



# The Kite Call

## Ohlone Audubon Society, Inc.

*A chapter of the National Audubon Society  
Serving Southern & Eastern Alameda County CA  
Our Mission: To celebrate and protect birds and their habitats in  
Southern and Eastern Alameda County  
[www.ohloneaudubon.org](http://www.ohloneaudubon.org)*

### Calendar

Sept 3 GENERAL MEETING  
Via Zoom

Sept 7 MEMBERSHIP  
APPRECIATION PICNIC  
Shadow Cliffs, Pleasanton

Sept 8 FIELD TRIP  
Middle Harbor, Oakland

Sept 23 FIELD TRIP  
Pt. Reyes

Sept 27 FIELD TRIP  
Rodeo Lagoon/Hawk Hill

**MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION PICNIC!**  
**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 7**  
Shadow Cliffs Reg Park, Pleasanton—  
Lago del Sol Picnic Area  
Field Trip 10:30AM Lunch Noon—RSVP Speaker 1PM

## Membership Meeting

### Where to Find Key Birds in Alameda County & Beyond

By Jason Tanner

Tuesday, September 3, 2024 7:30PM via ZOOM

(Click on link to the left—ZOOM meeting instructions)

Alameda County and the greater Bay Area offer numerous parks rich with birds and other wildlife. We are delighted to have Jason share his favorite spots and the key birds to be found in those areas. The presentation will include some great photos of our local birds.

**Jason Tanner** is an avid hiker and birder around the Bay Area who occasionally snaps photos too. He has been birding for over a decade, almost entirely in Alameda County. He documents his sightings with a camera. He's a member of the Fremont Birding Circle and currently leads their monthly birding walks to a variety of locations within thirty minutes of Fremont.



### ZOOM MEETING INSTRUCTIONS:

Welcome! You are invited to join a meeting: Ohlone Audubon Membership Meetings. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email about joining the meeting.

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIsf-iupj4iGNwWOZRGoIFQxSO-ANIL8dNP#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/join/https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIsf-iupj4iGNwWOZRGoIFQxSO-ANIL8dNP#/registration)

### 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

Come join us for an evening of great bird photography!



## Field Trips

**Middle Harbor Shoreline Park**  
**Sunday, September 8, 10am - 12:30pm**  
**Leaders: Megan Jankowski, Bob Toleno,**  
**and Juli Chamberlin**  
**birding@toleno.com**

This 38-acre park opened to the public in 2004, and is an excellent example of how former industrial sites can be transformed through habitat restoration. Shorebirds will be the main focus of the trip, with a possibility for some rarities at this time of year (Baird's Sandpiper and Bar-tailed Godwit have been found at this location.) Terns, gulls, Ospreys, pelicans, and other piscivores will also be seen, as well as maybe some rocky shorebirds, like turnstones or Wandering Tattler, all with the photogenic background of the San Francisco skyline.

**Directions:** Take I-880 north toward Oakland to the 7th St exit toward West Grand Ave. Turn left onto 7th Street and head west to the stoplight at Middle Harbor Rd. Proceed through the intersection and take the first right turn into the MHSP parking lot.

**Point Reyes Rare Bird Round-up**  
**Monday, September 23, 7am - 4pm**  
**Leaders: Bob Toleno & Juli Chamberlin**  
**birding@toleno.com**

Early autumn can be an excellent time for migrants and rarities at the birding hotspots in outer Point Reyes National Seashore. This all-day, caravan-style birding trip will visit some of the prime birding locations on the outer point, such as the fish docks, lighthouse, various ranches, and Drake's Beach, where we'll have lunch. We'll plan to finish the day at the RCA building cypresses and the Inverness Tennis Club.

We will leave from Bovine Bakery in Point Reyes Station promptly at 7:15am so we can get to the outer point as early as possible. You should plan to arrive at 7am if you want to get coffee and delicious pastries from the bakery. Wear layers—the outer point can be chilly! Bring lunch, liquids, sunscreen, and a full gas tank. We will try to bring as few cars as possible to the outer point because parking is very limited in places.

