



The Kite Call

Ohlone Audubon Society, Inc.

*A chapter of the National Audubon Society
Serving Southern Alameda County, CA*

August 15-September 30, 2005
Volume 40, Number 1

Calendar

- Aug. 23 Board Meeting, Call Evelyn Cormier
- Sep. 6 Membership Meeting, Fremont
- Sep. 6 Deadline for October 1-November 14 Kite Call
- Sep. 10 Morgan Territory Regional Park
- Sep. 20 Board Meeting, Call Evelyn Cormier
- Oct. 4 Membership Meeting, Pleasanton
- Oct. 18 Board Meeting, Call Evelyn Cormier

Field Trips

Sep. 10, Sat. 9:30 a. m., Morgan Territory R.P.

Leader: Ray Fontaine 925.447.0213.

This is a fall trip to the ridglands. Expect savanna/woodland birds of our area and possibly some migrating raptors. We will walk about a 2 mile loop. Beginners are welcome.

Meet at the entrance parking lot on Morgan Territory Road. To reach the meeting place exit I-580 at North Livermore Avenue in Livermore. Follow it north 3.5 miles to where it bends left 90 degrees and becomes Manning Road. Go about a half-mile and turn right onto Morgan Territory Road. Proceed north about six miles over the summit to the park entrance. The last five miles become very narrow and winding.

Rain cancels. No parking fee or entrance fee.

Oct. 22, Sat. 9:30 a. m., Shadow Cliffs R.P., Pleasanton

Leader: Ray Fontaine. 925.447.0213. \$

We should find some winter birds at this time. This trip will be geared for beginners who want to learn about birding and the birds in our area. Experienced birders are wanted to share their experiences and knowledge as well. Reach the park from I-680 by exiting at Bernal Avenue, proceeding east to First Street. Turn left at First Street, proceed through town and continue on Stanley Blvd. to the park entrance traffic light. Alternately, exit I-680 on Castlewood Dr. which becomes First Street as you proceed east. Find it on the Pleasanton-Dublin AAA map. Meet at the parking lot just beyond the entrance gate. Rain cancels. —RF

Membership Meetings

Date: September 6

Time: 7:30 p. m.

**Place: Carlton Plaza of Fremont
3800 Walnut Avenue**

Topic: Raptor Migration in California

Presenters: Simone Whitecloud and David Lukas

Each fall ocean breezes and rising hot pockets of air create a freeway for 19 species of raptors zipping from their breeding grounds to food-rich wintering grounds. California's topography concentrates these birds over the Marin Headlands, with as many as 150 hawks per hour circling overhead in preparation for their sprint across the Bay.

Join Simone Whitecloud, former intern with the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory, along with David Lukas, for an informative slide show covering raptor migration strategies and basic techniques to identify the hawks, eagles, vultures, ospreys, harriers, and kites that venture through Bay Area skies.

To reach Carlton Plaza of Fremont, take I-880 to the Mowry Avenue off-ramp, then Mowry east (inland) to Fremont Blvd. Turn right on Fremont Blvd, then left on Walnut. From Mission Blvd., take Mowry west to turn left on Paseo Padre Parkway and then right on Walnut. The Carlton Plaza is on Walnut between Fremont Blvd. and Paseo Padre Parkway.

Date: October 4

Time: 7:30 p. m.

Place: Pleasanton Middle School

Topic: Seeing the Red Owl:

A Naturalist's Journey into Madagascar

Presenter: Luke Cole

Mark your calendars now for this exciting program. Details will appear in the October 1-November 14 Kite Call.

—MLT

All are welcome to membership meetings. Please bring a recyclable cup to enjoy a hot or cold beverage to accompany sweets provided by members. —SM

Birding Class

Alice Hoch will offer a 5-week field birding class on Tuesdays from 9:30 a. m. to 12:30 a. m., starting Sept. 13 and ending Oct. 18. There will be no class on Oct. 4.

In these classes you will observe and learn about the field identification, life styles, and ecology of local birds. Each class morning we will visit a different birding spot. The class is designed for both beginning and experienced birders. Alice Hoch has been teaching bird-watching since 1975. For 27 years she taught these classes through the Fremont Adult School. Now she is offering them privately. She has been a birder for 44 yrs. and is a longtime member of Ohlone Audubon Society.

Her classes are filled with friendly, helpful people!!! Class size is limited to 15, so register early. Call Alice at 510.657.0475 for further information and to register. —AH

Opportunities and Challenges

Ohlone Audubon Society now can have a permanent place for public exposure at the Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center. We can rent the space near the entrance, behind the Center's store counter, where the HSIC library is located. The store sells items of interest to Hayward

shoreline visitors. The library is open for public use when the building is open, presently on weekends. It would give us an opportunity to interact with visitors to the HSIC. We could augment the existing shelves to house the Bette Wentzel Memorial Library. It is a great place to see birds.

