Calendar
Sep. 24 Vaux’s Swifts, San Rafael
Oct. 2 Oro Loma Marsh
Oct. 4 Membership Meeting, Castro Valley
Oct. 8 Coyote Hills - No Name Trail
Oct. 18 Deadline for Nov. 15-Dec. 31 Kite Call
Oct. 18 Board Meeting, Call Evelyn Cormier
Nov. 1 Membership Meeting, Hayward
Nov. 5 Patterson Pass
Nov. 13 Pacific Commons Linear Park, Fremont
Nov. 15 Board Meeting, Call Evelyn Cormier
Nov. 19 Berkeley Pier and Environs

Membership Meetings
Date: October 4 Time: 7:30 p.m.
Location: Castro Valley Adult School, 4430 Alma Avenue, Castro Valley 94546
Topic: Bird Friendly Coffee
Presenter: John Sterling

John will be presenting the research supporting the Bird-Friendly Coffee movement. He will discuss why some coffee farms are better than others for birds, why good coffee farms are critical for conservation, and will illustrate his talk with photos of birds from coffee farms in Latin America and Sumatra.

John Sterling is an independent ornithologist, tour leader, wildlife photographer, instructor and conservation biologist. He has been birding very actively since 1971, and embarked on a career in ornithology while as a student at Humboldt State University in 1979. John was an avian ecologist for nearly 10 years at the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center in Washington DC, with many additional years working for research labs of the US Forest Service (Redwood Sciences Lab and PSW Fresno), H.T. Harvey and Associates, Arizona State University, Oregon State University, and many other organizations in Latin America and California. As an avid California birder, he has accumulated detailed knowledge of bird distribution and status throughout the state and is currently writing a book on that subject. As an ornithologist and environmental consultant, John has studied the ecology and conservation of birds as well as the regulatory processes that seek to preserve them. His website is www.sterlingbirds.com.

To reach the Castro Valley Adult School from Castro Valley Blvd., turn north on Redwood Rd. and proceed about a mile to Alma on the right. The school is about a tenth of a mile from Redwood Rd. on the left side of Alma. Parking on Alma is closer to the meeting room; there is more parking behind the school. Meet in the multi-purpose room centered on the campus, next to Alma Avenue. The school’s website has location and campus maps: http://www.cvadult.org/maps.html.

Date: November 1 Time: 7:30 p.m.
Location: Eden Congregational Church
21455 Birch Street Hayward, CA 94541
Presenter: Gary Ivey International Crane Foundation, Bend, Oregon

Gary will describe the biology of Sandhill Cranes and discuss the origins of cranes wintering in California. He will highlight differences in winter behavior observable between the subspecies. In addition he will summarize threats to crane habitat in the Delta region and suggest options for keeping cranes in the future Delta landscape.

Gary works for International Crane Foundation and is also a PhD candidate at Oregon State University (OSU). His undergraduate degree is from Humboldt State and masters in Wildlife Science is from OSU. Gary served as a biologist at several western National Wildlife Refuges for 18 years (15 at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge). He has over 30 years of experience working with wetlands, waterfowl and waterbird management and conservation planning in the west, with particular emphasis on sandhill cranes in the Pacific Flyway. Gary is the primary author of the Intermountain West Region Waterbird Conservation Plan and is assisting the Intermountain West Joint Venture with waterbird conservation planning. His PhD project is a study of wintering ecology of Sandhill Cranes in California. He also serves as Vice-President of The Trumpeter Swan Society.

Eden United Church is on the corner of Grove Way and Birch in Hayward. From Mission Blvd. turn right onto Grove Way. (Grove Way is off of Mission approximately 7/10th mile north of “A” Street.) The Church is on the corner of the first block.

