEBOOK PAGE. Please contact our Wildlife Center directly at 510-797-9449. Messages will be checked frequently outside of our normal operating hours .

HELP Needed!

**Programs—
Zoom or in-person or BOTH!**



-or-



Many members have expressed an interest in continuing our zoom meeting format while others are waiting for our in-person return. Ideally, the hybrid would be perfect. This would entail having our in-person meetings, when safely to do so, as well as zooming the meeting at the same time.

We would love to do this, but we need help! None of us on the current board have the expertise or resources to accomplish this. We need your help!

Please send an email to our president if you can give us a hand. Bill Hoppes has details of what we need.
President@ohloneaudubon.org

Fingers crossed, we can do this and thank you for your help!



IS IT TIME TO RENEW?

Look at your mailing label - it will tell you. A "RENEW?" indicates that this is your last *Kite Call*! A **cmp** means you are chapter membership paid; a **nnmp** means you are a national member only and a "JOIN LOCAL?" on your label indicates that you have joined the National Audubon Society, but alas, **not** your local **Ohlone** chapter.

We would love to have you join us. If you receive your Kite Call electronically, look for a reminder in your email box. To renew or join us please send a \$25 check to :

Pat Gordon, Membership Chair, 1922 Hillsdale Street, Hayward, CA 94541 or thru PayPal on our website www.ohloneaudubon.org



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

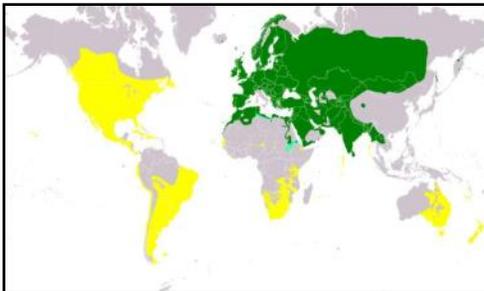
What is Happening to Our Least Favorite Birds

By Bill Hoppes

It seemed they were everywhere, making a mess, evicting native birds and taking over the birding world. Of course I am talking about House Sparrows and Starlings. These were everyone's least favorite birds and they were here by the millions. However over the past few years I and other birders have noticed that, for House Sparrows, at least, we hardly see them anymore. What happened? How did they get here, how did they grow to such numbers and why do they seem so rare now.



Two of our least favorite birds—the House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) on the left and the European Starling (*Sterna neglecta*) on the right.



Native range of the House Sparrow in green with its expanded range in yellow.

The House Sparrow is native to Eurasia, but beginning in the mid-1800s, often due to intentional releases, it spread around the globe. The first introductions in North America were eight pairs in New York City in the early 1850s. That set off a “sparrow fad” with people importing and releasing or capturing and releasing birds throughout the country. The initial “reason” for the releases was for insect control. However as in most such introductions, the benefits were questionable and the sparrows exploded in numbers across the nation.

House Sparrows are an aggressive species, nesting in any sort of cavity, often driving off native species. They eat a variety of foods ranging from insects to spilled grain, seed and even garbage. Just thirty years after their introduction, public sentiment had turned against the sparrows with many cities offering bounties on them. House Sparrows are virtually dependent on human habitation, particularly for food. They have been recorded to eat 830 different kinds of food and readily adapted to agricultural and urban practices that produced waste grains, vegetable and other food wastes. They breed in any sort of “cavity” such as rafters, gutters, eaves, vents, commercial signs, dense vines, or shrubs. At their peak in the 1940's, the population totaled 140 million birds.

However, by the 1960's biologists noticed that House Sparrow numbers were in decline in large parts of their range. According to the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, House Sparrow numbers in North America have declined by 85% since the 1960s. This is happening world wide. The Royal Society for Protection of Birds recently added the House Sparrow to its Red List (rapidly declining bird population of global conservation concern). In Great Britain, sparrow numbers have declined 53%, they are virtually extinct in the Netherlands, and major declines have been recorded in India.

(continued on page 7)

(continued from pg 7) What is going on? Bird populations, in general, are in decline. Audubon estimates that North America has lost 3 billion birds in the last 50 years. But why such steep declines in a hardy, adaptable bird like the House Sparrow? Researchers have proposed several causes.

- Reduced amounts of spilled grain products (fewer horses) in cities
- Less diverse farming practices with clean, monocultures and less ground cover around fields
- Livestock raised in confined conditions, resulting in less grain food.
- Increased air pollution in urban areas
- A decline in insects that sparrows use to feed their young

Whether it is for these or other reasons, House Sparrows are in decline worldwide and becoming rare locally.

The Situation with Starlings

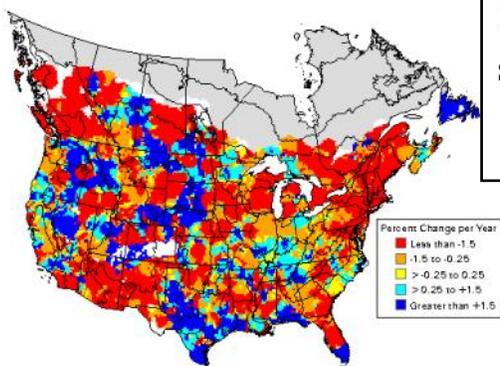


Although European Starlings are another of everyone’s least favorite birds, starling murmurations are one of the most wonderful sights in nature.

