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

February 15-March 31, 2011
Volume 44, Number 6

Calendar
Feb. 12  Neary Lagoon & UCSC Arboretum
Feb. 15  Board Meeting, Call Evelyn Cormier
Feb. 18-21 Great Backyard Birdcount
Feb. 19  Los Vaqueros Watershed
Mar. 1   Membership Meeting, San Leandro
Mar. 1   Deadline for 4/1-5/14 Kite Call Submissions
Mar. 6   Lake Solano
Mar. 13  Coyote Hills
Mar. 15  Board Meeting, Call Evelyn Cormier
Mar. 20  Garretson Point
Mar. 26  Lake Del Valle
Mar. 27  Shadow Cliffs
Apr. 2   Sunol Regional Park
Apr. 5   Membership Meeting, Hayward

Membership Meetings
Date: Mar. 1  Time: 7:30 p. m.
Location: San Leandro Library
300 Estudillo Av. 94577
Topic: Albatross and Penguins: The World through the Eyes of a Seabird
Presenter: Ted Cheeseman

Join naturalist and popular expedition leader, Ted Cheeseman, for a lecture exploring what it is to be a seabird in the vast unforgiving desert of the open ocean. How is it that albatross can fly 14,000 miles on a single feeding trip to bring home just one meal for a chick? How can penguins thrive and raise chicks in the world’s harshest environments but cannot survive in mild temperate waters?

Illustrated with images from worldwide travels with Cheesemans’ Ecology Safaris, Ted will tell stories of the new insight we have into the lives of seabirds through recent studies, especially GPS-telemetry. We are only now learning about the truly magnificent lives of the penguins and albatross, just as they face sharp declines at the hands of industrial fishing and climate change. Ted frequently travels across the Southern Ocean to Antarctica and to its sub-Antarctic islands, the heart of penguin and albatross habitat. It is there that he will take you on an entertaining and educational journey, diving with penguins and soaring with albatross, the world’s greatest mariners.

Ted’s abiding love of penguins and albatross stems from a lifetime of guiding travelers to remote seabird breeding colonies. He grew up traveling extensively with Cheesemans’ Ecology Safaris, and began studying and photographing wildlife very early. Just as Ted completed a master’s degree in tropical conservation biology at Duke University, the icy grip of the Antarctic took hold of Ted’s heart and he returned to his home state of California to lead and organize expeditions.

These voyages take him around the globe several times each year, sharing his love for the natural world with fellow travelers. Through voyages to Antarctica Ted has witnessed the decline of his favorite of all birds, the Wandering Albatross, inspiring him to keep abreast of the most recent bird science and to become involved with conservation efforts to protect these magnificent creatures.

To reach San Leandro Main Library from I-580, take the Estudillo exit. Follow Estudillo to library on the right. From I-880, take the Davis St. exit and head east, passing under BART tracks. Go through light at E. 14th St (Davis becomes Callan). Continue 1 ½ blocks to library on right. Library parking lot can be entered from both Callan or Estudillo. We’ll meet in the Karp Room. http://tinyurl.com/vfxxvfy

Date: April 5  Time: 7:30 p. m.
Location: Eden Church
21455 Birch Street, Hayward 94541
Topic: TBA
Presenter: Alvaro Jaramillo

Mark the date and place on your calendar! This is our chance to hear the wisdom of the accomplished ornithologist, author and trip leader. He will choose among one of his books or one of his favorite places or birds. We can be assured of an educational and entertaining evening. Details will be in our next issue, covering the dates, April 1 to May 14.

Bring your reusable cup to the meetings to enjoy hot or cold liquids and snacks provided by volunteer cooks.

Member or not, you are welcome at any Ohlone Audubon Society meeting or field trip.

—A&JB
Field Trips

Please note: If you have planned your Ohlone field trips from our annual schedule done last August, be aware that a couple have changed. Instead of the Shadow Cliffs trip being held Wednesday, March 16, it has been moved to Sunday, March 27, and will be a joint trip with SFBBO. It requires advance reservations so please note the details listed below. Also, the Patterson Pass spring migration trip originally scheduled for May 15 has been moved to May 22. Details for that trip will be in the appropriate edition of the Kite Call.