—PAG
Ohlone Field Trips

Sep. 24, Sat. 5:00 p.m. - sunset, Vaux’s Swifts in San Rafael.
Leaders: Jerry Steenhoven, 510.881.1233 and Gail Ryujin, gailryujin@yahoo.com

At sunset we hope to see the spectacle of thousands of migrating Vaux’s Swifts entering a brick smokestack near San Rafael. Meet at Pickleweed Park (restrooms available) where we will bird Marin Audubon’s Tiscornia Marsh area looking for Osprey, shorebirds, and fall migrants. Then we will carpool to the McNear Brickyard, 15 minutes away, to watch the arriving Swifts before sunset at 7:03 p.m.

Directions to Pickleweed Park, San Rafael: Take I-580 west across the Richmond–San Rafael Bridge. Exit at the 3rd off ramp past the bridge, which is Francisco Blvd. At the foot of the off ramp, turn right from the center lane onto Bellam Blvd. (the right lane leads to trouble) and proceed across the intersection with Francisco Blvd. Continue 0.15 miles on Bellam Blvd. to Kerner Blvd. and turn left. Drive 0.6 miles north on Kerner which ends at Canal St. and Pickleweed Park. We will meet in the parking lot in front of the library. Lawn chairs suggested for viewing the Swifts.

Oct. 2, Sun., 8 a.m., Oro Loma Marsh, San Lorenzo, (Hayward Regional Shoreline north). Leaders: Phil & Pat Gordon, fieldtrips@ohloneaudubon.org

By the end of September and early October our migrating shorebirds have returned to the bay. From the parking area we will walk out to the shore and head south along the San Lorenzo Trail, checking both the shoreline as the tide recedes and the inner ponds where the birds have roosted during the 5:44 a.m. high tide. This is a great chance to study those difficult shorebirds, including peeps, such as Western and Least Sandpipers, dowitchers, yellowlegs, plovers, Willets, godwits, Dunlin and Red Knots, to name some of our abundant wintering population. We also will watch the sky for unusual terns and gulls.

This is an all walking trip, along a level path. Meet at the end of Grant Avenue in San Lorenzo, by the water treatment plant. There is a staging area for parking on the north or right side of the road before it ends. A restroom is available. We expect to finish about noon and some of us have been known to eat in the Peruvian restaurant near the parking lot afterwards.

To reach Grant Avenue exit I-880 at Washington Avenue and head south on Washington Avenue. Turn right or west on Grant Avenue (there is a traffic light at this intersection, and Arroyo High School is nearby on the right.) Proceed to the end of the road, toward the bay.

Oct. 8, Sat., 8:30 - noon, No Name Trail, Coyote Hills.
Leader: Rich Nicholson, rsn711@yahoo.com or 510.473.5381

San Francisco Bay is an attractive rest stop for thousands of migrating birds. Walking No Name Trail gets us out about a mile into the heart of the bay where we can count on good numbers of birds including possible rarities like Redhead and Long-tailed Duck. The trail is flat and well worth the walk, it turns to sticky clay in the rain. Bathrooms are available at the start only. Rain cancels.

To reach the park from I-880, take SR-84 west toward the Dumbarton Bridge. Exit at Paseo Padre Parkway, turn right on Paseo Padre and go about one mile. Turn left on Patterson Pass Road to enter the park. Meet at the Quarry staging area, first parking lot on the left after you enter the park. Free to annual EBRP pass holders, $5 parking fee for others.

Nov. 5, Sat., noon - 4, Patterson Pass. Leader: Rich Cimino, yellowbilledtours@gmail.com

Join us for a hawk search in the far eastern edge of Alameda County. We’ll mix Swainson’s Hawk habitat conservation with raptor watching on the site of the proposed 2200 acre solar power development on Mountain House Road. Learn about the potential impacts of this development.

Meet in Livermore at the now-closed Chevron gas station on the northwest corner of South Front and Greenville Roads. Take I-580 east to exit at Greenville Road. The off-ramp ends at South Front Road. Greenville Road is to the left. Drive past two motels then turn left into the “Chevron” parking lot. Car pooling is required for this field trip.

