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

May 15-June 30, 2011
Volume 44, Number 8

Calendar
May 17 Board Meeting, call Evelyn Cormier
May 18 Garin Regional Park, Whipple entrance
May 22 Patterson Pass Spring Migration + Mountain House Road
Jun. 1 Hayward Regional Shoreline, West Winton
Jun. 5 Field Trip Committee Meeting
Jun. 7 Annual Picnic Meeting, Pleasanton
Jun. 7 Deadline for July 1-August 14 Kite Call
Jun. 11 Veteran’s Park, Livermore
Jun. 14 Board Meeting, Call Evelyn Cormier
Jun. 25-26 Lassen Volcanic National Park Campout

Future Meetings
NO MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS IN JULY AND AUGUST
Sep. 6 Tracking Bay Area Birds With SFBBO
Stephanie Ellis will discuss the methods and findings of research at San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory. She may give you a chance to participate! In the research more likely than in the presentation. More details will appear in future Kite Calls, as well as on the website.
Reserve the date! —KC

Annual Meeting
Date: June 7, 2011
Time: Setup 5:00 p.m.
Dinner: 6:00 p.m.
Place: Alviso Adobe Community Park
3465 Old Foothill Road
Pleasanton CA 94588
Topic: Annual Potluck Picnic and Installation of Officers/Birdathon Award
Our annual meeting will be at the Alviso Adobe Community Park located on seven acres with a breath taking view overlooking the city of Pleasanton. The park is named for an historic adobe building that was built in 1854 by Francisco Alviso. If you come early you can view birds in this lovely interpretive park.
Each year our members bring a dish for the feast. Please bring your own table service, serving utensils and a favorite dish to share (about 10 – 12 servings) by the initial of your last name:
A-H: Entrée:
I-P: Dessert;
Q-Z: Vegetables or Salad.
Beverage will be supplied by OAS. Alcoholic beverages are not allowed in the Park.

To reach Alviso Adobe from Fremont or Contra Costa, take I-680 toward Pleasanton to the Bernal exit. Drive west on Bernal to Foothill and turn right. Follow Foothill a little more than half mile to the Alviso Adobe on your left. From Hayward, take I-580 to the Foothill exit and follow Foothill about 3 miles to the Alviso Adobe on your right. Meet in the milk barn.
We look forward to seeing all of our members. —A&JB.

New and Renewing Members
Ohlone sends a warm welcome and thank you to the following new and renewing chapter members:
Debra Bedford, Arlene Chin, Ellen Collins, Don and Margaret Emery, Lynn Feindel, Ramesh Gopalan, Phil and Pat Gordon, Michael Karpinko, Audrey LePell, Lois Pickett, John Pietrzyk, the Riensche Family, Margaret Tracy, Tom and Vicki Welsh, Josef Wiley, Bonnie Wilson —PAG

Recent Donors
Thank you to the following generous contributors:
Arlene Chin, Ellen Collins, Frank Delfino, Margaret Tracy, —PAG
Ohlone Field Trips

Once again, it’s time to schedule our Annual Field Trip Meeting and potluck. But first, please make sure you thank the following people when you see them next for taking time out of their busy schedules to lead one or more of our great field trips.


We’ve had some great trips this past year and we have these people to thank for making them happen.

Our planning meeting to schedule the next year’s trip will be held on Sunday, June 5 at 4:30 p.m. It will be held at my home and we’ll have a potluck meal after the scheduling. We’d appreciate your input by either joining us on the 5th or if you aren’t able to attend, e-mail your trip suggestions to me. If you would be interested in leading one or more trips and won’t be able to join us at the meeting, please e-mail your choices and approximate dates so that we can include them in the scheduling. Please let me know by June 1 if you can attend so I can make sure we have adequate seating. Mona Brauer 510.537.0311, fieldtrips@ohloneaudubon.org.

May 18, Wed. 8:00 a.m.-12:00, Garin Regional Park (Whipple entrance). Leader: Brenda Senturia 510.581.1997, Bhsenturia@sbcglobal.net

There is no better time for birding the regional parks than the month of May. Early-returning migrants and residents are well into their breeding cycles, busy with nest-building or feeding chicks. New arrivals are finding mates and setting up territories. Garin Regional Park offers a variety of habitats within easy walking distance: riparian woodland, oak savannah, and open orchards and fields. We should find swallows, woodpeckers, flycatchers, thrushes, orioles, and many others. Be prepared for moderate walking. We will start with a short leisurely uphill trail to look for Grasshopper Sparrows. To reach the trailhead, take Mission Blvd. to the junction with Whipple (in Union City). Turn northeast (toward the hills) to a parking lot on your right. Bring snacks.

