



# The Kite Call

## Ohlone Audubon Society, Inc.

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

### Calendar



- Nov 19 **FIELD TRIP**  
Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area
- Nov 26 **FIELD TRIP**  
Hayward Shoreline
- Dec 6 **GENERAL MEETING**  
(in-person!)  
Livermore  
**(NOTE TIME CHANGE)**
- Dec 8 **FIELD TRIP**  
Garin Regional Park
- Dec 18 **CBC**  
Hayward-Fremont
- Jan 3 **GENERAL MEETING**  
Via Zoom

### Membership Meetings



#### Holiday Cookie Exchange and Members' Photo Show

*(Note new time and location change!)*

Date: Tuesday, December 6, 2022  
Time: 7:00 PM  
Location: Livermore Library, 1188 South Livermore Avenue, Livermore

Come and join us once again in-person for our annual holiday cookie exchange and more! As in years' past, we are inviting members to bring ten of their favorite photo images slides to share. There are some great photographers in our group who we hope will share their photos, along with the rest of us! Everyone is invited to share their photos for an exciting evening. Please have your photos on a flash drive.

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

**Directions:** From I580 Take the North Livermore Ave exit and turn right heading south towards downtown. Stay on Livermore Ave (it will become South Livermore Ave) through downtown. After about 0.5 miles south of downtown and just after the intersection with College Ave the Livermore Public Library will be on your left. If you reach the stoplight at South Livermore Ave and Concannon you have gone too far.

*Pull into the parking lot. Once you come in the front entrance, make an immediate right and go to the end of the hallway. There is often a photography or other art exhibit along the hallway so enjoy. The meeting room is on your right at the end of the hallway.*

*Coming in January: JD Bergeron of International Bird Rescue  
January 3, 2023 via Zoom*

#### ZOOM MEETING INSTRUCTIONS:



Ohlone Audubon's General Membership meetings will continue to be online via Zoom for all meetings **except June and December**. Registration is needed for OAS's membership meetings. 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 meeting.)

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

# Field Trips



**CBC**  
**Sunday Dec 18, 2022**  
**Details pg 7**

**Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area**  
**Saturday, November 19, 8:30 – 11:30 AM**  
**Leader: Dave Riensche**  
**driensche@ebparks.org**

Join “Doc Quack” for some “fowl fun” in the shadow of California’s capital city, where over 100,000 waterfowl annually winter! The Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area is an Important Bird Area, supporting globally significant numbers of waterfowl, continentally significant numbers of Least Sandpipers and Northern Pintails, and nationally significant numbers of American White Pelican, Canvasback, and Dunlin. More than 200 bird species have been recorded here, so bring your scope!

**Directions:** To reach the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area from the Bay Area, take Interstate 80 East toward Sacramento. Exit the freeway at East Chiles Road/Exit 78 (also known as Road 32B). Turn left and travel roughly 0.2 miles (east) to the packed gravel access road and follow it up to the top of the levee berm. Here you will make a left turn through the gate and follow the road into the Wildlife Area. Meet in the packed gravel lot at the beginning of the Auto Tour Route.

**Hayward Regional Shoreline:**  
**Longspurs and Shorebirds**  
**Saturday November 26 8:00am - noon**  
**Leaders: Bob Toleno & Juli Chamberlin**  
**birding@toleno.com**

November is the best month to try and see longspurs in Alameda County. We'll start this trip walking around the damp shortgrass of Mount Trashmore searching for Lapland Longspurs (or possibly other longspurs), as well as pipits, geese, sparrows, and larks. When we've had our fill of grassland birds,

**Hayward Shoreline (continued):**

we'll head over to Frank's Dump where high tide should push lots of shorebirds up into the roost. If we're extra lucky, we might see a Short-eared or Burrowing Owl. Rain cancels.

**Directions:** Exit I-880 at Winton Ave. and head west all the way to the end. Meet at the paved parking lot inside the gate (not the dirt lot outside the gate). A restroom is available at that lot. Pre-registration is not required, and all are welcome.

**Garin Regional Park**  
**Thursday December 8 9:00am - noon**  
**Leaders: Vicki Robinson and Bob Toleno**  
**bob@toleno.com**

Garin in late fall is quieter than springtime with a different complement of birds. We'll spend our morning looking for wintering sparrows, warblers, thrushes, and woodpeckers. Wintering waterfowl might also be present on the pond. Be prepared for cold or even light rain. Heavy rain cancels. All are welcome, and pre-registration is not required.

