



The Kite Call

Ohlone Audubon Society, Inc.

*A chapter of the National Audubon Society
Serving Southern Alameda County, CA*

January 1-February 14, 2008
Volume 42, Number 5

Calendar

Jan. 8 Membership Meeting, Fremont
Jan. 15 Board Meeting, call Evelyn Cormier
Deadline for 1/15-3/31 Kite Call submissions
Feb. 5 Membership Meeting, Pleasanton
Feb. 16-17 San Joaquin Refuges & Little Panoche Road
**WATCH THE OAS WEBSITE FOR MORE FIELD TRIPS
and LATE-BREAKING NEWS**

Membership Meetings

Date: January 8 **Time:** 7:30 p. m.
Place: Carlton Plaza of Fremont
3800 Walnut Avenue
Topic: Least Tern Habitat Restoration or “Island of
Dreams—We Built It and They Came”
Presenter: Dave “Doc Quack” Riensche

Managing “nature” in an urban setting poses many challenges. To meet these challenges and to perpetuate our wildlife heritage in the East Bay Regional Park District, Wildlife Resource Analyst Dave “Doc Quack” Riensche has utilized three important tools: public relations, education, and citizen conservationist activities. During the past six years, 2,100 volunteers have created nesting habitat for the State and Federally endangered California Least Tern at Hayward Regional Shoreline. Volunteers have contributed more than 7,200 hours in support of this environmental restoration effort along the eastern shore of the San Francisco Bay. During this presentation Dave will share how implementing wildlife management strategies through public involvement has resulted in the establishment of a successful California Least Tern colony and how you can get involved. Dave has been working for the East Bay Regional Park District for over 19 years, teaching people about nature and managing wildlife resources.

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. The Carlton Plaza is on Walnut between Fremont Blvd and Paseo Padre Pkwy.

Date: February 5 **Time:** 7:30
Place: Pleasanton Middle School
5001 Case Avenue
Topic: Birds of the Northern San Joaquin Valley
Presenter: David Yee

The Central Valley of California is one of the most distinct and significant geographical valleys in North America. One of the most fertile valleys on the planet, it has long been home to a wide array of vegetation and animal life, often in staggering numbers. Today it is one of the most altered land forms on the continent due to human land-use. However, the Great Valley has lost surprisingly few birds over the last two centuries, which has contributed to its historically being a key destination for birders, especially during winter. Recent conservation gains in the region have allowed for even more significant bird sightings.

David will acquaint us with some of the birds observed in his native San Joaquin County, representing species from the Delta south to about Merced County. David has been actively birding this area for over 30 years and considers it his favorite of all his many birding destinations around the world. He is the past president of San Joaquin Audubon, the Central Valley Bird Club, and Western Field Ornithologists, and has coauthored The Checklist of San Joaquin Country Birds.

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. We are meeting in the library, which is to your left as you enter the campus. —MLT

Bring a reusable cup to meetings in order to enjoy the refreshments provided by members and the chapter. —A&JB

Citizen Science

Here are more chances for you to join national efforts to collect data on the status of birds:

Project Feederwatch: visit www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw/
Great Backyard Birdcount: Feb. 16-18, visit
www.birdcount.org

Both sites have results of previous years as well as forms for joining the effort. It's both fun and useful; do it!

Field Trip

Feb 16-17, Sat. & Sun., 9 a. m., San Joaquin Valley Refuges and Little Panoche Road, Phil & Pat Gordon, 510.538.3550.

We are returning to one of our favorite winter birding locations, the San Joaquin refuges and the Little Panoche Valley.

Saturday will be spent brushing up on waterfowl ID, and sorting through ducks and geese for that “rare” one. We will bird the two refuges, San Luis and Merced, but bird O’Neil Forebay first. Sunday we will head south to Little Panoche Road, looking for the specialties—Mountain Plovers, Vesper Sparrows, and lots of raptors. Meet each morning at the O’Neil Forebay.

