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

Calendar

Apr.  3  Marvelous Madagascar, Pleasanton
Apr.  4  Garretson Point-Arrowhead Marsh
Apr. 14  Del Valle Regional Park
Apr. 15  Sunol Regional Park
Apr. 17  Return of the Swallows, Chabot College
Apr. 17  Board Meeting, Call Evelyn Cormier
Apr. 17  Deadline for 5/15-6/30 Kite Call Submissions
Apr. 21  Koopmann Ranch
Apr. 22  Lake Elizabeth and Coyote Hills
Apr. 29  Mitchell Canyon
May  1  A Rapture of Raptors, Hayward
May  2  San Leandro Marina
May  6  Shadow Cliffs Regional Park
May  8  Oakland Middle Harbor
May 13  Del Puerto Canyon Road
May 15  Board Meeting, Call Evelyn Cormier
May 16  Garin-Dry Creek Regional Park

Membership Meetings

Date:   April 3  Time: 7:30 p. m.
Place:  Pleasanton Middle School
        5001 Chase Avenue 94566
Topic:  MARVELOUS MADAGASCAR
Presenter:  Bob Lewis

Madagascar has six endemic families of birds (Asites,
Ground-Rollers, Cucko-Rollers, Vanga, Mesites, and Malagasy
Warblers) as well as lemurs and chameleons found nowhere else.
Bob’s talk starts in Cape Town, South Africa, with a search for
another locally endemic family that moves to Madagascar. We’ll
explore the evolutionary concept of adaptive radiation and meet
some of the remarkable inhabitants of this fourth largest island in
the world.

To reach Pleasanton Middle School, take I-680 toward Pleasanton. Exit at Bernal Avenue and head east on Bernal to Case Avenue. Turn right on Case. The school is located on the right. Park at the south end of the parking lot. We are meeting in the library, which is to the left once you enter the campus.

Date:   May 1  Time: 7:30 p. m.
Place:  Starr King U. U. Church
        22577 Bayview Avenue
        Hayward 94541
Topic:  A RAPTURE OF RAPTORS
Presenter:  Jenny Papka

Native Bird Connections is a small educational nonprofit
based in the East Bay that became a reality in the year 2000 in
response to a growing need for wholesome and real nature educa-
tion. This group of professional interpreters and educators partner
with live wild birds to share educational messages. The birds
the Native Bird Connections bring to us are victims of perma-
nent physical or psychological damage, rendering them unable
to survive in the wild. They have been asked to accept captivity
within a realm of respect and trust. Their loss of wild life is fully
acknowledged while challenging them to take an active role as
ambassadors and teachers.

The birds and people of Native Bird Connections offer pro-
grams for schools as well as programs for seniors, scouts, and
special interest groups. They strive to provide for the audience,
an intimate view of a wild bird’s behavior and needs.

Be prepared to meet some raptors, learn their stories, and
experience a spontaneous, entertaining, and educational evening.
This is an opportunity to see these amazing birds up close, to
experience who they are and to understand their behavior.

To reach Starr King U. U. Church, take Grove Way to Center
Street. Turn on Center toward Hayward. Then turn left at the
light onto Kelly Street. Or take B Street to Kelly and turn right.
Bayview is third street on left. —MLT

Remember “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!” Bring a cup to enjoy a
beverage with the sweets after the presentations. —J&AB

May Election

We vote in May on the officers for the coming year. Nomi-
nees are: President: Evelyn Cormier, Vice President: Allen Ber-ti-
lion, Recording Secretary: Carin High, Corresponding Secretary:
Margaret Emery, Treasurer: Helen Sowers, and Director (2015).
You may nominate at the May 1 meeting before the vote, if
your nominee has given permission. —EC
Field Trips

Apr. 4, Wed., 8:30 a.m. Garretson Point-Arrowhead
Marsh Leader: Rich Nicholson, rsn711@yahoo.com, 510.483.5381
Nice flat paved trails invite you 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 Drive, and then turn north. Drive to the end of the road and turn into free parking lot. In case of heavy, late rains (not expected in April) we will cancel.