Nov. 13, Sun., 8:30 - 11 a.m., Pacific Commons Linear Park.
Leaders: Brenda Senturia, bbsenturia@sbcglobal.net and Rich Nicholson, rsn711@yahoo.com or 510.483.5381

Fremont’s Pacific Commons Linear Park has gained increasing attention as a productive winter birding site. The ponds are excellent for many waterfowl species. Waders inhabit the pond edges and wetlands. In past years, American Bittern has been observed here. The fields are productive for wintering sparrows. We have good chances for interesting raptors.

To reach the park, exit I-880 in Fremont at Auto Mall Parkway. Go west on Auto Mall Parkway for a mile to a small pull-off area on the left at an entrance sign. Bring a scope if you have one. There are no restroom facilities, but there is a Starbucks between I-880 and the park at the northeast corner of Boscell Rd. and Auto Mall Parkway.

Nov. 19, Sat., 9:00 a.m., Berkeley Pier and Environs. Leader: Stephanie Floyd, scfloyd2000@yahoo.com

Walk 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. All birding levels are welcome. Dress in layers for cold and wind. Rain cancels.

To reach the pier, go west from I-80 on University Avenue in Berkeley. Park along Seawall Drive facing the bay or in one of the parking lots off of University Avenue near the marina. Meet at the foot of the pier. No fee. —MB

Alice’s Avians

Join Alice Hoch’s next Birding Field Trips class, October 25 through November 22. It’s tutoring while birding a different, excellent, site on five Tuesdays, 9:30-12. Friendly, helpful, classmates at all levels make it fun and productive. Class is limited to 15 so register early.

Contact Alice, 510.657.0475 or amhoch@aol.com. —AH
Alameda County Breeding Bird Atlas

At long last, we are on the brink of publishing the long-awaited Alameda County Breeding Bird Atlas. It contains 176 carefully written species accounts, 30 wonderful illustrations by Hans Peeters, and a detailed vegetation map of the county using the latest data available. Go to the Ohlone website to see the illustrations in color.

You can do one or both of the following:

- **Become an atlas sponsor.**
  You can help get this book on the road - Sponsor a Bird! It’s fun, the cost is only $35, and it would help us through the publication process so that we can finish this journey. Your name will become part of the publication. The deadline for this great opportunity is **November 1, 2011.**
  Sponsor a bird by emailing your name and request to Rusty Scalf at rscalf@sonic.net. Send your $35 to Stephanie Strait, Office Manager, Golden Gate Audubon, 2530 San Pablo Ave, Suite G., Berkeley, CA 94702.

- **Preorder your copy now!**
  We anticipate the atlas will be available in December and are taking prepublication orders now. The cost is $25 per copy including tax. Send no money now but let us know to set aside a copy for you. Contact Pat Gordon, pagpeg@aol.com or 510.538.3550. to reserve a copy of this limited edition.—PAG
**Presidential Pondering**

The recent trials and tribulations of BIG OIL have made us much more conscious of the need to develop alternative energy sources. Currently wind, solar, corn, and even shale and tar sands are in the mix. But, wait a minute, before we rush into developing any of these sources of energy we need to step back and assess the risks involved. I personally remember when the wind turbines at Altamont Pass were installed amid cheers and applause. Little did we know then what we know now. The siting of solar installations needs to be assessed for impacts on species habitat, agriculture, and other considerations. Planting monoculture crops of corn can be very damaging to sustainable agriculture. If you ask people around Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, what they think of the damage resulting from mining tar sand, you might get an earful. I am reminded of a lesson I learned riding a horse through a very dry, rocky field in Montana. Before walking over or past a big boulder, she would take her front hoof and give the rock several hard taps. When no snakes appeared she ventured on. She refused to budge until she had checked out suspicious rocks. I guess you might call that horse sense. Maybe we all need a good dose of that when we consider energy alternatives. —Evelyn

**Membership News**

Ohlone sends a warm welcome and thank you to the following new and renewing chapter members: Lowell Ankrom, Cherie Boulton, Karalee Brune, David Gill, Pat Hotchkiss, Helen Sowers, Emily Stahl, Scott Whitaker, Karen White, Anna Wilcox, Su Yang, Ameet Zaveri. —PAG

