Experience the visual beauty and unique songs and calls of the birds of the varied habitats of Southwest Colombia from the valleys, cloud forest, freshwater lagoon and rivers to the páramo, high in the Andes. Watch the antics of a Black-billed Mountain Toucan as it feeds in the cloud forest. See five species of Antpittas up close at Rio Blanco Preserve and hear the unusual song of the Jet Antbird at Sonso Lagoon. Delight in the Buffy Helmetcrest, a hummingbird of the Páramo. Torrent Ducks, Cock-of-the-Rock and more are shown in photos, video, and audio recordings -- all seamlessly integrated into this presentation.

Gordon Beebe is president of Madrone Audubon Society of Sonoma County, a project coordinator for the Sonoma County Breeding Bird Atlas, a Saturday bird walk leader, and the website editor for Madrone Audubon. He lives with his wife Judy in Santa Rosa, CA.

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.

Follow us on Facebook! See updates and photos from our activities that you can share with your friends! Find us by doing a Facebook search for Ohlone Audubon Society.
Cuba is one of the closest neighbors to the United States, but due to politics it might as well be on the other side of the world. Few Americans have traveled there, and birders have been restricted to a few legal survey trips a year or going there illegally through Canada in order to enjoy its birds. But things are finally starting to open up and we expect that more and more birders will be able to enjoy the amazing diversity and incredible level of endemism (species found nowhere else on earth). Cuba is a fantastic birding destination. It is safe, birdy, has much protected habitat and forest cover, and there is still a lot to learn there. In fact, it may be the place where the Ivory-billed Woodpecker actually still lives!

Alvaro has been lucky to have bired in Cuba on more than six occasions over the years. He is excited to be able to show you some of the gorgeous bird life, teach a bit about the interesting biology of Cuban wildlife, and give you a sense for the culture, people and how Cuba remains a charming, friendly and very jovial place even though the people there have had to endure so much!

Alvaro Jaramillo was born in Chile but began birding in Toronto, Canada, where he lived as a youth. He was trained in ecology and evolution with a particular interest in bird behavior. He is author of two books, including *The Birds of Chile* and has recently finished the ABA Field Guides to the Birds of California. Alvaro writes the “Identify Yourself” column in *Bird Watcher’s Digest*. He runs a birding and nature tour company, Alvaro’s Adventures, where the focus is to have fun, learn a thing or two and just enjoy birds and nature. Alvaro lives with his family in Half Moon Bay, California.

To reach San Leandro Main Library from I-580, take the Estudillo exit. Follow Estudillo to library on the right. From I-880, take the Davis St. exit and head east, passing under BART tracks. Go through light at E. 14th St (Davis becomes Callan). Continue 1 ½ blocks to library on right. Library parking lot can be entered from both Callan or Estudillo. We’ll meet in the Karp Room.

**Field Trips**

**San Joaquin Valley Refuges & Little Panoche Road**

**Leaders:** Phil & Pat Gordon

We will be making our annual jaunt to the southern refuges this year. **Saturday** will be spent at the refuges in the area, including Merced NWR and possibly San Luis NWR and Los Banos Wildlife Area. This should be a day of spectacular views of waterfowl: ducks, geese, cranes and maybe swans. On Saturday, we plan to have dinner at Wool Growers Restaurant in Los Banos (Basque), located near the intersection of 6th and H Street. **Sunday** will be spent driving south to Little Panoche Road and the Panoche Valley. Our plan this year is to turn around at the inn junction after birding in the area and come home via I-5, in contrast to previous years’ trips home through Hollister. In Panoche Valley we will be looking for Mountain Bluebirds, Vesper and Lark Sparrows, Mountain Plovers, and a good assortment of raptors. Campers can spend the night at the Basalt Campground or other campgrounds around San Luis Reservoir. Go to the San Luis NWR web site for more information, [http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=558](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=558) Lodging suggestions in Santa Nella include Motel 6 (209-827-2700), Quality Inn (formerly Holiday Inn Express,877-859-5), Best Western Andersen’s Inn (800-780-7234), or Hotel Mission De Oro (209-826-4444).

