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

November 15-December 31, 2013
Volume 47, Number 4

Calendar

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<td>Dec. 17</td>
<td>No Board Meeting</td>
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<td>Dec. 20</td>
<td>East Alameda County CBC and Dinner</td>
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Membership Meetings

Date: December 3
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Location: Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave., 94566
Topic: Golden Eagles of the Altamont and the East Bay – (aka The Good, The Bay, and The Ugly!)
Presenter: Doug Bell

Doug will provide an overview of the Golden Eagles nesting in the East Bay and discuss efforts currently underway to better understand this population and to lessen the impacts of wind energy production on eagles. The latter will include studies incorporating flight behavior with digital elevation mapping to create risk maps to improve wind turbine siting during repowering as well as preliminary results from GPS satellite tracking of local eagles.

Doug Bell is the Wildlife Program Manager for the East Bay Regional Park District. He works closely with other experts in the region to better understand the impact and consequences of wind energy development on the long-term sustainability of Golden Eagles and other raptors. Doug received his Ph.D. from UC Berkeley. He is an Adjunct Professor at California State University Sacramento and a Research Associate of the California Academy of Sciences.

The annual members’ “slideshow” will take place immediately following the program. As time will be very limited, please share no more than 10 images. Please bring digital images on your computer, on memory stick, or CD. We will have both carousel and digital computers on hand.

Our traditional Holiday Cookie Exchange will follow the meeting. It would be nice (but not imperative) if you could please bring a plate of your favorite cookies for sampling and a copy of the recipe (if it’s not a family secret!). We’ll share the leftovers. All are welcome whether or not they bring cookies!

To reach Pleasanton Middle School, from I-680 take the Bernal Avenue exit and head east on Bernal to Case Avenue. Turn right on Case. The school is located on the right, midway down the street. Park at the south end of the parking lot. We will meet in the library, which is to the left once you enter the campus.

HEADS UP!

We are in for a special treat for the January 7 meeting as Keith Hansen will be making a presentation he calls “A Carbon-Free Big Year!”

—MLT

Post Presentation Social

Bring your reusable cup to sip liquids provided by OAS as you nibble on your holiday cookies.

—J&AB

Field Trips

We welcome beginners to all our field trips.

November 16, Sat., 8:30 a.m. - noon
Pacific Commons Linear Park and Coyote Creek Lagoon
Leaders: Brenda Senturia and Rich Nicholson,
fieldtrips@ohloneaudubon.org

Fremont’s Pacific Commons Linear Park is a productive winter birding site. The ponds are excellent for many waterfowl species. Waders such as American Bittern inhabit the pond edges and wetlands. The fields are productive for wintering sparrows and possibly Tri-Colored Blackbirds or even a stray Yellow-headed Blackbird. We have a good chance at seeing interesting raptors. Snow, Ross’s and Cackling Geese often visit this time of year.
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. After birding Pacific Commons, we will carpool about 3 miles south along Cushing Parkway and Fremont Blvd. to Coyote Creek Lagoon trail for some wetlands and salt marsh birding. This area is good for shorebirds and gulls. Bring a scope if you have one. Heavy rain cancels. No facilities at Pacific Commons, but we will make a stop en route to Coyote Creek.

November 20, Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Berkeley Pier and Environs
Leaders: Jim and Linda Hargrove, fieldtrips@ohloneaudubon.org

Join us on a walk out the Berkeley Pier, about one mile round trip, in search of Brandt’s and Pelagic Cormorants, loons, shorebirds, and uncommon visitors like Red-Necked Grebe and Parasitic Jaeger. We’ll also check out the marina and visit Cesar Chavez park if time allows to look for Burrowing Owls. Scopes are helpful. Be prepared for cold and wind. Heavy and pervasive rain cancels. Beginners welcome.

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.