Apr. 14, Sat., 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Del Valle Regional Park, Livermore. Leader: Steve Huckabone, shuckabone@sprintmail.com
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 eastbound or westbound 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 onto 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. There is a $6.00 parking fee, no charge to EBRPD annual card holders.

Apr. 15, Sun. 8:30 a.m. Sunol Regional Park. Leaders: Jerry and Judy Steenhoven, steenhoven@sbcglobal.net, 510/881-1233 and Mona Brauer, tgdgb@pachell.net, 510.537.0311
Join the leaders for a chance to enjoy early spring at one of our great regional parks, Sunol. We hope to find early nesting activity near the foot bridge and visitor’s center. A walk partially up Canyon View trail, if time allows, may grant us views of Golden Eagles. Heavy rain cancels. Meet at the Green Barn parking lot, first parking lot on the left after entering the park.

To reach the park, take the Calaveras Rd./SR-84 exit from I-680 and drive southeast about five miles to Geary Road; turn left (east) on Geary and continue to the park (watch for wild turkeys along the road!) Parking fee $5; free to East Bay Parks annual pass holders. Bring lunch to eat while reviewing the day’s sightings at the end of the trip at 11:30 a.m.

Apr. 21, Sat., 9:00 a.m. till after lunch. Koopmann Ranch, Pleasanton. Leaders: Tim Koopmann, Irv Tiessen, Phil Gordon, pagpeg@aol.com
Once again Tim Koopmann has allowed us this unique opportunity to learn about a local ranch and its conservation management. With the assistance of participants and owners of 4X4 wheeled vehicles we will roam the grassy hills and ponds of this active cattle ranch to observe all its wildlife action; even a Golden Eagle nest. Irv has been managing a successful Bluebird Nest Box program on Tim’s property. In addition to the bluebirds inhabiting these boxes, we’ll hope to observe the Tree Swallows also using the facilities. This trip is offered in conjunction with the Swallow Festival to be held April 17th. (See additional information regarding this festival elsewhere in this Kite Call.) Tim has also graciously invited us to a lunch following this trip at the barn where he will discuss his conservation and range management methods.

Space limited to no more than 25 participants. To give Tim enough time to plan the barbecue, by Saturday, April 14th, contact Mona Brauer at tgdgb@pachell.net or 510.537.0311 to let her know you will be participating. Plan to bring a potluck dish or dessert to share during lunch. (Refrigeration is available). Some of the roads on this tour are steep, so four wheel drive vehicles for car pooling will be needed. Let Mona know if you will be able to provide a four wheel drive and how many persons it will accommodate. Note: these ranch roads are sometimes impassable after rains so if it rains the week of the trip, contact Mona to verify the trip will be held. Be on time! Once we leave the gate, it will be locked. Late comers will not be able to enter.

From southbound I-680, take the Sunol exit. Do NOT exit at Sunol Blvd./Castlwood Drive north of the Sunol exit. At the end of the ramp, turn left (east) on Koopmann Road and go under I-680. Pass the I-680 N on-ramp to follow Koopmann Rd., which parallels northbound I-680 about a mile, to end at the Koopmann Ranch headquarters. From Fremont, exit I-680 at Calaveras Ave., turn left on Paloma Rd.; go under the freeway toward Sunol. At the 3-way stop, turn right (north) to the I-680 on-ramp sign (Koopmann Rd.). Follow the directions above to the headquarters.

Apr. 22, Sun., 12:00–1:30 p.m. and 1:45-3:30 p.m. Swallow Field Trip—Two Segments $ 1st Segment: Lake Elizabeth, Fremont. Leader: Sandy Ferreira, sfer224@comcast.net. Join Sandy for a walk around Lake Elizabeth and Mission Creek to view several nesting swallow species: Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, Tree Swallow and possibly others. From southbound I-880, exit at Stevenson Blvd. and go east to Paseo Padre Parkway. Turn right on Paseo Padre, then left at the Baylis Street entrance. Turn right once you drive into the park. Go past the new water park and follow the parking lot to the end, where you will see 5 large palm trees. Meet there. Heavy rain cancels.