Meet Saturday and Sunday at 8:30 AM at the O’Neill Forebay Wildlife Area. From the Bay Area take I-580 E, then I-5 south.; Exit at CA-33 south (Santa Nella Blvd.). Restrooms are located at the nearby McDonald’s and Starbucks. Proceed south about 1 mile past Santa Nella on SR-33. The parking area for the wildlife area is just north of the canal and is signed. Drive time is about 1.75 hours. For more information give Phil or Pat a call at 510/ 538-3550 or cell 510-364-6472510-690-7613; Trip will go rain or shine. Only heavy flooding will cancel.
Lake Elizabeth - Central Park, Fremont

**Leaders:** Stephanie Floyd & Ranger Sandy Ferrerira
fieldtripATohloneaudubon.org

Lake Elizabeth in Fremont’s Central Park is a great place to find birds in winter. Cackling Geese, Greater White-Fronted Geese, and sometimes Ross’s and Snow Geese visit the soccer lawns with the Canada Geese. Wintering ducks may be plentiful on the lake. In the reeds that line the lake and in the willows along the creek we often find herons, woodpeckers, sparrows, and sometimes a surprise, such as an American Pipit. Tree Swallows and Allen’s Hummingbirds may be arriving. Ranger Sandy may invite us into the garden and classroom at the Nature Learning Center, and she always has great stories to share about the Tree Swallow nesting program and all the different species that use the nest boxes, from Bewick’s Wrens to chickadees. Plan to walk about 2.5 miles on paved paths. Rain cancels. From I-880, exit at Stevenson and go east (towards the hills). Turn right at Paseo Padre Parkway and follow the signs for the Aqua Adventure Waterpark. The parking lot for the Waterpark dead ends at the south end of the lake. Meet at the five tall palm trees at the end of the parking lot.

**San Joaquin River NWR, **
Stanislaus Co.-Pelican Nat Trail

**Leader:** Steve Huckabone, shuckbone@comcast.net

A 4+ mile foot-access nature trail, opened in 2011, meanders through seasonal wetlands, restored riparian woodlands and old-growth valley oak stands. The trailhead features interpretive kiosks and picnic areas. Open sunrise to sunset daily. You can reach the Pelican Nature trailhead by taking Hwy 580 to Hwy 132 East (towards Modesto), take a right on River Rd and go 3 miles, and then take a left on Dairy Rd and travel 1.5 miles. The parking area is approximately 40 minutes from Livermore. This is a 1/2 to 3/4 day trip so pack a lunch and bring water. Restrooms are available at beginning of walk. Trail is primarily gravel flat levee road. Check the weather; we won’t go if it’s raining heavily. Following the hike, a short drive to the viewing platform on Beckwith Road is a great side trip.

**President’s Message**

The environmental world seems to frequently take one step forward and two steps back. That is the case at the moment. The step forward is the levee breach in Solano County as water flowed into the marshlands on the Cullinan Ranch for the first time in 100 years. This is an unit of the San Pablo Wildlife Refuge, part of the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Complex.

Now for the steps back. Along the Hayward Shoreline, the San Leandro Marina and Crab Cove in Alameda birds have been injured or died as a result of some unknown goo that is coating their feathers causing hypothermia and sometimes death. The substance is currently unidentified. The injured birds are being cared for at the International Bird Rescue Center near Fairfield. According to IBR, as of January 21, 321 birds had been admitted with 271 live in care. A total of 135 had been washed. California Fish and Wildlife officials were reporting another 200 birds have been found dead in the field. Several dead birds have been shipped to a Fish and Wildlife lab to determine cause of death.

The second step back is the threat to build a large complex near the Oakland airport, partially on lands that were to be preserved as marshlands in perpetuity, and ignoring the impacts of sea level rise among a myriad of other negative impacts to birds and other wildlife. It would seriously impact or doom Arrowhead Marsh. There is a draft environmental impact report being circulated and the Sierra Club and Golden Gate Audubon Society have weighed in with a long list of negative findings. So let’s hope for some more steps forward.