November 30, Saturday, 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m
Lake Chabot Regional Park
Leaders: Rich Nicholson and Nancy Christensen, fieldtrips@ohloneaudubon.org

Lake Chabot Regional Park offers a variety of habitats for birdwatching – riparian, grassland, oak savannah, marshy shoreline, and open water. We’ll look for flocks of wintering residents – kinglets, sparrows, thrushes, woodpeckers, jays, wrens, raptors, and more. Lake Chabot is usually a good spot for wintering waterfowl and waders. We might see the Bald Eagles that nested there this year! Meet at the parking area across from the Police and Fire Headquarters.

Take Lake Chabot Road north from Castro Valley Boulevard for 1.6 miles. Turn right just before the East Bay Regional Park District sign. Follow the road uphill for .7 miles to the parking area on the left. We will hike a few miles, mostly moderate terrain with a few steep hills and possibly mud. Heavy rain cancels.

December 7, Saturday, 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sandhill Cranes of Cosumnes River Preserve and Woodbridge Ecological Reserve
Leader: Bill Scoggins, 510-581-5186

For millions of years majestic cranes have played their part in nature’s intricate web. Each fall Sandhill Cranes return to the Central Valley where they feed, socialize and roost together. The steady loss of wetlands has adversely affected crane survival in California and all over the world. See www.savingcranes.org for more information. Recently local citizens have come together to watch over the Greater Sandhill Crane and wetland habitat in the Central Valley. Please contact them at Save Our Cranes, http://www.soscranes.org.

American White Pelicans, Tundra Swans, Sandhill Cranes, winter waterfowl and raptors have highlighted past trips to the area. We’ll start at Cosumnes River Preserve and make our way to Woodbridge Ecological Reserve for sunset fly-in.

From Livermore, take I-580 to I-205 to I-5. Take I-5 north to the Twin Cities Road exit (the first exit north of the Sacramento/ San Joaquin county line). Go east on Twin Cities Road about 1 mile to the first cross road, Franklin Blvd. Turn right (south) on Franklin Blvd. and continue about a mile or so to the visitor center parking lot nearest the road. Rain or flooding cancels the trip. No pets.

December 10, Tuesday, 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Garin Regional Park
Leaders: Jerry Steenhoven 510.881.1233 and Vicki Robinson, fieldtrips@ohloneaudubon.org

The outdoors in the late fall can be especially beautiful – fresh and clear with deciduous plants shedding spent leaves that have turned yellow and brown. We’ll spend our morning in Garin Park, looking for wintering sparrows, warblers, and thrushes. Bring a lunch and liquids to enjoy as we complete our trip review. Be prepared for rain and cold. Heavy rain cancels.

To reach Garin Park, take Mission Blvd. in Hayward to Garin Avenue, just south of Industrial Pkwy. Follow Garin uphill until you reach the park. Meet at the barn. —SF

Hayward/Fremont CBC

Join us Sunday, December 15 for the 114th National Audubon Christmas Bird Count. Last year there were 2369 counts completed and 64,133,843 birds counted in the greater North American area alone! Wow! Please come out again this year and participate in this worthwhile citizen science.

Last year Ohlone CBC counters found 170 species, a good number for us, and tallied 163,405 individual birds. Who can forget the exciting sighting of the record eastern Yellow-bellied Sapsucker or the Coyote Hill’s Swamp Sparrow? Both of these birds are vagrants from the east.

You can now access the 2012 CBC results at: http://netapp.audubon.org/CBCObservation/CurrentYear/resultsByCount.aspx. Just click on the country and state and add our code: cahf. You can view all the species and their numbers we observed in our effort, and your name if you participated last year’s count. To those of you who did participate, many thanks.

We need your help to be successful again. Our leaders and participants really came through last year and we hope for a repeat performance. Everyone’s help is invaluable and greatly appreciated. Remember that there is no longer a participant fee and the postcount dinner is free.