Feb. 12, Sat. 9:00 a.m. Near Lagoon & U. C. Santa Cruz Arboretum. Leaders: Phil & Pat Gordon, 510.538.3550, Cell 510.364.6472, PAGPEG@aol.com

Join us on the edge of Monterey Bay around Santa Cruz for an extraordinary birding opportunity. We will visit Neary Lagoon to walk its boardwalks through the 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. Additional locations will be visited (depending on occurrence of other 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 Mt. In Santa Cruz continue on SR-1 north toward Half Moon Bay. In town, left on Bay Street. Drive 0.3 mi. to turn left on California Street, crossing railroad tracks. Park at curb along Calif. St. to meet near the entrance to Neary Lagoon Park on the right. Directions to other locales will be distributed from here (NOTE: U. C. Botanical Gardens are back up hill on Bay St., to turn left on High St., and right at sign to Arboretum).

Feb. 19, Sat. 9:00-11:30 a.m. Los Vaqueros Watershed/Reservoir. Leader: Ray Fontaine, rayfontaine2@att.net $6.00 parking fee or use your EBRPD Parking Pass.

Beginners are especially welcome and encouraged. Wide, level trails make walking easy. Wintertime waterfowl, egrets, herons, grebes and Osprey and possibly both Bald and Golden Eagles might be seen as they are known to nest here. We may walk the 8 mi. round trip to the best eagle viewing area if enough birders want to make the trip. Another possibility is a boat trip to view the eagles (for a fee) but it’s not very likely. Bring your scope if you have one.

To reach Los Vaqueros, take I-580 to Livermore, exit at Vasco Road. Go north on Vasco 4.4 miles to the entrance on left. If the kiosk at .6 mi is closed, continue to the marina parking lot 2.7 mi. beyond. We will meet in the upper marina parking lot. If the kiosk is closed, you pay $6.00/car ($5.00 seniors) at the marina store. Restrooms are available at the meeting location. Rain cancels.

Mar. 6, Sun. 8:30 a.m. Lake Solano County Park. Leaders: Pat & Phil Gordon, 510.538.3550, PAGPEG@aol.com $6.00 parking fee or use your EBRPD Parking Pass.

Join us in returning to an old-time favorite field trip location for Ohlone. Lake Solano is below Lake Berryessa in Solano County. We expect to see the “hoodies” and “woodies”, along with many woodpeckers, including Pileated, and Phainopeplas. There are, often, a Bald Eagle or Osprey in the neighborhood.

Take I-680 north across the Benicia Bridge, (Cordelia cutoff) and proceed on I-80 east. Between Fairfield and Vacaville take the Pleasants Valley Road/Cherry Glen exit and proceed north about 13 miles to the park entrance. Driving time is about two hours. There is a parking fee for the day.

We will meet near the entrance in the parking lot at the boat launch. Bring a lunch.

Mar. 13, Sun. 9:00 a.m. noon. Coyote Hills Regional Park. Leaders: Marty Morrow, 510.612.8127 and Maggie Clark 925.890.3100 $6.00 parking fee or use your EBRPD Parking Pass.

Coyote Hills has a wonderful variety of habitats to explore. We will look for early arriving migrants, late wintering ducks and shorebirds as well as the resident birds. The park is good for beginning birders as well as providing surprises for the more experienced. Be prepared for moderate walking through the park. According to the calendar, March 13 begins daylight savings so we adjusted the start time (the birds will think it is 8:00 a.m.)

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 1 mile and turn left onto Patterson Pass Road to enter the park. Pay the $5.00 fee at the kiosk or use your East Bay Regional Parks Pass.

We will meet in the Quarry parking lot, the first parking lot on the left as you drive into the park. Bring lunch and we will picnic at the visitor’s center. Scopes are helpful and the leaders will have one to share. Heavy rain cancels.

Mar. 20, Sun. 8:30 a.m. Garretson Point-Arrowhead Marsh. Leader: Rich Nicholson, 510.483.5381, rsn771@yahoo.com $6.00 parking fee or use your EBRPD Parking Pass.

