



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

Calendar

Oct 1 GENERAL MEETING
Via Zoom

Oct 19 FIELD TRIP
Coyote Hills RP

Oct 20 FIELD TRIP
Ardenwood Historic Farm

Oct 27 FIELD TRIP
Big Break RP

Nov 5 GENERAL MEETING

Membership Meeting

Birding the Southern Oceans and Antarctica

By Alvaro Jaramillo

Tuesday, October 1, 2024 7:30PM via ZOOM

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

There is no greater wilderness than the Southern Ocean! If you take the globe and look at it from the south pole, there is a huge amount of water there encircling Antarctica, between it and the southern points of the continents and major islands. Seabirds, whales, fish, seals, move through these waters, some like the Wandering Albatross, unimpeded by land. The albatross may circle the globe at these latitudes many times in their life.

There are islands with hundreds of thousands of penguins, millions of prions (a small seabird), and astounding numbers of fur seals, elephant seals, and whales. It is just spellbinding. These areas are too far away for large cities to have sprung up. At the most, some of these islands have a small town or, perhaps, no one on them at all. The distance you have to travel to get there, the lack of “civilization”, and the incredible numbers of birds and other animals is what makes the Southern Ocean so enticing for the naturalist.



Alvaro will talk about some of the wonderful birds and wildlife of the sub-antarctic islands of New Zealand, as well as South America. Places like South Georgia, the Chatham Islands, Macquarie and, of course, the Antarctic Peninsula. Some of the places and wildlife you see here are life changing, and hopefully he can convey the wonder and beauty that the far south has for you to see.

(continued on page 2)



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-iupj4iGNwWOZRGoiFQxSQ-ANIL8dNP#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/join/https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIsf-iupj4iGNwWOZRGoiFQxSQ-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

See inside:
Annual Field
Trip Schedule!

Membership Meetings (continued)

Alvaro Jamarillo has been birding since he was 11 years old, and started guiding local trips as a teenager. He is a biologist, researcher, conservationist, and guide. He started *Alvaro's Adventures* to provide his own style of leading

tours. It's about the experience of travel through birds and having a good time while birding! This philosophy guides all of his tours, although each guide adds their own personal touch to each trip.

November 5, 2024 Program—tentatively scheduled a presentation from Point Blue!
Watch website for details.



Field Trips

**Migratory Marvels at
 Coyote Hills Regional Park**
Saturday, October 19, 8:30 – 11:00 am
**Leaders: David “Doc Quack” Riensche
 & Maggie Clark**
RSVP to maggieclark99@gmail.com

Fall is one of the best times to bird Coyote Hills. Winter sparrows and raptors are back, and migrating shorebirds and songbirds will still be passing through. Depending on water levels, plenty of winter ducks should be on hand. Sixty species are possible when conditions are good! Come help us find them. Rain cancels. \$5 parking fee payable at kiosk, free to East Bay Parks annual pass holders. The trip will be canceled if inclement weather is forecast (i.e., high heat, high wind, and rain). **Reservation required, please!**

Directions: To reach the park from I-880, take SR-84 towards the Dumbarton Bridge. Exit at Paseo Padre Parkway, turn right on Paseo Padre and go about one mile. Turn left on Patterson Ranch Rd. Meet at the Visitors Center at the end of the road.

Ardenwood Historic Farm
Sunday, October 20, 8:00 - 9:30am
Leaders: Christina Garcia and Bob Toleno
birding@toleno.com

With it's ample fruiting trees, plus irrigation and water sources, Ardenwood Historic Farm is one of Alameda County's best migrant hotspots, and October is a great time to see late migrants and early

(continued next column)

(Ardenwood continued)

winter arrivals. The park naturalist occasionally opens the gates before regular hours to host birding walks and has graciously allowed Ohlone Audubon to join this outing. We'll spend time walking the grounds and near the fountain, looking for warblers, flycatchers, sparrows, and tanagers. All are welcome.

Directions: From I-880 in Fremont, take the Decoto Road/Hwy 84 exit and head west toward the Dumbarton Bridge. Take the Ardenwood/Newark Blvd. exit and turn right onto Ardenwood Blvd. The park entrance is ahead, on the right. Meet near the entrance kiosk.

Big Break Regional Shoreline
Sunday, October 27, 9am - noon
Leader: Bill Hoppes
hoppes1949@gmail.com

Big Break Regional Shoreline has an excellent mix of habitats. First off, it has one of the East Bay Regional Park District's Visitor's Centers, as well as an excellent 3-D model of the SF Bay and Delta. We will first visit the fishing platform, which offers excellent views of the “Big Break” and the Carquinez Strait. If you bring your spotting scope, this will be a good place to use it. After that we will follow the trails that edge the willow runs, grasslands, and sloughs. Birding is always good here, and we have good chances to see anything from Sandhill Cranes to White-faced Ibis, to our own White-tailed Kite.

