



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

- May 20 FIELD TRIP
Niles Hot Spots
- June 4 FIELD TRIP
Reinhardt Redwood Pk
- June 7 FIELD TRIP
Bort Meadow
- June 9 ANNUAL POTLUCK
Lake Chabot
- June 12 FIELD TRIP
Tern Town
Hayward Shoreline

Membership Meeting



**Annual Potluck Picnic
Installation of Officers
Date: June 9, 2026**

**(NOTE THIS IS THE 2ND
TUESDAY OF THE MONTH)**

Bird Walk: 4PM Setup: 5PM Dinner: 6PM

**Location: Lake Chabot Regional Park, Group picnic area
near restrooms, 17600 Lake Chabot Road, Castro Valley**

Our annual meeting dinner will take place outdoors with a potluck picnic, (in-person!) with us flocking together at Lake Chabot Regional Park in Castro Valley. Time to catch up with fellow members about birds, happenings, or life, over delicious food. We will also be installing our new Board of Directors for FY 2026-27.

Come early—Kathy Robertson will lead a bird walk beforehand. Please bring your own table service, utensils, and a dish to share (about 10 to 12 servings) **Last names: A-G:** entrée, vegetable or side dish; **H-O:** dessert; **P-Z:** salad. Beverages will be supplied, courtesy of OAS. (Visitors are requested to refrain from alcoholic beverages in the park).

Directions: In Castro Valley on I-580 westbound, take the Strobridge Avenue exit. Turn right on Strobridge, right on Castro Valley Blvd. and left on Lake Chabot Road. The Lake Chabot Marina is about two miles ahead on the right. In Castro Valley on I-580 eastbound, exit at Redwood Rd and go left, go left at Castro Valley Boulevard, right at Lake Chabot Rd, and follow the directions above. From I-580 in San Leandro, exit at Fairmont Drive and go east (uphill). The marina entrance will be to the left at the bottom of the hill. (Parking fee/EBRPD pass)

**NO MEETINGS
IN JULY OR AUGUST**

**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!

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



Field Trips

Niles Hotspots

Wednesday, May 20, 9:00am - noon

Leaders: Kathy Robertson & Karen Kramer

Sierra Weekend trip—

CANCELLED

June 20-21, 2026 Yuba Pass & Sierra Valley

We will visit several birding spots in the Niles area, along the Alameda Creek channel and adjacent riparian areas, in the hopes of seeing spring migrants and nesting birds, including orioles, warblers, and waterfowl. Heavy rain cancels. Meet at Niles Community Park, 37671 3rd Street, Fremont. Sign up at <https://ohloneaudubon.org/upcoming-events/field-trips/>

Directions: To reach the park from I-880, take Decoto Rd. northeast about 2 miles. Turn right on Alvarado Niles Blvd. and stay on it for about 2.5 miles (it becomes Niles Blvd.) Turn right on H Street. The park is at the end of H Street. From I-680, take Niles Canyon Rd. (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 Street. The park is at the end of H Street. From Mission Blvd. north or south, turn onto Niles Blvd. and follow directions above.

CALIFORNIA BIRD ATLAS BIG WEEKEND - JUNE 4 -7, 2026

California is undertaking its very first statewide breeding bird atlas from 2026 thru 2030, and Ohlone Audubon Society is one of the founding partners. To help promote this massive effort, from June 4 thru 7, partner organizations will be hosting field trips and educational events. OAS will be providing two field trips during this period, looking for breeding birds, and educating birders about why the atlas is so important for science and conservation.

Reinhardt Redwood Regional Park

Thursday, June 4, 9:00am - noon

Leader: Bob Toleno

The willows along the creek that runs through the canyon at RRRP provides rich nesting habitat for many species, including Wilson's Warbler, Western Warbling Vireo, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Pacific Wren. We'll walk about 1.5 miles along a gently sloping trail that follows the creek. This trip is part of the California Bird Atlas Big Weekend event, so our focus will be on detecting nesting birds. The trip is limited to 20 participants; reserve your spot at <https://ohloneaudubon.org/upcoming-events/field-trips/>

Directions: Take I-580 W toward Oakland to Hwy 13 toward Berkeley. Take Exit 1 toward Redwood Rd, continue straight at the stop sign onto Mountain Blvd, then make a right onto Redwood Rd. Continue up over the hill about 4 miles and make a left into the park. Drive all the way to the last parking lot, Canyon Meadow Staging Area, where we'll meet.