*Directions next column*

*(Point Reyes continued)*

**Directions:** Take the Richmond Bridge to Hwy 101N, take Lucas Valley Rd exit and turn left, then turn right on Nicasio Valley Rd, left on Petaluma-Point Reyes Rd, and left on Shoreline Hwy (Hwy 1). The address of Bovine Bakery is 11315 Shoreline Hwy, Point Reyes Station, CA.

**Rodeo Lagoon & Hawk Hill**  
**Friday, September 27, 8am - 2pm**  
**Leader: Bob Toleno**  
**bob@toleno.com**

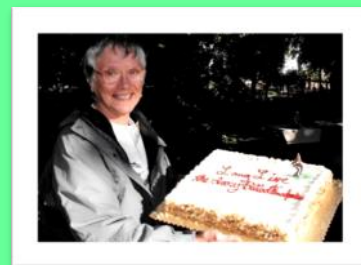
Join us in the Marin Headlands for fall migration. We'll start the morning at Rodeo Lagoon, birding the willows, mostly looking for passerine migrants and rarities. At around 11am, as the day warms up, we'll drive the short distance to Hawk Hill to spend some time scouring the sky for migrating raptors.

Overlooking the Golden Gate Bridge, Hawk Hill sits near the southernmost end of the Marin County peninsula. Late September is the peak of raptor migration, and because they prefer not to fly over water, the peninsula acts as a "funnel" to concentrate them over this point. 17 different species have been documented migrating over Hawk Hill, including some not usually seen near the coast, like Swainson's, Ferruginous, and Broad-winged Hawks, and even the occasional Prairie Falcon. Bring water, lunch, sunscreen, a folding chair, and a scope if you have one. We'll sit at the top of the hill and watch the raptors fly out over the Golden Gate. Many of the birds will be distant, but leaders will help teach you how to ID raptors by shape. Hawk watchers from Golden Gate Raptor Observatory will be nearby, so lots of expert spotters will be around.

**Directions:** Take the Richmond Bridge to Hwy 101 south, then exit on Alexander Rd (exit 442). Make a left on Bunker Rd, go through the tunnel, drive 2 miles, then make a left on Field Rd, where you'll immediately see a parking lot. Make sure not to park in the 30-minute limit spaces.

## You Are Invited!

# *The Sara Matthews/Helen Sowers* Membership Appreciation Day



**Saturday, September 7, 2024**  
**Shadow Cliffs Regional Park, Pleasanton**  
**Lago del Sol Picnic Area**

**Field trip 10:30 am—Lunch noon—Speaker 1pm**

*Field Trip led by Kathy Robertson*

This is a picnic for you, our members, to show our appreciation for all your support and in memory of *Sara Matthews* and *Helen Sowers*. This is a catered (free!) lunch

**Please RSVP  
to Pat Gordon  
[pagpeg@aol.com](mailto:pagpeg@aol.com)**

*Members will have the opportunity to meet the board and discuss our field trips, education, programs, and conservation. Where would you like to go on a field trip? What programs would you like to see? What conservation items should we be working on? Help out with education for the next generation?*

### **Speaker: Conrad Fay**



We are excited to have Conrad, one of our Sara Matthews Scholarship recipients! Conrad will share his experience this summer attending the San Francisco State Sierra Nevada Field Campus.





## President's Corner

I have always been interested in the endangered species recovery programs, such as those for the Whooping Crane and the California Condor. I have learned of another effort that is equally fascinating. It is called the "Search for Lost Birds". Around the world, of the 11,849 species of birds known to science, 144 species of birds, or about one percent, are considered "lost." To be considered "lost," at least a decade must have passed since each of these species were last confirmed by photographs, sound recordings, or physical documentation, but they are not assumed to be extinct or extinct in the wild by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

In 2021, the American Bird Conservancy partnered with *BirdLife International* to form a global initiative to identify, promote, and rediscover these lost birds. The Search for Lost Birds supports field expeditions with local partners to seek lost birds and, when rediscovered, to protect these birds and their habitats. Since 2021, fourteen of these lost birds have been rediscovered. The *White-tailed Tityra* of Brazil (known from only a single specimen) is the longest lost bird and has not had a confirmed sighting in 195 years. There are successes -- one being the *Black-browed Babbler* of southern Borneo, rediscovered in 2020 after having not been seen for 170 years. In 2021 ABC listed ten lost birds they felt were most likely to be rediscovered in the next decade.