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

## COMING IN 2023—SAVE THE DATES!

**Jan 21—MLK, Arrowhead and New Marsh with Dave Riensche and Maggie Clark**

**Feb 19—Colusa Wildlife Refuge with Dave Riensche**



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Find us by doing a Facebook search for Ohlone Audubon Society



# BIRDING OBSERVATIONS

## Fall—Winter 2022

By Vicki Robinson

Fall migration is in full swing now with our backyard sparrows and common winter birds visiting our feeders and fountains. We welcome home the **White-crown, Golden-crown** and **Lincoln's Sparrows** along with the occasional **White-throated Sparrow**. Also, **Hermit Thrushes, Fox Sparrows** and **Ruby-crowned Kinglet's** have found their way back to us. And of course, the **Yellow-rumped Warblers, Audubon** and **Myrtle**, are back most everywhere.



Clay-colored Sparrow

Other Sparrows just passing thru including **Clay-colored, Brewer's** and **Vesper Sparrows** have been seen at various places. A **Swamp Sparrow** has been seen at Lake Temescal.



Summer Tanager

Bill Chen at Gomes Park continued his rare bird finding streak with a bright red **Summer Tanager**, and at Lake Elizabeth, he found a **Cattle Egret**.



Cattle Egret

This has been a great year for warbler migration. A **Northern Parula** stopped by my backyard in Fremont. **Nashville, Tennessee,** and **Hermit Warblers** were seen at Lake Elizabeth. An **American Redstart** was seen at Live Oak Park in Berkeley. A little further away a **Black-throated Blue Warbler** gave great looks at Point San Bruno. And further down the road, a beautiful **Yellow-throated Warbler** was found at Pigeon Point, San Mateo county.



Northern Parula

**Greater White-fronted Geese** and a **Cackling Goose** are enjoying Lake Elizabeth along with the many **Canada Geese**.



Yellow-throated Warbler

Our winter ducks are returning in large numbers To freshwater ponds, marshes and sheltered salt water, including **Northern Shovelers, Northern Pintails, Bufflehead, Cinnamon Teals, Green-winged Teals, American Wigeon.**



Greater White-fronted Goose

**Red-breasted Sapsuckers** have returned to spend the winter with us. Keep your eyes open for possible **Yellow-bellied, Red-naped** or hybrid Sapsuckers.



Red-breasted Sapsucker

**Lewis's Woodpeckers** have been checking things out at Brushy Peak Regional Park. Will they settle down there? It's been an irruptive year for them.



Lewis' Woodpecker

The most exciting bird of the year so far, was a never before seen in the Lower 40 states **Willow Warbler**. It was seen at Rodeo Lagoon in Marin County. Hundreds of birders from around the country came to see this once in a lifetime mega rarity. The **Willow Warbler** breeds in Northern Europe and Siberia and winters in Africa. How it got here? We don't know. (All photos by V. Robinson)

# President's Corner

## November 2022

-Bill Hoppes

I am a big fan of birding festivals. With COVID, many festivals have been cancelled or gone virtual the past couple of years. Now they are coming back live. As you are reading this, T and I will have just gotten back from one of my favorite festivals, the Lodi Sandhill Crane Festival. Here are some other good ones coming up in our area over the next few months.

- Morro Bay Bird Festival January 16-13, Morro Bay, California*
- Snow Goose Festival of the Pacific Flyway January 26-29 Chico California*
- 27th Annual San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival February 11-13, Vallejo, California*
- San Diego Bird Festival February 22 San Diego, California*

If you still prefer a virtual festival, you still have some choices such as Point Reyes Birding and Nature Festival April 21-23. You can find more info online. If you have never been to a festival before, give one a try, You will have a blast.

Continuing on my New Years birding resolutions, I recently received a two-fer. I had been to Gomes Park in Fremont three times looking for the Scaly-breasted Munia, an introduced species from Southern Asia. It was close to becoming a nemesis bird. Ohlone was having a field trip to Gomes Park, so I figured many eyes were better than two. With help from my fellow birders, I got several good looks. eBird still considers the Munia a rare species, so I counted it against “get a nemesis bird” and “chase a rarity” and it was also a life-bird. As a bonus, we spotted a Summer Tanager, another rarity, on the same trip.



Streak-breasted Munia, a two-fer

Finally I hope those of you who use eBird realize what a massive project this is. eBird staff are currently going through a massive taxonomy update. That means reviewing over 1 Billion (that’s billion with a B) bird records updating them to match current taxonomy. The update, which is worldwide, includes 5 newly described species, 118 new species gained through “splits” of one species into two or more, and 41 species lost through “lumps”. This resulted in a net gain of 82 species to the global list of 10,906 species. There are many other changes to scientific names. What are the five new species?



- New Caledonian Storm Petrel (off the coast of eastern Australia)
- Meratus White-eye (southeastern Borneo)
- Meratus Blue Flycatcher (southeastern Borneo)
- Ruvu Weaver (eastern Tanzania)
- Inti Tanager (the Andes of Peru and Bolivia)

Looks like serious travel is called for !