Bort Meadow, Anthony Chabot Regional Park

Sunday, June 7, 8:30am - noon

Leader: Kate Reed

The hills of Anthony Chabot Regional Park are diverse and rich breeding habitat for many species, including Ash-throated Flycatcher, California Thrasher, Wrentit, and Orange-crowned Warbler. We'll walk about 1.5 - 2 miles on some hilly trails through riparian areas, oak woodland, and chaparral. This trip is part of the California Bird Atlas Big Weekend event, so our focus will be on detecting nesting birds. The trip is limited to 20 participants; reserve your spot at <https://ohloneaudubon.org/upcoming-events/field-trips/>

Directions: Take I-580 W toward Oakland to Hwy 13 toward Berkeley. Take Exit 1 toward Redwood Rd, continue straight at the stop sign onto Mountain Blvd, then make a right onto Redwood Rd. Continue up over the hill about 5.5 miles and park in the lot for Bort Meadow Staging Area.

(Field Trips Continued)

**Behind the Scenes at “Tern Town” –
Hayward Regional Shoreline Interpretive Center
Friday, June 12, 8:00am - 10:30am
Leaders: David “Doc Quack” Riensche & Maggie Clark**

Join us for a behind-the-gates tour at the Hayward Shoreline. We will have an opportunity to see nesting California Least Tern, Western Snowy Plovers, and Black Skimmers. We may see migrating Black Terns and numerous other summer shorebirds. Scopes will be essential as we will want to minimize disturbances to nesters. We will have to go in together, so be sure to arrive on time. The trip is limited to 20 participants; reserve your spot at <https://ohloneaudubon.org/upcoming-events/field-trips/>

Directions: From I-880 in Hayward, exit onto Hwy 92 West toward the San Mateo Bridge, then take the Clawiter Road/Eden Landing Road exit. Go straight through the light (do not turn onto Clawiter). Make the first left onto Breakwater Avenue. Turn left to stay on Breakwater Avenue. Go all the way to the end of the street and park near the Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center.

Ed note: Be sure to see info on Dave’s article on Black Skimmers following

Recent Publication on Black Skimmers:

The link to the article : https://wwjournal.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2025/07/Riensche_Elliott_WW_2025.pdf

**BLACK SKIMMER (*RYNCHOPS NIGER*) NESTING SUCCESS TRENDS
ALONG THE EASTERN SHORE OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY, CALIFORNIA**

DAVID L. RIENSCHÉ^{1,3} AND MEREDITH L. ELLIOTT²

¹East Bay Regional Park District, 2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, California 94605

²Point Blue Conservation Science, 3820 Cypress Drive #11, Petaluma, California 94954

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Abstract.—The Black Skimmer (*Rynchops niger*), a distinctive colonial waterbird species, is listed as a California Species of Special Concern. Factors affecting their breeding population include limited suitable open nesting habitat, human disturbance, varied food availability, predation (feral animals and gulls), extreme weather, and environmental pollutants. Typically, islet-breeding skimmers are in close proximity to nesting tern species, which provide early warning and defensive behaviors against intruders.

Since 2001, the East Bay Regional Park District, California, has been working to establish and enhance a California Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum browni*) colony at Hayward Regional Shoreline located along the eastern shore of San Francisco Bay. In the efforts to assist in the recovery of this state and federally listed endangered species, it resulted in the attraction of breeding Black Skimmers to the site in 2015. For a total of eight breeding seasons between 2015 and 2024, the Black Skimmer has nested successfully, with 90% of nests hatching at least one egg; fledging success was 1.56 fledglings produced per breeding pair. During this same 10-year period, the endangered California Least Tern, and the threatened Western Snowy Plover (*Anarhynchus nivosus nivosus*), American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*), and Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) have also nested successfully at this location. The results presented on Black Skimmer breeding chronology, hatching, fledging success, and diet in the northern portion of the species range answers data gaps that may help inform future research, protection, and management measures for this special status bird.

