Calendar

Oct. 2, Membership Meeting, Fremont
Oct. 6, Martinelli Center and North Livermore Park
Oct. 13, Hawk Hill and Marin Headlands
Oct. 16, Board Meeting, Call Evelyn Cormier
Oct. 21, Coyote Hills Regional Park
Nov. 9, Pacific Commons Linear Park
Nov. 13, Membership Meeting, Hayward
Nov. 16, Board Meeting, Call Evelyn Cormier

Membership Meetings

Date: October 2  Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Carlton Plaza of Fremont,
       3800 Walnut Ave 94538
Topic: California’s Tricolored Blackbirds: Natural History, Recent Trends, and Prospects for the Future
Presenter: Dr. Robert Meese

A near-endemic California bird, the Tricolored Blackbird is a species of special concern that forms the largest breeding colonies of any songbird in North America. Through a multimedia presentation that includes still images, videos, and digital sound files, Dr. Meese will explore the tricolor’s natural history, field identification, history of research, and population trends. Drawing on his extensive work with the species, Bob will illustrate the tricolor’s extraordinary breeding habits and the relationship between insect abundance and reproductive success. He will also review conservation efforts and consider the prospects for the species’ future.

Bob Meese has worked at the Information Center for the Environment in the Department of Environmental Science and Policy at UC Davis for nearly 20 years. He has been conducting research on Tricolored Blackbirds for eight years and banding them for six years. Through intensive monitoring and focused research, he has helped to identify nearly 100 new colony locations, banded nearly 50,000 birds, and has documented a strong relationship between reproductive success and insect abundance. Bob’s work has taken him from San Diego County to Butte County, with a focus on the Central Valley from Kern County to Glenn County. Prior to his work with tricolors, Bob served as a member of the Peregrine Falcon recovery team for the Colorado Division of Wildlife and is currently a member of the World Commission on Protected Areas, an international network of protected area experts that is administered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), with members in 140 countries.

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.

Date: November 13  Time: 7:30
NOTE: Changed to the 2ND TUESDAY to avoid election day
Place: Casa Sandovar,
       1200 Russell Way, Hayward 94541
Topic: Tanzania Safari: Critters in Plains, Rifts, Gorges, Lakes and Marshes
Presenters: Phil and Pat Gordon

Phil and Pat will show how they were able to soak up some remarkable culture and amazing wildlife behavior on their East Africa “Safari-of-a-Lifetime.” February proved to be a prime time for this marvelous trip. Expert Tanzanian guides helped everybody find the herds of elephants, hippopotamuses, wildebeests, zebras, gazelles, giraffes and impalas, as well as the flocks of storks, shorebirds, flamingoes, and vultures — not to mention the raptors, secretary birds, ostriches, bustards, and...
Field Trips

Oct. 6, Sat., 8:30 - 11:30 a.m., Martinelli Center and North Livermore Park: Eastern Alameda County. Leaders: Ray Fontaine, rayfontaine2@att.net and Leslie Koenig, leslie.koenig@yahoo.com

We’ll meet at the Martinelli Center and bird for about an hour around the area, including the Master Gardener’s Native Plant Demonstration Garden. Hummingbirds, Loggerhead Shrike, Western Meadowlark and raptors are expected. In the past we’ve seen a roosting Great Horned Owl and hope to see it again! We’ll then drive to the end of Bluebell Drive for more. Bring water and snacks. Restrooms are available. Beginners are welcome.

Martinelli Center is located at 3585 Greenville Rd., Livermore. On I-580 East, take the Greenville exit and follow Greenville past the Lawrence Livermore Lab and Sandia. The Center is on your right, with two large palm trees and some grape vines. Heavy rain cancels.

Oct. 13, Sat, 11:00 a.m., Hawk Hill & Rodeo Lagoon - Marin Headlands. Leaders: Stephanie Floyd and Mona Brauer, fieldtrips@ohloneaudubon.org

Join us at Golden Gate Raptor Observatory’s Hawk Hill in the Marin Headlands during fall migration when thousands of southbound birds pass overhead. As many as fourteen species of raptor can be seen here, from the more common Red-Tailed Hawks and American Kestrels to uncommon Broad-Winged Hawks. On a clear day, Hawk Hill can be amazing! Our trip is planned for the peak of the season.

We plan to hawk-watch on the hill in the morning, then attend the noon docent program, where a volunteer will talk about hawk migration and identification. A newly-banded bird will be brought out and released in front of us! After the program, we’ll move down the hill to Rodeo Lagoon for a late picnic lunch. On a hike around the lagoon we may see anything from pelicans to river otters on the pond, Wrentits on the brushy hillside, and migrating warblers in the trees. Bring lunch and water. Dress in layers as it can be cold and windy in the headlands even when the sun is shining. A camp stool might come in handy on the hill. Carpooling is recommended as parking is very limited; allow plenty of time to get there and park. Meet the leaders at 11:00 am at the Hawkwatching platform at the top of the hill. Restrooms are available. Free.

Driving directions: http://www.ggro.org/visit/
Raptor specie and timing on the hill: http://www.ggro.org/raptrends.html

Oct. 21, Sun., 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., Coyote Hills Regional Park. Leaders: Jerry Ting and Vicki Robinson, fieldtrips@ohloneaudubon.org

Jerry Ting is an extraordinary birder and photographer, and Vicki Robinson is the #2 ebirder in Alameda County so far this year. Come along with these two sharp-eyed birders to explore the oaks, hillsides, marshes and Nectar Garden for Fall migrants. In past years, birds such as Pectoral Sandpipers and Golden-Crowned Kinglets have been seen in the park along with flycatchers and warblers. Restrooms are available.