Inti Tanager of Peru and Bolivia, the closest new species to us.

### Bird Food Safety!



As when purchasing any bird food product, check for freshness. A couple of members reported finding mold in mealworm blocks purchased recently from large box store.

### Mystery Bird?



Sent it to us by Angela and Eric Korpela, from their Castro Valley backyard feeder.

Best guess? Leucistic White – crowned Sparrow?

## Conservation

### Update on Altamont Pass Windmills and Golden Eagles

Some months ago, I provided a review of the situation involving Golden Eagles and windpower development in the Altamont. It is time for an update. First a short recap. Much of this updated information comes from Mike Lynnes of California State Audubon who has done exceptional work on this issue.

The Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area (APWRA), which encompasses the Altamont in Alameda County, is one of the oldest and largest wind farms in the United States. Unfortunately, it is also one of the deadliest for birds and bats and has the highest numbers and rates of raptor kills of any wind facility in the world. After years of high mortality, Audubon lead other conservation organizations and with them started legal action and in 2010 reached an agreement with the wind power companies and Alameda County to implement a program through a 2014 Program Environment Impact Report (PEIR) to “avoid and minimize impacts on avian wildlife caused by re-powered wind turbine construction, operations and maintenance”. The expectation was that raptor fatalities would significantly decline. As I pointed out back in 2020, the opposite has occurred. Golden Eagle, raptors, bats, and other bird mortality is higher than ever. The PEIR established a APWRA-wide threshold for Golden Eagle mortality not to exceed 18 Golden Eagles per year. Today, with only half of the APWRA repowering projects approved, the APWRA wind farms are already killing over 20 Golden Eagles per year.

Despite the fact that none of the commitments made in the settlement agreement have been achieved, Alameda County approved yet another massive wind power project (MulQueeney Ranch) for the Altamont. This was without guidance from the County’s own Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), an entity including the State and Federal wildlife agencies, established to help the County guide wind power development in the APWRA.

In response, State and National Audubon and four local Audubon Chapters (Ohlone, Golden Gate, Mount Diablo, and Santa Clara) filed a CEQA challenge to the county approval of the MulQueeney Ranch Project, alleging that the county failed to conduct an adequate environmental review.



Since then, the County has been “preparing the record” prior to going to court. This process can take up to a year. During that time, the Court expects the parties to get together and see if a settlement can be reached. That is what we have been doing. Audubon and its attorneys have met, via conference call, several times with the applicant and sometimes, the County, to see if an agreement could be reached that would allow the project to proceed and reduce Golden Eagle and wildlife deaths in accord with the commitments the County made in the PEIR. I would characterize the results of these meetings as a “narrowing of the issues”. Through this process, we better understand the priorities of the applicant and we have been able to present our concerns to them. I can’t say they have moved us significantly towards an agreement.

During this period, the County’s TAC came out with its recommendations concerning the MulQueeney Project. This information should have been made available to the Alameda County of Board of Supervisors prior to their making a decision on this project. Unfortunately, the Board of Supervisors went forward without this guidance. The TAC recommended significant changes in the project, focusing on a reduction and relocation of a number of turbines and enhanced protections for other wildlife, especially bats. Audubon’s position has always been that if the County would adopt the recommendations of the TAC, we would be satisfied. The TAC’s recommendations went to the County Planning Department which rejected every one and allowed the project to go forward without change. *(continued page 6)*

*Conservation (continued)*



This is where we are today, facing a long legal battle. For Ohlone, there are two issues. First is the MulQueeney Project itself and getting the applicant to make the necessary changes to reduce killing Golden Eagles and other wildlife. Second, and more fundamental, is to change the behavior of the Alameda County Planning Department and Board of

Supervisors towards these projects. Many more wind power projects will come to the Altamont. We can't battle them all. The Alameda County Board of

Supervisors must change its stewardship of the APWRA so that it comes in line with the commitments they made in the original settlement agreement and PEIR, and follows the recommendations of the County's own Technical Advisory Committee. Responsible wind power development is possible in the APWRA, but not the way the County is currently going about it.

Your Ohlone Board is fully committed to this fight. We will keep you apprised of events as they happen in the *Kite Call*. One last note, attorneys are not free. Ohlone has made a substantial financial commitment to the Altamont Golden Eagles. Soon, you will receive, in the mail, our annual fundraising appeal. If you agree with the work Ohlone is doing in the Altamont, I hope you will make a donation to support this and our other efforts to protect birds and their habitat.

