Calendar

Jun. 26-27 Sierra weekend
Jul. 6 NO MONTHLY MEETING
Jul. 20 NO Board Meeting
Jul. 20 Deadline for August 15-September 30 Kite Call
Aug. 3 NO MONTHLY MEETING
Aug. 17 August Board Meeting, Call Evelyn Cormier

Future Meetings
Date: September 7
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Carlton Plaza of Fremont, 3800 Walnut Avenue
Topic: “Birding The Top and Bottom of Central America—Belize And Panama”
Presenter: Bob Lewis

A description of Bob’s entertaining talk will be in the next issue of the Kite Call and online at http://OhloneAudubon.org.

Bring your reusable cup for coffee, tea or punch to enjoy with member-provided munchies and conversation after the presentation.

—MLT

Presidential Message

At the end of a season of enlightening and entertaining program meetings and a number of exhilarating field trips led by an intrepid all-volunteer group I am reminded of how lucky we all are. I would like to invite any of you with a little time on your hands, or an itch to do something very worthwhile, to consider volunteering for Ohlone Audubon Society.

We are especially in need of someone to assume the role of the Ways & Means Committee. You will have Margaret Emery to mentor you. She has been serving as both Corresponding Secretary and Ways & Means chair. This job brings us interesting items to purchase and provides revenue for our treasury.

Of course there are many other places to join the fun. Some are ad hoc, for example, table-tending at festivals. Let any of the board members know where you might like to try your hand by sending us an e-mail or giving us a call. We will be delighted to hear from you.

—EC

Field Trips


Join us as we return to the eastern and high Sierra for our annual bird trip. We will meet each day at the Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center, US-395, a few hundred feet north of Lee Vining town.

Mountain forest species (many of them neotropical migrants) will be in various stages of nesting. We plan to visit several lakes, streamways and wet meadows, as well as rocky talus slopes, cliffs and forest trails of varying elevations. Hiking in extreme elevations will be very short term if at all (Tioga Pass is at 9,945 ft.). Flowers should be abundant; they will be sought and appreciated along with any other aspects of this very special and often surprising part of our world. We will search for high altitude birds, e.g. Williamson Sapsucker, Sooty Grouse; and lower elevation birds like Common Snipe or Brewer’s Sparrow. At least 100 more species are possible.

To reach Yosemite from the Bay Area, follow I-580 onto I-205 to Tracy; exit on SR-120 as it joins SR-99 in Manteca, and then exits to the right. Continue on SR-120 to the Yosemite National Park (Entrance used to be $20, appears now to be $10 per person). At Crane Flat (2.5 hours from Manteca; gas available) follow Tioga Rd. (SR-120). Do NOT follow the Big Oak Flat road to Yosemite Valley. Proceed through Tuolumne Meadows (store, restroom) over Tioga Pass, down to US-395 and left to Lee Vining. (el. 6780’). Allow 1.5 hours [55 miles] from Tioga Pass to Lee Vining. Motels and RV Parks with hook-ups are in town.

North on US-395, ca. 30 mi., with a few motels, is Bridgeport (el. 6465’), but beware that Conway Summit is 8138’.

See you there.

—PAGPEG

July and August trips will be determined June 12 at the Field Trip Planning Meeting—after this issue has gone to press. Check the website in late June to learn about summer trips. The joy of birding is not limited to guided trips, though it can be enhanced by them. Visit the creek or forest near home and watch your feeders.

—DE
Kids Birding

We’ve recently read that several members of Mt. Diablo Audubon joined with two 5th grade classrooms in Antioch on a birding field trip. First, kudos to all those Mt. Diablo volunteers for organizing and assisting in such a great way to expose the younger generation to birding. We had a chance to do something similar on a smaller scale when we helped a scout troop earn their birding merit badge this spring. The boys in that troop seemed very interested in “finding” birds and a few of their parents became one step closer to being hooked on birding! We would like to attempt organizing a similar classroom event in our area this next school year.

Please make any suggestions you may have about making this a reality to our Field Trip Chair. Let her know if you would like to participate. fieldtrips@ohloneaudubon.org —MB

Kite Call Online?

The Board is considering offering the option to get the Kite Call only online. We expect there will always be a paper version for those who prefer the feel. If a significant number of members were to opt for online-only, it would probably reduce our publication costs. Please respond with your opinion on the subject, and suggestions for how it should be done, to: editor@ohloneaudubon.org.

Considerations:
1. Would probably reduce publication costs
2. Would decrease the mailing costs
3. Would decrease the use of (recycled) paper
4. Would reduce the volume in your mailbox a little.
5. Would possibly reduce membership income —DE

Potluck at Alviso Adobe

Our annual membership meeting/potluck occurred June 1 in the Alviso Adobe barn in Pleasanton for the second year. The new officers were installed and a good time was had by all. Members brought delectables and all feasted. Eric Nicholson gave us a progress report on the young city park and told us about future plans for its development. Maggie Clark and Martha Morrow described what was learned in a 14-year breeding bird survey at Coyote Hills RP. —DE

New Board of Directors

Our ruling board for the fiscal year, 7.1.2010 to 6.30.2011 comprises the following elected officers.

