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

January 1-February 14, 2011
Volume 44, Number 4

Calendar

Jan. 2 Arrowhead Marsh
Jan. 4 Membership Meeting, Fremont
Jan. 9 Don Edwards SFBNWR, Fremont
Jan. 15-16 Sacramento Valley and Colusa Wildlife
Jan. 29 Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area
Feb. 1 Membership Meeting, Hayward
Feb. 9 Lake Elizabeth
Feb. 12 Neary Lagoon & UCSD Arboretum

Membership Meetings

Date: January 4 Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Carlton Plaza
3800 Walnut Avenue, Fremont 94538
Topic: The Birds of Micronesia, Adventure in the Mariana Islands.
Presenter: Jaan Lepson

Jaan has a very interesting scientific background. He has made major contributions to the study of birds and currently works in laboratory astrophysics. He has been a member of Ohlone Audubon since he moved to Livermore fifteen years ago. He offers the following description of his presentation on the Mariana Islands.

The birds of Micronesia have been described as “America’s Forgotten Avifauna.” Well outside the ABA limits, the islands are small, expensive and often difficult to reach, and have comparatively few species to offer listers, although many are endemic, rare, and/or endangered.

I will be talking about the birds of the Mariana Islands, which make up the U.S. possessions of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The avifauna of the Marianas has been under assault since the islands were first settled by the Chamorro thousands of years ago; continuing through the Spanish conquest; development under German, Japanese, and American administrations; the devastation of World War II; and the accidental introduction of the brown tree snake. My presentation will concentrate on an expedition to the uninhabited Northern Islands earlier this year to survey federally endangered Micronesian Megapodes and Nightingale Reed-warblers. The ten islands together total just 55 square miles, about the size of Mt. Diablo State Park. The logistics were formidable - planes, ships, and helicopters - yet all were thrown awry by an ill-timed volcanic eruption. Despite this, I surveyed on the islands of Alamagan and Pagan, and visited Asuncion, Agrihan, and Sarigan in a trip that I will never forget. The work was hot and often exhausting - but also deeply satisfying - on these beautiful, tiny islands. —JL

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 —MLT

Date: February 1 Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Castro Valley Adult School, Multi-Purpose Room
4430 Alma Avenue, C. V. 94546
Topic: eBird Workshop
Presenter: Brian Sullivan

You’ve probably been hearing a lot about eBird lately, the website and online birding tool that is changing the face of modern birding. eBird is an Internet-based checklist program built for birders by birders, whose goal is to harness the power of both birding and science. It allows you to keep track of your bird records online and share them with the birding community, while making them available for science and conservation efforts. eBird allows birders to post sightings, keep life lists, and manage their personal records. You will learn what eBird is and why it’s important that you contribute, show you what it can do for you as a birder, and teach you how to get started. Join Brian Sullivan, eBird project leader, for a look at this remarkable tool—and get empowered to make your observations count!

Brian Sullivan has conducted fieldwork on birds throughout North America for the past 17 years. Birthing travels, photography and field projects have taken him to Central and South America, to Antarctica, the Arctic and across North America. He has written and consulted on various books, popular, and scientific literature on North American birds. Research interests include closing the gap between science and birding. He is currently project leader for eBird (www.ebird.org) and the Avian Knowledge Network (www.avianknowledge.net), photographic editor of the Birds of North America Online (http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/BNA/) at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, and photograph-

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/y9t5pi4

—MLT

Don’t Forget Your Reusable Cup! We have hot and cold drinks and cookies after every program. —A&JB

Field Trips

Jan. 2, Sun., 8:30 a.m. Arrowhead Marsh. Leader: Marilyn Trabert, 925.939.5798, ILuv2Bird@sbcglobal.net

A high tide of 7.8 feet will hit Arrowhead Marsh about 10 a.m. on the morning of January 2, which should create a good opportunity to see rails. We’re going to get there a bit ahead of that and, as the tide comes in, we’ll be watching for them, certainly Clapper Rails, with always the chance for Sora, Virginia and other rail species too. Ducks and shorebirds should be plentiful. The area is completely paved, so if it’s raining, we’ll go anyhow, as rain and high tide are supposed to be optimum conditions for seeing rails. Just wear your boots and Gortex! This is a wheelchair accessible birdwalk. Bring snacks if you like. Beginners always welcome. We’ll adjourn around noon. Restrooms are available.

