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Membership Meetings

Date: September 7
Place: Carlton Plaza of Fremont,
3800 Walnut Avenue (94538)
Topic: Birding the Top and Bottom of Central America:
Birds and Wildlife of Belize and Panama
Presenter: Bob Lewis

In 2009 Bob Lewis took three trips to Central America -- one to Belize in the north -- and two to Panama in the south. In this Central American photo tour, North American birders will see a few old friends, like Vermilion Flycatcher; some unfamiliar members of familiar families, like Rufous-tailed and Snowy-bellied Hummingbirds; and members of a variety of unfamiliar families - toucans, puffbirds, antwrens, woodcreepers, trogons - and more.

We’ll look at a number of these bird families with a special focus on hummingbirds (which provide unique photographic challenges). And we’ll wander a bit further afield to examine some other types of wildlife that can be found in this part of the world.

To reach Carlton Plaza of Fremont, take I-880 to the Mowry Ave off-ramp, then Mowry east (inland) to Fremont Blvd. Turn right on Fremont Blvd, then left on Walnut. Carlton Plaza is on Walnut between Fremont Blvd and Paseo Padre Pkwy.

Future Meeting

Date: October 5
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Castro Valley Adult School,
4430 Alma Avenue (94546)
Topic: Touring the Galapagos
Presenter: Jack Barclay

Look for a description of this interesting presentation in the next issue of the *Kite Call*.

—MLT

To all meetings, bring your reusable cup to enjoy liquid refreshment with volunteered goodies and conversation after the presentation.

—A&JB

Thanks to Bob Lewis for these photographs. The Stripe-throated Hummingbird at left and the Red-eyed Frog below left, and the Rufous Motmot below may be among the illustrations of his talk September 7. If so, their impact when larger than life in brilliant color on the screen will be impressive. A small clue can be found by viewing this issue on our website where they are shown in color.

Colorful endemic species are major attractions of going to Latin America in the winter (in addition to the inviting water and warmer weather.)
Field Trips

Aug. 22, Sun., 9:00-12:30, Hayward Shoreline-Oro Loma Marsh. Leaders: Kathy Robertson, (kaetsdz@aol.com) and Rich Nicholson
Walk about three miles, round trip, on a wide, flat bay side trail to view thousands of shorebirds such as Red Knot, Marbled Godwit, and Black-bellied Plover, several kinds of terns and gulls, and perhaps even rare sandpipers. We can also expect 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 welcome. A porta-potty is on our route.

Meet at the Grant Avenue staging area in San Lorenzo. From I-880 southbound, take the Washington Avenue exit. Turn right on Washington and right onto Grant. From I-880 northbound, take 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.

Aug. 28, Sat., 7:30-3:30, Moss Landing /Salinas River. Leaders: Phil and Pat Gordon, PAGPEG@aol.com
We will meet in the Moss Landing Boat/Kayak Launch Parking Lot, the second drive south of Jetty Rd. Traveling south on SR-1. For those folks driving from the Bay Area, go south on SR-101, then West on SR-156 to SR-1 and through Castroville then north on SR-1 passing Moss Landing. Cross the bridge over Elkhorn Slough to the Marina road between the Mexican Pottery market and a kayak rental business. Across from the boat ramp is a restroom in the parking lot (Note, we won’t stay long enough to pay the parking fee—except for those wishing for a safe carpool location).

The itinerary for the day will be reviewed at the meeting place, since the most favorable conditions are changeable. Late arrivals may find us across (inland) SR-1 at a staging and parking area (Kiosk) for the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve before heading south on SR-1 to the Del Monte Rd. exit and trails near the Salinas River mouth.

This is the likely season for coastal birds such as: Sooty Shearwater (sometimes near shore); Brown Pelican; Peregrine Falcon (possible); Black-bellied Plover; Snowy Plover (not nesting); Willet; Whimbrel; Ruddy & Black Turnstone; Sanderling; Semipalmated Sandpiper (rare, but once found here); Short-billed Dowitcher; Phalarope spp.; Parasitic Jaeger (and their Elegant Tern “prey”, with luck); Heermann’s Gull; Common Murre; Pigeon Guillemot - to name a few.