Directions: Take I-880 north to CA-24 east to I-680 north to CA-242 north to CA-4 east to CA-160 toward Sacramento. After half a mile, exit on Main St and make a right, then make a left on Big Break Rd.

OHLONE AUDUBON ANNUAL FIELD TRIPS 2024-25

DATE	LOCATION	LEADER(S)
SATURDAY, OCT 19, 2024	COYOTE HILLS REGIONAL PARK	DAVID RIENSCHKE & MAGGIE CLARK
SUNDAY, OCT 27	BIG BREAK REGIONAL PARK	BILL HOPPE
SATURDAY, NOV 9	HAYWARD REGIONAL SHORELINE	BOB TOLENO & JULI CHAMBERLIN
SUNDAY, DEC 1	PACIFIC COMMONS LINEAR PARK	RICH NICHOLSON & KATHY ROBERTSON
WEDNESDAY, DEC 4	ELSIE ROEMER	KATHY ROBERTSON & KAREN KRAMER
WEDNESDAY, DEC 11	COYOTE HILLS REGIONAL PARK	RICH NICHOLSON & BOB DUNN
THURSDAY, DEC 12	GARIN REGIONAL	BOB TOLENO
SUNDAY, JAN 5, 2025	SOLANO COUNTY GRASSLANDS	BOB TOLENO & JULI CHAMBERLIN
SATURDAY, JAN 11	ARROWHEAD MARSH	DAVID RIENSCHKE
SATURDAY, JAN 25	SPRINGTOWN WETLANDS	KATHY ROBERTSON & KAREN KRAMER
SUNDAY, FEB 2	SHADOW CLIFFS	KATHY ROBERTSON & KAREN KRAMER
SAT-SUN, FEB 15-16	MERCED NWR & PANOCHE VALLEY	PAT & PHIL GORDON
THURSDAY, MAR 13	LAKE ELIZABETH	BOB TOLENO
SUNDAY, MAR 16	QUARRY LAKES	KATHY ROBERTSON & KAREN KRAMER
WEDNESDAY, APR 9	SABRECAT CREEK TRAIL	BILL HOPPE
SATURDAY, APR 12	BAY POINT REGIONAL SHORELINE	DAVID RIENSCHKE
THURSDAY, APR 17	GARIN - BIRDING BY EAR	MAGGIE CLARK & BILL SCOGGINS
SATURDAY, APR 19	PINE CANYON	RICH NICHOLSON & BOB DUNN
SATURDAY, APR 26	MILL CREEK ROAD	BOB TOLENO & JULI CHAMBERLIN
SATURDAY, MAY 3	CROWN BEACH	DAVID RIENSCHKE & ROSS MITCHELL
WEDNESDAY, MAY 14	MITCHELL CANYON	RICH NICHOLSON & BOB DUNN
WEDNESDAY, MAY 21	NILES HOTSPOTS	KATHY ROBERTSON & KAREN KRAMER
FRIDAY, MAY 30	POINT REYES	BOB TOLENO & JULI CHAMBERLIN
SATURDAY, JUN 14	HAYWARD SHORELINE INTERPRETIVE CTR	DAVID RIENSCHKE & MAGGIE CLARK
SATURDAY, JUL 12	HAYWARD REGIONAL SHORELINE	BOB TOLENO & JULI CHAMBERLIN
SAT-SUN, JUL 19-20	MONO LAKE & EASTERN SIERRA	BOB TOLENO & JULI CHAMBERLIN

BIRDING OBSERVATIONS

Late Summer 2024

By Vicki Robinson

In the time between summer and fall, many birds are coming through, and many are leaving for warmer areas. It is a good time of year to see uncommon birds in our area, to everyone's delight.

Ardenwood Farm in Fremont has been the place to see uncommon birds, in addition to the expected birds that are stopping on their way to warmer climates. **Yellow, Wilson's, Orange-crowned, Townsend's, and Black-throated Gray Warblers** are all being seen.



Black-throated Gray Warbler



Cassin's Vireo



Red-eyed Vireo

Vireos are also there. **Cassin's, Hutton's, and Warbling** are expected, but this year an uncommon **Red-eyed Vireo** was sighted, a new bird for many.

Another surprise at Ardenwood was a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**.

A rare Blackburnian Warbler was found at Fremont's Lake Elizabeth.



Willow Flycatcher

Migrating flycatchers are also in large numbers, including **Olive-sided, Western Wood-Pewee, Willow, and Western.**

Western Tanagers are still being seen at Gomes Park, Fremont, and at Ardenwood.



