Calendar

NO MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS IN JULY OR AUGUST

Jul. 15 Board Meeting, Call Evelyn Cormier
Jul. 15 Deadline for Aug. 15-Sep. 30 Kite Call
Aug. 19 Board Meeting, Call Evelyn Cormier
Sep. 2 Membership Meeting, Pleasanton
Oct. 9-12 Western Field Ornithologists, San Mateo

Membership Meetings

There will be no Ohlone Audubon Society membership meetings during the months of July and August.

Our next regular membership meeting will be on September 2 at Pleasanton Middle School. Our presenter will be Joe Morlan, who will share original digital photographs illustrating the unique “Birds and Wildlife of Eastern Australia.”

Because Ohlone Audubon Society covers all the cities of southern Alameda County, we alternate our monthly meeting places in order to better serve our entire membership. We’re always on the lookout for good, affordable, and conveniently located meeting facilities and welcome suggestions. If you know of a room in a school, church, retirement facility, etc., that might be suitable for an OAS membership meeting, please contact Marilyn Trabert at 925.939.5798 or e-mail: ILuv2Bird@sbcglobal.net. —MLT

WFO To Meet in San Mateo

The Western Field Ornithologists will meet October 9-12, at the San Mateo Marriott in San Mateo this year.

If you are interested in birds, birding and would like a chance to interact with some of North America’s most respected experts, this is the meeting for you. WFO is a unique organization that seamlessly blends birding with ornithology. WFO meetings are only occasionally held in Northern California. So, if your interest in birds goes beyond just adding another tick to your list, don’t miss this one.

More info and registration: http://www.wfo-cbrc.org/—WFO

Annual Meeting

The June 4 membership meeting was held on the patio, next to the Betty Wentzel Hummingbird/Butterfly Garden. In those beautiful surroundings, we enjoyed some pleasant pre-dinner strolling and birding. Few birds were evident—due to the cool breeze, I expect. My less than adequate sound equipment detected only the cries of a Lesser Goldfinch during the meal. It (the meal) was delicious. My compliments to the cooks.

The featured speaker was Bob Battagin, a board member of the Feather River Land Trust and Oakland resident. He talked about their project to install a viewing platform and birding trail on the Feather River. The FRLT has purchased a 575 acre ranch that has been opened to public use and has plans to construct day-use facilities to accommodate birders, students and boaters. This Sierra Valley land in the center of a prime birding area, offers riparian, wetland and sagebrush habitats on the Pacific Flyway.

Land Trusts do good work. Readers may be familiar with the Nature Conservancy, the Peninsula Open Space Trust, and other local groups that work to preserve and conserve open spaces.

Audubon California has awarded significant grants to help with the costs of the projects. The Trust has applied for grants from other organizations and is looking for institutional and personal gifts. The OAS Board will discuss whether to grant money to help at its June meeting. Individuals who are interested may visit the Trust’s website: www.frlt.org to get annual reports and other descriptive materials. —DE
Urban Wildlife and Coyote Hills

Looking for a way to have a great time while helping to support the protection of our environment? Come enjoy some wine and cheese and view “Still Wild at Heart,” a compelling film about the interaction between wildlife and the San Francisco environment, on Sunday, June 22nd, between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. at the Niles Edison Theater, located at 37417 Niles Blvd. in Fremont. Filmmaker Melissa Peabody will be present to answer questions about her film. To top it off, all the proceeds from this event will be used to continue the fight to protect important, local open space areas. The cost to attend this event is $20/adult and $10/student. For tickets, send a check to Friends of Coyote Hills, Box 769, 39120 Argonaut Way, Fremont, CA 94538-1304, or visit www.ProtecCoyoteHills.org. For questions, contact Sue at 510.793.7254. For more about “Still Wild at Heart” visit the movie website at www.stillwildatheart.com. —CH

New and Renewing Members

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


We also would like to acknowledge the donations from the following:


Your support is greatly appreciated. —PAG

From the President’s Pen

Ohlone Audubon society managed to have an election with considerably less whoopla than the June 3 one and I think ours are equally worthy of note. The Slate of elected officers remains the same: Yours truly as President, Mona Brauer as Vice-President, Recording Secretary Carin High, Corresponding Secretary Estrella Bibbey undoubtedly with the aid of her newborn Anderson Galvan Bibbey, Helen Sowers as Treasurer, and Michael Mortenson will be a Director for a three year term, 2008-2011.

Along with the elected officers we are blessed with a truly dedicated group of chairpersons who get the work of the organization done.