Bring lunch, binoculars, scopes, beverages and sun gear suitable for your comfort along coastal California. Cool, foggy weather is remotely possible in August, so be prepared.

Sep. 18, Sat., 1:00- sunset, Vaux’s Swifts in Healdsburg. Leader: Stephanie Floyd, scfloyd2000@yahoo.com
Meet at the Elsie Roemer Regional Shoreline. Information on Vaux’s Swift migration and viewing the swifts at Rio Lindo Academy may be found in the “Bird Notes” article from Madrone Audubon at: http://tinyurl.com/28d4mwh.

Directions to Castro Valley Park ‘n Ride: From I-880 north or south, take I-238 towards Castro Valley/Stockton and continue to I-580 heading east. Exit at Grove Way. Turn right on Grove, then take the first right onto Center St. The lot will be on your right. From I-580 heading west, take the Castro Valley exit and turn left at E. Castro Valley Blvd. Turn left at Center St. The lot will be on your left.

New Members
Ohlone sends a warm welcome and thank you to the following new and renewing chapter members:
Robert Baltzer, Christine Bard, Loree Clavell, Barbara Correa, Michael Dennis, William DeVore, Neil and Pat Dykema, Sandy Ferreira, Ruth Ann Hunt, Don and Roberta Lenkeit, Michael McDonnell, Nancy Mendoza, Michael and Andrea Mortenson, Donna and Judy Person, Marge Teverrow, Doris Whitaker.
And thank you to Neil and Pat Dykema for their generous contribution.

—MB
**Field Trips 7/1/10-6/30/11**

The following is a tentative list of the Ohlone field trips for the fiscal year, 7/1/10 through 6/30/11. For those of you who plan your birding outings a year in advance, please note that these dates are subject to change. Each field trip will have a more detailed description as it is published in our Kite Call newsletter. As additional confirmation for dates and times, be sure to check our website for the latest information prior any scheduled trip.

Although this schedule represents the planned trips for the next fiscal year, please don’t hesitate to contact me if you would like to lead an additional trip during this time frame. You can contact me for additional information at FieldTrips@OhloneAudubon.org

—Mona Brauer, Field Trip Chair

### Feather River Trust Viewing Platform

Ohlone Audubon Society congratulates the Feather River Trust on the creation and placement of the viewing platform at Sierra Valley. The unique design was dictated by the regulations and requirements of the governing bodies. A permanent platform was impossible so the wheeled version fills the bill admirably. Connecting to the platform are hiking trails enabling a closer look at the thousands of avian visitors to this great basin wetland on the east side of the Sierra.

OAS individuals and field trip groups have visited the area frequently over the past 30 years and OAS donated to help produce the platform.

—DE

We are grateful to Rich Cimino who supplied the photograph.
Sierra Field Trip Report

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches and nesting American Dippers and lots of water! This briefly describes a beautiful weekend in the Sierra June 26-27 with 34 Ohlone participants. We heard tales of several lifers! Here are a few highlights:

Saturday morning started bright at the Mono Lake Visitor Center at Lee Vining, with nesting Say’s Phoebe, House Wrens, lots of Cliff Swallows, and singing Brewer’s Sparrows and Green-tailed Towhees. The group then journeyed up to the Virginia Lakes Resort at 10,000 ft. After a short wait Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches appeared at two feeders, while our group was serenaded by Fox and White-crowned Sparrows. We next visited the county park to walk out the boardwalk to see Wilson’s Phalaropes, a few Eared Grebes, a rare Brant, and lots and lots of California Gulls! On the way back we all had good looks at the cooperative Yellow Warbler. After lunch we traveled out to the De Chambon ponds to the east, finding Yellow-headed Blackbirds, colorful Ruddy Ducks, Cinnamon Teal, and families of American Coots, and a hot water spring! The day finished at South Tufa with close-up looks at Violet-Green Swallows nesting in the tufa. Also, a couple of Ospreys were nesting on the tufa in fishless Mono Lake.