That's the opportunity. Now for the challenge: we would need to have a volunteer to be there on weekends to greet the public and allow

access to the BWML stacks. Will you help?

Call Evelyn, 510.471.0475, evcormier@sbcglobal.net —EC

New Members

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

Eileen Aiken, Barbara A. Carrdon, Gary Cooper, Bette Dawson, F. Gallagher, Ed Huebbe, Fred and Bonnie Krichbaum, Nancy Mendoza, Susan Quickel, Marie Ross, Brenda Senturia, Susan Scatena, Richard W Sheibley, Helen and Malcolm Sowers, Anne Stuart, Thomas Trautner, Thomas Tripoli, Esther Waltz, Joan D. Wehr, and Jim and Joanne Wood.

Your support is greatly appreciated. —PEG

Help Wanted

Wild Birds Unlimited in Dublin is looking for part time help. If interested, call Bill at 925.803.6901

Conservation News

Alameda Point Channel

Janice and Frank Delfino wrote the Army Corps of Engineers on behalf of Ohlone Audubon Society expressing concerns about the dredging schedule for the channel. They pointed out the use of the west breakwater by the harbor seals and brown pelicans. They also pointed out that the endangered California Least Terns use the Alameda Point Channel for foraging from April to September. They requested that the Society be kept informed of the Corps' decisions regarding the channel.

Altamont Pass Wind Turbines

On July 7, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors decided that over a 13 year period the 5,400 Altamont Pass wind turbines will be torn down and replaced by newer and larger windmills that may be safer for the birds. The locations of the wind turbines will also be altered in an attempt to avoid the birds' flight paths. The supervisors required this phase-in overhaul of the Altamont wind farms in an effort to protect the raptors and thousands of other species killed by flying into the spinning blades. The cost is estimated to be more than \$540 million.

The environmental community requested total winter shutdowns of the windmills, a move supported by the office of the Attorney General, Bill Lockyer. Lockyer's office also recommended more stringent measures and a faster timetable for replacement. The goal of the Supervisors' decision is to attain a fifty per cent decrease in bird deaths over the next five years. Wildlife groups suggested that even more measures would be needed to reach the 50% mark in five years. The Board of Supervisors will vote to make the decision final in September.

Patterson Ranch

The Fremont City Council held a public hearing on the 427-acre Patterson Ranch during its regularly scheduled meeting on July 5. They heard a presentation by the developer and feedback from the community and council members. The meeting was very

well attended. Many speakers requested that the area be maintained as open space. There was a smaller contingent requesting a sports park, and another group requesting land for churches. The property owner and developer hired consultants who devised several alternatives for development. These alternatives were the basis of three community workshops held by the developer during the last several months.

Of the 427 acres, 136 are subject to a private open space easement agreement that was created in 1983. Approximately 291 acres would still be available for development. There are about 48 acres of wetlands and a willow grove. The site is adjacent to Paseo Padre Parkway, abuts Coyote Hills Regional Park, and is very near the Don Edwards SFBay National Wildlife Refuge. It is the last large parcel of undeveloped land in Fremont. The organization "Friends of Coyote Hills" is requesting letters in support of preserving Patterson Ranch as open space be sent to the local newspapers. —EC

Field Trip Planning Meeting

Here is your chance to help plan our field trips for the next year, make suggestions for new locations for field trips and volunteer to become a field trip leader. Ohlone Audubon members and friends are invited to the field trips committee planning meeting on Friday, August 26, 2005 in Hayward. Please join us at 7 p.m. Call Bill Scoggins 510.581.5186 for details. —WS

