Calendar

Aug. 16  Hayward Regional Shoreline
Aug. 25  Board Meeting, call Evelyn Cormier
Aug. 29  Cogswell Marsh & Hayward Regional Shoreline
Sep.  1  Membership Meeting,
Sep.  1  Deadline for Oct. 1-Nov. 14 Kite Call
Sep. 15  Board Meeting, call Evelyn Cormier
Sep. 17  Alameda South Shore
Sep. 26  Coyote Hills Regional Park

Field Trips

August 16, Sun., 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Hayward Regional Shoreline, Leaders: Kathy Robertson and Stephanie Floyd, scfloyd2000@yahoo.com
Walk about three miles round trip on a wide, flat bayside trail to view thousands of shorebirds such as Red Knot, Marbled Godwit, and Black-bellied Plover, several kinds of terns, including Least Tern, and perhaps even rare sandpipers. You may also see passerines, waterfowl, and raptors. We will arrive at Oro Loma Marsh and Frank’s Dump West at high tide when the birds will be out of the water and easy to see. Bring a scope if you have one. Be prepared for a cool marine layer followed by hot sun and wind. Beginners are welcome. A port-a-potty is on our route. Meet at the Grant Avenue staging area in San Lorenzo. From the north, take I-880 south to the Washington Avenue exit. Turn right on Washington and right onto Grant. From the south, take I-880 north to the Hesperian Blvd. exit. Make a sharp left onto Hesperian and a right onto Grant. The parking area will be on your right near the end of Grant Avenue. No fee.

August 29, Sat. 8:00 a.m., Cogwell Marsh and Hayward Regional Shoreline, Leaders: Pat & Phil Gordon 510.535.3550, PAGPEG@aol.com
We will begin our one-way walk at the end of West Winton Avenue (EBRPD) parking lot and first visit Cogwell Marsh to see the new commemorative bench in honor of Dr. Howard Cogswell. The bench was purchased through the generous contributions of Ohlone Audubon members and was installed in June.

Membership Meeting

Date:  Tuesday, September 1  Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place:  Pleasanton Middle School
         5001 Case Avenue 94566
Topic:  A Photographic Tour of Brazil’s Threatened Atlantic Forest
Presenter:  Bob Lewis

In August 2008, Bob Lewis joined three birders and their spectacular guide, Edson Endrigo, on a two-week tour of the Brazilian Atlantic Forest. Edson, of Avesfoto, is an experienced photographer, full of good suggestions to help capture images of the rainforest birds. Bob’s traveling companions were not photographers, but the group quickly reached a method of working together, whereby Bob got pictures after they got views, and they got pictures at the end of the trip!

This adventure covered the parks of Intervales, Campos do Jordao, Itatiaia and Ubatuba. What remains of the Atlantic Forest is only 7% of the original forest area. Much of it is not far from the population centers of Sao Paulo and Rio, which together total 17 million people. Nonetheless, their group was almost alone in many of the areas they birded. There are over 900 species of birds in the Atlantic Forest, and 144 of them are endemic. Many are endangered or are birds of concern. Over 8,000 plant species and 72 mammals are also endemic to the forest, so it’s a unique area.

Bob will show us examples of the birds his group were able to see, including beautiful tanagers, captivating puffbirds, large-billed toucans, innumerable flycatchers (there are over 400 species of tyrant flycatchers in the world and it seemed, at times, as if they all lived in the Atlantic Forest!), trogons, cotizinga, tiny gnateaters and tapaculos, spectacular hummingbirds, secretive owls, antbirds and ovenbirds. Bob’s narration together with a few scenic shots will give you a feeling for the trip.

October 6.   Carlton Plaza of Fremont.
Glenn Stewart of SCPBRG will discuss Peregrine Falcon population recovery and will bring his falcon, Sophie. —MLT
Bring your cup to enjoy after-meeting liquid refreshment with provided snacks.
—A&JB
Field Trips, Continued

2009, overlooking the Cogswell Marsh.

Shorebirds begin returning in numbers in late August and we will try to sort them out. High tide is at 10:28 a.m., so viewing should be optimum. We plan to walk south toward the Interpretive Center, where we will have lunch and where shuttles will be available to return to the Winton parking lot. We will also plan to visit the infamous Mt. Trashmore. For those who want to bird after lunch, we will walk out from the Interpretive Center for more birds along the shoreline. Birds we expect to see include the sandpipers, other waders, terns, a few ducks, and other marsh birds. Gulls will also be present!

This is an easy walking trip. We will meet at the end of West Winton Avenue in Hayward in the EBRPD parking lot, near the restrooms. Bring your lunch, beverage and always prepare for exposure (wind) along the shoreline. To reach West Winton Avenue, exit 1-880 at Winton Avenue in Hayward and proceed due west to the end of the road.