Blackburnian Warbler

At Vargas Plateau, a **Prairie Falcon** has been seen flying around, and on the entry road, a **Loggerhead Shrike** can usually be found.

For a special treat, two **California Condors** have been sighted from Mines Road, outside of Livermore.

A little out of Alameda County, but not easy to find, was a **Northern Waterthrush** at Tilden Park's Jewel Lake.

(All photos by V. Robinson)



Loggerhead Shrike

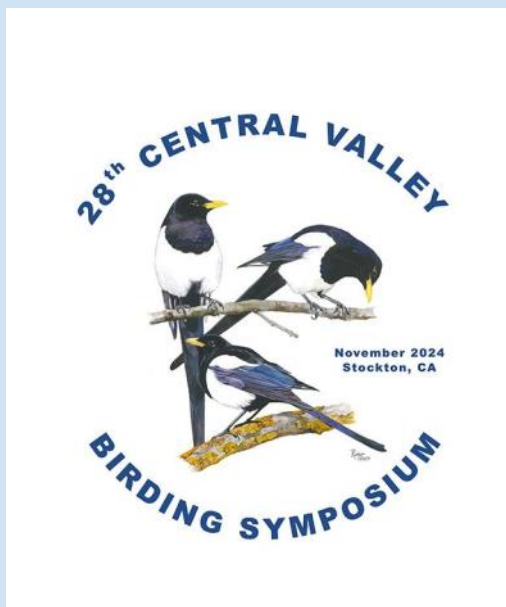


Prairie Falcon

President's Corner

By the time you read this, T and I will be in southeast Australia trying to tell riflebirds (see below) from fairywrens and looking for as many of the 59 species of honeyeaters in Australia we can see. As soon as we get back, there are two great birding festivals lined up.

I am a big fan of birding festivals, and T and I try to get to at least one each year. After many years of dithering, last year we made it to Godwit Days up in Arcata and had a great time. This November, right in our own backyard, are **the Lodi Sandhill Crane Festival** on November 1-3 and the **Central Valley Birding Symposium** November 21-24. I have been to both several times. They each have a great list of field trips and presentations. Registration for both the Central Valley Symposium and the Lodi Festival are now open.



<https://www.cvbirds.org/events/symposium/>



<https://lodisandhill.org>

If you like podcasts, there is one on birds that I have been listening to. It is called **BirdNote Daily**. Each day they provide a two-minute podcast on some aspect of bird conservation or natural history. I listen to it every morning as I am sitting on my porch, having my coffee, watching the feeders. A great way to start the morning! I highly recommend it. You can find it on your podcast app. They have other information at their website <https://www.birdnote.org/>

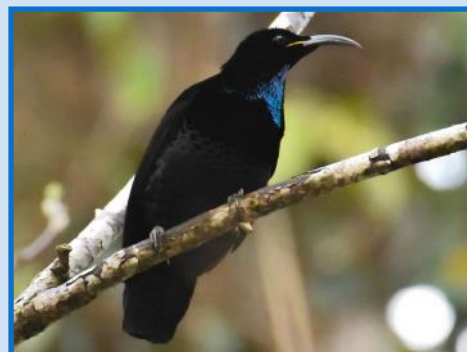


The Prince Consort's Own Rifle Brigade.

Riflebirds got their name either for the likeness of their black velvety plumage to the uniform of the Rifle Brigade, an infantry regiment of the British Army formed in January 1800, as the "Experimental Corps of Riflemen" to provide sharpshooters, scouts, and skirmishers. Alternatively, the bird's cry is said to be like a rifle being fired and hitting its target.

This is a Paradise Riflebird, one T and I will be looking for. Go online to hear its call. I am going with the Rifle Brigade. Hope you get out birding either on your own or on one of our great field trips.

-Bill Hoppes



Conservation

City of Dublin plans ballot measure to push urban limit line east into Doolan Canyon

The City of Dublin plans to put a measure on the November ballot that would authorize the city to work to move its urban growth boundary east into county land north of I-580 towards Livermore. The main purpose of this is to connect Dublin Boulevard and North Canyons Parkway from Livermore, relieving traffic congestion on I-580. To pay for the new highway, Dublin plans to permit large scale commercial development in southern Doolan Canyon.

Doolan Canyon is the last remaining open space in Dublin. This ballot measure is opposed by a coalition of environmental groups and the City of Livermore, all of whom argue that the roadwork can be done without the massive commercial development proposed by Dublin.