**Audubon Calendars**

Fans of Audubon calendars will be glad to hear that they are now available. Wall calendars sized 12” x 14” have themes of Birds of America (Audubon reproductions), Songbirds, and Butterflies. The 12” x 12” wall calendars themes are Nature and Wildflowers. This year there are two types of engagement calendars. In addition to the popular spiral bound week-at-a-glance format, there is a slightly smaller, a bit more decorative option. Wall calendars are $12.99, engagement calendars $13.99, both plus tax. Direct questions to Margaret at 925.443.3073. —ME

**Garden Happenings**

What is happening at the Bette Wentzel Memorial Garden at Shinn Historical Park and Arboretum in Fremont these days? The morning of August 30 started with a screaming Peregrine Falcon, harassing a young Red-tailed Hawk overhead. After things quieted down and we all got back to work, Bob Bathgate showed up to help Phil fix the dripper. While they were out shopping for parts, the Chestnut-backed Chickadees sat around the bird bath, waiting for the water to reappear! Meanwhile, a least 3 Anna’s Hummingbirds were constantly zooming around the blooming pineapple sages! Just another quiet day at the garden!

Butterfly observations this month include a new dusky-winged skipper, exact species to be determined, our first Monarch, Western Tiger Swallowtail, Fiery Skipper, Common Checkerspot (another skipper), and lots of Cabbage Butterflies. The milkweeds are looking terrific and attracting attention from the Monarchs.

Come join us each Tuesday morning from 10 a.m. - noon. There are lots of little jobs to do – trimming, fixing the pathway, planting, pulling weeds, or just watching the hummingbirds zoom by. If you need more information, call Pat or Phil Gordon, 510.538.3550. The garden is located at 1269 Peralta Avenue, 94536 near the intersection of Peralta and Mowry. —PAG

**East Alameda Conservation**

During the summer months the powers controlling the shrinking bird habitat in eastern Alameda County were busy. Much of the loss grievously affects raptors.

The 2200-acre solar farm development at the eastern base of the Altamont Pass Wind Resources Area. The Camp Parks land transfer of 600 acres to the city of Dublin nears a public hearing. A proposal for 1900 homes on Burrowing Owl habitat in Doolan Canyon to the Dublin city council for approval, instead of to Livermore, as appropriate. Burrowing Owl habitat near the Oracle buildings has been sold to a southern California developer. Incidentally, if you find Burrowing Owls in Dublin city limits, do not report them on the EBB list serve. Listed burrows seem soon plugged with cement.

Repowering of the windmills at Altamont Pass has begun. Livermore City Government has purchased lands next to Frick Lake for open space. The proposal to extend BART along I-580 and out of downtown Livermore will go to the voters soon. Each item has environmental issues.

I would like to have an active conservation sub-committee here in eastern county. Instead of monthly meetings for communication, email, phone network, and text messaging to coordinate responses to these habitat issues. I need Ohlone members who are willing to e mail elected officers to give avian conservation a voice in the area. Please call or email me if you have an interest.

