The Kite Call
Ohlone Audubon Society, Inc.
A chapter of the National Audubon Society
Serving Southern Alameda County, CA

Calendar
Oct. 5: Membership Meeting, Castro Valley Adult School
Oct. 12: San Leandro Reservoir, Moraga
Oct. 19: Board Meeting, Call Evelyn Cormier
Oct. 19: Deadline for Nov. 15-Dec. 31 Kite Call
Oct. 23: Martinelli Center and Brushy Peak
Nov. 2: Membership Meeting, Casa Sandoval, Hayward
Nov. 7: Del Valle Regional Park
Nov. 14: Patterson Pass Road & Eastern Alameda County
Nov. 20: Berkeley Pier and Environs

Membership Meetings
Date: October 5 Time: 7:30 p.m.
Location: Castro Valley Adult School
4430 Alma Avenue (94546)
Topic: “Touring the Galapagos”
Presenter: Jack Barclay

Jack Barclay will present a slideshow about the Galapagos Islands, based on a January 2009 trip he made there. His presentation is organized as a daily travel log describing how to get around, where to go and what to see, so as to convey what it is like to visit this amazing place. His program includes some basic information about island formation and weather as they affect biological life on the islands. While showing photos of many of the endemic species he discusses the overwhelming impressions one gets when visiting the islands -- the extraordinary tameness of the wildlife and the less conspicuous but prevalent effects of how competition for resources has led to specialization and speciation. For example, the world’s only nocturnal gull lives in the Galapagos. Another less comforting impression is the overwhelming effect of the introduction of exotic organisms – including humans – on the ecology of the Galapagos. He includes a discussion about adaptive radiation in the Darwin’s finches, which were the focus of his ornithological quest while on the islands.

You may want to get directions from your area to Castro Valley from MapQuest or similar. Once you are on Castro Valley Blvd, find Redwood Rd (toward the east end of town) and turn north. Follow Redwood Rd for 1.2 miles to Alma Ave (you will pass Castro Valley High School). Turn right onto Alma Ave. CV Adult School is on your left. Large parking area in back. We’ll meet in the Multi-purpose Room. http://tinyurl.com/y9t5pj4

Date: November 2 Time: 7:30 p.m.
Location: Casa Sandoval
1200 Russell Way, Hayward 94541
Topic: “Chimps and Gorillas—with a Dash of Plants and Birds!”
Presenter: Michael Ellis

Join naturalist Michael Ellis as we journey to that unique region where the East African savanna gives way to the Central African rainforest thus creating a remarkable assemblage of plants, birds and mammals in a relatively small area. But the primary focus of traveling to this part of the world is to see the mountain gorillas. There are only 740 of these magnificent primates remaining on our planet. They survive in a tiny area—the eastern part of the Congo, far southern Uganda, and in the small nation of Rwanda.

During this evening’s journey we will visit Murchison Falls National Park, which contains the headwaters of the Nile River and is the largest park in Uganda. It is home to elephants, buffalo, giraffes, lions and a plethora of bird life. This place, in particular, is a great example of the importance of preserving habitat. Most of the large animals were poached out completely in the 1980’s but the park remained intact. Upon receiving protection the animals emigrated from the Congo and repopulated the area.

Kibale National Park is one of the best places to visit a large chimpanzee group, and Queen Elizabeth National Park has some unique tree-climbing lions! In Rwanda we’ll visit the Virunga National Park, made famous by Diane Fosse. It is the home for eight habituated gorilla families. We clamber up steep, rain soaked volcanic slopes to spend one hour with one of these families, a truly remarkable and powerful experience.

Casa Sandoval is on the corner of 2nd and Russell. From “A” or “B” Streets in Hayward, turn north onto 2nd St. and follow it one block to Russell. A link to directions is on Casa Sandoval’s website: http://www.casasandoval.com/

—MLT

Bring a reusable cup to enjoy refreshments after the meetings.
—A&JB
Field Trips

Oct. 12, Tue., 9:00 a. m. to noon, Valle Vista Staging Area; San Leandro Reservoir, Moraga. Leader: Marilyn Trabert. Home: 925.939.5798, Cell: 925.200.6819
Iluv2Bird@sbglobal.net

Valle Vista is one of my favorite places to bird. We’ll enjoy an easy, pleasant country walk. Often Acorn Woodpeckers can be seen right from the parking lot, and there can be other woodpeckers and sometimes nuthatches or creepers along the trail. We’ll hope for a variety of species, including Western Bluebirds (they always make my day) and if we’re really lucky, maybe a Wood Duck or two.