To reach the O’Neil Forebay parking area, take I-5 south to Santa Nella, and then south on SR-33. We are currently planning to have dinner at the Wool Growers Inn, a Basque restaurant in Los Banos.

Campers can spend the night at the Basalt Campground at San Luis Reservoir. Motels in the area include Motel 6, 209.826.6644, or the Holiday Express, 209.826.8282, among others in the Santa Nella area. For more information give Phil or Pat a call. Trip will go rain or shine. Only heavy flooding cancels. —PAGPEG



Win

An original painting by Hans Peeters is the top prize in a drawing sponsored by Sulphur Creek Nature Center. Shown above, it is the original painting for the illustration that appears in the well-known field guide, *All the Birds of North America*, p. 66 (Small Owls). It is acrylic on paper, 7.75” x 14” image size, matted, in a silver wood frame (outside dimensions 12.75” x 19”). Some of Hans’s similar plates have sold for \$1,000.

Other major prizes include: a 21” hand-painted glass panel of birds donated by the Wild Bird Center, a \$200 gift card for Best Buy, a 3 month Ravenswood Wine Club Membership, 2 passes to Disneyland, \$100 gift card for Target.

Tickets are \$2 each or books of twelve for \$20. You may buy tickets directly at Sulphur Creek Nature Center, 1801 D Street in Hayward or by calling 510.881.6747 and using Visa or MasterCard.

The drawing will occur at Sulphur Creek Nature Center on March 27. You need not be present to win. There will be an early bird drawing for lift tickets to Sugar Bowl, so get your orders in right away! All proceeds support the wildlife education and rehabilitation programs of Sulphur Creek Nature Center. —SCNC



Dec. 2 Field Trip Report

Cosumnes River and Eisenberg Crane Preserves

Tundra Swans, Sandhill Cranes and Greater White-fronted Geese flew overhead giving our group a wonderful show at the Cosumnes River Preserve. Northern Pintails dominated the ponds near the visitor center. Other ducks included Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Northern Shoveler, and Green-winged Teal. Trip highlights include Merlin, Red-shouldered Hawk, Snow Goose, Cackling (Aleutian) Goose, Horned Lark, Black-bellied Plover and Wilson’s Snipe.

At a pond bordering Cosumnes, a Golden Eagle flew in close, sending several thousand Greater White-fronted Geese into the air. Tundra Swans in the same pond didn’t fly, but remained alert to the predator above them. Other raptors included Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, and American Kestrel. One Swainson’s Hawk was seen in route to the Preserve. In a cornfield across the road we observed about 30 Sandhill Cranes at close range as they loafed, preened and foraged in the mid afternoon sun. Unfortunately strong winds kept many small birds down, but we did see White- and Golden-crowned Sparrows, House Finches, Black Phoebe, and one Yellow-rumped Warbler.

At three o’clock we traveled to Woodbridge Road, west of I-5, for great views of Sandhill Cranes, Snow Geese, Tundra Swans, and Greater White-fronted Geese. We also found Wilson’s Snipe and Black-bellied Plover there. Over a hundred American Pipits were observed in a newly mowed alfalfa field.

During the evening Sandhill Crane fly-in, we talked to members of a new organization, Save Our Sandhills, formed by

Field Trip Report (Continued)

valley residents to preserve Sandhill Cranes in the Stockton-Lodi-Sacramento area. Listed by the State of California as a Threatened Species, the survival of the Greater Sandhill Crane is imperiled by habitat degradation and loss. Collisions with power lines in the foggy Central Valley are also a concern. In addition, Greater Sandhill Cranes reproduce at a very low rate—one or two offspring a year—which makes it difficult for the population to recover. Check out the group’s work at www.soscranes.org

California Fish and Game Dept. Sandhill Crane tours continue through February, 2008. Check the schedule at 209.948.7708 or www.dfg.ca.gov/regions/3/cranetour/index.html

There are only fifteen species of cranes on the face of our good earth and eleven are endangered.