BIRDING OBSERVATIONS

SPRING 2026

By Bob Toleno

*WE WELCOME BOB AS OUR NEW BIRDING OBSERVATIONS EDITOR
(AND GREAT PHOTOGRAPHER!)*

Late March and early April saw our early migrants — birds like **Cliff Swallow**, **Violet-green Swallow**, **Bullock's Oriole**, and **Northern House Wren** — arriving and establishing breeding territories. Local resident species, like **Hutton's Vireo**, **Lark Sparrow**, **Chestnut-backed Chickadee**, and **Dark-eyed Junco** were already nesting at this time.

Wintering shorebirds, like **Western Sandpiper**, **Black-bellied Plover**, and **Surfbird** are molting into their beautiful breeding plumage and fattening up for the long migration to the arctic, where they nest. By late April, spring migration is in full swing, and a massive push of migrants came through at the end of March, including **Western Tanager**, **Hermit Warbler**, **Cassin's Vireo**, **Calliope Hummingbird**, **Blue Grosbeak**, and **Hammond's Flycatcher**. Some of these will stay to nest in the area, while some will continue further north.

A few interesting rarities also showed up during the month of April. A **Solitary Sandpiper** was found at Don Castro, a **Vermilion Flycatcher** at Alameda Creek Staging Area, a **Tufted Duck** in San Leandro Bay, and a **Costa's Hummingbird** on Mines Road. A **Pileated Woodpecker** continues drumming on the shed near the visitor center in Sunol Regional Park. More **Common Murres** are being seen in the Bay, also, probably a consequence of the record-setting marine heat wave offshore.



1. Cliff Swallow -4/15, Don Edwards NWR
2. Blue Grosbeak-4/19, Hollister, CA
3. Vermilion Flycatcher-4/26, Alameda Creek
4. Violet -green Swallow-4/2, Sunol Reg WA
5. Cassin's Vireo-4/29, Sunol Reg WA
6. Lark Sparrow- 4/2, Sunol RP
7. Hermit Warbler-4/30, Mendenhall Road
8. No. House Wren -4/16, Lake Del Valle
9. Bullock's Oriole-4/2, Sunol
10. Pileated Woodpecker-4/2, Sunol Reg WA
11. Hammond's Flycatcher-4/2, Sunol RP
12. Tufted Duck-4/13, San Leandro Bay
13. Common Murre-4/14, Brickyard Cove
14. Surfbird-4/14, Brickyard Cove
15. Solitary Sandpiper-4/17, Don Castro RP

All photos by B. Toleno

President's Corner

Bill Hoppes

I was bird banding out at Coyote Creek last week, and we caught a great bird, a White-throated Sparrow. One of the other banders asked what stripe it was. That was something new to me, so I looked it up and learned a great story. The White-throated Sparrow shows one of the most interesting plumage variations among North American birds—its head stripes come in two distinct color morphs:

White-striped morph

Bold **black-and-white crown stripes** (this is the morph we netted)
Bright, crisp contrast
Often shows bright yellow lores (the spot between the eye and bill)
Tends to be more aggressive and territorial

Tan-striped morph

Softer **brown-and-tan crown stripes**
Overall more muted appearance
Also has yellow lores, but the head pattern looks less striking
Typically less aggressive, exhibits more parental behavior

Why this matters

These stripe differences aren't just cosmetic—they're tied to genetics and behavior:

- White-striped birds usually pair with tan-striped birds
- The pairing helps balance aggression and parental care
- **White-striped birds:** more aggressive, more likely to sing and defend territory
- **Tan-striped birds:** less aggressive, more focused on nesting and care.



White-throated Sparrows, white striped above and tan striped below

So, the stripes help birds quickly assess each other—who's likely to fight and defend the nest, who's likely to invest in raising young. And this isn't based on the sex of the bird; you can't sex them based on stripe color. Males are just as likely to be tan-striped or white-striped. The same goes for females.

Genetic basis (a "supergene")

The stripe difference is controlled by a large block of linked genes (often called a supergene): It bundles together traits like plumage color, hormone levels, and behavior; Because it's inherited as a unit, the color morph reliably signals behavior.