May 22, Sun. 8:30 a. m.-2 p. m., Annual Patterson Pass Spring Migration + Mountain House Rd., Livermore. Leader: Rich Cimino, 925.353.0266, rscimino@gmail.com

Patterson Pass is a six mile migration funnel for several species of birds arriving in the bay area. It is also a nesting location for Rock Wren, Blue Grosbeak, Bullock’s Oriole, Lark Sparrow, and Ash-throated Flycatcher. This trip has, in years past, yielded spring surprises like Red-eyed Vireo, Willow Flycatcher, Lazuli Bunting, and a variety of Warblers. This year I’m adding Mountain House Road in search of the Swainson’s Hawk. We’ll meet at the old Chevron Station located on Greenville Rd. and Southfront Rd. Take I-580 East to Livermore and exit on Greenville Road. At the stop sign turn left and proceed to the Chevron station. Please note there are no rest rooms at the Chevron station; the next restroom facilities will not be available until about noon.

Because parking is limited, we’ll need to carpool. If you plan to attend the Mountain House Road portion of the field trip bring a lunch, drinks and a portable chair. Please be on time, we’ll only wait a few minutes after meeting at the station.

June 1, Wed. 9:30 a.m. Hayward Regional Shoreline (West Winton). Leader: Stephanie Floyd (scfloyd2000@yahoo.com)

The eucalyptus, fennel, coyote brush, and other bushes and trees along the West Winton entrance to the Hayward Regional Shoreline often produce good birds, including surprising visiting sparrows and warblers. If things are quiet there, we’ll expand our visit to include the Bay Trail or check for terns and possibly Black Skimmers at Hayward Marsh. If you’re up for a few hours of “wild card” birding, wear comfortable shoes and bring a scope if you have one. Take the West Winton Avenue exit from I-880 and go west until the road ends. Meet at the parking lot inside the gate past the park office.

June 11, Sat. 9:00-11:30 a.m. Veteran’s Park, Livermore.

Leader: Ray Fontaine, rayfontaine2@att.net

Nesting songbirds will be the main focus for this trip. Learn about bluebird trail monitoring, ecology, and bird biology. We may even spot some wood ducks and the osprey that has been seen there. Wide, level trails make walking easy (one short uphill climb). Beginners are especially welcome and encouraged. Bring your scope if you have one.

Directions: Take the North Livermore Ave. exit off I-580 and go south through Livermore. North Livermore Ave. becomes South Livermore Ave. and then Arroyo Road. The park entrance is on the right, across from Wente Restaurant. Rain cancels.

June 25-26, Sat.-Sun. 8:00 a.m. Annual Campout, Lassen Volcanic National Park Area. Leaders: Phil & Pat Gordon, 510.538.3550, PAGPEG@aol.com.

The time has come to return to Lassen National Park. We last visited this park in 2004, when we enjoyed the many discoveries to be found in one of California’s premier natural regions. I don’t think any of us will ever forget the purple color of the peak, covered in lupine! In addition to the varied habitats: the pine and fir forests, the mountain chaparral, the mountain lakes and streams, the willow riparian, and mud pots and geysers; we are hoping to see some bird specialties of the area: Gray Jays, Clark’s Nutcrackers, Black-backed Woodpeckers, and Bald Eagles.

Saturday will be spent in Lassen Park itself. Because of the high snow fall this year, we may or may not be able to go over the summit to the south. Sunday will be spent birding the area north of the park, including Burney Falls State Park, Baum and Crystal Lakes, and the Hat Creek area. Meet each morning at the Loomis Natural History Museum near the north gate entrance and the Visitor Center parking lot. Manzanita Lake is also near here.

Campsites and tent cabins are available in Lassen Park. The leaders will be camping at Lake Manzanita, campsite #C47. Motels are available at the Lassen Mineral Lodge and RV Park 530.595.4422, http://www.minerallodge.com, Shingletown, and in Old Station, Hat Creek, and Burney.

To reach the park from the Bay Area (about 5 hours) proceed north on I-5 and enter the park from the north on SR-44 from Redding and then south on SR-89. This is the highway that runs through the park from north to south. SR-36 east from Red Bluff may also be possible. It is anticipated that at trip time the road through the park may not be open from the south because of lingering snow.

All drivers must purchase entrance permits. —MB
Other Birding Opportunities

Rich Cimino offers birding trips including scheduled tours and personal guided services. This summer, he has planned the following activities.

Nome, Alaska Field Trip, June 13th to 18th, birding from the Bering Sea Plain into the interior tundra and spruce forest, covering the five road system of Nome, Glacier, Council, Solomon, Teller, Taylor as well as Cape Nome, Cape Wooley and Safety Sound. Fee: $950.00 covers transportation in Alaska.