*-Bill Hoppes*



### *New Members and Renewals*

*Kim Brink  
John Cant  
Charles Connelly  
Martha Claassen  
Denise Dugas (gift from Kenneth Athey)  
Sara Jane Frisbee  
Georgeann Hardy  
John S. Sack  
Carol Schneider  
Terry Spaggins  
Reva Srinivasan*

### *Donations*

*Kim Brink  
Mary Norton  
Carol Schneider  
Terry Spaggins  
Reva Srinivasan*

**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 [pagepeg@aol.com](mailto:pagepeg@aol.com)

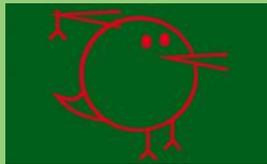


### IS IT TIME TO RENEW?

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 Hillside Street, Hayward, CA 94541 or thru PayPal on our website [www.ohloneaudubon.org](http://www.ohloneaudubon.org)



**CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT** *Hayward-Fremont**Sunday, December 18, 2022*

Last year was a most successful count, in spite of covid concerns again. Our teams, totaling 79 participants, found 175 species and 94,412 individuals. Let's do it again **and meet in person** at the end of the day to share and eat! Just about all our past leaders have graciously agreed to lead their respective areas again, with a couple of changes. But, as always more help is welcomed. All birding skills levels are needed.

As in past years, we are also encouraging feeder counters. Involve your family and neighbors! If you would like to participate as a feeder counter, please contact us with your address and we will let you know if your home is in the count circle. Data, including species seen and numbers along with hours watched, can be submitted to [pagpeg@aol.com](mailto:pagpeg@aol.com).

Dinner is served! Our in-person catered dinner will be held at the Math-Science Nucleus at 4074 Eggers Drive, Fremont, which will open at 5pm, with dinner served at 6PM (Directions below)

***We have been successful in years past and need your help to be successful once more.*** Remember, this is Citizen Science of the highest degree. It must be stressed that our success in securing the important, basic scientific accuracy of the count hinges on coverage and consistency (participants - you!). The count benefits from the hard work of our 17 section leaders, and participation of each person who carries out the necessary jobs.

Want to help? Contact us at Phil and Pat Gordon, [pagpeg@aol.com](mailto:pagpeg@aol.com), or call 510-538-3550.

***Directions for Children's Natural History Museum, Math-Science Nucleus: 4074 Eggers Avenue, Fremont 94536 (corner of Fremont Blvd, across street from Washington HS, north of Mowry (Doors open at 5:00PM, dinner at 6:00PM. Everyone should bring their own utensils, cups and plates***

Some fun Ohlone Audubon History:

**“Conservationists Scan the Sky”** from *Hayward Daily Review*, Sunday March 19th, 1967

Bird watching is only part of the story. The Ohlone Chapter of the National Audubon Society is interested in all phases of conservation from the Bay fill to preservation of the Ohlone Indians' burial grounds. The Chapter takes its name from the Indian Tribe that used to populate this area before the advent of the white man.

Mrs. Gladly Conklin, author and naturalist who has retired as children's librarian at the Hayward Public Library, is president of the newly formed Audubon Society chapter. The chapter is less than a year old and has been operating on a temporary charter from the National Society. Now it has grown to more than 50 members and expects to receive a permanent charter soon. The National Audubon Society is the oldest and largest group that works for conservation in this country, Mrs. Conklin said.

All the events of the club are open to the public and persons interested in any phase of conservation are invited to attend the meetings and go on field trips with the group. It meets on the first Tuesday of each month at the Meekes Estate and takes frequent field trips throughout the area.

Last December the club participated in the annual bird census which is conducted by the Audubon Society throughout the United States. Each chapter of the national organization is assigned the task of taking a census of birds in their respective areas over a specific period of time. The census provides information on migrations and type of birds which are in various areas of the country.

“Although bird watching is important, it is really only one of the aspects of the club's conservation activities,” Mrs. Conklin said. The Ohlone chapter covers Hayward, San Leandro, Castro Valley, Fremont, Livermore, Pleasanton, Union City, Newark, and the Sunol area. “Participation from all of these areas is encouraged. Field trips are apt to move into any of these areas and projects may be brought from any of these areas,” Mrs. Conklin said.

Serving as officers in the club with Mrs. Conklin are Banning Fenton, vice-president, now president-elect; Virginia Thompson, Secretary; Juanita Christensen, treasurer; Agnes Salaber is membership chairman; Dr. Howard Cogswell is a director at large, and Philip Gordon is field trip chairman.

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OHLONE AUDUBON SOCIETY  
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**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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2023: Dr. Marlina Selva *Director2023@OhloneAudubon.org*  
2024: Vicki Robinson *Director2021@OhloneAudubon.org*

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**WEBSITE:** <http://OhloneAudubon.org>

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



Please sign me up today

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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