Walk nice, flat paved trails to search for five species of grebes in their breeding plumage along with three species of teal and a long list of resident birds. The weather should be good and the effort will be well worth it as Arrowhead always offers a rewarding day of birding. Restrooms are available. The trip should end around noon. Everyone is welcome. Hope to see you there.

To reach Garretson Point take I- 880 to Hegenberger exit, drive west to Edgewater and turn north on Edgewater. Drive to the end of the road and turn into the free parking lot.

Mar. 26, Sat. 8:30-11:00 a.m. Del Valle Regional Park, Livermore. Leader: Steve Huckabone, shuckabone@sprintmail.com $6.00 parking fee or use your EBRPD Parking Pass.

We’ll meet at the Eagle’s view parking area to start our approximately three mile walk. Expect varied trails from single path to paved road as we search for migrating and nesting birds. Restrooms and water are available adjacent to the parking area.

To reach the meeting place exit I-580 in Livermore at North Livermore Avenue. Head south and proceed through town (North Livermore Avenue will become South Livermore Avenue in town). About 1.5 miles outside town, turn right at Mines Road, go about 3.5 miles and continue straight on Del Valle Road (Mines Road turns left). The park entrance is about four miles ahead. After entering the park take quick right towards the boat launch, take the first left into Eagles View parking area. Pay the $6.00 parking fee or use your EBRPD Parking Pass.

Sun. Mar. 27, 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. Shadow Cliffs Regional Park. Leader: Rich Cimino, in conjunction with SFBBO and Alameda Creek Alliance. Space limited to 10 participants from Ohlone. Contact Rich Cimino for reservations. 925.462.6418. First called, first reserved.

Join us for an easy afternoon of birding at the Shadow Cliffs Regional Park located at 2500 Stanley Blvd in Pleasanton. The park borders the Arroyo Del Valle and is home to a significant Heron/Egret/Cormorant rookery that should be very active this month.
Band Sightings Requested

The Arctic Shorebird Demographics Network (ASDN) is an international collaboration between shorebird biologists who are currently conducting a multi-year study to examine mechanisms behind declines of North American Arctic-breeding shorebirds. The Network collaborators are color-marking shorebirds at 7 sites in Alaska (Yukon Delta, Nome, Cape Krusenstern, Point Barrow, Ikkupuk River, Prudhoe Bay and the Canning River) and 4 sites in Canada (Mackenzie Delta, East Bay and Coates Island in the northern portion of Hudson Bay, and Churchill).

ASDN would be delighted to receive reports of color-marked shorebirds observed away from the breeding grounds. Please look for marked birds of the following species and fill out the resighting report, available on the Ohlone website at http://preview.tinyurl.com/4wc64sa:

- American Golden-plover Pluvialis dominica
- Semipalmated Plover Charadrius semipalmatus
- Bar-tailed Godwit Limosa lapponica
- Whimbrel Numenius phaeopus
- Ruddy Turnstone Arenaria interpres
- Dunlin Calidris alpina
- Western Sandpiper Calidris mauri
- Semipalmated Sandpiper Calidris pusilla
- Stilt Sandpiper Calidris himantopus
- Pectoral Sandpiper Calidris melanotos
- Long-billed Dowitcher Limnodromus scolopes
- Red Phalarope Phalaropus fulicarius
- Red-necked Phalarope Phalaropus lobatus

All ASDN birds are marked with a white (Canada) or dark green (USA) flag and a color band. The engraved flags will have a 3 letter code of letters or numbers, written in white on the green flags or written in black on the white flags, and an additional color band (e.g. red, dark blue, orange, dark green, yellow) below the flag. Most birds will also have three unique color bands on the opposite leg to further facilitate individual identification during the breeding season, as well as a US Geological Survey/Canadian Wildlife Service metal band with a unique serial number.