Sunday we again started at the Visitor Center, this time looking at Black-chinned Hummingbirds on the fantastic display of red Firecracker flowers and House Wrens using Cliff Swallow nests! We then traveled to Lee Vining Canyon, to Aspen Campground to see the nesting American Dipper, under a ferocious waterfall! We then compared the Tree Swallow nesting with the Violet-green Swallows seen the day before. Many Green-tailed Towhees made themselves visible for a change and added their songs to the Brewer’s Sparrows. Throw in a Western Tanager still closed by snow!) and one of our eagle-eyed birders, Becky Bradley, spotted a “large” flying bird, joined by another: two Bald Eagles. We added Mountain Chickadees, Clark’s Nutcrackers, Pine Siskins, and Cassin’s Finches. We parked outside the entrance gate, walked into Yosemite, looking at Mountain Bluebirds nesting right at the gate and ate lunch while viewing a waterfall! We then traveled to the De Chambon ponds to the east, finding Yellow-headed Blackbirds, colorful Ruddy Ducks, Cinnamon Teal, and families of American Coots, and a hot water spring! The day finished at South Tufa with close-up looks at Violet-Green Swallows nesting in the tufa. Also, a couple of Ospreys were nesting on the tufa in fishless Mono Lake.

—PAGPEG

Report from Fremont

Patterson Ranch – The comment period for the new development proposal environmental impact report (EIR) closed August 2nd at 4 p.m. You may review the new EIR by visiting the City of Fremont’s website at: http://www.fremont.gov/index.aspx?NID=430 The development plan now has 520 housing units located east of Ardenwood Boulevard. Ten acres of churches and associated parking lots are still located to the west of Ardenwood Boulevard. The 800+ comments the City received for a previous development proposal helped change the project so that it more closely resembles an alternative the environmental community has requested for more than five years. Your comments make a difference, so please submit comments for this development proposal. There should be no development west of Ardenwood Boulevard to protect the integrity of the preserved lands.

Whistling Wings and Pintail Duck Clubs – The lands at the head of Mowry Slough were approved for development by a unanimous vote of the Newark City Council on June 28th. Concerned citizens had packed the council chambers to the point of overflowing the previous Thursday evening to voice their concerns. Several citizens left the meeting without ever having the opportunity to speak, discouraged by their inability to get into the overcrowded council chambers. We do not necessarily oppose the development of Area 3 which is situated across the street from existing residential, adjacent to the new Ohlone College campus, but Area 4 (including the former duck clubs) is located west of the Union Pacific railroad tracks, requires the construction of an overpass to access the area and could require the fill of up to 85.6 acres of wetlands to construct upscape housing and possibly a golf course should sufficient funds be raised by the sale of houses. Area 4 is continually disced and water is pumped off, but the site contains a mosaic of wetlands and as important, undeveloped uplands. The site supports the endangered salt marsh harvest mouse, waterbirds, waterfowl, and the burrowing owl. No development should occur in Area 4. Federal and state permits will be required to develop the area. Please stay tuned for action alerts.

There is still no new news on the Newby Island Landfill Expansion Final EIR. We will keep you posted.

--CH
Mountain Plover Listing

The US Fish and Wildlife Service announced June 28 that the listing of Mountain Plover has been reactivated. The species was previously proposed in 2002 and the Service removed it from consideration in 2003. Threats to the species were not considered strong enough to merit endangered status. The 2002 proposal included an exclusion of agricultural lands until studies showed that such land should be included.

The birds breed in Colorado and neighboring states and spend the winters in more southerly climes, California’s Central Valley apparently being the one most plovers prefer. Not much is known about their other wintering grounds. They don’t like large bodies of water, preferring short grass prairie habitat.

In settlement of a 2006 suit filed by Forest Guardians and the Biological Conservation Alliance, the 2003 decision was reversed and a comment period be reopened. The FWS intends to make a final decision by May 1, 2011. August 30, 2010 was the deadline for submission of scientific data on the distribution, life history, habitat use, range, population size and trends.

Get the full story by asking your browser to search for “mountain plover listing”. You will find the FWS documents and several articles. This summary is from the FWS press release.

Agriculture interests in the nesting range are opposed, the usual suspects are in favor of listing. Mountain Plovers are a popular target species for winter birding in the Central Valley by OAS members and others.
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!