It must be stressed that our success in securing the important, basic “scientific” accuracy of the count hinges on coverage and consistency (participants - you!). Good manners and diligent searching efforts continue to be our goals, especially in the working of teams as well as finding new count areas. The count benefits from the participation of each person who carries out the necessary jobs from recording data, returning borrowed keys, helping with the dinner to just being out there! We also would like to invite you to be one of our feeder counters (details in the following article). All are welcome and very much needed.

There will be a precount meeting at the home of Pat and Phil Gordon. All are welcome, especially new participants and leaders. It’s a good time to meet the leaders, pick your area and share the latest bird data. Meet on Friday, December 6 at 7:30 p.m. at 1922 Hillsdale Street, which is northeast off the upper end of E Street in Hayward. It is not mandatory to attend this meeting to
participate in the count, but it is fun to meet other birders. If you have questions, contact the compilers at PAGPEG@aol.com or call 510.538.3550.

Dinner on the evening of the Hayward-Fremont CBC will be held at Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church, 22577 Bayview Avenue, Hayward, CA 94541. Doors will be opened at 5:30 p.m., and dinner will be served at 6:30. Please bring utensils, plates, and cups to enjoy a catered meal, courtesy of Ohlone Audubon Society. Directions to the church follow.

From south Hayward, take Mission Blvd. (SR-238) to Foothill, turn right on B Street and proceed to the top of B Street. Take Kelly Street (the right fork) past Vals Burger and proceed uphill. The third left is Bayview Avenue. The church is on the left side of the street. Look for the dimly lit church sign.

From I-580 East, take the Crow Canyon/Grove Way exit. Turn right onto Grove Way. Turn left at the next signal, Center Street. Turn left at the next signal, Kelly Street. Proceed as above.

From I-580 West, take the East Castro Valley Blvd. exit, turn left onto Castro Valley Blvd. Turn left at the next signal, Grove Way, and turn left again at the following signal, Center Street. Go to the next signal and turn left on Kelly Street. Continue per directions above.

For direction questions, call Evelyn Cormier, 510.471.0475.

For dinner details, contact Allen and Jackie Bertillion at 510.782.4874.

—EC&A&JB

Feeder Watchers Needed

You can stay warm and count birds at the same time. Be a CBC bird feeder watcher! Count the number of birds of each species that visits your yard and the hours watched on Sunday, December 15. To add this information to the official record send your address and data to the compilers, pagpeg@aol.com, mail it to 1922 Hillsdale Street, Hayward, CA 94541 or phone it in: 510.538.3550.

EAC-CBC

You are invited to take part in the fifth annual Eastern Alameda County Christmas Bird Count, which is scheduled for Friday, December 20. Please join us. You will have a chance to sample the bird life in several interesting habitats that fit a variety of interests and abilities. You'll be contributing to the Audubon data base and knowledge of the status and distribution of resident and visiting winter birds, and have fun doing it.

After a day in the field you can join your fellow counters at the postcount dinner to learn what birds have been found and where they were located. A rarity or two usually turns up; learning of them right away can increase the chances you can see them, too. The food is good, and the company is even better, and it costs only $5 if you sign up by December 17th. Dinner will be held at Calippe Preserve Golf Course, 8500 Clubhouse Road, Pleasanton, 94566.

Twenty-six sections are to be assigned. Leader and team member positions are open now. Email to express your preference and receive your assignment. We hope to see you there!

If you have questions about the count, please contact me: Rich Cimino, CBC compiler, Yellowbilledtours@gmail.com, http://easternalamedacountychristmasbirdcount.yolasite.com, or Jeff Miller, co-compiler, (jeff@alamedacreek.org), http://www.alamedacreek.org/join-volunteer/CBC.php. —RC

Holiday Gift Dilemma?

Winter Birding Trip to Distant Shores?

Don’t forget the Ohlone T-shirts and/or eco-bags as possible holiday gifts. Either fit nicely in a suitcase and can make a great lasting memory gift to your birding guide on your winter birding expedition. Contact Mona Brauer, tgdgmb@pacbell.net, if you would like to purchase either or both.