Marilyn Trabert comes up with great speakers month after month, sometimes tracking them down in the most out of the way places. Phil Gordon continues to have his finger in a great number of activities including the Bette Wentzel Butterfly/Hummingbird Garden, the Swallow Festival, the fossil museum, and leader with Pat on numerous field trips. Pat Gordon makes sure our memberships are up to date. Jerry Bibbey has handled Ways and Means along with a new addition to the Bibbey family. Allen and Jackie Bertillon graciously provide refreshments for our meetings along with cookie donations from members. Rich Cimino and Carin High keep us posted on what’s going on in the conservation world. Bill Scoggins keeps the website up to date. Arlene Chin does her best to get our meetings noticed in the local papers. And you would not know any of this if our intrepid editor Don Emery weren’t on the job coaxing and cajoling us to get our articles to him on time, or at least get them to him. All of this would be complete if we could find a Fieldtrip Chair who would like to keep us trekking out and about finding all our fine feathered friends. —DR

Least Tern Nests

As of May 22, we have 4 nests (using Type 1 survey methods), at Island #5 at the Hayward Regional Shoreline located along the eastern shore of San Francisco Bay. A total of 4 eggs have been laid at the site. For unknown reasons, the season is off to a slow start. We observed our first least terns on Friday, April 25th. Early in May, 12 to 45 Least Terns were seen flying around the colony with the highest numbers observed during high tide events. Within the last week we have seen aerial courtships, fish flights, mating and scraping of possible nest sites.

Volunteer monitors and staff have reported predator sightings to be low. Staff and Wildlife Services Specialists started predator management activities in early April by hazing California Gulls off the site. As an added bonus to our predator control efforts, a pair of Western Snowy Plovers established a nest with three eggs on the site! This species is designated as threatened by the U. S Fish and Wildlife Service. We are working closely with staff from the U. S Fish and Wildlife Service at the San Francisco Bay NWR Complex and San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory to monitor the plovers.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding this report.

Dave “Doc Quack” Riensche
Wildlife Resource Analyst
East Bay Regional Park District
2950 Peralta Oaks Court
P.O. Box 5381
Oakland, CA 94605-0381
510.544.2319
driensche@ebparks.org
docquack@ebparks.org

“There are some who can live without wild things, and some who cannot” - Aldo Leopold —DR

BIRD-A-THON Report

Two teams successfully participated in this year’s BIRD-A-THON. The “Kingfishers” consisted of Phil Gordon, Fred Wolin, and Jaan Lepton. Their adventure took place on May 4, when they counted a total of 138 species. The “Phalaropes” were Pat Gordon, Marilyn Trabert, Anna Wilcox (Willie), and Jean Marie Spoelman. They completed their big day on May 31 and had a total of 108 species. These seven people gave up a day of their busy lives to help Ohlone Audubon by searching for as many species as they could find in one day and soliciting sponsors as a fund raiser for our organization. As of print date, they have raised over $2000. We all should thank them for their efforts and especially their sponsors for their gifts. —MB
Fremont Tree Dispute

The residents of Becado Place are unhappy with the City of Fremont because the City destroyed a unique riparian area by cutting down dozens of trees along Sabercat Creek off Becado. The City gave no notice to the neighbors and obtained no permits from the Department of Fish and Game. The City claimed the trees were diseased and a hazard. However, many of the trees cut were healthy, and there are no houses in the vicinity of the razed area. A Public Records Act request to the City made by Becado resident Linda Sheehan, who is the Executive Director of the California Coastkeeper Alliance, show that the City rushed in at the end of January because raptor nesting season started February 1, and the City did not want to conduct the bird survey that would have been required after that date. The City also claimed that the trees were a fire hazard, yet photos collected by the residents showed a vibrant, green area. Photographs are at:

http://s251.photobucket.com/albums/gg292/theycutdown///

An article from the Oakland Tribune, Feb 2, 2008, by Matthew Artz gives a more complete account of the event:

http://tinyurl.com/4kwupl. The reporter did not interview any residents who approved the tree removal; in fact, the residents are uniformly opposed to the action by the City, and concerned about the fire danger the City has now created by cutting down the trees and leaving them where they fell, with no canopy to provide shade.

The Department of Fish and Game has been actively investigating the City’s action as a violation of the Fish and Game Code, and a formal case may be brought against the City. Thanks are due to Linda Sheehan, a resident who contacted Rich Cimino to learn if any protected birds used the old trees. If you have birded the area, contact Rich with your observations.

One of the neighbors commented to the DFG, “Every year we have had White Tailed Kites, Kestrel Hawks, Red Tailed Hawks and others, nesting in the trees. This year they arrived and had no place to go.”

—DELS

Photo from early February posting. See URL in article.

The homeowners were assured by the Fremont officials that the ravine would be cleaned up and replanted with native trees and bushes by the end of March. Homeowners would have preferred the mature trees for shade and screening characteristics.