2nd Segment: At 1:30 p.m. drive to Coyote Hills, Fremont with leader, Phil Gordon, pagpeg@aol.com. At 1:45 p.m. we’ll have lunch at tables on the Visitor Center lawn. Then we will take our Marsh and Hills Swallow Trek 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. From Lake Elizabeth turn north onto Paseo Padre Pkwy. Follow it to Patterson Ranch Rd. (watch for sign: COYOTE HILLS RP). Pay the $5.00 fee at the Self Pay Kiosk. No charge to EBRPD annual card holders. Park at the Visitor Center.

Apr. 29, Sun. 8:30a.m. Mitchell Canyon, Mt. Diablo State Park. Leaders: Jerry and Judy Steenhoven, steenhoven@sbcglobal.net, 510-881-1233
Enjoy an easy to moderate walk on a dirt road for a 3-mile round trip to look for raptors, woodpeckers, thrushes, vireos, and warblers. In past years Prairie Falcon, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Phainopepla, Black-headed Grosbeak and Lazuli Bunting have been seen. Bring a scope if you have one.

Take SR-24 east or I-680 north to Walnut Creek; exit at Ygnacio Valley Rd. Proceed east 8.5 mi. to Clayton Rd.; turn right. Drive one mile to Mitchell Canyon Rd; turn right. Proceed to end of road and enter park after buying $6 parking permit at a ma-
chime. We will meet in the parking lot at the picnic area just past the entrance. Restrooms are available. Bring lunch to eat while reviewing the day’s sightings at the end of the trip, around noon. Heavy rain or winds cancel.

May 2, Wed. 8:00 a.m. San Leandro Marina. Leader: Stephanie Floyd, scfloyd2000@yahoo.com

San Leandro Marina in May is a great place to find shorebirds such as Ruddy Turnstones, Semipalmated Plovers, migrating Wandering Tattlers and several species of terns, all pushed up by the rising tide onto a rocky island. An easy, paved pathway runs around a peninsula offering great views of the bay and island. Bring your spotting scope if you have one. Beginners welcome.

Take Marina Blvd. west from I-880 in San Leandro to where it turns to the left (south) at the marina; continue south on Monarch Bay Drive past the golf course and meet by the restrooms in the last parking lot where the road ends in a traffic circle before a pedestrian bridge.

May 6, Sun. 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. Shadow Cliffs Regional Park. Leader: Rich Cimino in conjunction with SFBBO. Space limited to 10 participants from Ohlone.

Make reservations at yellowbilledtours@gmail.com, or 925.353.0266. First called, first reserved.

Join us for an easy afternoon of birding in Pleasanton.

Shadow Cliffs boarders the Arroyo Del Valle; home of a significant Heron – Egret – Cormorant rookery easily seen from the elevated levee trail, but best viewed through scopes. Participants can expect to see several species of waterfowl and maybe a surprise or two when we comb the riparian habitat trail lined with Cottonwood and Black Walnut trees.

Take I-580 east to Pleasanton, exit right on Santa Rita Rd, left on Valley Ave., left on Stanley Blvd. The park entrance is on the right at the first traffic signal. Meet in the Marina View parking lot. The $6.00 parking fee, waived for EBRPD card holders.

May 8, Tue. 9:00 a.m. Oakland Middle Harbor. Leader: Stephanie Floyd, scfloyd2000@yahoo.com

The Port of Oakland’s Middle Harbor Shoreline Park is a great place to bird at all tides, but as low tide begins to turn, we have a chance to see a lot of shorebirds. Possible sightings include Snowy Plovers, Semipalmated Plovers, Whimbrels, terns, Brown Pelicans, and others flying in to feed with the rising tide. The park has modern, well-kept facilities, including an observation tower, promenade pier, and narrow strip of beach, all offering wonderful vantage points of the birds, the bay, and the City. Bring your spotting scope if you have one. Beginners are welcome.