Directions to Valle Vista: Driving from Oakland on SR-24, take the Orinda exit and follow Moraga Way to where it dead ends at Moraga Rd/Canyon Road and turn right. The Valle Vista Staging Area will be about a mile or so on your left. If you’re coming from Walnut Creek, get on Mt. Diablo Blvd in Lafayette, then take a left on Moraga Road and stay on it. Once Moraga Road changes to Canyon Road, the trailhead parking lot will come up on your left in a mile or so. You may prefer to put the address (1993 Canyon Rd, Moraga, CA 94556) in your favorite map website for directions from your location. http://maps.google.com/maps

Valle Vista is an EBMUD property and requires a pass. If you don’t have one, follow the leader who has a group pass. Just give me a call or send an email if you need help with directions. I hope to see you there. —MLT

Oct. 23, Sat., 8:30 to 11:30 a. m., Martinelli Center and Brushy Peak: Eastern Alameda County. Leaders: Ray Fontaine rayfontaine2@att.net and Leslie Koenig lesliekoenig@yahoo.com

We’ll meet at the Martinelli Center and bird for about an hour around the area, including the Master Gardener’s Native Plant Demonstration Garden. Hummingbirds, Loggerhead Shrike, Western Meadowlark and raptors are expected. Last year we had a roosting Great Horned Owl we hope to find again! We’ll then carpool to Brushy Peak for more grassland birds and raptors, including Golden Eagle and potential Prairie Falcon, as well as ducks and shorebirds at the pond.

Bring water and snacks. Restrooms and water are available at both sites. Beginners are welcome. Heavy rain cancels.

Martinelli Center is located at 3585 Greenville Rd., Livermore. On I-580 East, take the Greenville exit and follow Greenville past the Lawrence Livermore Lab and Sandia. The Center is on your right, with two large palm trees and some grape vines.

Nov. 7, Sun., 8:45 a. m. to 1 p. m., Del Valle Regional Park. Leader: Brenda Senturia Bbsenturia@sbglobal.net

This field trip to Del Valle Regional Park in Livermore will focus on observing behavior in three bird species – Western Scrub-Jay, Acorn Woodpecker, and Yellow-billed Magpie. Del Valle is one of the gems of the East Bay Regional Park District and hosts resident populations of these fascinating species. Birds are relatively easy to spot at Del Valle since they are somewhat habituated to human presence due to the large, busy campgrounds. Of course, we will see many other bird species in the varied habitats of the park. We will check out the oak/pine woodlands, oak savannah, and reservoir and shoreline areas.

To reach the park, take Interstate 580 to Livermore, exiting at #52B (North Livermore Avenue/Downtown Livermore). Follow N. Livermore Ave. through town (becomes S. Livermore). At a 90 degree left turn the road becomes Tesla. The first traffic light is Mines Road. Turn right on Mines Road, following the signs to Del Valle. At the entrance kiosk (fee or EBRPD pass required), stay left to a ‘T’ intersection. Bear left again, passing the family campground entrance, and continuing to the Equestrian Camping area at the end of the road. Bring snacks and be prepared for rain and moderate walking.

Sun. Nov. 14, 12:30 to 4:30 p. m. plus dinner, Patterson Pass Rd. & Eastern Alameda County. Leader: Rich Cimino 925.353.0266 SS for dinner only

We’re going to cruise around eastern Alameda County and San Joaquin Counties looking for wintering birds like Mountain Bluebirds, Ferruginous Hawks, maybe a Rough-legged Hawk and other non-predictable wintering bird friends.

Meet at the Chevron station parking lot on Greenville Rd. Take I-580 East to the Greenville exit. Turn left on Southfront Rd., drive about one quarter mile to the Chevron station. Plan to car pool. Walkie-talkies are helpful. Rain at any level cancels. Ends with a group dinner at the Sweet Tomatoes Restaurant in Pleasanton on Hopyard Ave.

Nov. 20, Sat., 9:00 a. m., Berkeley Pier and Environs. Leader: Stephanie Floyd scfloyd2000@yahoo.com

Walk out the Berkeley Pier, about one mile round trip, in search of Brandt’s and Pelagic Cormorants, loons, shorebirds, and uncommon visitors like Red-necked Grebes. We’ll check out the marina and, if time allows, walk another mile or so at Cesar Chavez park in hopes of seeing Burrowing Owls. Scopes are helpful. Last year at this time we saw about 50 species. All birding levels are welcome. Dress in layers for cold and wind. Heavy rain cancels.

Park along Seawall Drive facing the bay or in one of the parking lots off of University Avenue near the marina, and meet at the foot of the pier. To reach the pier, go west from I-80 on University Avenue in Berkeley. Free. —MB

East Alameda County CBC

The Date is Set! Friday, December 17.
Check the next issue for details of the Pre-Count Meeting.
Questions? Contact Rich Cimino at 925.353.0266 —RC

Hayward-Fremont CBC

It’s Coming! The Annual Christmas Bird Count!
Save the Date - Sunday, December 19.
Pre-count Meeting: Friday December 3, 7:30 p. m. —PAG

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, Dona and Judy Person, Marge Trevorroor, Doris Whitaker,

And thank you to the following for their generous contribution: Neil and Pat Dykema

—PAG
Lodi Crane Festival Nov. 5-7

The Annual return of the Sandhill Cranes makes the Central Valley, especially San Joaquin County, a magical place to hear the melodic calls and watch their romantic dances. The festival in Lodi has been held for 14 years celebrating the cranes with a full festival menu of field trips, presentations, art, vendors, and workshops. Full information is at: http://www.crane節estival.com/ —DE

Central Valley Birding Symposium Nov. 18-21

Hey, fellow bird lovers! It’s time to get ready for the 14th annual CVBS to be held at the Hilton in Stockton, CA, Nov. 18-21. Top-notch speakers and workshop leaders, excellent birding destinations, quality vendors and a large attendee list in a comfortable setting make this a highly desirable birding event.