These were:

*Himalayan Quail* of Northern India  
*Negros Fruit Dove* of the Philippines  
*Itombwe Nightjar* of the Democratic Republic  
 of the Congo  
*Cuban Kite* of Cuba  
*Jerdon's Courser* of India  
*Siau Scops-Owl* of Indonesia  
*South Island Kokako* of New Zealand  
*Vilcabamba Brushfinch* of Peru

Wonderfully, two species on this list have been rediscovered.

*Dusky Tetraka* of Madagascar  
*Santa Marta Sabrewing* of Columbia

This is a fascinating bird conservation program.

You can learn more about it at: <https://abcbirds.org/program/lost-birds/>

Happy birding.

- Bill Hoppes



**Black-browed Babbler-just hiding for 170 years**



**Santa Maria Sabrewing, hanging on in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta in Colombia**

### PLEASE CONSIDER AN ELECTRONIC KITE CALL!

We are urging members to switch over to an electronically issued *Kite Call* (but you don't have to!). The benefits are a cost savings to our chapter, in both printing costs and postage. Other benefits include getting it quicker and it is **much more colorful!!!!!!** See all of these beautiful photos in color! Also, note that links are live!

**GO GREEN!**

Send your request to [pagpeg@aol.com](mailto:pagpeg@aol.com)

## ***BIRDING OBSERVATIONS***

**Late Summer 2024**

**By Vicki Robinson**

Shorebirds are starting to return to our local birding shores. **Marbled Godwits, Willits, Black-bellied Plovers, Semipalmated Plovers, Long-billed Curlews, Red Knots, Least and Western Sandpipers** and the occasional **Semipalmated Sandpiper** among the Western Sandpipers, if you look closely.

On our field trip to Hayward Shoreline July 21<sup>st</sup>, we visited Frank's Dump which is famous for hosting hundreds of shorebirds during migration, but now has been changed to a safe area for the endangered **Snowy Plovers**. We saw many cute Snowy Plovers enjoying the new area.



**Red Knot**



**Semipalmated Sandpiper**



**Snowy Plover**

Our spring migrants have finished nesting and rearing their young. Most have moved on, but some **Bullock's and Hooded Orioles, Black-headed Grosbeaks** and **Western Kingbirds** are still around.

A rare **Ruff** made an appearance at Coyote Hills, delighting many birders and photographers. Along with the Ruff were **Short- and Long-billed Dowitchers**, and **Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs. American Bitterns** are also being seen at Coyote Hills.

A **Pigeon Guillemot** has again been seen at Seaplane Lagoon in Alameda along with a **White-winged Scoter**.



**Black-chinned Hummingbird**

An uncommon **Black-chinned Hummingbird** was a visitor at Gomes Park in Fremont.

All our usual terns have returned including **Caspian, Elegant, Forester's** and the small **Least Tern** which have nested. An uncommon **Common Tern** was seen at Elsie Romer Bird Sanctuary in Alameda.



**Common Tern**

At Coyote Hills near the Butterfly Garden, a **Cooper's Hawk** has a nest with two chicks.



**Cooper's Hawk**

Gulls are plentiful and a **Heermann's Gull** has been spotted at Elsie Romer along with **Western, Ring-billed and California Gulls**.



**Heermann's Gull**

*(all photos by V. Robinson)*

## Conservation

### East County Conservation Report

#### Dublin residents to Vote to Extend City's Urban Limit Line East to Livermore City Limits

The Dublin City Council will ask its residents to decide in November whether to give the city's leadership the power to decide if it should annex and build on a vacant 180-acre property outside the city's limits and urban growth boundary. The property currently serves as an open space buffer with Livermore. Livermore and Dublin officials have been negotiating the land's future since last year. At issue is connecting Dublin Boulevard to North Canyons