-Evelyn Cormier

**Hayward Regional Shoreline**

**Leaders:** Bob Toleno & Juli Chamberlin  fieldtrips AT OhloneAudubon.org

Join Bob and Juli for a morning at Hayward Shoreline. We’ll look for Horned Larks, longspurs, and geese on Mt. Trashmore, then walk out to Frank’s Dump at high tide for Snowy Plovers and other shorebirds; wintering gulls, terns, and waterfowl, raptors, sparrows, and more are also possible. Take I-880 to West Winton Avenue in Hayward and go west through the park gate to the second parking lot (where the road ends). Scopes are desirable. Check the weather: rain cancels this trip. Free.
Don Edwards NWR - Alviso

Leaders: Rich Nicholson & Vicki Robinson

Part of the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay Wildlife Refuge complex, the Environmental Education Center in Alviso is the gateway to salt ponds that in winter fill with waterfowl and shorebirds. Commonly seen are avocets, stilts, egrets, pelicans, cormorants, and wintering ducks along Coyote Creek, but rarities also turn up here, such as Ruff and Black Tern. We could find a Burrowing Owl in the nearby fields or a Peregrine Falcon on a power tower. If time allows, we’ll also visit the marshland and salt ponds of Alviso Marina County Park.

We’ll walk a few miles on boardwalks and flats, up and unpaved levee paths. It can be windy. Check the weather: we won’t go if it’s raining. To reach the EEC, exit I-880 south at CA-237 and go west towards Mountain View. Take the Zanker Road exit and keep right at the fork, following signs for Waste Disposal Facility. Turn right onto Zanker Road. Continue onto Los Esteros Road.

Lake Solano County Park

Leaders: Mona Brauer & Stephanie Floyd

Lake Solano lies along Putah Creek between Lake Berryessa and Winters. Field trip leader Robin Leong from Napa/Solano Audubon will join us for an exploration of Lake Solano County Park! We expect to get good looks at wintering waterfowl including Wood Ducks, Common and Hooded Mergansers, Common and Barrow’s Goldeneyes, and Ring-necked Ducks. Bald Eagle and Osprey are often seen. We will check the park’s trees for resident Phainopeplas, Lewis’s Woodpeckers and others, and we can expect to see wintering raptors. Check the weather; we will not go if it’s raining. Dress warmly and bring snacks, water, and a spotting scope if you have one. After birding, we will drive a short way into Winters for a late lunch at Putah Creek Cafe.

Meet at 8:00 AM at the Castro Valley Park ‘n’ Ride to form carpools. Take the Grove Way exit from I-580 east in Castro Valley. Turn right at the bottom of the ramp, go one block, turn right onto Center St. and the park ‘n’ ride will be on your right. If you prefer to join us at Lake Solano, meet us in the day use parking lot at approximately 10:00 AM. The scenic route from the Bay Area, with good birding along the way, is to take I-80 east and between Fairfield and Vacaville exit at Lagoon Valley Road toward Cherry Glen Rd. Go north on Cherry Glen Rd. which soon becomes Pleasant Valley Rd. and takes you right to the park. If you prefer to stay on the freeway, take I-80 east to Vacaville and exit onto I-505 north. Take the exit for Highway 128/Winters. Turn left on Highway 128 and drive through Winters. Turn left onto Pleasant Valley Road to reach the park. Parking fee $5.

Birding by Ear for Beginners -

Leader: Bill Scoggins, bill.Scoggins@yahoo.com (510-581-5186)

Join us for an exploration into the audible world of the freshwater marsh. We will listen for harder-to-see birds like Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Yellowthroat, and American Bittern, and review songs of old friends like Marsh Wren, Song Sparrow, and Mallard. One familiar sound is the buzz of the mosquito - bring your insect repellent as well as sunblock. Check the weather; we will not go if it’s raining heavily. From I-880 in Fremont, take CA-84 (Decoto Road) west towards the Dumbarton Bridge. Exit at Paseo Padre Parkway/Thornton Ave and turn right to reach the park. Turn left at Patterson Ranch Rd. and meet at the visitor center parking lot. $5 parking fee unless you have an EB Parks pass.
Thank you to the following for their generous support to our annual appeal:


Eastern Alameda County Issues

Things have been in a lull over the holidays, but there are several projects to keep track of, including:

- **Altamont Windmills**

  The draft EIS and public hearings for the various Altamont wind power projects concluded during the final quarter of 2014 with findings of no significant impact. Build out is expected over the next four years. There are several projects in the works: 80 megawatt Mulqueenly Ranch, 95 megawatt by Altamont Winds, and a 4 megawatt San Hill Project.

- **Carnegie SVTA**

  The proposed expansion of the Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area (CSVRA) continues at a slow pace. The release of the Draft EIR/General Plan for the expansion has been delayed until early 2015.

