



The Kite Call

Ohlone Audubon Society, Inc.

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

July 1-August 14, 2006
Volume 40, Number 6

Calendar

- Jul. 4** **Holiday—No Meeting**
- Jul. 9** **Field Trip Meeting, Call Michael Mortensen**
- Jul. 18** **Board Meeting, Call Evelyn Cormier**
- Aug. 1** **No Meeting**
- Sep. 5** **Membership Meeting, Pleasanton**

Field Trip Meeting

Here is your chance to help plan our field trips for the next year, make suggestions for new locations and volunteer to become a field trip leader. Ohlone Audubon members and friends are invited to the Field Trips Committee planning meeting on Sunday, July 9, 2006, at 4:00 p. m. in Hayward. Call Michael Mortensen at 510.459.8466 for details. —MM

Membership Meeting

We will have no membership meetings in July or August.

You will not want to miss the September 5 membership meeting as our presenter will be well-known nature photographer, Scott Hein. What is sure to be an exciting program is titled, "The Subantarctic Islands of New Zealand and Australia: A Spectacle of Birds." This meeting will be held in Pleasanton. MLT

New Members

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

Juan Benjumea, Jerry and Estrella Bibbey, Art Carey, Barbara Correa, Joanna Dixon, Carol Donohue, Roger and Betty Fahey, Lillian Fujuii, Janet D. Forcier, David Ginsberg, Charles and Khabira Hartwig, Pat Hotchkiss, Helen Johnson, Kimi Kitayama, Jo McLellan, Dina Oakes, Donald and Judy Person, Kathryn Robertson, Bill Scoggins, Helen Sowers, Lynn Stinnett, Marilyn Sunberg,

Also, we would like to thank Barbara Benda for her donation.

Your support is greatly appreciated.. —PAG

Anniversary Meeting

Throng of people enjoying pot luck *al fresco* were disappointed when the winning ticket for the Peeters painting was found to be Dina Oakes, of Lafayette. Our speaker, Irv Teissen, is guilty of picking the fateful ducat.

We enjoyed a delicious cake with a White-tailed Kite depicted in edible sweetness after a hearty meal. Irv's description of his bluebird boxes was impressive, interesting, and succinct.

"Accessible Birding"

Finding and seeing some birds is reserved for the vigorous and fit. The rest of us can enjoy bird watching in easier circumstances.

A list of 25 accessible trails from Arizona to Washington include birding sites favored by traveling bird watchers appeared in *Bird Watchers' Digest*, Sept/Oct 2001.

The rich variety of accessible trails around the San Francisco Bay and nearby coast are listed and described in the publication *Wheelchair Rider's Guide San Francisco Bay and the Nearby Coast*, published by The Coastal Conservancy in 2006, and available free by calling 510.286.1015. —DE

Dr. Howard L. Cogswell

Dr. Howard L. Cogswell, co-founder of the Ohlone Audubon Society and mentor and friend to many, passed away on June 8, 2006 at the age 91. Press time approaches quickly so there is no time to write a memorial worthy of Dr. Cogswell for this issue of the Kite Call. A memorial and biography for our dear friend will appear in the next Kite Call issue. As per Howard's wishes, no service is planned at this time. The family requests that any memorial donations be made to the Ohlone Audubon Society. Howard's wife of 67 years resides at Casa Sandoval. If you would like to send a card to Bessie Cogswell, the address is :