For more information or registration go to the website at www.cvbs.org, or contact Frances Oliver at hummer52@sbcglobal.net. See you there! —CP

Alice’s Class

Alice Hoch’s next five week Birding Field Trips class term is October 19 through November 16.

Alice’s birding class is different because it consists of tutoring during actual birding, rather than sitting through lectures. The class will bird a different excellent birding site each Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Alice has been teaching Birding Field Trips for over 35 years, and is an active member of Ohlone Audubon Society. Her classes are filled with friendly, helpful people at all levels from absolute beginner to very experienced. Many Ohlone Audubon members have taken and are taking her classes. As always, “We would love to have you join us!” Class size is limited to 15, so register early.

For questions about class and registration information, contact Alice at 510.657.0475 or amhoch@aol.com —AH

Bette Wentzel Garden

Ohlone Audubon designed and built the beautiful Bette Wentzel Hummingbird and Butterfly garden in memory of our former president. It is in Shinn Park, Fremont. The garden was designed with plants to attract butterflies and hummingbirds.

All beautiful gardens need help and we are responsible for the upkeep of ours. We meet each Tuesday morning with the Heirloom Garden Club at 9:30 a.m. to do maintenance work, followed by tea and cookies at noon.

Recently Bob Bathgate and Ron Barklow gave a hand and Mona Brauer donated plants. Our thanks go to them. Can you lend us a hand? Some of the tasks we identified for the coming weeks include:

- Repainting the gazebo
- Refurbishing bender boards along the pathways
- Removing non-natives (weeds!)
- Setting out new plants (penstemons, ferns, milkweed, annuals)
- Cleaning the planter boxes for butterfly larva

For answers to your questions about the garden, or to donate time, supplies, or plants, contact Phil Gordon at Education@OhloneAudubon.org —PAG

Conservation Issues

Patterson Ranch — The comment period for the new development proposal environmental impact report (EIR) closed August 2. You may review the new EIR by visiting the City of Fremont’s website at: http://www.fremont.gov/index.aspx?NID=430. The City received 250 comments to the re-circulated EIR. We are now awaiting the City’s response to comments. Two new issues that arose were a proposal to excavate material west of Ardenwood Blvd. to provide fill for the development proposed to the east, and the proposal to use a bioremediation technique as opposed to removal of contaminated soils. Staff has stated the plan has since changed so that fill material will be imported rather than excavated. Responses to comments are expected soon. The project will be presented to the planning commission and city council this fall. We hope folks will get out to express their concerns at these meetings. To protect the integrity of the preserved lands there should be no development west of Ardenwood Boulevard.

Whistling Wings and Pintail Duck Clubs — A lawsuit has been filed that challenges the adequacy of the EIR. As reported last month the lands at the head of Mowry Slough were approved for development by a unanimous vote of the Newark City Council on June 28. 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. The development of Area 4 requires the construction of an overpass to access the site and could require the import of up to 2.1 million cubic yards of fill to raise the land up to 10 feet above the current 100-year flood plain. This does not account for conservative predictions of sea level rise after 2050. Up to 85.6 acres of wetlands could be filled to construct upscale housing and possibly a golf course (should sufficient funds be raised by the sale of houses). Area 4 is continually dissected and water is pumped off, but the site contains a mosaic of wetlands and 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.

Niles Canyon — Caltrans has proposed widening the lower end of the road. The EIR comment period was extended to October 7. The proposed project includes the removal of approximately 260 native trees and the construction of almost two miles of concrete retaining walls. The public notice and EIR can be found at http://tinyurl.com/2erk492. Please consider providing comments regarding the impacts to the riparian corridor.

Senator Ellen Corbett will honor this year’s Habitat Means Home poster contest winners by holding an ice cream social for the students, their families, teachers, and principals. Our heartfelt “Thank You!” to Senator Corbett for her continued support of the poster contest. —CH

Wind Turbines — concerns won’t go away. The revision of the Conditional Use Project, that will allow repowering the Altamont Hills is in the Program EIR production stage. Please let the County know that the EIR should both guide and have teeth.

Written comments are due October 8. The announcement and papers can be read at: http://tinyurl.com/2cuvqsd. —DE|RC
Please renew your Ohlone membership by the date shown on your address label. Direct questions about Kite Call Delivery to the Membership Chair.

President: Evelyn Cormier, President@OhloneAudubon.org, 510.471.0475
Vice Pres: Allen Bertillion, 25384 Mohr Dr., Hayward 94545, 510.782.4874
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Carin High, Secretary@OhloneAudubon.org.

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

NAS California: 763 University Avenue, Suite 200, Sacramento 95825,
916.649.7600, http://www.ca.audubon.org

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

National Audubon Society (NAS) membership dues are separate from those for OAS.

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