Starlings are also native to Eurasia and were introduced to the United States in the 1880s thanks to one Eugene Schieffelin according to a 2020 article by Tom Oder in **Treehugger** magazine. Schieffelin was a pharmacist in New York City and in 1877 was chairman of something called the American Acclimatization Society. The Society was founded in 1871 to introduce European flora and fauna to North America. Schieffelin was also a Shakespeare admirer and, although many historians dispute this, the story goes that he decided the group should introduce to North America all 60 birds mentioned in Shakespeare’s works. Some species Schieffelin's group brought to the US included the Sky Lark, Nightingale, Song Thrush, Common Chaffinch, and the European Starling. Shakespeare only mentioned starlings once, in Henry IV, Act 1, when Hotspur is rebelling against the king. Hotspur wants to get back at the ruler, so in the third scene, Shakespeare has him fantasize about teaching a starling to torment the King by saying the name of one of his highness's enemies, Mortimer.

“Nay, I’ll have a starling shall be taught to speak nothing but Mortimer and give it to him to keep his anger still in motion”

Starling numbers exploded in North America until they reached as high as 150 million birds. Even so, starlings numbers have dropped by more than half in the US in the last 50 years. This follows a similar pattern in Great Britain. Researchers believe that the drop in Starling numbers are due to the same causes as for House Sparrows.



Map showing changes in abundance of European Starlings in the US 1996-2016. Red is areas of decrease, blue areas of increase.



The Golden-breasted Starling of Africa. Why couldn’t Schieffelin have picked this one?

No one seems to be shedding any tears over the decline in numbers of these two species, But we will always have Rock Doves, but wait, some U.S. cities are reporting a drop in numbers of doves from 50-80% over the past 20 years. Birds are having a tough time all over.



Climate Change Impact on Birds of the Bay Art Show

Rita Sklar’s Art Show continues thru April 3 at the **Castro Valley Library** and moves to the **Hayward Public Library** April 4. This art show highlights the vanishing birds of the Bay Area and beyond by award-winning local artist (and Ohlone Member) Rita Sklar (www.ritasklar.com).

Rita Sklar’s wildlife paintings have been featured at the California State Building in Oakland, Lindsay Wildlife Museum, the Oakland Zoo, and Tilden Park Education Center. Ms. Sklar received a commission from the Alameda County Art Commission and two grants from the Oakland Cultural Arts Fund. Her paintings have been selected into national shows by acclaimed jurors. She has received over twenty-five awards for artistic excellence.



BRINGING BACK THE NATIVES GARDEN TOUR 2022



Online Tour: Saturday and Sunday, April 16 and 17 – Doug Tallamy will kick the event off again this year. Homes with native plant gardens and green home features will be showcased in this two-day long online event. **In-person Tour: Saturday and Sunday, April 30 (bayside) and May 1 (inland)** – Nearly 50 beautiful bird- and butterfly-friendly gardens will be open at various locations throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties over the course of one glorious week-end this is our first two-day in-person tour ever! In addition to the native plant gardens, about a dozen homes with green home features will be showcased.

Registration is Open -Registration for this year’s Tour is open now; just fill out the form at <https://www.bringingbackthenatives.net/registration> and you will be registered for all four days. While there is no required fee to register, a \$15 per person donation is requested to help cover the cost of coordinating these events.

Please help ensure the Tour’s continuation by donating generously; we are counting on your support. ***In addition to the requested \$15 per person for Tour attendance, please consider making a donation above and beyond that amount to help ensure the Tour runs in the black, and can continue on into the future.***

Payment can be made with your credit card or PayPal when you are registering, or checks can be mailed to: 1718 Hillcrest Road, San Pablo CA 94806 *Learn about Green Home Features!*

The City of Fremont and Washington Hospital are once again teaming up to host the annual

Go Green! Earth Day Community Event

Saturday, April 23rd from 11a.m. to 3 p.m.

Please note the event is being held at a new location.

The City of Fremont Downtown Event Center & Plaza at 3500 Capitol Avenue, Fremont, CA.



Rufous Hummingbird, Hayward 3/16/22 (P. Gordon)

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

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RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED



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

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2024: Vicki Robinson *Director2021@OhloneAudubon.org*

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WEBMASTER: L. Koenig *webmaster@OhloneAudubon.org*
WEBSITE: <http://OhloneAudubon.org>

Yes, I want to Join Ohlone Audubon Society!



Please sign me up today

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

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

Ohlone Audubon does not share our mailing list or your personal information with others.
National Audubon Society membership dues are separate from those of Ohlone Audubon Society.

Join Ohlone Audubon Society
By mailing a \$25 check payable
To OAS with this coupon to:

Pat Gordon
OAS Membership
1922 Hillside St.
Hayward, CA 94541