- President: Evelyn Cormier
- Vice President: Allen Bertillion
- Treasurer: Helen Sowers
- Recording Secretary: Carin High
- Corresponding Secretary: Margaret Emery
- Directors at Large,
  - Michael Mortenson, 2011
  - Leslie Koenig, 2012
  - Jackie Bertillion, 2013

It also includes the appointed Standing Committee Chairs:

- Education: Phil Gordon
- Hospitality: Allen and Jackie Bertillion
- Editor: Don Emery
- Field Trips: Mona Brauer
- Membership: Pat Gordon
- Programs: Marilyn Trabert
- Publicity: Arlene Chin
- Conservation:
  - East: Rich Cimino
  - West: Carin High
- Webmaster: Leslie Koenig

Feel free to express your ideas to a member of this list, or better yet, your desire to join them. —DE

Conservation Report

A new draft Environmental Impact Report on the Patterson Ranch will be released the second week of June. The new proposal for the Patterson Ranch area now has 520 homes on the east side of Ardenwood Blvd. The plans west of Ardenwood Blvd. have been altered to remove the active sports park, but the 10 acres of churches and associated parking lots still remain. After all the meetings attended by a number of interested parties in the last four or five years the proposal is much more closely aligned with that proposed by the environmental community all along, albeit with too much housing crowded onto the east side in an area that has unstable soil conditions. According to the City the new draft of the EIR will require all new comments Development of Areas 3 and 4 in Newark continues to pushed forward by the City of Newark. The mitigation measures proposed in the EIR are completely inadequate with respect to biological resources, etc.

The Hayward Shoreline Planning Agency had a presentation by two of the Citizens Advisory Committee members after which the Agency wrote a comment letter to the Fish and Wildlife Service in regard to the Draft Tidal Marsh Recovery Plan. The Agency seems determined to preserve public access to the shoreline as its major focus. —EC

It's A Puzzle

Match the wren to the nest. Answers located in this issue.

1. Canyon Wren A. A little stone path leads to it.
2. House Wren B. In tangles near the ground.
3. Rock Wren C. Made of twigs, moss, etc., in cavity, rocks or buildings.
Assembly Passes Lead Ban

SACRAMENTO, Calif. June 3, California Newswire
http://californianewswire.com/

Assemblymember Pedro Nava (D-Santa Barbara) announced the passage of Assembly Bill 2223, which will ban the use of toxic lead shot in California’s 667,000 acre network of State Wildlife Management Areas. Passage by the Senate and the Governor’s signature will make it a law. —DE

Summer Birding

When you look outside and see the sunshine and heat waves, making a telescope problematical, you think, “How long is it until Autumn?” The coast in the early morning is OK, but where are the peeps? Fear not! For there are options.

The southern hemisphere has already changed seasons. Central America doesn’t have seasons, sort of. But this time of year, there are desirable birding conditions closer to home. Think up and north. The migrants passing through the Bay Area in May and June are showing the way. At 6,000 feet, early summer is spring. Follow the Gordons to Mono Lake to get the idea. The woods in southern Canada are ringing with the full nuptial song of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Farther north, the sandpipers and phalaropes are snuggling down on their eggs or catching blackflies and mosquitoes for their chicks.

While we in the west have hummingbirds year round, halfway across the country, the folks in Minnesota do not. In Henderson they are excitedly hosting a celebration of their return. Here an Anna’s Humminbird is a rarity. You can join them.

The Second Annual Henderson Hummingbird Hurrah, August 27-29 is a region-wide celebration of the Ruby-Throated Hummingbird. It will offer venues including Workshops, a Hummingbird Mall (Fine Art Fair), Children’s Activities, Garden Tours (either on foot or in a horse-drawn wagon) and a display of hummingbird banding.

You may get more details or register at 507.248.3824 or http://hhh.hendersonmn.com —DE

Oil Spill

Organizations are marshalling resources to help the locals combat the oil spill. Financial mitigation for the destruction of the tourist trade and the fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico is being pursued in court. Rescue of wildlife and cleanup of beaches are jobs that can benefit from volunteers and experts from across the country.

National Audubon Society has set up an information center, with requests for funds, reports from agents in the field, and ideas for how local birders can help. http://www.audubon.org/

IBRRC is working with Tri-State Bird Rescue, the lead oiled wildlife organization on the ground, to set up and staff rehabilitation centers in Louisiana, Alabama Mississippi and Florida, where the growing oil slick is expected to impact birds. We now have more than 20 members of our Oil Spill Response Team working on the Gulf Oil Spill. News from the International Bird Rescue Research Center (IBRRC) ibrrc.org

The Center for Biological Diversity is suing the EPA for failing to protect endangered species from the almost-a-million-gallon application of toxic dispersants in the spill. The center is involved in several other issues, including the California Central Valley water disputes. http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/ —DE

Membership Report

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

John O. Bakken, Ron and Vi Barklow, Debra Bedford, C. Boulton, Denise Dugas, Don and Margaret Emery, Dietrich Erbelding, Janet D. Forcier, Allen J. Frawley, Phil and Pat Gordon, Lloyd Hartshorn, Pat Kite, Lloyd Mann, Terry Preston, Claudia Schwalm, Nathan Shanelec, Susan Stanton, Lynn Stinnett, Helene and Darrell Victor, Martin Vitz, and Joann Wood.

And thank you to the following for their generous contributions:

Ronald Barklow, Viola Saima-Barklow, Gail Fazackerly Bunker, Nathan Shanelec, Lynn Stinnett. —PAG
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Support your local BIRDS...

Name: ____________________________
Address: _________________________
Phone: ___________________________ 
Email: ___________________________

All are welcome to enjoy any of our events, meetings or field trips. Thank you for your support!

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