Bottom line

The stripes function as a built-in social ID system—they advertise behavior, guide mate choice, and help organize roles within pairs. It's one of the clearest examples in birds of plumage tied directly to personality and genetics. I am just amazed by how much there is to learn about the birds around us.

Now on to the want ad. We have an important position that needs to be filled - **Program Chair**. This is the person who organizes the great programs for our membership meetings. Don't be intimidated—this job is pretty straightforward. First, you need to find speakers. This is easier than it seems. You look to see what other chapters are doing; you may see a great speaker at a festival; or members may recommend a speaker to you. It is a great way to learn what other chapters are doing. Then, you get the speaker's contact info, share that with our Treasurer, and recruit them. Most speakers are eager. You will need to get some background info and write up a brief article for the Kite Call. Then, stay in touch with them and make sure they have the info to access for a Zoom invite for the general meeting. All speakers are very familiar with this process. Then, if you can, introduce the speaker at the meeting. There are several of us who have done this and you will get tons of help. Contact me at [President at OhloneAudubon.org](mailto:President@OhloneAudubon.org)

Conservation

East County Conservation

Major Battery Facility Planned for East County

A proposed grid-scale battery project has been proposed for eastern Alameda County. Proposed by Clearway Energy Group LLC, the Potentia-Viridi Battery Energy Storage System would add some 3,200 mega-watt-hours of battery storage to the grid.

Located on a 236-acre parcel west of the Tesla Substation on Patterson Pass Road near the county's eastern border, the 102-acre project proposes to build a battery system, substation, power-conversion system and generation-intertie line that connects to the grid through the existing Tesla Substation. The system would store energy when power generation is plentiful and feed it back to the grid when generation is scarce. The project's draft environmental impact report found that the project would degrade the quality of public views at the site and also impact special status wildlife, such as the California Tiger Salamander, California Red-legged frog, and Golden Eagle. A take authorization to destroy those animals'

habitats will be required. The California Energy Commission (CEC) staff recommended that the commission move forward with the project, concluding that, although there are significant and unavoidable impacts to visual resources and wildlife, the project provides regional economic benefits, construction and engineering jobs, grid reliability benefits, support for California's renewable-energy and greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. As part of the CEC's community-benefits requirement, Clearway entered into an agreement with Tri-Valley Haven last October, providing funding over 15 years to assist those experiencing homelessness, sexual-assault survivors, and victims of domestic-abuse violence. CEC commissioners plan to make a formal decision on the project at their May 26 meeting. If approved, construction would start in the spring of 2027, with commercial operation beginning late 2028.

-Bill Hoppes

Important Update on Skywest

The Hayward City Council still has plans to redevelop the former 126-acre Skywest Golf Course. Since their closed session meeting on March 17, no final decisions have been announced by the City of Hayward regarding the proposed development of an industrial business center and airport expansion at Skywest. Since the end of April, the large pond that serves as the home for the Western Pond Turtle has been drying up. The pond is nearly empty and needs to be refilled and not be drained anymore.

Ohlone Audubon Society (OAS) has continued to coordinate with the grassroots organization Save Skywest in efforts to preserve the open space of this former golf course that closed its doors in September 2020. Over 130 species of birds have been reported here. It also serves as a refuge for migrating Monarch Butterflies and home to the Western Pond Turtle. Development of this open space would destroy the wildlife habitat, contribute to the urban heat island effect, and exacerbate climate change.

Members of OAS and the public can send letters of support of open space to decision makers. These entities include Hayward City Council, Hayward Area Recreation and Park District (HARD), and East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD).

The public can also provide comments to City of Hayward on how much the unique open space known as Skywest means to its community. Phone calls, letters, and statements during open public comment periods can be made at Hayward City Council meetings. The City of Hayward website contains a calendar of the meeting dates that can be attended both in-person and remotely on a Zoom link or telephone.

-Marlina Selva

For more information please contact the Save Skywest grassroots organization to learn more:
SAVESKYWEST@GMAIL.COM to join the coalition, receive updates, and sign up for tours of SkyWest.

Facebook account: **<https://m.facebook.com/soskywest/>**

To sign the petition to Save Skywest, click on the link:

<https://www.change.org/p/save-skywest-as-open-space-in-the-city-of-hayward-from-destruction>



SAD NOTE IN PASSING

We offer our heartfelt condolences to the family of Deborah Pan, who recently passed. Remembering her sweet presence on so many field trips and meetings.