Impacts of the Shutdown

The following letter to the Oakland Tribune, written by John Bradley, an Ohlone Audubon member, is repeated here because it was so well written. We are indebted to John and to the Tribune for permission to reprint it.

Letters to the editor, Oakland Tribune © 2013 Bay Area News Group
Posted: 10/14/2013 04:00:00 PM PDT

Federal shutdown is counterproductive

On Oct. 4, I received an email: Dedication of wildlife viewing platform at local wildlife refuge canceled. This event was years in the making. My Ohlone Audubon bird club contributed $30,000.

At Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, scores of public events, hikes, wildlife interpretive activities, garden plant sales, and habitat restoration projects occur during the annual Refuge Week. Now, these events are canceled, despite the weeks and months of planning and preparation on the part of refuge staff and citizen volunteers.

Yes, eventually Congress will get an appropriations bill passed, but not without causing hardship to citizens. Do the honorable representatives have any idea how long it takes to schedule elementary and high school field trips to the wildlife refuge? How many hours of preparation on the part of school teachers and parents and refuge staff such out-of-door activities require? Who are these misguided representatives in our nation’s capital holding us hostage?

It is ludicrous to shut down national parks, wildlife refuges, recreational seashores and historic monuments at a time when citizens are becoming increasingly aware of the health benefits of spending time outside.

The government shutdown is so very counterproductive and it is greatly hurting us at the local level.

John R. Bradley, Newark

John’s letter, incidentally mentioning the aborted celebration of our new viewing platform at DESFBNWR, captures the reaction of many people to recent congressional behavior that lead up to “the shutdown.” Not only those who would have visited the national parks and refuges, but also the employees of the parks, refuges, nearby businesses that are dependent on tourism, federal agencies, such as Social Security, NASA, national laboratories, contractors and employers reliant on federal support were all negatively impacted by this decision of congress. —DE

Celebration Rescheduling

Now that the refuge is open, our thoughts turn to rescheduling the celebration of the new viewing platform. It is completed, our sign is installed and viewers are enjoying it.

We are contemplating a late winter event, while the winter residents are here and migrants start passing through on their way north from winter residences in the southern hemisphere. —DE
Photo Bird-A-Thon Results

Jerry Ting and Davor Desancic hit the trails from Berkeley to Fremont on a warm fall day, October 16, in pursuit of as many species as they could find and photograph in a twelve-hour period. At the end of their Big Day, they’d seen and/or heard 131 species and photographed 115 of them. Here are some highlights:

Two Ospreys and waves of Common Mergansers - 100 birds - flying over Quarry Lakes Regional Park
Common Poorwill near the Quarry staging area and three Red-Breasted Mergansers on the bay at Coyote Hills Regional Park
Lapland Longspur on Mt. Trashmore at Hayward shoreline
Golden-Crowned Kinglets, Common Tern, and Spotted Sandpipers in Alameda
Pygmy Nuthatches and Red-Breasted Sapsucker in the Berkeley hills
Wood Duck in the Oakland hills
Golden Eagle, Ferruginous Hawk, and Loggerhead Shrike at Vargas Plateau

A big thank you goes out to the many people who cheered them on with donations to Ohlone Audubon totaling more than $1000. Donations will continue to be accepted through November 5, and final results will be announced at our Membership meeting that night in Hayward. A big thank you to Jerry and Davor for their efforts to promote the love of birds and birding! -SF

Evelyn’s Ruminations

As a self-professed cat lover I have to say to cat lovers everywhere, please keep your cats indoors, especially if you also love birds. There have many well researched studies by a number of organizations that led to the conclusion that the “trap, neuter, release and feed plan” does not protect birds. Studies have documented that cats coming to the feeding stations still catch birds, mice, lizards or other little critters. While spay and neuter programs do reduce the number of cats to some extent, it seems not enough to protect birds.

It has been noted that where there are large quantities of food in parks and open space areas other cats are lured in and dumping with no cats. Cadavers cats have been examined and found to contain remains of endangered species in their stomachs. While spay and neuter programs do reduce the number of cats to some extent, it seems not enough to protect birds.