Parkway to provide an alternative to I-580. Dublin officials view annexing the land and erecting a business and industrial park to help pay for the \$160 million needed to connect the two roads. Livermore officials also want to connect the roads but prefer keeping the remaining land as an open space buffer between the two cities. Friends of Livermore submitted a letter to the Dublin City Council claiming that any council decision to place the measure on the ballot first requires an environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The letter went on to argue that the City's reasoning that the measure is exempt from CEQA review, because the measure does not yet define development specifics, is incorrect. -B.Hoppes

### Climate Protection & Restoration Initiative Forum Hosted by City of Hayward

The City of Hayward will be hosting a public forum in the evening of August 7 on what to do about climate change in the United States. The forum has been organized by the nonprofit advocacy group *Climate Protection & Restoration Initiative* in order to provide information, as well as gather public input and testimony regarding the importance of reducing the environmental impacts of greenhouse gas emissions.

According to City of Hayward, "*Climate Protection & Restoration Initiative* is holding the forum to share scientific information and gather input to be used in the course of its legal and political advocacy."

The City of Hayward's Climate Action Plan (CAP) does not include conservation efforts to preserve, protect, and/or enhance the natural environment. While there has been discussion on the City's plans to plant new trees, the Planning Commission and other decision-makers did not make plans to protect existing trees, vegetation, wildlife habitat, riparian areas, or other natural landscapes essential to adapting to climate change. Despite the City's Tree Ordinance, developers and other entities continue to be permitted to remove mature and old-growth trees, including native heritage trees. Plans to build more housing without these environmental protections were also discussed.

The public can provide written and verbal comments at the upcoming meeting to advocate for birds, habitat, and other wildlife and plant protections. The focus at public hearings in the past year and in the Hayward Climate Action Plan (CAP) has been on electrification and wastewater management, as well as building housing. The irreversible environmental damage caused by urbanization, electricity infrastructure, and renewable energy (i.e., electric vehicles, solar power, and wind turbines) was ignored, which includes large open pit mines, natural resource extraction, wildlife habitat destruction, wildlife killings, water pollution and depletion, displacement of Indigenous peoples, and release of greenhouse gases. The government has ignored the community's feedback about this issue and ignored the urgent need to protect the natural landscape and ecosystems.

The Climate Protection & Restoration Initiative forum is scheduled to be held from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, Aug. 7**, in City Council Chambers at Hayward City Hall.

**REGISTRATION TO ATTEND & SPEAK IN-PERSON OR REMOTELY IS FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC UNTIL AUGUST 6, 2024**

[HTTPS://CPRCLIMATE.ORG/EVENT-REGISTRATION/](https://CPRCLIMATE.ORG/EVENT-REGISTRATION/)

-M. SELVA

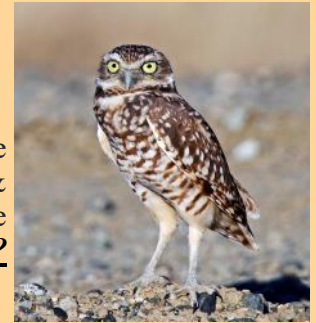


*Conservation (cont'd)*

From Jeff Miller, Senior Conservation Advocate, Center for Biological Diversity

Burrowing owl supporters:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has released its evaluation of the burrowing owl state listing petition. The Department is recommending that the Fish & Wildlife Commission accept the petition and advance the burrowing owl to candidate status. The evaluation is posted here: <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=225154&inline>



The Commission is expected to vote on candidate status for the burrowing owl at the October 10 meeting in Sacramento (see <https://fgc.ca.gov/Meetings/2024>). **Please consider attending this meeting in person or remotely via zoom**, to give testimony if you are a scientist or researcher or to speak in support of state listing. We will have more information and talking points closer to the October meeting.

We do not yet know how the Commission will approach potential listing - distinct imperiled populations of burrowing owls or whether they will decide on listing statewide. If the burrowing owl is made a candidate species in October, it would receive all of the protections of a state listed species while the Wildlife Department conducts a full status review (12-18 months).

See the full press release here: <https://biologicaldiversity.org/w/news/press-releases/californias-burrowing-owls-one-step-closer-to-state-protections-2024-07-30/>

### IS IT TIME TO RENEW?

Look at your mailing label - it will tell you. A "RENEW?" indicates that this is your last *Kite Call*! A **cmp** means you are chapter membership paid; a **nnmp** means you are a national member only and a "JOIN LOCAL?" on your label indicates that you have joined the National Audubon Society, but alas, **not** your local Ohlone chapter.