FIELD OBSERVATIONS Summer, 15 June - - 15 July '05

SPECIES	DATE(s)	No.,etc	LOCALITY	OBS.	REMARKS
SWAINSON'S HAWK	6/18	2; 4	East of Livermore hills: Kelso; Lindemann Rds.	AE	Rare in ALA Co., but nests in nearby CC Co.
SWAINSON'S HAWK	6/19	50+	East of Livermore hills: Herdlyn Rd., CC Co.	AE	Foraging for "live" food in alfalfa field. (See SwHa, 6/30; 7/1 below).
SWAINSON'S HAWK	6/30; 7/1	57+10+/-; 58	East of Livermore hills: Lindemann Road; (also, W. Grant Line Rd. X Mountain House Parkway)	BB; D&PB	Now rare for ALA Co. to find this sp., let alone so many. No doubt gathered to feed on an "outbreak" of Meadow Vole (<i>Microtus californicus</i>)(top of their 4 yr. cycle) This "Calif. Threatened sp." is on the increase. Perhaps the rapid demise of these neotropical migrants was dodged when corrections were made in use of deadly pesticides in their wintering grounds, the Argentine Pampas!
SWAINSON'S HAWK	7/10	5	East of Livermore hills: Lindemann Rd. x Herdlyn Rd.; Mt. House Rd.	RC; DV&DR	Remnant flock? (See SwHa, 6/30 above); one light morph seen carrying a meadow vole and another dark morph seen along Mt. House Rd.(?)(DV). Other species (associates) in reports about these SwHa's included: Great Blue Heron (11); Great Egret (3); Golden Eagle (1); Red-tailed Hawk (1-2); American Crow (10-20); Common Raven (10-20).
Golden Eagle	6/18	1	Livermore: Laughlin Rd.	AE	Nr. W. base of Brushy Peak
Burrowing Owl	6/18	4	Livermore: Patterson Pass Rd.	AE	Mile Markers (MM) 5.47; 7.1(See BuOw, 7/10 below)
Burrowing Owl	6/18	6	East of Livermore hills:	AE	N. Mt. House, nr. ALA & CC & SJ Cos: S. Bruns Rd., 200 yds. N. of Christensen Rd.
Burrowing Owl	7/6	1	Dublin: Arnold Rd. fencepost	JF	Across from Camp Parks, where a long-time BuOw management and protection plan has been in effect.
Burrowing Owl	7/10	2 (pr.?)	Livermore: Patterson Pass Rd.	RC & WK	Mile Marker 7.14, (No Blue Grosbeaks at the expected MM 6.21.)
Black-backed Woodpecker	6/20; 6/25-26	2 (pr.)	Yuba Pass, Hwy 49, SIE Co.	AM; P&PG+g	1st reported by Amy McDonald w/ nest along Hwy 49, (south side) east of SNO_PARK & Yuba pass Campground 120+/-ft. in a Lodgepole Pine, 8' high; again found during MRN Trip (P&PG Leaders). The lesson of patience must be practiced w/ such a sensitive and rarely found sp.--up to two hrs. could be needed to see the adults as they exchange nest jobs/brought food.
Say's Phoebe	7/3	1	Dublin:	DB	Possible nesting of SaPh, beyond the western edge of expected breeding range, in E.CC Co., in drier, inner valleys to S. Calif. Mts. More wintering SaPh's arrive during August. from N.& NE.
ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEEK	6/25	1 m.	Loyalton: Rotary Picnic Area, Smithneck Rd., SIE Co.	P&PG+g	Found by PEG, bright adult male flew into 50' Jeffrey Pine (2/3 to top) allowing several of MRN Trip participants to observe this true eastern vagrant. Several Black-headed Grosbeaks were in the tree as well. Hybrids may occur, as was in Castro Valley, only a few years ago. Here also was seen a m. intergrade "Red-shafted" X "Yellow-shafted" Northern Flicker (cross between sub-species).
Blue Grosbeak	6/18	1 m.	Livermore: Patterson Pass Rd.	AE	In the riparian ravine, singing.
BIRD SPECIES of OAS TRIP	7/9-10	83 spp.	Caples Lake area; ALP Co.	P&PG+g	OAS Caples Lake Area, Annual Two Day Sierras Campout.

ABBREVIATIONS: m.=male, f.=female, ad.=adult, pr.=pair; sp.=species, spp.=species (plural), ALP Co.=Alpine County; CC Co.=Contra Costa County; SJ=San Joaquin; SIE=Sierra; COS=Counties; (all other records, ALA=Alameda County), nr.=near, w/=with, So.=South of; No.=North of, N=north(ern), W.=west(ern), MM=Mile Marker, Reg.=Regional, standard abbreviations often not translated

OBSERVERS: BB=Bill Bouseman; DB=David Bowden; D&PB=Dennis & Pat Braddy; RC=Rich Cimino; AE=Art Edwards; JF=Jjim Flanigan; PEG=Phil E.Gordon, P&PG+g=Pat&Phil Gordon & Field Trip Group (OAS=Ohlone Audubon Society, MRN=Marin Audubon Society) WK=W. Kyda; AM=Amy McDonald; DV&DR=Debbie Viess & David Rust; mob=many observers

REPORT OBSERVATIONS to: Phil Gordon, 1922 Hillsdale St., Hayward, CA 94541, Tel. 510.538.3550; Email: PAGPEG@aol.com, for the period, mid-July through August. 2005.