A two year study by East Bay Regional Parks in two grassland areas found that cats had a significant impact on wildlife. One park had no cats. The other had more than 20 cats who were fed daily. Scientists saw almost twice as many birds in the park with no cats. Cats had a significant impact on wildlife.

So if you love your cats and love the birds, please keep your cats indoors. They can live long happy lives there. —EC

Ohlone Membership

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

Lowell Ankrom, Lee Aurich, Shikhar Bajaj, Claudette Begin, Marsha Brandt, Alex Chis, Ray Fontaine, David Gill, Grant Gladman, Anastasia Lydon, Pat Mann, Cecilia J. Oshiro, Nancie Ryan, Brenda Senturia, Emily Stahl, Marge Trevorrow, Helene and Darrell Victor, Ken Walters, Anna Wilcox, and Chris and Teri Wills. —PAG

Take a Fresh Look at Nature with Project FeederWatch

More participants needed to track birds at their feeders

Ithaca, N.Y.—A fresh new season for the Project FeederWatch citizen-science project kicks off on November 9. Anyone with an interest in birds and nature is invited to be part of the action. FeederWatch also has a fresh new look for its 27th season, plus new web tools that make participation and exploration even easier and more fun.

Join the tens of thousands of people who keep tabs on the birds that come to their feeders from November through April. Participants submit their observations to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. These long-term data from across North America could not be gathered any other way. Observations help reveal the important patterns in bird distribution and numbers that may be changing over time from a continental scale or to a participant’s own backyard.

New and returning participants are urged to sign up now at www.FeederWatch.org.

“We have a new interactive tool called ‘Common Feeder Birds’ that allows people to learn about the food and feeder preferences of nearly one hundred species, based on data collected by participants,” says FeederWatch project leader Emma Greig.

“The tool can be used to predict what birds can be attracted to an area so you can offer foods strategically to attract the type of bird you desire.”

Observations from a record number of participants last season helped scientists follow the changes in woodpecker and nuthatch populations in the Midwest where trees were infested with invasive emerald ash borer beetles. “We need continued FeederWatch data on woodpecker and nuthatch populations throughout North America to better understand the long term consequences of this beetle invasion” Greig says. “We also need renewed FeederWatcher effort to monitor the health of House Finches, which are susceptible to a disease that causes swelling around the eyes. Our participants will be asked to report whether they looked for the disease and whether they saw sick birds.”

To learn more about joining Project FeederWatch and to sign up, visit www.FeederWatch.org or call the Cornell Lab toll-free at 866, 989.2473.

In return for the $15 fee ($12 for Cornell Lab members), participants receive the FeederWatcher Handbook and Instructions with tips on how to successfully attract birds to your feeders, an identification poster of the most common feeder birds, and a calendar. Participants also receive Winter Bird Highlights, an annual summary of FeederWatch findings, as well as the Cornell Lab’s quarterly newsletter, Living Bird News.

Project FeederWatch is a joint research and education project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Bird Studies Canada. —CLO

Donations

We would like to extend a hearty “Thank you!” to those who have recently made generous donations to Ohlone Audubon Society. The list includes:

Liz and Bob Bathgate, Nancy Christensen, Tom Ingram, Michael Karpinko, Aaron Maizlish, and Marilyn Trabert. —PAG
West County Conservation

Dumbarton Quarry Park Plans. Another continuation of the matter has been requested by the quarry operator and EBRPD as they continue to negotiate some final details. The issue will now be before the Fremont City Council on November 5th.

Patterson Ranch. There hasn’t been any update on when the transfer of lands to EBRPD will occur. We had heard that would not occur until after the Tentative Vesting Tract Map and grading plans were approved. Those items were approved in August.

There is no new news regarding the lawsuit filed by the Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge over the inadequate EIR for the Area 3 and 4 Specific Area Plan.