Highway 395 Trip to the Western Field Ornithologists Conference in Sierra Vista, AZ, August 14-23. Travel from Pleasanton to SR-395 via Sonora Pass, stopping at Sonora Pass, Mono Lake and for other birding opportunities. Leave Sierra Vista on August 21, returning to Pleasanton via Inyokern, Tioga Pass. Fee: $700.00 covers transportation.

Sierra Nevada tours, tailored to your desires. Prices include transportation and guiding services, not food and lodging.

Call Rich at 925.353.0266 for details and reservations. —RC

Birding Test

A dialog on the listserve, birds-pix recently looked like an interesting puzzle. I subscribed to the group because it gives me the pleasure of seeing excellent photographs from far-away places, such as India, Great Britain, Arizona and Canada. Most of the e-mails are minimal, with just the name of the bird but some have a description of the location, status, and other information.

The post I noticed, however, didn’t have a photo attached, it just posed a question. I paste it here:

On 4/1/2011 8:03 AM, Anand Arya - GMail wrote:

> > Any more birds named after Audubon other than these three - Audubon’s Oriole, Audubon’s Shearwater, and the Audubon’s Warbler, a race of the Yellow-rumped Warbler ?
> > Would appreciate hearing.
> > Cheers.
> > Anand Arya
> > 353, Sector 15A
> > NOIDA 21301
> > INDIA

Look for the response elsewhere in this issue. I print it so I needn’t be embarrassed by those who might ask me for the answer. Please give it a try.

Poster Contest Display

OAS is pleased to announce the 5th annual Habitat Means Home poster contest. Entry forms have been distributed to the elementary schools in the Fremont, Newark, and New Haven Unified School Districts. All posters submitted will be on display at the Coyote Hills Regional Park Visitor Center from Saturday, May 7th until Monday, May 30th. We encourage all OAS members to stop by the Visitor Center to view the wonderful entries. The artwork and descriptions of why habitat protection is important have been inspiring and give us hope that the youth of today understand why we need to protect the natural world.

We’d like to send along a heartfelt “Thank you!” to Senator Ellen Corbett for her continued support of the poster contest.

―CH

East County Concerns

Niles Canyon Road Expansion. Caltrans’ proposed widening of Niles Canyon Road is expected to have a negative impact on bird populations and the efforts to encourage salmon and trout to spawn in Alameda Creek. Phase I of this three part road widening has already taken 100 mature Oaks, Sycamores, Willow and Alders during the nesting and migration seasons. Conservationist have called on local elected officials to stop Caltrans from going into Phase II and III which will required the felling of many more mature native trees and alter Alameda Creek. The creek has been the attention of many state and federal agencies for steelhead re-introduction. At the last public meeting Alice Hoch spoke of the destruction of the riparian forest being unnecessary. To stay informed go to http://www.savealamedacreek.org/

East Alameda County Conservation plan (EACC). This Alameda County funded conservation effort under the direction of Zone7 will provide an inventory of landscape and wildlife needs that Tri Valley municipalities and developers can use during their planning and building permitting process. The ranching community has asked Zone 7 not to approve the EACC be moved for county approval. Under the leadership of California Rangeland Conservation Coalition, Zone 7 is being asked to consider additional working landscape stewardship practices. The EACC could be a tool for conservationists to protest and challenge development. More at: http://eastalco-conservation.org/documents.html

Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area. This conservation initiative is a product of the Audubon and others law suit against Alameda County and Wind Power producing industry in an attempt to curtail the massive killing of Golden Eagles, other raptors and song birds. The county along with the wind power industry, government agencies and conservationist attempted to create a Habitat Conservation Plan for the last three years. Recently the California State Attorney General office offered a comprise to accelerate repowering with new technology. This agreement would make the need for the HCP debatable.

Altamont Pass Solar Farm. The county of Alameda is off in a pre-planning mode to possibly allow a 2000+ acre solar farm at the base of the Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area. They appear to have paid no attention to the results of studies and other documentation from scientists, ornithologists and consultants that verify the importance of Altamont Pass to avian life. Taking away this much foraging landscape will drive more raptors and song birds into the wind turbine areas. The potential for another Altamont Pass eco-nightmare could occur.

―RC

Answer to the test

Catharus guttatus audubonii - Hermit Thrush
Caracara cheriway audubonii - Crested Caracara
Catharus guttatus (n.b.) - Audubon's Hermit Thrush
Audubon’s Hermit Thrush - Catharus guttatus (n.b.)
Scientific name - English name: n.b. = no base name. In English names, the words are separated with a space.
No, that’s it for English names. For scientific names, there are several synonyms:

Source: Clements Checklist.
Support your local BIRDS…

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Pat Gordon
OAS Membership Chair
1922 Hillsdale Street
Hayward, CA 94541

All are welcome to enjoy any of our events, meetings or field trips. National Audubon Society (NAS) membership dues are separate from those for OAS.

Thank you for your support!

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