- **Camp Parks**

  A 180-acre development by SunCal at Camp Parks called Dublin Crossing got the go-ahead for the 1995 homes and up to 200,000 square feet of commercial space after a suit by Alameda Creek Alliance over the EIS was settled. As a result of the settlement Dublin Crossing will protect 313 acres of Burrowing Owl habitat either on the Camp Parks property or elsewhere in Alameda County.—B. Hoppes

Newark Duck Clubs

The Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge reports that Superior Judge Evelio Grillo directed Newark to void “their certification of the EIR for the city of Newark Area 3 & 4 Specific Plan and their project approvals issued in reliance on that certification…” The judge found the EIR was materially deficient and ordered it be set aside.

Much thanks go to our Conservation Chair, Carin High, and other members of CCCR, including Margaret Lewis, Jana Sokale, Wayne Miller and Arthur Feinstein and their attorneys, Brian Gaffney and Keith Wagner. Many long hours and persistence! The area was delineated for acquisition for the Don Edwards NWR, as it has a high potential for wetland restoration, wildlife support, and rare transitional habitat. The US Fish & Wildlife Service has informed Newark that “Area 4 should not be developed.”-C. High

“Goo” Update

The disastrous “goo” that has killed and harmed several hundred of our waterfowl off the Hayward Shoreline has not been identified to date. International Bird Rescue is footing the cost of helping these injured birds ($8000/day), including Surf Scoters, Eared Grebes, and Buffleheads. Ohlone Audubon has made a donation to the center. Will you consider to do the same? Details at http://bird-rescue.org/
CBC 2014 HIGHLIGHTS

The 47th Hayward-Fremont Christmas Bird Count 2014 was held Sunday, December 14, 2015. Weather was nicely conducive to counting birds in each of the 17 Sections, including mild temperatures which went up from 50 degrees F.

Seventy-two committed folks participated to identify a high tally of 171 species, and counted 141,983 individual birds! Hopefully we can expect more than just one feeder count next year, but thanks to Karen Barowski and her Dad for theirs, giving us (with photos) White-throated Sparrow data. We also would like to note the apparent success of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration project, as realized by the incredible number of shorebirds seen.

Thanks to all; everyone did superb jobs and we thank you for making this another successful count record. Some remarkable observations this year included the following:

**Pacific Loon** – 1 Section 9 An uncommonly found species here; **Pelagic Cormorant** - 1 - Section 14 - new species here; **Cackling “Aleutian” Goose** – 250 among a Canada Goose flock (110) – Section 13; **Eurasian Wigeon**, all males – 2 – Section 11; 1 - Section 10; 1 – Section 14; **Long-tailed Duck** (Winter plumaged male – diagnostic photos included = thanks, John and Becky) – Section 8; Don Edwards SF Bay NWR, Pond N?; **Barrow’s Golden-eye** – 2 males – Section 14; out mouth of Bockman Channel, nr. Oro Loma Sanitation Plant; **Ferruginous Hawk** – 1 adult – Section 2; way up on W slope of Pleasanton Ridge – (thanks to hardy hikers, Paul Smith & Bob Blumenthal); **Burrowing Owl** – 3 – Sections 4; 10; 13 (Only; up to 72 decades ago); **Acorn Woodpeckers** – 70; all-time high = invasion year throughout Bay Area – 6 Sections; **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** (Great find of our CBC = 3 rd year) - 1 adult – Section 3 {thanks Debbi, keeper of the YBSa ; Don Castro RP; Hammond’s ?(best guess) Flycatcher – 1 – Section 4; Garin RP; **Violet-green Swallow** - 1 - Section 5; Lake Elizabeth; **Barn Swallow** – 21; all-time high = an obligate South American migrant lingering in numbers; global change? – 5 Sections; **House Wren** – 1 – Section 11; Alameda Creek (Stables) Staging Area; **Varied Thrush** – 140 All-time high = invasion year (lucky to find 10 most years) – 7 Sections; **Western Tanager** – 1 – Section 6; Niles (Mission Adobe) Nursery; **White-throated Sparrow** – 4 – Sections 3 & 6; **Pine Siskin** – 65 – Big Number (none last year) = invasion year – Sections 1; 4; 6; 10; 13.