We would love to have you join us. If you receive your *Kite Call* electronically, look for a reminder in your email box. To renew or join us please send a \$25 check to :

Pat Gordon, Membership Chair, 1922  
Hillsdale Street, Hayward, CA 94541 or  
thru PayPal on our website  
[www.ohloneaudubon.org](http://www.ohloneaudubon.org)

### ACTION ALERTS

Want to be included in our action alerts when items come up that need your help?  
Please send an email to [pagpeg@aol.com](mailto:pagpeg@aol.com).  
(We do not share contact information)

# THANK YOU!!

Welcome New Members –  
Thank You Renewing Members!

Debbie Bedford  
Kim Brink  
Edie Christensen  
Stephan Christensen  
Margaret Emery  
Erica Herron  
Bob & Debra Lovendusky  
Terry Preston  
Kathryn Robertson  
Nancy Rodrigue  
Kenneth Roux  
Christal Siu  
Donna Stanley  
Laurie Stover



And thank you for your donation:

Kim Brink  
Ed Ellebracht  
Margaret Emery  
Kerri Duggins Rames  
Donna Stanley

## Another round of bird names

By Bill Hoppes

This is another in a series of the history of the people for whom birds were named. In learning about these men and women, I hope you will gain a greater understanding and appreciation of the history of the avocation we all love.

First off is a five bagger:

**Wilson's Plover**  
**Wilson's Snipe**  
**Wilson's Phalarope**  
**Wilson's Warbler**  
**Wilson's Storm-petrel**

These birds were all named after Alexander Wilson (1766-1813) a Scottish American poet, ornithologist, naturalist, and illustrator. Contemporaries called him the "Father of American Ornithology" and Wilson is regarded as the greatest American ornithologist before Audubon. Wilson was born in a Presbyterian family in Paisley, Scotland. Wilson's family gave up smuggling and took up weaving, and supplemented their income with liquor distilling.



While working as a weaver in Paisley, Wilson became seriously interested in poetry. In addition to ballads and pastoral pieces, Wilson wrote satirical commentary on the conditions of weavers in the mills. His work was said to be inflammatory, against the English, and libelous; he was often in trouble with the law. Because he devoted so little time to his trade as a weaver, Wilson lived in poverty.

**Illustration by Alexander Willson. Do you know the species?**

In 1794, he decided to emigrate to America, and he ended up in Philadelphia. Finding no work as a weaver, he turned to teaching. Wilson settled into a position at Gray's Ferry, Pennsylvania. There, he met the famous naturalist William Bartram, the first to explore the tropical forests of Florida. Bartram encouraged Wilson's interest in ornithology and painting. Wilson resolved to publish a collection of illustrations of all the birds of North America. He traveled widely, collecting and painting. He also secured subscribers to fund his work, the nine-volume *American Ornithology* (published between 1808–1814). Of the 268 species of birds illustrated in its pages, 26 had not previously been described. His illustrations of birds in poses were an inspiration for John James Audubon and other illustrators and naturalists.

Wilson died on August 23, 1813, "of dysentery, overwork, and chronic poverty" according to one report. In addition to the birds above, the *Wilson Journal of Ornithology* and the *Wilson Ornithological Society* also bear his name.

**Baird's Sandpiper**  
**Baird's Sparrow**

A twofer. Baird's Sparrow and Baird's Sandpiper are named for Spencer Bullerton Baird (1823-1887). Baird was an American naturalist, ornithologist, ichthyologist, herpetologist, and museum curator. Baird was the first curator to be named at the Smithsonian Institution. He eventually served as assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian from 1850 to 1878, and as Secretary from 1878 until 1887. As Assistant Secretary, Baird helped develop a publication and journal exchange, that provided scientists around the world with publications they would have a hard time accessing. He was dedicated to expanding the natural history collections of the Smithsonian which he increased from 6,000 specimens in 1850 to over 2 million by the time of his death. He also served as U.S. Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries from 1871 to 1887 and published over 1,000 works during his lifetime. In addition to these two birds, Baird has 19 other species and one genus of drumfishes named after him.