Newark. The public had another opportunity to express their concerns regarding the “updated” Newark General Plan at a Planning Commission meeting on October 22nd. The General Plan states the overall “vision” for growth in Newark remains appropriate. At a recent city council meeting, the consultant for the city stated the plan just needs to be updated to reflect best practices, and to add policies on current and emerging issues. The general plan language emphasizes concepts like “sustainability.”

The biggest elephant in the room is that continued plans to develop upscale housing and a golf course on the former Whistling Wings and Pintail duck clubs is not “sustainable.” It is not consistent with the vision of creating a community that utilizes alternative modes of transportation (i.e. other than personal auto use), it does not adequately address the issue of sea level rise beyond 2050 (and possibly sooner), and most important, it continues to ignore the regional significance of Area 4 from an ecological perspective.

The 2013 Poster Contest Ice Cream Social. Senator Ellen Corbett once again honored our poster contest winners with a wonderful ice cream party. The Senator’s office was packed! And all but one of the 18 winners showed up to meet her. The Senator was so obliging about posing for pictures that she was a little late for a television interview regarding her recently passed bill regarding limousine safety. We are truly indebted to Senator Corbett for her continued support of the contest.

East County Conservation Chair

Rich Cimino, who has represented OAS for the past eight years as conservation chair in eastern Alameda County, has announced his retirement. He remains in the area but is retiring to give his Yellowbilled Tours birding field tours his full attention. Rich’s retirement is not an immediate dropping of responsibilities. He and the OAS Board of Directors have considered several ideas to carry on conservation advocacy during his phase-out period. The pending areas of conservation concern are:

- Burrowing Owl preservation: City of Dublin Camp Parks land transfer.
- Raptor preservation: TRILINK SR-239 - SR-4 expansion into Mountain House raptor foraging habitat.
- Eastern Alameda Conservation Strategy: The final stages of a land use plan for Tesla/Carnegie area to preserve a magnificent upland Oak savanna as a State Park or an East Bay Regional Park.
- Del Valle Arroyo quarry realignment: Cemex is seeking a county permit to strip mine the gravel in the Del Valle Arroyo which requires a new arroyo alignment.
- Friends of Springtown Preserve: Land use planning of a highly threatened ecosystem in Livermore.

We are seeking concerned individuals to volunteer to represent OAS in these areas. Rich will be available to hand off pertinent documents, offer consultation on issues, and possibly attend a meeting with you for introductions. If you have an advocacy interest in any of these, call Rich for details at 925.353.0266. Please no e-mails.

Have you lapsed?

Is it time to renew? Look at your mailing label - it will tell you. For example: “Pd Thru 1/1/14” indicates that you are paid thru January 1, 2014. A red “RENEW?” indicates that this is your last Kite Call! A “JOIN LOCAL?” on your label indicates that you have joined the National Audubon Society, but alas, not your local Ohlone chapter. To renew or join please send a $20 check to Pat Gordon, Membership Chair, 1922 Hillsdale Street, Hayward, CA 94541-5428, or select “Join” on the website.