Find out more about cranes at the International Crane Foundation: www.savingcranes.org

Additional information about birding this area can be found at <http://www.cosumnes.org>. That web site offers a printable map for driving the area to see birds.

Twelve participants, 50 species found.

—WS

Program Review

Those who were unable to be there, or were unable to find space for parking December 4, are the poorer for missing the live presentation of a series of great photographs, mostly of Peregrine Falcons, up close and personal in the wilds of San Francisco downtown. Glenn Nevill offered a witty, well organized and beautiful series of pictures, showing the life and times of George and Gracie and their progeny. Sadly, both George and Gracie are missing. If you see a Peregrine that looks like either of them (see the website below) send the information to Glenn@raptor-gallery.com.

All is not lost! Visit his website at raptor-gallery.com and look for the links to the slides we saw, and more. Glenn handed out a two-sided sheet of information, including a list of Peregrine sites around the Bay, with links to maps, and a list of band identifiers of 26 local Peregrines. A copy may be obtained by contacting the Editor. —DE

Classes

THE NATURAL HISTORY OF BIRDS, taught by Phil Gordon will meet on the Castro Valley Adult School Campus Monday evenings, 5:30 p. m.-7:30 p. m., January 7 to March 17, for nine classes (no class 1/21 or 2/18) and will include two field trips. The cost is \$19 if 50 years or older, \$27 if younger.

BIRDS OF THE BAY AREA—Field Trips With Phil Gordon, will visit local birding areas Friday mornings, 10:15 a. m. - 12:15 p. m. January 11 - March 14. The nine meetings will include three classroom sessions at Castro Valley Adult School. The cost is \$19 if 50 years or older, \$27 if younger.

For more information, contact Castro Valley Adult School at 510.886.1000, or www.cvadult.org, or contact Phil Gordon at 510.538.3550 or PAGPEG@aol.com. —PEG

Presidential Peroration

Autumn brings both the fall migration of birds and the California Audubon deadline for local chapters to develop their annual list of goals and objectives. It shows them what we intend to do next year. This list is one of the tasks for the Ohlone Board that members probably never see nor pay a lot of attention to, but is a useful road map for our activities.

There are several steps along the way to preparation of the list. First we work out our budget for the coming year. From there we plot out the goals and objectives. Major conservation projects for the coming year top the list. Last year they included our efforts to keep the Patterson Ranch next to Coyote Hills as open space. This year we will be trying to minimize the damage the Patterson Ranch development does to its included wetlands and Coyote Hills. We will continue to participate in the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project to ensure that project will provide varied habitat for the many species of birds that live or migrate to this region of the bay. We have contacts with Zone 7, and, thanks to Rich Cimino, expect to encourage their efforts to manage drainage in the east county in a way good for wildlife.

We will continue to participate in The Wes Gordon Fossil Museum, the Swallow Festival, the Bette Wentzel Butterfly/Hummingbird Garden, the Christmas Bird Count, and the Birdathon, all orchestrated by Pat and Phil Gordon. We also support Irv Teissen's bluebird box program and many other projects.

For our membership meetings Marilyn Trabert will continue to provide us with informative, educational and entertaining programs. Our members will enjoy a variety of field trips arranged by Michael Mortenson and his hardy band of field trip leaders. You are always welcome, and are encouraged to join this wonderful group of leaders.

This year the Emerys got back a room as the Bette Wentzel Library migrated from their house to Estrella and Jerry Bibbeys' in Niles, thanks to a group with strong backs and lots of boxes. The library was expertly managed by Margaret Emery for 12 years and she is busy rearranging all her new found space in that room. We thank her for her efforts and thank the Bibbeys for taking it on.