Additional extraordinary numbers of individuals, besides those mentioned above, several of which may be highest in the nation, included:

- **8,340** Ruddy Ducks; **265** Turkey Vultures; **7,658** Black-bellied Plovers (also highest in nation last year); **3,540** American Avocets; **2,759** Willets; **2,250** Marbled Godwits; **30,340** Western Sandpipers; **22,087** Dunlin; **554** Bonaparte’s Gulls; **321** Forster’s Terns (all-time-high); **301** Eurasian Collared-Doves (“new kid on the block” - and country); **250** Anna’s Hummingbirds; 6 Tri-colored Blackbirds (Only; indicator of this negative change as 5,000 were once counted at Stivers Lagoon, now called Lake Elizabeth – this species was finally established as a Threatened Species by the Calif. State Fish and Wildlife) – hopefully not too late. One can see, following this data, the various degrees (minor and major) of change over the years in our world of Southern Alameda County regarding the wildlife we care about. All in all, it takes all of you to make this count successful each year and we thank you!

Happy Birding,
Phil and Pat Gordon, Co-compilers

*For a complete list, email us pagpeg@aol.com*

**CBC Participants - 2014 (section leaders boldfaced):**

NEW HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

The following amendment to the OAS Constitution is being proposed. The Board of Directors is proposing to add an Historical Committee to the current Standing Committees, to be added to ARTICLE VI: COMMIT-TEES. Members will be asked to vote on it at the March General Meeting. A 2/3 vote is needed for passage.

Proposal: Historical Committee

This committee shall be responsible for maintaining a record of the activities of the chapter, including field trips, meetings, festivals, and any other activities the chapter may be involved in.

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The Board of Directors is excited to welcome two new board members this month: Marty Morrow, as Education Chairperson and Bill Hoppes, helping Carin High with Conservation. Bill will be monitoring the eastern part of the county, freeing Carin High to concentrate on the western portion of our area. In this issue, we have included a short biography on these two new members and thank them very much for volunteering to help.

MARTY MORROW—EDUCATION CHAIRPERSON

Marty is a retired elementary schoolteacher, just retired in June of 2014 after 25 years at Piedmont School District having taught mostly 3rd or 4th grade there. Before that she was a Montessori teacher for 10 years. No matter the ages of her students, she taught them about our local common birds and provided (inexpensive) binoculars for the field trips. As Education chairperson for OAS, she hopes to develop more opportunities for youth birding using our rich resources and parks in the East Bay and nearby.

For the past 24 years she has been an active wildlife volunteer with East Bay Regional Parks, which included various projects working with Dave Riensche (Doc Quack) on bird surveys and monitoring as well as habitat restoration and maintenance. She lives in the Heron Bay community in San Leandro near the Bay Trail, great for short walks in almost any weather! She has a son who lives in Los Angeles and a daughter in North Carolina. Marty is hoping to hone her skills with eastern bird species by visiting her daughter and returning to southern Ohio for family visits, where she grew up.

BILL HOPPES—CONSERVATION, EASTERN

Bill has graciously volunteered to help us with our eastern Alameda county conservation work. Bill comes to us from Livermore, via much experience working with various environmental agencies across the United States, including the EPA in New York, environmental work in El Paso, and the Lawrence Livermore Lab, finally retiring in 2013. He earned his Master’s Degree studying Migratory Birds at Coyote Hills and their use of winter and spring habitats. He also holds a PhD in Biology, studying fruit eating bats, from the University of Illinois. Currently he is working with The Tri-Valley Conservancy, the South Livermore Valley Land Trust, and the Alameda County Resource Conservation District.

Bill is married to Tanya and they have two sons. Tanya and Bill spend their time birding (!) and volunteering at the Coyote Creek Bird Banding station.

We are indeed fortunate to have Marty and Bill on board!

AND A FINAL NOTE—

Inserting text boxes, font styles and sizes, margins justified— all items editors must deal with! At this point, we really appreciate all the work our retiring editor Don Emery and his co-editor Margaret put in for 24 years. We all owe them a great deal of thanks and gratitude for such an effort. They kept us going for all those years, keeping us on schedule and reminded us of the important things that chapters have to get done. The Kite Call always got delivered on time!

This is my first attempt in a long time of editing the Kite Call, and now I have the help of my co-editor, Phil. The days of the typewriter are gone and now we have computers and all this new software to learn. This first issue is a “work in progress”. Please let us know what you think and we welcome any and all comments!

Pat and Phil Gordon
Please renew your Ohlone membership by the date shown on your address label.
Direct questions about Kite Call delivery to the membership Chair

Yes, I want to Join Ohlone Audubon Society!

Please sign me up today
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