Thanks! —PAG
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<th>SPECIES</th>
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<th>LOCALITY</th>
<th>OBS.</th>
<th>REMARKS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greater White-fronted Goose</td>
<td>9/27; 10/8</td>
<td>5; 1</td>
<td>FREMONT: Coyote Hills RP, Lake Elizabeth</td>
<td>DD; SF</td>
<td>Occasional wintering species. Unusual migrant away from Central Valley.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BROWN BOOBY</td>
<td>10/7</td>
<td>1 imm.</td>
<td>HAYWARD: Hayward Landing</td>
<td>BR</td>
<td>Vagrant here (assumed to be from Mexican populations-PEG).</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>HAYWARD: San Mateo Bridge Tower</td>
<td>PAG</td>
<td>Seen as passenger while crossing San Mateo Bridge. On cement base of power tower [near south parking station # 4]. Vagrant here (assumed to be from Mexican populations-PEG).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Osprey</td>
<td>9/29; 10/11</td>
<td>1; 1</td>
<td>SAN LORENZO, EBRPD Shoreline Trail</td>
<td>AK; P&amp;PG &amp;c</td>
<td>Near Bockman Channel (from Grant Ave.). On 10/11 an adult Osprey was perched on a short post near the shore just south of San Leandro Creek mouth.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sandhill Crane</td>
<td>10/4</td>
<td>Small flock</td>
<td>HAYWARD: Mt. Trashmore landfill</td>
<td>SH</td>
<td>Flew over this old (now) grassy earthen dump site along the S.F. Bay shoreline (1000-1500 ft.-SH). Very rare here, probably from winter migrants more commonly found in the Valleys of San Joaquin and Sacramento.</td>
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<tr>
<td>RUFF</td>
<td>10/4; 10/10; 10/11; 10/12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>ALAMEDA: Crab Cove</td>
<td>BR; SF; JS; TR</td>
<td>Rare migrant. Seen associating with Greater Yellowlegs and others. Best seen on out-going tides.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Least Tern</td>
<td>10/11</td>
<td>3 - 4</td>
<td>SAN LORENZO, EBRPD Shoreline Trail</td>
<td>P&amp;PG &amp;c</td>
<td>Near Bockman Channel (from Grant Ave.). Seen and heard. Late migrants from coastal nesting on tidal mud or sandy flats and dunes or islands. Pacific birds winter along South American coast to Peru.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burrowing Owl</td>
<td>10/15</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>HAYWARD: nr. San Lorenzo Shoreline Trail</td>
<td>VR</td>
<td>Near the Gabbert Radio Towers, Frank’s Dump West.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Common Poorwill</td>
<td>10/4, 10/16</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>HAYWARD: West Winton Ave., Coyote Hills RP</td>
<td>BR JT&amp;DD</td>
<td>First record in this area. More regularly found during breeding season in dryer hilly and rocky scrub of Mt. Hamilton Range, e.g., Mines Rd., Arroyo Del Valle and Mocho and Santa Cruz mountain range south. May winter in southern part of breeding range or migrate as far south as Mexico.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hammond’s Flycatcher</td>
<td>10/8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>FREMONT: Coyote Hills RP</td>
<td>JT</td>
<td>Regular, but unusual migrant here.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden-crowned Kinglet</td>
<td>10/16</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>FREMONT: Coyote Hills RP</td>
<td>VR</td>
<td>Found along Bayview Trail in fennel with Bushtits and Ruby-crowned Kinglets. (Photos-VR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swainson’s Thrush</td>
<td>10/4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>HAYWARD: West Winton Ave.</td>
<td>BR</td>
<td>Late migrant (probably Coastal subspecies). Breeding here in humid, undergrowth of forests and riparian habitats. Heading for southern South America. [Catherus ustulatus ustulatus].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sage Thrasher</td>
<td>10/2; 10/3; 10/5; 10/8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>FREMONT: Coyote Hills RP</td>
<td>JT; DW; RN+g</td>
<td>Rare, wintering? migrant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee Warbler</td>
<td>10/4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Hayward: W. Winton Ave.</td>
<td>DW, RN+g</td>
<td>Rare migrant. Winters (casual in coastal California) to north Venezuela and Ecuador.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nashville Warbler</td>
<td>9/29; 10/3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>FREMONT: Coyote Hills RP</td>
<td>SF; JT</td>
<td>Unusual migrant here. Found (and photographed by JT) on hill north of Quarry parking lot.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FIELD OBSERVATIONS  Late July - mid October