New and Renewing Members

*Anonymous
Rosa Bazzani
Beverly Claiborne
Val Dowla
Daniel Koning*

*Nick Kooy
Jillian Kwan-Jacobs
Susan MacLean*

*Paul McCollum
Heidi Miller
Maureen Oakes
Eileen Riach
Anne Ronan*

*Elle & Dave Scandling
Carlos Stahlhut*

We thank each of you for your invaluable support—whether renewing, donating, or joining us this year. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Samantha Swatling-Holcomb

Donations

*Anonymous
Juli Chamberlin
Leslie Koenig*

*Daniel Koning
Carlos Stahlhut*

Mergansers

By Bill Hoppes

I haven't done an article on bird ID in a while, so I decided to do one on mergansers. By the way, "merganser" comes from the Latin "mergus" meaning diver, and "anser" meaning goose. That's a pretty cool combination. Mergansers are among the most distinctive ducks in North America—sleek, fish-eating specialists with narrow, serrated bills and a tendency to keep a bit more distance from people than dabbling ducks, like Mallards and Pintails. Three species are regularly encountered in our area: the Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, and Hooded Merganser. At first glance, they can seem confusingly similar, especially in nonbreeding plumage or at a distance. But with attention to shape, behavior, habitat, and especially the differences between males and females, they become much easier to identify.

The Merganser "Look"

All mergansers share a few key traits. Their bills are long, thin, and slightly hooked at the tip—adaptations for catching fish. Unlike the broad, flat bills of dabbling ducks, merganser bills often look almost like a cormorant's in miniature. They also tend to have streamlined bodies, long necks, and a habit of sitting low in the water. When they fly, they appear fast and direct, with rapid wingbeats.

Another shared trait is their diving behavior. Mergansers pursue fish underwater, often disappearing for several seconds before resurfacing some distance away. If you see a duck repeatedly diving in a lake or river and staying under longer than a typical dabbling duck, a merganser is a good bet.

From there, the differences begin.

Common Merganser

The Common Merganser is the largest of the three and often the easiest to identify, especially the adult male. Males are striking: a crisp white body, black back, and a dark green head that can look black in poor light. The head is smooth and rounded, lacking the shaggy crest seen in the other two species. The bill is bright red, adding to the bold contrast. The bill color can be hard to see at distance and in poor light. Look closely.

Females, however, are where many birders hesitate. A female Common Merganser has a gray body and a sharply defined reddish-brown head with a noticeable, but relatively tidy crest. The key feature is the clean, sharp boundary between the brown head and the pale gray neck—almost like a neat collar line. The bill is also red, though slightly duller than the male's.

In terms of structure, Common Mergansers look long and elegant. The body appears elongated, and the neck often seems stretched. They are frequently seen on larger rivers, reservoirs, and lakes, especially in colder

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Red-breasted Merganser, not lack of clean white chest and “scruffy”

the brown head and the gray neck looks more gradual or “smudged”. Their crest is also messier and more ragged, giving them a slightly wild look.

Another helpful clue is structure. Red-breasted Mergansers tend to appear slimmer and more delicate than Common Mergansers, with a thinner neck and a slightly more compact body. Their bill is also slender and red.

Habitat is one of the best ways to separate them. Red-breasted Mergansers are strongly associated with salt water in winter—bays, estuaries, and coastal areas. While they do appear inland during migration, if you’re watching mergansers along the ocean, these are the most likely Red-breasted. They also tend to form looser flocks and can be quite active, often diving frequently and unpredictably.

Hooded Merganser

The Hooded Merganser is the smallest and, arguably, the most distinctive of the three. It looks quite different once you know what to look for, but beginners can still be puzzled by females.

Male Hooded Mergansers are unmistakable. They have a bold, black-and-white head, with a large, fan-shaped crest that can be raised or lowered. When fully expanded, the crest forms a striking white oval bordered by black—like a dramatic hood, which gives the species its name. The body is mostly dark with chestnut flanks and white striping.

Females are subtler, but still distinctive once you learn their shape. A female Hooded Merganser has a warm brown body and a rich cinnamon-brown head with a prominent, bushy crest.