Read more on the OAS website under conservation/east bay. —Rich Cimino, Conservation@OhloneAudubon.org.,
### FIELD OBSERVATIONS
Mid-August - Early-September 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIES</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>No.,etc</th>
<th>LOCALITY</th>
<th>OBS.</th>
<th>REMARKS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMMON RINGED PLOVER</td>
<td>8/22</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Davis: Davis Wetlands (Preserve); YOL</td>
<td>TE; GM</td>
<td>A new California species (when accepted) - primarily European/African. Found by Todd Esterla 19 Aug., seen by Esterla and Guy McCaskie of San Diego on the 20th, and by mob &amp; P&amp;PG on 22 Aug. Now gone. Looks mostly like a bigger Semi-palmated Plover (close relative).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redhead</td>
<td>9/6</td>
<td>2 (pr)</td>
<td>Hayward: Shoreline Effluent ponds/marsh</td>
<td>BR</td>
<td>Nesting by dumping. Redhead dumped her 3 eggs into the active nest of a Lesser Scaup. Since 1915, Redheads were 1st noted to nest here in ALA Co. in 2004. ##</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesser Scaup</td>
<td>9/6</td>
<td>Pair +3</td>
<td>Hayward: Shoreline Effluent ponds/marsh</td>
<td>BR</td>
<td>Known to breed more northerly, e.g. Alaska, but rarely known to nest in ALA Co. Lesser Scaup have only recently nested yearly in Hayward since 1996. ##</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hairy Woodpecker</td>
<td>8/13</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Hayward: 1922 Hillsdale St. Yard</td>
<td>PEG</td>
<td>Heard only. First detected in/near this Yard since Fall 2010. Historically rare in southern ALA Co., but nest found in Sunol in 1947, and confirmed breeding in 9 census blocks in the higher elevations on southeastern ALA Co.between 1993 - 1997. ##</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-shouldered Hawk</td>
<td>8/14</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Hayward: 1922 Hillsdale St. Yard</td>
<td>PEG</td>
<td>Heard and seen; a food-begging fledgling flying and perching in nearby Eucalyptus trees for three days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-tailed Hawk</td>
<td>8/15</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Hayward: 1922 Hillsdale St. Yard</td>
<td>PEG</td>
<td>Heard and seen; a food-begging fledgling flying and perching in nearby Eucalyptus trees. for 2 - 4 days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific-slope Flycatcher</td>
<td>9/3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Hayward: 1922 Hillsdale St. Yard</td>
<td>P&amp;PG</td>
<td>Perched on crown of Blue Elderberry Tree. Believed to be a migrant. Breeding Yardbird PSFl’s not seen here since end of May. Note: the first ALA Co. record of breeding Brown-headed Cowbird was from a parasitized PSFl 9 June 1934 near Berkeley, CA. (Ref. ACBBA 2011. ##; See BHCo 8/15 below)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood Duck</td>
<td>9/6</td>
<td>1 f.</td>
<td>Fremont: Grau Pond, School St., Niles District.</td>
<td>AH&amp;c</td>
<td>Although Sandy Ferreira has placed Wood Duck nest boxes here, this female is the first WoDu sighting for several (8?) years [found by one of Alice’s students].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Skimmer</td>
<td>8/29</td>
<td>2; 9</td>
<td>Foster City: Beach (Park Blvd.?), SM.</td>
<td>AH</td>
<td>Seen with Least Tern(s) &amp; Elegant Terns. The Charleston Slough BSk colony has apparently dispersed to other sites on the Peninsula, this being one, thus this tip for those looking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elegant Terns</td>
<td>8/17</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Foster City: Little Coyote Point shore (Park Blvd.?), SM</td>
<td>AH</td>
<td>During the 1950’s Elegant Terns began an increasing post breeding appearance from Baja, Mexico into southern California, then up as far as to Marin Co. - some even to Del Norte Co. Even beginning to breed in southern California.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

##=These data are soon to be published in *The Alameda County Breeding Bird Atlas*. See descriptive article in this Kite Call issue.

**Abbreviations:** m.=male, f.=female, Reg.=Regional, N=north(ern), W.=west(ern), EBRPD=East Bay Regional Park District SM=San Mateo County YOL=Yolo County (all other records, Alameda County). Cyn=Canyon, sp.=species, spp.=species (plural), ad.=adult, fide=information source, ca.=circa, about, nr.=near, w/=with, standard abbreviations often not translated.

**Observers:** TE=Todd Esterla, P&PG=Pat&Phil Gordon, PEG=Phil E.Gordon, AH&c=Alice Hoch & class, GM=Guy McCaskie, BR=Bob Richmond, G&MT=George & Marilyn Trabert

**Report Observations** for the Period: mid-September - December 2011 to: Phil Gordon, 1922 Hillsdale St., Hayward, CA 94541: 510.538.3550, or PAGPEG@aol.com.
Support your local BIRDS…

Ohlone Audubon Society

Name: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________

Phone: ____________________________

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.

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

Thank you for your support!

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

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