Bessie Cogswell
1200 Russell Way, Apt 317
Hayward, CA 94541

SPECIES	FIELD OBSERVATIONS			SPRING 8 MARCH - 8 JUNE 2006	
	DATE(S)	No.,etc	LOCALITY	OBS.	REMARKS
Western & Clark's Grebe	4/17-30	8 ad. + 10+/- yng.	Fremont: Quarry Lakes RP	JM, NC & SF	Two round nesting platforms were placed in Los Osos pond ("across the trail from Willow Slough"-NC) by 17 Apr; by 30 Apr. Nest # 2 fledged 2 WeGr and soon Nest#1 fledged 4 ClGr. All 4 nests have fledged and some are into 2nd broods.
American White Pelican	4/10	1	Fremont	MK	Unusual as a single bird, but small groups commonly fish in Quarry Lakes RP, Union City/Fremont. About 2,000 winter in the S.F. Bay Area. It's hard to miss w/ a 9 ft. wingspan. Nesting for most is at Pyramid Lake, NV. This bird should be about to leave --PEG
Green Heron	4/10	1	Livermore: NE residence	CG	Uncommon, very local, but usually associated with streamways. Once saw one nesting 70 ft. up in a Japanese Elm near Ygnacio Blvd., Walnut Creek.-- who knows what may be next!--PEG
Canada Goose	4/29	2 pr.+yng.	Hayward: Shoreline, HSIC Trail	DB	One pair w/ 7 goslings; apparently defended family by hissing at Calif. Ground Squirrels.
Common Merganser	4/16	4	Hayward: Industrial Blvd. (Flood Channel D)	TO & DW	
Semipalmated Plover	4/28	2+ ?	Hayward: Shoreline, HSIC Trail	DB	Interesting behavior including: puffing himself up, taking "the stance" and vocalizing a call that was a chitter ending "with a long churring/purring" - possible pre-migration territoriality=getting ready?.
Whimbrel	5/28	1	Hayward: Regional Shoreline	BP+ pac	From HSIC Bay Trail X 1st Bay/Outflow Channel; w/ ca.25 Marbled Godwits. Also seen here 4/18, DB.
Red Knot	4/30	4	Hayward: Regional Shoreline	BR	
Band-tailed Pigeon	4/10	1	Livermore: NE residence	CG	Big year; BTPi's are widespread; last few yrs. very few and more local. This species commonly breeds along the coastal North Pacific (where they are hunted). We've had a flock of 40 in Hayward - PAG & PEG.
Northern Pygmy-Owl	4/21	1	Sunol: Regional Park, Camp Ohlone	KH, KC & JF	Remarkable sighting of male NPOw feeding Western (Blue-tailed) Skink to female in Sycamore during staff outing.
Burrowing Owl	5/20	1	Castro Valley - Dublin: BART Line	KJ	BART riding (bike trip); seen in hills nr. new development excavation along I-580.
Burrowing Owl	5/20	1	Dublin: Arnold Road	KJ	From bike (ride) along east side, Camp Parks (between Dublin Blvd. & Central. 30 species were seen on Bike Trip from Dublin BART to Pleasant Hills BART.
Burrowing Owl	5/20	2 (pr.)	Dublin: Dublin Blvd.	KJ	South side, west of Hacienda. Unfortunately, BuOw's often use the same flatland easily used for the development - currently underway here; although Camp Parks (military) is committed to BuOw protection.
Northern Saw-Whet Owl	5/16	2ad., 2flg(+?)	Sunol: residence Kilkare Cyn.	IT & HP	From a nest box 2 (+?) fledglings have flown in IT's back yard. Other nestboxes monitored by IT hold 7 chicks + 6 eggs of Barn Owls. Six owl species have nested in their 3 mi. canyon (Sunol) (fide: HP.)
Rufous Hummingbird	4/23	1 m.	Hayward: Shoreline, W. Winton	BR	
Hairy Woodpecker	3/10	1	Fremont: Sabercat Creek, Paseo Padre Prkwy	PEG+g	Rare in Fremont. Flew & called in willows along trail down Sabercat Creek 200 +/- yds below Paseo Padre Prkwy during Fossil Walk w/ Lindsey Wildlife Museum family group.
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	6/6	1	Fremont: Shinn Park, Peralta Blvd.	PEG	Songs given from several trees=Nest?
Black Phoebe	5/31	1 (pr.) 2yng.	Fremont: Shinn Park, Peralta Blvd.	PEG	Fledglings w/ m. also, 6 June at OAS 40th Anniversary Potluck Picnic.
Western Kingbird	4/16	4	Hayward: Regional Park	MR	From W. Winton to nr "Mt. Trashmore." Other migrants: Fox Sparrow; Sharp-shinned Hawk; Red Knot. Also, possible migrants: White-throated Swift & Cooper's Hawk (imm.).
Cassin's Vireo	4/10	1	Fremont: Coyote Hills RP	MD+g	Singing in Oaks between Interpretive Center & Hoot Hollow; SFBBO Trip; 80 spp!