There are all the other wonderful people like our meeting hosts, Allen and Jackie Bertillion, the treasurer, Helen Sowers, Rich Cimino and Carin High who do the conservation work, Arlene Chin, who tries to get our meetings announced in the local papers, and of course our Kite Call Editor, Don Emery, who has a gentle but firm way of encouraging us all to get articles to him in a timely manner so that you will know what's happening and when. [He acknowledges with gratitude the vital support of the Board copy readers, his wife and the Board members.]

I especially want to thank Mona Brauer for being the Vice-President, by telling her I am very rarely absent from the meetings, and Carin High and Helen Sowers, for acting as Recording Secretary. If you are looking for ways to get involved we can find just the thing for you.

May you enjoy the coming year and have a birdy 2008. —EC

Local Issues

The Patterson Ranch scoping period for the Draft Environmental Impact Report has recently closed. Ohlone Audubon Society submitted scoping comments for the DEIR. The environmental community has asked that an alternative that has no development west of Ardenwood Blvd. be considered in the DEIR. This alternative should be included in recognition of the importance of those lands and the need to preserve and restore unique habitats that exist on them and at Coyote Hills Regional Park. The lands west of Ardenwood Blvd. also serve as a buffer against encroaching development, protecting the important natural resources of the park.

The DEIR for Areas 3 and 4 in Newark, the site of the former Pintail and Whistling Wings duck clubs, is being prepared. The environmental community is requesting that an alternative which includes preservation of Area 4 be studied. Portions of Area 4 support Burrowing Owl and the endangered Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse and the value of restoration of Area 4 has been described in the Bay Habitat Goals Project. —CH

Habitat Means Home

Ohlone Audubon, Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge, and Friends of Coyote Hills plan to hold the second "Habitat Means Home" poster contest for school children. This contest celebrates the diversity of plants, animals, and habitats found at Coyote Hills Regional Park. During the first year over 150 posters were submitted and the quality of the drawings and responses to questions were amazing. All of the posters were on display at the Coyote Hills visitor's center for a month. Details regarding the 2008 contest will be published when set. —CH