September 17, Thu., 9:30 am, Alameda South Shore, Leader: Jerry Steenhoven, 510.881.1233

This area usually provides good views of shorebirds as they arrive from northern breeding grounds. Meet at the Elsie Roemer Bird Sanctuary viewing platform where Broadway meets Doolittle Drive. From Hayward or San Leandro take Davis Street to Doolittle Drive. Go right on Doolittle to the bridge to Alameda where the street becomes Otis Drive. Turn left at Broadway and find parking near the shoreline. Bring lunch, binoculars and scopes. This is planned as a half-day trip. Nearest restroom at beginning of trip is at Crab Cove Visitor’s Center (fee area). There are restrooms at the end of the trip at Martin Luther King Regional Park.

September 26, Sat., 8:30 – 11:30, Coyote Hills Regional Park, Leaders: Rich Nicholson and Stephanie Floyd

Walk a few miles on paved and dirt trails and boardwalks to look for migrant warblers, passerines, waterfowl and shorebirds as well as raptors. A Prairie Falcon visited the park at this time last year. Scopes are helpful. Be prepared for a warm late summer day. Beginners are welcome. Restrooms are available. Meet at the Quarry staging area, first parking lot on the left after entering the park. To reach the park from I-880, take SR-84 west toward the Dumbarton Bridge. Exit at Paseo Padre Parkway (last exit before the bridge), turn right on Paseo Padre and go about a mile. Turn left on Patterson Ranch Road to enter the park. $5 parking fee; free to EBRPD annual passholders.

Coastal Cleanup Sept 19, 9AM
INFO: call 1-800-COAST-4U
Hayward Shoreline or Berkeley Marina.

Website ideas wanted
You have a chance to affect the design and implementation of our website. With the retirement of Bill Scoggins, our long-standing webmaster, there is a need to find a website builder and to specify the site’s features.

Leslie Koenig is spearheading the process and has asked for your help. Please contact her, lesliekoenig@yahoo.com, with your ideas, suggestions and offers of help.

Field Trips 2009 - 2010

On June 14, a group met to schedule the field trips for the next twelve months. This tentative list appears below. With a wonderful response from prior year field trip leaders and new leader volunteers, we have leaders for each trip as listed. Please note that these are tentative dates and will be subject to change as the year progresses. Also, we don’t have to be limited to just this list. If any of you would like to lead a trip to your favorite birding spot, please contact me and I’ll be happy to schedule an additional trip.

—MB

2009

8/16 Hayward Regional Shoreline/Oro Loma Marsh
8/29 Cogswell Marsh
9/17 Alameda South Shore
9/26 Coyote Hills
10/7 Hawk Hill
11/11 Del Valle Regional Park
11/15 Berkeley Pier Area
11/28 Brushy Peak
12/5 Cosumnes River Preserve and Woodbridge Ecological Reserve
12/13 Shadow Cliffs
12/17 Garin/Dry Creek Regional Park
12/20 Hayward Fremont Christmas Bird Count
12/31 Arrowhead Marsh

2010

1/9 Don Edwards SFBNWR
1/17 Bodega Bay
1/20 Lake Chabot
1/30 Sutter Buttes/Gray Lodge
2/4 Lake Elizabeth
2/13-2/14 Los Banos
3/10 Coyote Hills
3/13 Shadow Cliffs
3/21 Garretson Point
3/27 Sunol Regional Park
4/10 Veterans Park
4/17 or 4/18 Koopman’s Ranch
4/18 or 4/17 Swallow Festival Trip
4/20 Niles Area
4/24 Del Valle Regional Park
5/8 Patterson Pass
5/9 Swallow Festival
5/12 Garin/Dry Creek Regional Park
5/18 Valle Vista Staging Area, Moraga
5/22 Birding by Ear – beginners-Coyote Hills
6/3 Ed Levin Park & Calaveras Road
6/26-6/27 Mono/Yosemite Valley Camp out

Welcome Members

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

Gary Argenal, Robert Baltzer, Cherie Boulton, Arlene Chin, Allen Frawley, Julienne Howe, Gayle Kahrs, Eva Gayle Marion, Wendy Naruo, Marilyn Russell, Marge Trevorrow.

Thanks to Robert Baltzer for his contribution. —PAG
Notes From Your President

As the lazy days of summer come to an end and we head into the busy days of autumn, I thought I would share an interesting survey from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service that I found in a National Audubon’s newsletter. It seems that in 2006 the FWS did a national survey of birdwatching. The statistics are listed by region, state, age, economic, educational factors and kinds of birds watched. It shows, in general, that people of the more rural areas of the country do more birdwatching. This is especially true of the Midwest and South. Not surprising to many of us, more people over 50 and more educated participate in birdwatching both around home and away. The participation of younger people and of those in urban areas is at the low end of the continuum. Birdwatching has been a great recreational pastime and a billion dollar revenue source as well. You can read the entire report for yourself at: http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/NationalSurvey/2006_Survey_Survey.htm

—EC

BAAC Report

California Audubon works through regional councils to facilitate coordination and communication among local chapters and the state office. The seven chapters surrounding San Francisco Bay are dubbed BAAC, the Bay Area Audubon Council. At the quarterly meetings, each chapter gives an update of its activities and the BAAC representative to the state Audubon board summarizes Sacramento activities.