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Cliff Swallow	4/28	?	Hayward: Shoreline, HSIC Trail	DB	Collecting mud. Note the Chabot College CISws began arriving (first seen) 15 Mar. Perhaps they had to go 2.5 miles to collect mud here-PEG.
Nashville Warbler	4/30	1	Hayward: Regional Shoreline	BR	
NORTHERN? PARULA (Warbler)	5/22	1 m.	Oakland: Jewel Lake, Tilden RP	PR & ES	Moving & singing through willows and alders; lake's northwest corner. This eastern species has nested at 5 Brooks, Pt. Reyes NP.
Black-throated Gray Warbler, et al	4/16	1	Livermore: Veterans Memorial Park	SH	Trail beside Arroyo Rd. south to foot bridge. Other Warblers here: Townsend's; Hermit. Also Pacific-slope Flycatcher.
MacGillivray's Warbler, et al	4/24	1	Hayward: Shoreline, W. Winton	BR	Townsend's Warbler 1 m, Yellow Warbler - 1, Wilson's Warbler - many.
Wilson's Warbler	4/30	7	Hayward: Regional Shoreline	BR	Either a "fall out" or "wave" of one species/
Black-headed Grosbeak	4/9	1 m.	Castro Valley: Cull RP	SS	Singing - to be checked 7 days later. Probable breeder if still singing. --PEG
Black-headed Grosbeak, et al	4/17	1 m.	Hayward: Garin & Dry Creek RP	TO & DW	Central Picnic Area; Pacific-slope Flycatcher (2); Black-headed Grosbeak; Band-tailed pigeon (2); Western Kingbird; Western Bluebird (2)
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD	4/30	3	Hayward: Regional Shoreline	BR	Two flying over Winton Ave, one on the north side of Mt. "Trashmore",
Great-tailed Grackle	5/22	1 m.	Fremont: Lake Elizabeth, Central Pk.	AG	First sighting here? Nearest nesting of this recent "resident" is on Hayward Shoreline, but seen in Union City; CBC 2005 --PEG.
Hooded Oriole	5/30	3 +	Fremont: Shinn Park, Peralta Blvd.	PEG	Fledglings w/ m. also, 6 June at OAS 40th Anniversary Potluck Picnic.
Bullock's Oriole	4/16	1 pr.	Hayward: Garin & Dry Creek RP	TO & DW	NEST. Jordan Pond

Abbreviations: m.=male, f.=female, Reg.=Regional, N=north(ern), W.=west(ern), EBRPD=East Bay Regional Park District, HSIC=Hayward Shoreline Interpretation Center, NP=National park, ALA Co.=Alameda County (this report is all in ALA Co.), sp.=species, spp.=species (plural), ad.=adult, yng.=young, CBC=Christmas Bird Count, fide=information source, ca.=circa, about, nr.=near, w/=with, imm.=immature, standard abbreviations often not translated

Observers: DB=Debbie Brusco, NC=Nancy Christensen, KC=Katie Colbert, SF=Sandy Ferreira, JF=Jo Frisch, AG=Art Gallegos, Carol Garberson, PAG=Pat A. Gordon, PEG+g=Phil E. Gordon & group, KH=Kevin Hintsa, SH=Steve Huckabone, KJ=Kathy Jarrett, MK=Mary Keitelman, JM=John Mena, TO=Tad Ottman, HP=Hans Peeters, BP+pac=Bob Power & Palo Alto Adult School Class, MR=Mark Rauzon, ES=Emilee Strauss, BR=Bob Richmond, PR=Phila Rogers, IT=Irv Tiessen, DW=Debbie Wong.

Report Observations for the Period: June 2006 to July 15 2006, to: Phil Gordon, 1922 Hillsdale St., Hayward, CA 94541 (510.538.3550); Email: PAGPEG@aol.com.

Bette Wentzel Library

Anyone planning to bird at or near Point Pelee will want to check out the two items Maggie Clark added to the library; *Warblers of Ontario*, by Chris G. Earley and *Checklist of Birds, Point Pelee National Park & Vicinity*. Both are informative, succinct and compact in size.

Karen McCready presented us with the following books on a variety of subjects, suitable for ages from young children to adults, and those with a birding knowledge level of beginning to advanced. The birder who likes to travel will find a book on suggested vacation spots and identification books for birds in the continental United States, Hawaii and New Zealand.

Cronin, Edward W. Jr. and Gordon Morrison, *Getting Started in Bird Watching*, 1986.

Dennis, John V.A *Guide to Western Bird Breeding*, 1991.

Farrand, John Jr., Ed., *The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding, Vol. 1, Loons to Sandpipers*, 1988.

Goodwin, Clive, *The Traveling Birder*, 1991.

Hawaii Audubon Society, *Hawaii's Birds*, 1993.

Hickman, Pamela, *Birdwise*, 1988.

Parish, Steve, *Wildflowers; Australia from the Heart*.

Powelsland, Ralph, *New Zealand's Native Birds of Brush and Countryside*, 1996.

Pratt, H. Douglas, *A Pocket Guide to Hawaii's Birds*, 1998.

The books and pamphlets of the library are now on Ohlone's website, <http://OhloneAudubon.org>. Items can usually be taken to a membership meeting if they are available and the request is received by the Monday before the meeting. Questions? Call 925.443.3073. —ME