Meet at the parking lot by the gray restrooms on the northeast (Port Arnold) side of the park near the traffic circle (entrance off Middle Harbor Rd. just south of Seventh St.) Look for the tall white mast. Free. For driving directions and a park map, please refer to the park web site:

http://www.portofoakland.com/communit/serv_midd.asp

May 13, Sun. 8:30 a.m. Del Puerto Canyon Road. Leaders: Phil and Pat Gordon, papegp@aol.com

Join us this Mother’s Day for spring birding along Del Puerto Road. We will start at the I-5 end in Stanislaus County and end up on Mines Road into Livermore. We expect to see many nesting migrants, including Bullock’s Oriole, specialties to the area (including Rufous-crowned Sparrows and Blue Grosbeaks), a Costa’s Hummingbird, and maybe the Phainopepla we found last year! We will constantly scan the sky for raptors, including Golden Eagle and Prairie Falcons. If we are lucky, we will find Lawrence’s Goldfinches near the junction with Mines Road. This is mainly a driving and short walks trip. Prepare for a warm day. Bring your lunch and a full gas tank. Restrooms will not be available until lunch time. Meet at the intersection of Del Puerto Canyon Road and Diablo Grande Parkway.

To reach the meeting area, take I-580 east, then proceed south on I-5 to exit #434 – Diablo Grande Parkway/Sperry Avenue, near the town on Patterson. When exiting the freeway, take the first right, then another right onto Del Puerto Canyon Road. The meeting place is about 57 miles from Hayward.

May 16, Wed. 7:30 to 11:00 a.m. Garin-Dry Creek Regional Park. Leaders: Brenda Senturia, Bbsenturia@sbcglobal.net, 510-581-1997, and Mona Brauer, tgdgmb@pacbell.net, 510-537-0311

Come explore Garin/Dry Creek Regional Parks from the Dry Creek entrance on this relaxed mid-week trip. May is an excellent time to see a wide variety of birds. Residents and newly arrived migrants will be courting and setting up nesting territories. Excellent riparian habitat, oak woodland and grazed pasture are accessible from this entrance. We’ll be looking closely at bird behavior: setting up breeding territories, courtship displays and signs of nesting. Birds will be in their finest plumages and we should find quite a variety: woodpeckers, flycatchers, warblers, wrens, sparrows, and thrushes.

Meet at the Dry Creek Regional Park parking area. Take Mission Blvd. in Hayward south to Whipple Rd. Turn east toward the hills on the continuation of Whipple (May Rd.) past apartment complexes to a parking area on the right. Be prepared for moderate walking.

—MB

Berryessa Spring Bird Species Search

April 7, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

In addition to Ohlone’s many bird walks in April, we’d like to share this event sponsored by the Central California Area Office, Lake Berryessa Reclamation District. If you have any additional questions, please contact Ranger Todd Eggert directly.

This program is a great way to get a little exercise, learn some local history, and tally Berryessa’s spring bird species, all at the same time. Join Bureau of Reclamation Park Ranger, and bird enthusiast, Todd Eggert, to visit Berryessa’s three dominate vegetation regions - oak woodlands, chaparral, and grasslands – to inventory the resident and migrant bird species. Participants will carpool/caravan the length of the lake, stopping for short walks. Experienced and beginning birders are welcome. We may see such birds as Pileated Woodpeckers, Rufous Crowned Sparrows, California Thrashers, or even some late migrants.

For more details and directions, contact Ranger Todd Eggert. reggert@usbr.gov or 707.966.2111 ext. 113.

—MB

Alice's Avians

Alice will teach an April class. Please contact her for details. amhoch@aol.com or 510-657-0475
Return Of The Swallows Festival

The 10th Annual RETURN of the SWALLOWS FESTIVAL will be held at the Cesar E. Chavez Plaza at Chabot College, Hayward, Tuesday April 17, 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. The celebration of the return of our Cliff Swallows is cosponsored by Ohlone Audubon Society and Chabot College.

This public tribute to our amazing swallows that have returned from wintering in South America will include much information about these birds, and a tour of the swallow nests on the Chabot campus. The objective of the festival is education about, protection for, and preservation of these birds. As Professor J. Francisco Zermeno of Chabot College says, “Protecting swallows represents the conservation of our environment, the protection of our fauna for our children, and according to legend, the good luck it brings to Chabot College and Hayward.”