Inquires about the Arctic Shorebird Demographics Network can be directed to:
- River Gates, Network Field Coordinator,
  US Fish and Wildlife Service, Migratory Bird Management
  1011 East Tudor Rd. MS201
  Anchorage, Alaska, USA
  907.786.3563
  hrivnergates@gmail.com

Cormier Comments

Ohlone Audubon Society has been blessed with the participation of a remarkable number of people since its founding in the late 1960’s. Some of those original members still are active in a variety of ways. As you may know there now exists the Eden Landing Ecological Reserve. It took a number of years and a number of dedicated volunteers to keep that area from becoming a racetrack or other proposed forms of development. The historical perspective of that evolution from threat of development to protected open space has been chronicled by one of Ohlone’s founding members, Malca Chall, whose husband Harold, was the first president of Ohlone Audubon Society. Malca was an oral historian for the Bancroft Library of the University of California at Berkeley. It was in that capacity that she documented the course of action over several years that ultimately led to the establishment of the Eden Landing Ecological Reserve. You can check out that very readable volume from the Hayward Historical Society and find out for yourself the cast of characters and the sequence of events that led to the establishment of another great habitat for our feathered and other wild friends.

California Audubon has established a number of Important Bird Areas in the state. One of those in Santa Clara Valley is faced with a development project that puts us at odds with our desire to be green. Panoche Valley is the area in question and a company is proposing a huge solar farm project that violates the California Environmental Quality Act and the California Endangered Species act among other issues. While many of us support solar energy as well as wind energy, we know that it must be done in an environmentally responsible manner. Apparently this solar project is not taking into account the environmental issues it should be considering. The Santa Clara Valley Audubon would appreciate your support by letter writing or whatever other action you feel inspired to undertake. Santa Clara Valley Audubon can be reached at 22221 McClellan Rd., Cupertino, CA 95014, 408.252.3747.

National Audubon Society has released a six-month assessment of the impact of the BP oil spill on the Gulf Coast region of Louisiana and Mississippi. It is a sobering report of both known and unknown impacts. From the initial oiling of the birds to damage to the environment and the concern about reduction of prey over a long period of time some of the concerns outlined. Some changes have been made to the Mississippi River channels that have damaged marshes and islands. They have not been corrected and could still provide more damage to an already threatened ecosystem. A copy of the report will be available at the membership meeting if you wish to browse through it. —EC
Great Backyard Bird Count

For the fourteenth time, the National Audubon Society, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and Canadian partner, Bird Studies of Canada, invite you to join in counting birds over the Presidents’ weekend. This year’s count will be held February 18-21. The GBBC is a great way to assess birds and get outside. It’s free and open to both novice and expert birders! for more information visit www.birdcount.org.

1. Plan to count birds for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the count. You can count for longer than that if you wish! Count birds in as many places and on as many days as you like— one day, two days, or all four days. Submit a separate checklist for each day. You can also submit more than one checklist per day if you count in multiple locations.

2. Count the greatest number of individuals of each species that you see together at any one time.

3. When you’re finished, enter your results through the web page. You’ll see a button marked “Enter Your Checklists!” on the website home page beginning on the first day of the count. It will remain active until the deadline for data submission on March 1.

From reports of rare species to large-scale tracking of bird movements, the GBBC provides insight into the lives of bird populations.

Last year, participants recorded more American Robins than any other bird species—primarily because of a massive roost in St. Petersburg, Florida. Participants reported 1,450,058 robins in Saint Petersburg alone. For perspective, the entire rest of the continent tallied 400,321 robins. Reports such as these help document hotspots for robins and year-to-year changes in their movements across the continent.

The 2010 GBBC also documented the continuing expansion of an introduced species across the continent. A dozen years ago, the Eurasian Collared-Dove was reported in 9 states during the GBBC. This year more than 14,000 doves were reported in 39 states and provinces. Tree Swallows showed dramatic increases in numbers reported compared to years past. Although the number of states reporting the species was down from 25 in 2009 to 20 this year, the number of individuals reported increased nearly four-fold, from 22,431 to 84,585. Whether this is a result of warmer temperatures and earlier migration is not yet clear.