Field Observations Mid-October to Late November

SPECIES	DATE(S)	No., etc	LOCALITY	OBS.	REMARKS
Greater White-fronted Goose	11/18	3	HAYWARD: Radio Tower Hills, W. Winton Ave., nr. Shoreline	BR	
Snow Goose	11/4; 11/9	1	PLEASANTON: Pond: I-680 by Valley Ave. exit at Bernal.	JR & RC; AM	Seen by AM on 11/9 with 5 Cackling (Aleutian) Geese & 400 CaGo.
Snow Goose	11/25	6	HAYWARD:	D&TO	Flew into Canada Goose flock on ground at Regional Shoreline north of Mt. Trashmore.
Ross's Goose	11/18	5	HAYWARD	BR	On Radio Tower Hills, W. Winton Ave., near shoreline.
Cackling Goose	11/18	5	HAYWARD: Radio Tower Hills, W. Winton Ave., nr. Shoreline	BR	Includes 1 on Mt. Trashmore and 1 at Tony Lema Golf Course, San Leandro.
Wood Duck	11/1	3	HAYWARD: Jordan Pond, Garin RP	SS	Flew in and disappeared in pond edge plants.
Eurasian Wigeon	11/18	1 m.	HAYWARD: Shoreline, Effluent Ponds, HARD	BR	
Greater Scaup (oiled)	11/11; 11/15	1; 1	SAN LEANDRO ~ HAYWARD: Trail	KJ+g; PEG	Bicycle "Birding" ride. Oiled GrSc 3/4mi. s. of SLO Marina on beach; found 55 species along trail up to HSIC In Marina Bay, Richmond, PEG reported another oiled GrSc, 1 Red-necked Grebe and 1 Common Loon among others for nocturnal (less stress) netting to transport to Cordelia for care and rehabilitation.
Hooded Merganser	11/7	2 m., 1 f.	FREMONT: Alameda Creek, Niles	NC & SF	Alameda Creek from Niles Community Park w/ Buffleheads and Cooper's Hawk.
Red-breasted Merganser	11/18	1 f.?	HAYWARD: Open Bay from Hayward's Landing, Regional (Bay) Trail	BR	Very uncommon here (BR).
Red-necked Grebe	11/25	1	HAYWARD: Regional Shoreline w. of Mt. Trashmore	BR	Flyby.
BROWN BOOBY	11/4	1	ALVISO: Levee trail from Marina, SC Co.	JR & RC	Extremely rare (vagrant) Mexican plunge-diver. Found near Pond A11, now seen by MOB. Irregular post-breeding visitor to the Salton Sea.
Osprey	11/25	3	HAYWARD: Hayward Regional Shoreline Trail	BR	Most single day sighting here (BR).
Red-shouldered Hawk	10/29	1	HAYWARD: W. Winton end near Shoreline entrance	JD	Uncommon along shore. On pole near entrance to trail to Mt. Trashmore & Cogswell Marsh, EBRPD.
Red-shouldered vs. Red-tailed Hawks	10/26	2 vs.1 ads.	HAYWARD: Jordan Pond, Garin RP	PEG+c	While a RtHa dived on a RsHa, another RsHa dived on the RtHa. Six minutes later the RtHa was back diving on the RsHa, which left the area. This may be breeding territorial behavior by the RtHa. Fall may be enough like spring (day length) that behavior can reflect this (fide: Hans Peeters).
Ferruginous Hawk	11/13	1	FREMONT: Cushing Blvd. nr. Warm Springs Trail (DESFBNWR) and pasture	GC	Perched on ground in cow pasture s.e. of Cushing Blvd. Rare, very few expected in so. ALA Co. each year.
Rough-legged hawk	11/13	1 juv.	FREMONT: Warm Springs Trail (DESFBNWR) and pasture	GC	Flying north, south of Auto Mall Parkway, west of I-880. Rare to absent some years. Winterer from arctic breeding.
Merlin	11/18	2	HAYWARD: Hayward Regional Trail	BR	Several this year.

Festivals

ALEUTIAN GOOSE FESTIVAL MARCH 28-30

Come celebrate spring and the return of the once endangered Aleutian Geese to the extreme northern coast of California at the 10th Annual Aleutian Goose Festival, March 28-30 in Crescent City. Located in the home of Redwood National Park and the Smith River National Recreation area, the festival offers over 60 workshops/fieldtrips, Native American Heritage, birds-birds-

birds, Spotted Owl, Marbled Murrelets, Pelagic trip, Smith River Drifts, Geology, Botany and more. To see it all, visit www.aleutiangoosefestival.org. —AGF

GODWIT DAYS APRIL 18-20

Join the flock at the 13th annual Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival April 18-20, at the Arcata Community Center in Arcata. Pre- and post-festival events are offered to extend your birding enjoyment. Choose from over 100 field trips and workshops and browse the vendors at the bird fair. An extraordinary