Two field trips are planned for the following weekend to coincide with this event (see details under Field Trips). Every visitor will receive a free 60-page booklet on swallows. Come join in the fun for the day and the field trips, too! —PEG

New and Renewing Members

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


Donations

We use gifts we receive for educational and environmental efforts and we are very grateful to the following generous donors:

Vinnie Bacon, Bob Battagin, Mike Christopherson, Lavonne Coleman, Lawrence Danos, Frank Delfino, Joanna Dixon, Ed and April Ellebracht, Amy Evans, Brooks Finley, Grant Gladman, Charles Hartwig, Christine Hayamizu, Carin High, Nan Ho, Philip K. Iwata, I. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. James Kinkella, Sherman and Alison Lewis, Lynn Locher, John Marshall, Nel O’Neil, Debbie and Tadd Ottman, David Philleo, Ed and Pam Rueling, Dr. Meredith and Robert Rocca, William Francine Salvaggio, William Scoggins, Nathan Shanelec, Helen Sowers, Mary Steel, Jerry and Judy Steenhoven.

2011 Hayward-Fremont Christmas Bird Count

Wow! What a contrast to last year! Our 2011 CBC on Sunday, December 18, was the best ever. We logged a record high of 177 species with 82 participants. The participants did an outstanding job. The birds and the weather cooperated this year. Who can forget the Brown Pelican standing on the K-rail of the San Mateo Bridge approach as seen by two groups? We did have a few misses, due to the lack of poor, stormy weather, which usually pushes down such species as loons from the north. The incredible finds this year include a Cattle Egret, thanks to Vickie Robinson doing her homework before the count, and Jerry Steenhoven’s team for refinding it on count day. We can give Vickie extra credit for her homework in finding Rufous-crowned Sparrows, Horned Larks, and a Burrowing Owl, species we often miss. David Philleo, in the central Fremont area, added the elusive Yellow-billed Magpie. This species has managed to stay just outside our count circle for years. Speaking of the Philleo team, we would like to award them the first ever Coot Award – they tallied 1924 coots in their section! Nancy Christensen needs to be recognized for her baby-sitting efforts the prior weeks to watch for the hoodies and woodies in Union City. We know everyone did well as can be seen from the number of unusual warbler species found this year, including Black-throated Gray, Yellow, Orange-crowned, and Hermit. Other teams did equally well contributing to this incredible count and we cannot thank them enough:

- Paul Smith, in the eastern hills, had a great team, including Sue Stanton and Judy Steenhoven who did a monumental hike from the eastern side of Palomares Canyon with a reward of a Ferruginous Hawk;
- Helen Sower’s team in Castro Valley returned to the school yard, after the model airplanes left, found a large group of Killdeer;
- Ranger Sandy Ferreira had a great team at Lake Elizabeth in Fremont; EBRPD personnel assisted along the shoreline; Cal Fish and Game and the Fish and Wildlife Service allowed access to important areas;
- Maggie Clark’s team in Coyote Hills, including Jerry Ting and Kate High providing wonderful documenting photos, found a Short-eared Owl and two Black Rails, two of the most elusive species;
- Phil Gordon and Sue Reneberg did the San Mateo Bridge drive, filling in for Neal Kernes, and found our one Pelagic Cormorant.

The CBC is not just about birds, it is about people too. Besides the above mentioned participants, we also want to thank all the others, including Ted Robertson and Bob Frederichs from outside our area, who both came into to help, as did returning Sue Setterberg from New Jersey. Thanks also to the new birders to our count: Michael Christopherson, who really helped in the Eden Landing Preserve Area and two new birders in my sector, Claudia Schwalm and Diana Baumbaugh. We also thank those returning leaders heading up teams: Jimm Edgar, Tadd Ottman and Debbi Wong, Forrest Bottomley, Rich Cimino, John Bradley, Rich Nicholson, Steve Huckabone, the Bertillongs, Sue Reneberg, and Debbie Brusco.

Complete lists of participants and birds follow. —PEGPAG
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Hayward-Fremont Christmas Bird Count Participants and Birds - 2011


—PAG
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