Going west on Hegenberger toward the airport, turn right on Pardee. Make a left at Swan and then right into Arrowhead Marsh driveway, which is part of the Martin Luther King Regional Park. Follow the entry road all the way to the end. However, on the way to the parking area we always drive slowly and keep an eye out for Burrowing Owls on the berms to the right. If you take I-880, exit at Hegenberger toward the airport, and follow the directions above.

—MT

Jan. 9, Sun., 8:30 a.m. Don Edwards SFBW-1 Fremont.

Leader: Rich Nicholson, rsn711@yahoo.com

We’ll have easy walking on mostly paved paths. New restrooms are now available. We’ll search the marshes, mudflats, salt ponds and open bay to get your 2011 (big?) year list off to a good start. There’s always a good variety of birds here, including the resident Barn Owl. Everyone is welcome to join us for a morning (3-4 hours) of birding. Let’s get outside!

To reach Don Edwards, take I-880 to Decoto Rd./Dumbarton Bridge exit. Take the Thornton/Paseo Padre exit, turn left at the bottom of the ramp and go over the freeway. Turn right at the Refuge entrance and park in the first lot on the right. No fee. Heavy rain cancels.

Jan. 15-16, Sat. & Sun 9:00 a.m. both days, Sacramento Valley Wildlife Refuges - Colusa Wildlife Area. Leaders: Phil & Pat Gordon, 510.538.3550, Cell 510.364.6472, PAGPEG@aol.com

This year we are refuge birding to the north. Saturday will be spent birding the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge, followed by a look at the Delevan unit, and ending the day at Colusa State Wildlife Refuge. The refuges promise good long looks at flocks of waterfowl, including myriads of Snow and White-fronted Geese, as well as several species of ducks. We have often found Bald Eagles and Peregrine Falcons, among all the wintering Red-tailed Hawks and American Kestrels. It is hoped we will find the fields of Sandhill Cranes and Tundra Swans. In past years we have found many Wood Ducks in the Llano Seco area.

Meet Saturday morning at the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Kiosk parking area. This refuge is located north of Williams off of I-5. Use the Norman Road exit and follow the signs. Driving time is about 2 hours from the Bay Area. The Colusa Wildlife Area is located right in the town of Colusa, along the Sacramento River.

Sunday we will begin the day at the Colusa Wildlife Area, on the Sacramento River, in Colusa, then travel toward the Sutter Buttes to bird Gray Lodge state Wildlife Area. After lunch we will proceed up to the Llano Seco unit.

Lodging in the area includes the Holiday Inn Express 530.473.5120; Comfort Inn 530.473.2381; and Motel 6 530.473.5337: all located in Williams. In Colusa there is the Riverside Inn 530.458.4560. Those who wish can camp at the Colusa Wildlife Area in Colusa.

Trip will go rain or shine. Only heavy flooding cancels.

Jan. 29, Sat. 9:00 a.m. at Parking Lot A. Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area – Davis. Leader: Don Schmoldt, 916.739.6465, BajaOwl@SureWest.net

We will bird the wildlife area in the morning, and, in the afternoon, check the Davis Landfill for gulls and then drive around some of the farm roads north of I-80 looking for raptors.

If traveling east on I-80 via Davis, exit I-80 at the East Chiles Road off ramp, east of Davis and just before the Yolo Bypass. This off ramp immediately “T”s with Chiles Road (aka Road 32B). The Yolo Fruit Stand will be on your right. Turn left onto Chiles Road, go about 1/2 mile and bear right onto the dirt road that accesses the Yolo Bypass levee. If coming up to the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area via I-80. DO NOT take the Mace Blvd./Chiles Road exit in Davis!! Continue east on I-80 for a couple miles, past Mace Blvd., and take the East Chiles/Road 32A Road Exit, which is just before I-80 enters onto the Yolo Causeway. At the top of the levee, go left, and down to Parking Lot A. Look for my car, a red Toyota 4-Runner, license “BAJA-Owl”.