Unlike the females of the other two mergansers, the crest is fuller and more rounded, often described as “pom-pom” shaped. The bill is shorter and more delicate, usually dark rather than bright red.

(continued on page 9)

months. In many areas, they are more common in winter, moving south from northern breeding grounds.

Behavior can also help. Common Mergansers often fish in groups, sometimes coordinating their dives. When they take off, they require a long, running start across the water. In flight, you can see prominent white secondaries.

Red-breasted Merganser

At first glance, Red-breasted Mergansers can look similar to Common Mergansers, but a closer look reveals a more disheveled, almost punk-rock appearance—especially in males.

Male Red-breasted Mergansers have a dark green head like the Common, but instead of being smooth, it sports a shaggy, spiky crest that sticks out behind the head. The body is more complexly patterned: a rusty, streaked breast (hence the name), gray flanks, and a darker back. The overall impression is less clean and more textured than the Common Merganser.

Females are trickier. They also have a reddish head and gray body, but compared to female Common Mergansers, their head-neck boundary is less sharply defined. This is the key field mark. The transition between

Mergansers (continued from page 10)

Structure is key here. Hooded Mergansers are compact, with a shorter body and neck compared to the other mergansers. Hooded Mergansers are significantly smaller than the other two. They often look almost like a different kind of duck altogether—more rounded and less elongated.

They also prefer different habitats. Hooded Mergansers are typically found on smaller bodies of water—ponds, wooded lakes, and slow-moving rivers. They are especially fond of areas with overhanging trees and quiet coves. If you're birding a small inland pond or stream and see a merganser, there's a good chance it's a Hooded.



Male Hooded Merganser, pretty unmistakable and one of the prettiest birds out there.

Female identification: making it easy

Distinguishing female mergansers is a challenge in waterfowl identification, but a few consistent clues make it manageable.

Start with size and shape. If the bird looks large, long-bodied, and elegant, think Common Merganser. If it's slimmer and slightly smaller with a more delicate build, consider Red-breasted. If it's compact and small with a short neck, it's likely Hooded.

Next, look at the head and crest. A neat, well-defined crest with a sharp line between head and neck points to Common. A shaggy, messy crest with a blurred neck transition suggests Red-breasted. A full, rounded, bushy crest on a small duck indicates Hooded.

The bill is also useful. Bright red bills are typical of Common and Red-breasted females, though Common tends to have a slightly thicker bill. Hooded females usually have darker, less conspicuous bills.



Female Common Merganser left, female Red-breasted Merganser, middle, and female Hooded Merganser right. Note the sharp demarcation on the neck of the Common compared to the “muddy” transition on the neck of the Red-breasted. A female Hooded with her “pom-pom” for comparison.

Finally, consider habitat. Large lakes and rivers in winter often host Common Mergansers. Coastal waters strongly favor Red-breasted. Small ponds and wooded wetlands are classic Hooded Merganser territory.

Seasonal and behavioral clues

Season can help your identification. In our area, Red-breasted and Common Mergansers can occur all months except the summer. Hooded Mergansers are generally found only in winter.

Bringing it all together

Identifying mergansers becomes much easier with practice, especially once you focus on the combination of structure, head shape, and habitat rather than just plumage details. Males are often straightforward, but females reward closer attention and provide a satisfying challenge.

Think of the Common Merganser as the large, clean-lined bird with a crisp look. The Red-breasted Merganser is the scruffier cousin with a shaggy crest and more complex patterning. For females of these two, focus on the sharpness of the transition between the upper and lower chest. Hooded Merganser is the small, compact woodland species, with a bold male and a crested female.

What are good places to spot these guys in our area? For Common Merganser, try Alameda Creek or Elsie Roemer Bird Sanctuary. For Red-breasted Merganser, try Elsie Roemer again or, if you are willing to go a bit farther, try Crissy Field, offshore and lagoon. Finally, for Hooded Merganser try Shadow Cliffs, Lake Chabot, or Don Castro. Good Luck!

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Yes, I want to Join Ohlone Audubon Society!



Please sign me up today

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

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By mailing a \$25 check payable
To OAS with this coupon to:

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

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