*(continued on page 9)*



*Bird Names continued***Heermann's Gull**

Heermann's Gull was named for Adolphus Lewis Heermann (1821 – 1865), an American doctor, naturalist, ornithologist, and explorer. He travelled throughout the U.S. collecting samples and cataloging various species of birds, fish, reptiles, and plants. He participated in the fifth Pacific Railroad Survey, as the surgeon and naturalist, and reported on the various birds along the route. Heermann was born in New Orleans, Louisiana. After the death of his father, his mother moved to Baltimore and then took him to Europe around 1836.

Adolphus came back to New York in 1842. From 1862 he suffered from locomotor ataxia, a symptom of syphilis and when eminent British ornithologist Henry Dresser visited San Antonio in 1863, he was able to meet Heermann and the two went riding together on collecting trips. Heermann's legs had to be strapped into the saddle of his horse so that he would not fall off. Heermann's brother, Theodore, wrote to Dresser about the death of Adolphus, stating that he had gone out collecting alone, when his gun accidentally went off, killing him. John Cassin, Curator of the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences, described and named Heermann's Gull based on specimens Heermann had submitted from his travels.



*A. L. Heermann*

Adolphus Heermann , striking a pose.

**Forster's Tern**

Thomas Nuttall, of Nuttall's Woodpecker fame, named this elegant bird to honor German naturalist Johann Reinhold Forster (1729-1798). Forster was a Calvinist pastor and naturalist who made contributions to the early ornithology of Europe and North American. He is best known as the naturalist on James Cook's second Pacific voyage (1772-1775), where Cook reached the closest to Antarctica of any European explorer to that date. These expeditions helped set the stage for the future development of anthropology and ethnology as sciences. In 1779, Forster was appointed Professor of Natural History and Mineralogy at the University of Halle in Saxony, where he remained until his death. His publications in the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society established him as one of the earliest authorities on North American zoology.

**Harris's Hawk**  
**Harris's Sparrow**

Audubon named a beautiful hawk and a sparrow in honor of his ornithological companion, financial supporter and friend, Edward Harris. Harris was a farmer, horse breeder, philanthropist, naturalist, and ornithologist. Harris accompanied Audubon on his expeditions in 1837 to the Gulf of Mexico and in 1843 along the Missouri River.

Harris was commemorated by Audubon in the common names of the Harris's Hawk, Harris's Sparrow, and Harris's Antelope Squirrel. Edward Harris is also famous for introducing the Percheron horse to America from France in 1839 and establishing the first Percheron breeding line in the United States.



Edward Harris, linked to both  
a cool hawk and a cool horse

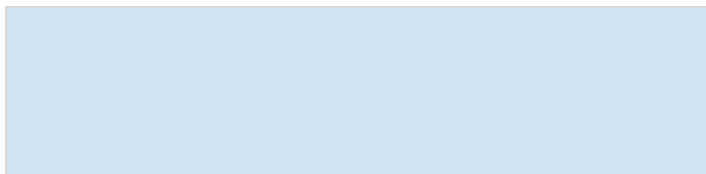
**Nancy Mendoza**

*We share with sadness the recent passing of Nancy, a most generous friend to many of us. As Phil and I were watching **Nature** on television last night, I was reminded once again of Nancy, who always let me know when a good episode on birds was coming or sharing an interesting bird article she had read. We also exchanged our backyard bird sightings, here along Sulphur Creek. Our heartfelt condolences to her family.*

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## Yes, I want to Join Ohlone Audubon Society!



Please sign me up today

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Join Ohlone Audubon Society  
By mailing a \$25 check payable  
To OAS with this coupon to:

Pat Gordon  
OAS Membership  
1922 Hillsdale St.  
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I prefer to receive the Kite Call by e-mail ☐ (Recommended) Please send me e-mail updates and action alerts ☐.

Ohlone Audubon does not share our mailing list or your personal information with others.  
**National Audubon Society membership dues are separate from those of Ohlone Audubon Society.**