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIES</th>
<th>DATE(S)</th>
<th>No.,etc</th>
<th>LOCALITY</th>
<th>OBS.</th>
<th>REMARKS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Palm Warbler</td>
<td>10/3; 10/8</td>
<td>1; 1</td>
<td>FREMONT: Coyote Hills RP</td>
<td>SF, VR, JT</td>
<td>Unusual migrant here. Apparently two different birds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lapland Longspur</td>
<td>10/4; 10/14</td>
<td>2; 1</td>
<td>HAYWARD: West Winton Ave.</td>
<td>DW; JT</td>
<td>Found by BR 10/4 along w/ CCLo (see below). Photo-JT. (JT+DD hope to find these for the OAS Photo Bird-A-Thon, Wed. 10/16).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chestnut-collared Longspur</td>
<td>10/4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>HAYWARD: West Winton Ave.</td>
<td>BR</td>
<td>This species and LaLo, although rare, were regular in winter, and only later years are again being seen. Rare migrant from Arctic nesting.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ABBREVIATIONS: ALA=Alameda = most undesignated counties, CCLo=Chestnut-collared Longspur, E=East(ern), EBRPD=East Bay Regional Park District, imm.=immature, LALO=Lapland Longspur, N=north(ern), RP=Regional Park, S=south(ern). Standard abbreviations often not translated.


REPORT OBSERVATIONS FOR THE PERIOD OF LATE OCTOBER TO DECEMBER, 2013 TO: Phil Gordon, 1922 Hillsdale St., Hayward, CA 94541, 510.538.3550 or PAGPEG@aol.com.

Central Valley Bird Symposium

On November 21-24, the Central Valley Bird Club will be hosting the 17th Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium at the Stockton Hilton Hotel in Stockton, CA.

Come and help us kick off this year’s CVBS! Meet the CVBS board and staff members! Reconnect with old friends and meet new ones! Take advantage of the delicious hors d’oeuvres buffet and no-host bar on Thursday night. This year the Thursday night program is a “double-Ed” presentation, with speakers Ed and Ed (Harper and Pandolfino) discussing trends in bird populations in the Central Valley.

Friday night’s program by Kimball Garrett is “Avian Invaders in California”. Few areas of North America are as prone to the release and establishment of non-native bird species as California. Whether introduced purposefully or by accident, these avian immigrants include some of our most familiar bird species (think House Sparrow, European Starling and Rock Pigeon), a whole suite of additional species whose status is ever-changing, and a seemingly never-ending parade of escapees that send us running for our foreign field guides when we encounter them.

Don’t miss the Saturday night program “Birds of the Sierra Nevada” with Ted Beedy, Ed Pandolfino and Keith Hansen! Ted, Ed, and Keith will take you on a virtual transect of the range from the oak savanna in the west, through serene conifer forests of the west side, up into the majestic alpine regions, and down the steep eastern escarpment to the pinyon/juniper woodlands and open steppes of the Great Basin. See and hear the stunning diversity of birds that make the Sierra their home and learn which of the birds are in decline and which are expanding and increasing.

Also on Saturday, Susan Schneider will present a fascinating program, “No Birdbrains Here: The Latest on Learning Instinct and Intelligence in Birds”, exploring bird learning and intelligence, from everyday foraging, to learning through observing, to tool use. Dawn Garcia will share data about the secretive Northern Saw-whet Owls in her program, “Migration Patterns of Northern Saw-whet Owls near Forest Ranch, CA”. Join Andy Englis for an up close look at Central Valley birds at his specimen workshop.

A series of hands on events include a workshop by Bob Steele for photographers, a bird sketching with artist Keith Hansen, a carving seminar for beginners with Jim Burcio, and Beginning Birding with Jim Gain. Don’t miss “Seeing Rare Birds in California: Why our state list is the largest in the US at 652 species and you can help find more” by Joe Morlan and a Flycatcher ID Workshop with Jon Dunn.

Our field trips always turn up exciting birds. Add in the always entertaining and educational Bird ID Panel, the wonderful display of optics, 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. Come and join us to bird, learn, and just have fun!

For background information on the line-up of speakers, to learn more about the workshops and field trips and to check out details on how to register for this event, go to the symposium website at www.2013cvbs.org.

We hope to see you there! —Linda Pittman, CVBS
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

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Direct questions about The Kite Call delivery to the Membership Chair.

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