If coming up I-5, via Stockton, go north to Sacramento, and exit onto I-50/I-80 to San Francisco. Drive west over the Yolo Bypass. Immediately west of the bypass (about 100 meters or so), take off ramp that shortly “T”s with County Road 32A. Turn right and go under the freeway. Just past the freeway, turn left onto the dirt road accessing the levee, and then to Parking Lot A.

Bring lunch and water. Heavy rain cancels.

Feb. 9, Wed., 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Lake Elizabeth.

Leader: Sandy Ferreira, sferr224@comcast.net

Join me for a walk around Lake Elizabeth and Mission Creek. We’ll look for wintering ducks and geese, check out who is roosting on Duck Island, look for some early swallows and much more.

From I-880, exit at Stevenson Blvd. and go east to Paseo Padre Parkway. Turn right on Paseo Padre, then left at Baylis Street entrance. Turn right once you drive into enter the park. Drive pass the new Water Park and follow the parking lot to the end, you will see 5 large palm trees, we will meet here. Heavy rain cancels.
Feb. 12, Sat. 9:00 a.m., Neary Lagoon & U.C. Santa Cruz Arboretum. Leaders: Phil & Pat Gordon, 510.538.3550, Cell 510.364.6472, PAGPEG@aol.com

Join us in on the edge of Monterey Bay in the Santa Cruz area for an extraordinary birding opportunity. We will visit Neary Lagoon to walk the boardwalks through this coastal marsh. Here we may find Pied-bill Grebe, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Wood Duck, Ring-necked Duck, Virginia Rail, Sora and Belted Kingfisher to name a few. Other locations will be visited (depending on occurrence of more species.) We will walk trails of the nearby U.C. Santa Cruz Botanical Gardens.

From Hayward, take SR-92 (Jackson St.) to I-880 South (Nimitz Fwy). In San Jose I-880 becomes SR-17. Continue through the Santa Cruz Mts. In Santa Cruz continue on SR-1 North, toward Half Moon Bay. In town, turn left on Bay Street. Drive 0.3 mi. to turn left on California Street, crossing the railroad tracks. Park at the curb along California St. to meet near the entrance to Neary Lagoon Park on the right.

Directions to other locales will be distributed from here (NOTE: UC Botanical Gardens are back up the hill on Bay St., to turn left on High St., and right at sign to Arboretum). —MB

**Hone Birding Skills**

Alice Hoch’s Birding Field Trips class begins January 11 and continues through February 8. Her class consists of tutoring in the field rather than classroom lectures. The class will bird a different location each Tuesday from 9:30 to 12:30.

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 helpful people at all levels from absolute beginner to very experienced. Many Ohlone Audubon members have taken and are taking her classes.

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

**Websites**

I must confess to being a fan of websites. The OAS.org home page is my “home” when I open my browser. This has been true since its beginning, when Bill Scoggins added Ohlone to the nonprofits he had hosted on his personal pages. Years later, the Board decided to honor him by paying the freight on a commercially hosted OAS website. He searched the possibilities and found an affordable host that didn’t impose its own advertisements as part of the price.

As time passes, we gain new interests. It happened to Bill when he discovered how much fun it is to travel to storied birding locations. He was amenable when we found a person with some experience and ideas who offered to take over. Leslie Koenig was already on the Board of Directors, and abstained when the decision was made to allow the switch. The result is the present site, www.ohloneaudubon.org.

The addition of pictures and the convenience of negotiating the site are greatly appreciated. Leslie has been responsive to requests and accepting of, e.g., photographs, to add to its interest.

The Board is deeply appreciative of the contributions of Bill and Leslie. Others who find the site a useful source of field trip and meeting dates, conservation issues and related web links also appreciate them, and I speak for them.