The next meeting will be September 12, at the Richardson Bay Audubon Center in Tiburon, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Chapters take turns providing breakfast. Individuals provide their own lunches. The meetings are informative and interesting. All Audubon members are welcome to attend and you are invited, Contact: Evelyn Cormier, ecormier@sbcglobal.net.

—EC

Fremont-Newark

Patterson Ranch—The Draft Environmental Impact Report release date has now been tentatively set for August-September.

Area 3 & 4—The status of the release of the DEIR has been changed from “who knows?” to sometime this fall. We’ll have to wait to see if the status changes again.

The City of Newark has announced there will be a community meeting on August 27th to provide residents an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments on the Housing Element Update after a recent planning commission meeting was standing room only with angry residents who weren’t aware zoning changes were being proposed in their neighborhoods.

Newby Island—the DEIR for this project to create dining with a view for California gulls (a big dump) is now scheduled to be released sometime in August.

Notice that despite delays for a variety of reasons, all the EIRs listed above are still proposed to be released at approximately the same time? So get your reading for pleasure done now, because there won’t be any time to read anything but EIRs later this summer!

Habitat Means Home poster contest—Senator Ellen Corbett will once again honor the winning students and their families, teachers, and principals at an ice cream social in her San Leandro office. Many thanks to Senator Corbett for her tremendous support of our poster contest!

—CH

Eastern Alameda County

The East Bay Regional Park District recently held a second public scoping meeting for the Pleasanton Ridge land use plan. The early proposals include opening new acreage for hiking and birding and building a new trail head north of the existing one on Foothill Ave. in Pleasanton.

Springtown Preserve in Livermore continues to be trashed by several illegal activities. They disrupt the critical alkali soil base, which is needed to maintain the ecological integrity of the Preserve for its rare plant communities. Vehicle use and digging in the rare and endangered plant communities is not being monitored or controlled by Livermore. The city has recently been forced to use precious SR-84 mitigation funds for soil repair, instead of conservation. I urge you to visit www.springtownpreserve.org. This website is full of useful educational materials and photos of the damage being done to the preserve.

—RC

Windmill Problems: Part II

Ohlone Audubon is a member of the formal “Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area (APWRA) Habitat Conservation Planning Stakeholders Group” which is currently meeting every two months. One goal is to encourage the Wind Power firms to continue the “re-powering” phase that began with the removal of the problem windmills (WMs) which have the highest raptor kill ratios. These were on ridgelines, which produce the highest volume of uplift, attracting raptors to gain elevation.

The end goal of re-powering is to replace with fewer, higher efficiency windmills. This process is forecast to reduce the windmill count from 5000 to 900. It will take years. At the meetings, all seated parties study the documents, looking for conflicts with their interests. Our concern is that there will be an attempt to recognize that Wind Resources can expand its footprint in the years to come. The State, the County and the Windmill corporations see this as an opportunity to establish their land boundaries for future needs once and for all. What is most worrying is that the proposed expansion could be to the southwest toward the Ohlone Wilderness/Upper Sunol Valley. This area has been documented as one of the world’s largest concentration of Golden Eagles, and possibly Prairie Falcons. The area has many breeding pairs of Burrowing Owls, which also suffer high kill rates.

—RC

Valley Birding Classes

Rich Ciminio will teach beginners’ classes for both the Livermore and Pleasanton Adult Education Districts this fall.

The Livermore classes will meet Wednesday evenings. “Raptors of Northern California” runs Oct. 7 through Oct. 17, a Saturday field trip. “Ducks Swans and Wading Migrant Birds” runs November 5 through November 14, a Saturday field trip.

For registration, go to www.livermoreadulted.org.

The Pleasanton beginning birding classes will focus on “The Birds of Amador Valley” on Tuesday nights. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. on 10/6, 10/13 & 10/20/09 at Village High School. For registration, go to www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/adulted. Please do not try to register before August 15. Go to the “course catalog” link then to the “enrichment link” to begin registration.

Rich has started YellowBilledTours a firm currently focused on providing one-on-one, in-the-field, beginning-birding, tutoring, and guiding services throughout Northern California. Go to: www.yellowbilledtours.com.
Please renew your Ohlone membership by the date shown on your address label.
Direct questions about Kite Call Delivery to the Membership Chair.

Support your local BIRDS…

Join Ohlone Audubon Society (OAS) by mailing a $20 check payable to OAS with this coupon to:
Pat Gordon
OAS Membership Chair
1922 Hillsdale Street
Hayward, CA 94541

Thank you for your support!