Nominations Are Now Open

They say that time flies when you are having fun. Well, we must be having a great time, because twelve months have passed since our last search for Ohlone Board Members. If you are or know a person who is active, energetic and wise, and who would be an effective chapter officer, tell Evelyn. The slate of officers must be having a great time, because twelve months have passed since our last search for Ohlone Board Members. If you are or know a person who is active, energetic and wise, and who would be an effective chapter officer, tell Evelyn. The slate of officers

Bird Festivals

Birding festivals are one way to expand your knowledge about birds and bird behavior, enhance identification skills, visit new places, be exposed to new habitats, learn about the latest gadgets, and meet other people who enjoy the experience of birding. Lists of festivals can be found in a variety of local, national and international sources. In the west, Chuck Almdale, on the Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society website, http://preview.tinyurl.com/4abf4tc, has posted a list of California and nearby birding festivals. The following are listed for March and April:

March 3-6 Thur-Sun, 15th Annual San Diego Bay Bird Festival. This year, the California Audubon state-wide conference is meeting here in conjunction with the festival. On opportunity to attend one or both. http://www.sandiegoaudubon.org/birdfest.htm


April 29-May 2 Fri-Mon, Point Reyes Birding & Nature Festival. The coast and marshes around Point Reyes are teeming with bird life. http://www.pointreysbirdingfestival.org/site/

April 30-May 1 Sat-Sun, Clear Lake Heron Festival. A celebration of birds, wildlife, and springtime on beautiful Clear Lake! http://www.herofestival.org/ —DE

Learn Birds

Alice Hoch’s next 5 week Birding Field Trips class begins March 8 and continues through April 5. This 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 the class and registration information, contact Alice at 510.657.0475, or amhoch@aol.com

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. You may opt for web only or web+paper. —DE

WILDLIFE TRIVIA QUESTION Courtesy of BLM: Western Snowy Plovers:

(a.) Locate prey with echolocation, similar to bats
(b.) Can locate hibernating insects under the snow
(c.) Commonly nest among barbed wire to protect their young
(d.) Can’t fly, but run very fast
(e.) Don’t feed their chicks
(f.) Came West to get away from the snow, but ended up in snowy mountain areas anyway

TRIVIAL ANSWER

W. nivosus” (BLM California wildlife database)

SOLICIT: Western Snowy Plover - Charadrius alexandrinus

DE
**Welcome Members**

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


**Thanks!**

Ohlone would like to acknowledge and thank the following people for their generous contributions to our annual appeal letter:


**Our Bay: A Special Book**

The jacket of *San Francisco Bay: A Portrait of an Estuary*, text by John Hart and photographs by David Sanger, has the following comprehensive description of the book.

"With its shimmering vistas of fog, light, and cityscape, San Francisco Bay is famous worldwide - yet very little known.

The bay, together with its inland delta, is one of the largest estuaries in the Americas. It is a crucial bird habitat, a vital fishery, a major shipping center, a source of precious water, a playground for its cities, a natural resource in trouble, and a stirring challenge to our human stewardship.

John Harts’s lyrical writing and David Sanger’s eye-opening color photographs reveal this marshy hidden in plain sight - its varied past, its complicated present, and its promising future.

Hart and Sanger journey back through the bay’s history, introducing its native cultures, describing its ecology, and tracing its urban and industrial development. They take us with them on a tanker bound upriver, to a duck hunter’s blind at dawn, to a delta island when the migratory sandhill cranes come in, to the weird white fields where salt is harvested. And they tell the story of how the plucky local movement to save the bay began and evolved into a grand effort - maybe the grandest yet attempted - to repair a damaged organ of the living world.

As the authors emphasize, the real first step toward a healthy future for the bay and its human neighbors, is simply to see, to marvel, even to value, ever more keenly, the luminous, priceless, vulnerable puddle of water around which we have chosen to live."

This authoritative and elegant work, printed by the University of California Press, received multiple glowing reviews, including praise from Dianne Feinstein, Leon Panetta, Save the Bay, San Francisco Chronicle and The Nature Conservancy.

Originally priced at $35.00, a limited number are available at Ohlone membership meetings for $25.00 (plus tax). If you would like to reserve a copy, call Margaret at 925.443.3073. —ME
Please renew your Ohlone membership by the date shown on your address label.
Direct questions about Kite Call Delivery to the Membership Chair, Membership@OhloneAudubon.org

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____________________________________
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Kite Call Delivery: Paper □ Web □ Both □

We do not share our mailing list.

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:
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