Field Observations Mid-October to Late November

SPECIES	DATE(S)	No., etc	LOCALITY	OBS.	REMARKS
Peregrine Falcon	10/29	1 juv.	HAYWARD: Mt. Trashmore, Hayward Regional Shoreline	JD	Flying south, low over the upper surface of old dump fill, above the shoreline & Cogswell Marsh, from W.Winton Ave.
Prairie Falcon	11/18	1	HAYWARD: HSIC Power Tower	BR	
Lesser Yellowlegs	11/18	1	SAN LORENZO: Oro Loma Marsh	BR	
Surfbird	11/18; 11/25	1; 8	HAYWARD: Hayward's Landing; Frank's Dump West, Regional Shore, EBRPD	BR	Two decades ago this species was mostly absent from the Hayward Shore. Now it's a regularly occurring find.
Red Knot	11/25	600- 700	HAYWARD: Frank's Dump West	BR	Large number; maybe they will stay for CBC?
Sanderling vs. Black-bellied Plover	11/23	1 vs.1	SANTA MARIA RIVER: mouth, Santa Barbara Co.	PEG & PAG	Kleptoparasitic behavior was observed when a Black-bellied Plover stalked a Sanderling until it caught a sand crab; whereupon the BbPl ran and took the crab away to eat it.
RUFF	10/24	1	FREMONT: West end of Marshland Rd., DESFBNWR	DW	In ponds at north side of east approach to old Dumbarton Bridge Rd.
Short-eared Owl	11/25	1	HAYWARD: Cogswell Marsh	BR	Absent some years.
TROPICAL KINGBIRD	11/13; 11/25; 11/30;	1	HAYWARD: W. Winton Ave.	PD; BR; PEG	Rare vagrant, but has occurred at least 4x in two decades. Found by Peter, and re-located in the same area: east side of end of W. Winton Ave.; on wires along channel.
Golden-crowned Kinglet	11/4	1	HAYWARD: W.Winton Reg. Park Lot	BR	Earliest yet recorded here (BR).
Phainopepla	11/16-24	1 f.	CASTRO VALLEY: Greenfield St.	EG	Apparently feeding on Pomegranate (rather than its favored food, Mistletoe). Rare here.
Black-throated Gray Warbler	1/10	1 m.	HAYWARD: Jordan Pond, Garin RP	PEG+c	BtGW seen foraging along riparian growth of willows on west side of Jordan Pond during CV Adult School Birds Class; ca. noon.
LAPLAND LONGSPUR	10/29	1	HAYWARD: Mt. Trashmore, Hayward Regional Shoreline	JD	Found in short grass on upper surface of old dump fill; (s.) above shoreline & Cogswell Marsh, from W.Winton Ave.
CHESTNUT-COLLARD LONGSPUR	10/29	2	HAYWARD: Mt. Trashmore, Hayward Regional Shoreline	JD	Found in short grass on upper surface of old dump fill; (s.) above shoreline & Cogswell Marsh, from W.Winton Ave.

ABBREVIATIONS: m.=male, f.=female, Reg.=Regional, N=north(ern), W.=west(ern), EBRPD=East Bay Regional Park District, HSIC=Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center, SC Co.=Santa Clara County, CC Co.=Contra Costa County (all other records, Alameda County), Cyn=Canyon, sp.=species, spp.=species (plural), ad.=adult, CBC=Christmas Bird Count, fide=information source, ca.=circa, about, nr.=near, w/=with, MOB=Many observers, SLO=San Leandro, standard abbreviations often not translated.

NOTE: Species 4 letter abbreviations (Cogswell System) may be given after species named (e.g., Costa's Hummingbird; CoHu)

OBSERVERS: GC=George Chrisman, NC=Nancy Christensen, RC=Rich Cimino, JD=Joe Devine, PD=Peter Dramer, SF=Stephanie Floyd, EG=Esther Goldberg, PEG=Phil E. Gordon, PEG+c=Phil Gordon & Castro Valley Adult School Class, PEG&PAG=Phil & Pat Gordon, KJ+g=Kathy Jerrett & Golden Gate Audubon Group, AM=Amy McDonald, D&TO=Debbie & Tad Ottman, BR=Bob Richmond, JR=Jim Ross, SS=Sue Stanton, DW=Dave Weber.

Report Observations for the period: mid-December 2007 to early January 2008 to: Phil Gordon, 1922 Hillsdale St., Hayward, CA 94541; 510.538.3550 or PAGPEG@aol.com

birding adventure awaits you between the redwoods and Humboldt Bay! Go to www.godwitdays.com for more details and to register on-line.

—GD



Tundra Swan

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Welcome Paid Members

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

Mona Brauer, Cherie Boulton, Kathleen Demerdjian, Leslie Koenig, Brandi Lechleiter, Barbara Livingstone, Marty Morrow, Larry Thompson, and Jennifer Vazquez

Your support is greatly appreciated.

—PAG