Thank you Bill and Leslie! —DE

**South County Issues**

Sadly, the Fremont City Council approved the Patterson Ranch development. The good news is that the number of housing units to the east of Ardenwood Blvd. has been reduced to 500 and the lands to the west of Patterson Slough will be donated to the EBRPD. The bad news is that there are approximately 50 acres west of Ardenwood Blvd. that remain in limbo. We’ll have to stay alert and be ready to protect these lands from additional development.

CEQA settlement talks continue for the lands of the Whistling Wings and Pintail Duck Clubs. As reported previously we do not necessarily oppose the development of Area 3 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 out of the current 100-year flood plain. This does not account for conservative predictions of sea level rise after 2050. Area 4 contains a mosaic of wetlands and 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.

Please visit the Bay Conservation and Development Commission to follow the progress of BCDC’s Climate Change Bay Plan Policies. [http://tinyurl.com/259ujj9](http://tinyurl.com/259ujj9)

Please take a moment to voice your support of the proposed amendments in general, with the exception of provisions for “infill” development and redevelopment of low-lying areas along the edges of the bay (policies 5 & 6). There may be additional opportunities for public comment. – check BCDC’s website for updates. —CH

**New Members**

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

Juan Benjumea, Mona Brauer, M.L. Brower, Amy Fillin, Ray Fontaine, Michael and Peter Grunow, Connie Holm, Kimi Kitayama, Gary and Merna Morse, Michael O’Brien, Debbie and Tadd Ottman, Margaret Dean Smith, Beth Spease, Jean-Marie Spoolman, Karen White, Judy Wuelfing, —PAG

**Christmas Bird Count Reminder**

**Feeder Watchers Needed!**

Save the date – Sunday, December 19!

Want to stay warm and count birds at the same time? Be a CBC bird feeder watcher! Bird from the comfort of your own home! Count the number of birds of each species that visits your yard on Sunday, December 19 and the hours watched. Send your data to pagpeg@aol.com or phone it in 510.538.3550 or mail it to 1922 Hillsdale Street, Hayward, CA 94541. This important information will be added to the official record. —PAG

**Getcher Kite Call Here!**

Send your e-address to Webmaster@OhloneAudubon.org, to be put on the list for instant notification when a new issue is posted. —DE
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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
Past Pres: Helen Sowers, 18492 Capricorn Court, CV 94546, 510.537.2377
Treasurer: Helen Sowers, Treasurer@OhloneAudubon.org, 510.537.3377
Rec. Secty: Carin High, Secretary@OhloneAudubon.org,
Cor. Secty: Margaret Emery, 260 El Caminito, Livermore 94550, 925.443.3073
Directors: 2011 Michael Mortensen, mp_av_m@hotmail.com, 510.459.8466
2012 Leslie Koenig, webmaster@ohloneaudubon.org
2013 Jackie Bertillion, 25384 Mohr Dr., Hayward 94545, 510.782.4874
Web Site: http://OhloneAudubon.org
WebMaster: Leslie Koenig, webmaster@ohloneaudubon.org
Education: Phil Gordon, Education@OhloneAudubon.org, 510.538.3550
Hospitality: Allen & Jackie Bertillion, 510.782.4874
Editor: Don Emery, Editor@OhloneAudubon.org, 925.443.3073
FieldTrips: Mona Brauer, FieldTrips@OhloneAudubon.org, 510.537.0311
Membership: Pat Gordon, 1922 Hillsdale Street, Hayward 94541, 510.538.3550
Programs: Marilyn Trahert, Programs@OhloneAudubon.org, 925.939.5798
Publicity: Arlene Chin, 925.447.8843
Conservation: Rich Cimino, Conservation@OhloneAudubon.org and
Carin High, Secretary@OhloneAudubon.org
NAS California: 763 University Avenue, Suite 200, Sacramento 95825, 916.649.7600, http://www.ca.audubon.org

Support your local BIRDS...

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

The Kite Call is published 8 times yearly by Ohlone Audubon Society, 260 El Caminito, Livermore, CA 94550, on recycled paper.