Meet at the Visitor Center. $5 parking fee, free to annual EBRP pass holders. To reach the park from I-880 take SR-84 towards the Dumbarton Bridge. Exit at Paseo Padre Parkway, turn right on Paseo Padre and go about one mile. Turn left on Patterson Ranch Rd. to enter the park. Rain cancels.

Nov. 9, Fri., 8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., Pacific Commons Linear Park. Leaders: Brenda Senturia, hsbsenturia@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 including uncommon gulls. Waders such as American Bittern inhabit the pond edges and wetlands. The fields are productive for wintering sparrows, possibly Tri-colored Blackbirds, or even a stray Yellow-Headed Blackbird. We have a good chance at seeing 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, and park along the road. 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. No entrance fee.

Alice Hoch’s Class

Alice’s next Birding Field Trips class will meet every other Tuesday: October 30, November 13, November 27, and December 11. The class will bird a different, excellent birding site from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The field trips will concentrate on the field identification, life styles, and ecology of local birds. Alice’s birding class consists of tutoring during actual birding, rather than sitting through lectures.

Alice has been teaching Birding Field Trips for over 37 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. Class size is limited to 15, so register early.

For questions about the class and registration information, contact Alice at amhoch@aol.com or 510-657-0475. —AH
Membership

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

Christine Bard, Jane Chinn, Kimberly Cumens, David Gill, Stephanie Floyd, Mike Hall, Helen Hancock, Pat Hotchkiss, Anthony Jackson, Ross Kennedy, Craig Lanway, Patricia Mann, Sara Mathews, Beverly Powell, David Riensche, Tania Selden, Dwight Turner, Joan Wehr, Tom and Vicki Welsh, Karen White, and Anna Wilcox. —PAG

KittyKams Document Outdoor Behavior

What do your cats do while you put them out at night? Or day? An American Bird Conservancy release describes a study conducted in Georgia, supported by The National Geographic Society, in which cats were fitted with collar cameras and let out to record their prows. The results of the study raise the estimate of birds killed by cats by factors of two or more. Other creatures also fall prey to cats outside. The annual victim total is estimated at four billion animals of various species. It’s enough to give one new respect for the feline hunting prowess.

The link at the end takes you to the news release, which contains a link to some of the still and moving pictures produced during the study. The movie clips were more revealing in my opinion. None of the photography is Hollywood quality.

Note: I found that “saving” the movie clips gave me a file I could view with the windows media viewer, saving downloading yet another such program. Your mileage may differ.

www.abcbirds.org/newsandreports/releases/120806.html

—DE

A Walk in the Park

We are fortunate to live in the area where the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) is located. It offers many opportunities for us to get out and enjoy nature. Specific to Ohlone’s interest, at various sites it schedules activities that emphasize learning about birds. Following is a list of bird walks scheduled for the month of October.

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Details on these walks and a listing and description of all its programs can be found in EBRPD’s Regional in Nature Activity Guide. It can be accessed by going to www.ebparks.org, selecting “Activities,” “Find Park Activities,” then “Regional in Nature Activity Guide.”

—ME

Central Valley Bird Fest

On November 15-18, the Central Valley Bird Club will be hosting the 16th Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium at the Stockton Hilton Hotel.

After the hors d’oeuvres buffet and no-host bar on Thursday night, the keynote speaker, Ed Harper will present a program on “Appreciating the Birds of the Central Valley”. Sit back and watch as Ed takes you on a photographic journey to catch a glimpse of the avian world of the Central Valley.

Friday night’s keynote program is by Sophie Webb, on “Seabirds & Marine Mammals of the Tropical Eastern Pacific”. Sophie will give a wonderful glimpse into the natural history of the fascinating birds and mammals she has encountered on research vessels over the deep seas, emphasizing those that venture close to the California coast, especially during periods of migration.

Saturday night’s keynote program is by Carlos Bethancourt on “The Natural Splendor of Panamá!” Carlos will take you on a photographic journey across Central Panama, where myriad tropical birds, bizarre mammals and unusual reptiles and amphibians are seen in their natural setting! He will keep you spellbound with his stories of discovery and vivid images. Come experience why Panamá is indeed the country of Natural Splendor!

Also on Saturday, Paul J. Baicich will present “Access Matters: Why Birders Should Care” Is access to birding locations important? Well, only if you want to see birds! Other events include a “Century of Field Identification” by Joe Morlan, Bird ID Workshop by Jon Dunn and a sketching workshop by Sophie Webb. CVBS field trips always turn up exciting birds. Add in the always entertaining and educational Bird ID Panel, the wonderful display of art and gifts for yourself or others at the Birder’s Market and the camaraderie of hundreds of like-minded folks, and you know you’ll have a good time! There’s something for everyone interested in birds.

To look over the line-up of speakers, workshops, and field trips check out our website at: www.cvbs.org

The Sandhill Crane Festival, November 2-4 is another central valley event that offers expert presentations, opportunities to visit with vendors and exciting tours to view flatland, upland and water species.

—CVBS

Other Nature Festivals

Festivals offer fun, education, and chances to bird areas in the company of local experts such as the two listed above. A website that lists many more, all in or near California, can be found at www.natureali.org/nature_festivals.htm.

The festival at Monterey Bay is a popular near-by event that emphasizes learning about and viewing both upland and pelagic birds: www.montereybaybirding.org.

There is a reason nature festivals have proliferated over the past 20 years.

—DE

Ohlone Audubon Society Soon to be 40!
Established December 5, 1972
Please renew your Ohlone membership by the date shown on your address label. Direct questions about Kite Call delivery to the Membership Chair.