-B. Hoppes

Alameda-Tesla Property Classification and General Plan

More than two decades ago, the California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) acquired the Alameda-Tesla Property (ATP) with the intent of expanding the adjacent Carnegie SVRA. After challenges to this plan in 2021, SB 155 (PRC sec. 5090.42) authorized planning work to determine the best use of the land. It specified that the property shall not be designated as a state vehicular recreation area (SVRA) or be considered for any future expansion of off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation. This project includes classifying and naming the property as a new park unit within the State Parks system, along with developing a general plan and environmental impact report. These planning efforts will determine land use and public access and guide future development.

The Alameda-Tesla Classification and General Plan Project was originally proposed as two phases: Park Classification and Naming, and General Plan and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) development. Over the last year, State Parks has been gathering and receiving public input, resource data, undertaking consultations with California Native Tribes, meeting with stakeholders, surveying and inventorying the property, along with receiving, acquiring, and accessing natural, cultural, and Tribal resources data, while identifying site assets, constraints, and opportunities for ATP.

Due to robust and voluminous community feedback emphasizing the importance of the natural, cultural, and Tribal resources present, along with the interests in assuring appropriate public recreational uses for this State Parks property, State Parks has determined to fold the classification/naming process into the general plan effort. This has been a successful

practice for newer state park properties over the years. State Parks' current assessment is that there are several viable options for state park unit classification that could be considered and justified. The leading candidates for the property being the "state park" and "state reserves" classifications. One key additional benefit of this approach is that the various classification options will receive full environmental assessment and review during the development and approval of the Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance required in the general plan process.

Community outreach efforts in support of the planning efforts will begin this Fall 2024 as originally planned. Public workshops and other stakeholder engagement during the planning process will discuss both classification and naming considerations as well as feedback on land use management concepts for use in developing the general plan. State Parks will submit a complete General Plan, PEIR, and Classification and Naming Report to the State Park and Recreation Commission in the future.

During the ensuing planning process, the public will have multiple opportunities to share input that will inform project outcomes, as shown on the Participate page of the project webpage (www.alamedateslaplan.com).

In the meantime, folks can ensure they are kept abreast of opportunities to participate in any public comment processes on this matter by providing your email address at: <https://alamedateslaplan.com/participate>

-C. High

The Other Woodpeckers

By
Bill Hoppes

We all know woodpeckers. You will usually see one on pretty much every bird walk: Nuttall's, Downy, Hairy, Acorn and, if we are very lucky, a Lewis's or Pileated. There is another group of woodpeckers out there that we don't see as often, but we need to be ready when one shows up. These are the sapsuckers. In North America, there are four sapsuckers, all in the genus *Sphyrapicus*. The genus name combines the ancient Greek



word *sphura* meaning "hammer" and *pikos* meaning "woodpecker". As their name implies, sapsuckers feed primarily on the sap of trees, moving among different tree and shrub species on a seasonal basis. Insects, especially those attracted to the sweet sap exuding from sap holes, are often captured and fed to the young during the breeding season. Trees being worked by sapsuckers are characteristic. The holes look something like the storehouses of Acorn Woodpeckers, but the holes are smaller and more uniform.

The four sapsuckers in this group, listed in order of likelihood of seeing in our area are:

Red-breasted Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus ruber</i>
Red-naped Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus nuchalis</i>
Williamson's Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus thyroideus</i>
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>

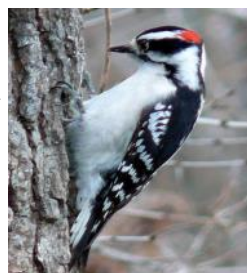
The holes left to draw sap from a tree by a Red-breasted Sapsucker.

First off, how do we know we have a sapsucker and not one of the other woodpeckers? The cues we will use include the amount of red on the head and throat and the presence of yellow. Another important cue that you can hear is the sound of their drumming. Woodpeckers like the Hairy and Downy, drill with a steady beat. Sapsuckers don't sound like that. Sapsuckers go with a varied beat, speeding up, slowing down, and trailing off. It was described to me long ago as "syncopated". Musicians will know this as "a disturbance or interruption of the regular flow of rhythm". Listen to the drumming of a sapsucker on your app and compare it to a Hairy Woodpecker. When you hear this syncopated drumming in the woods you will know a sapsucker is nearby.

Now let's see what these birds look like. First, let's set a baseline with two of our most common woodpeckers, the Downy and Nuttall's.

Our two most common woodpeckers, the Nuttall's and the Downy, do you know which is which?

(Downy left; Nuttall's right)



Now, let's compare these two to the sapsucker we are most likely to see in our area, the Red-breasted, on the left. Look at the amount of red on its head. No other woodpecker in our area looks like this. The Lewis's Woodpecker, on the right, has some red on its face, but not like this, and the pattern on the breast is totally different. Once you see that red head, you should have no difficulty IDing this sapsucker. Red-breasted Sapsuckers are seen throughout the bay area. The Red-breasted and all the sapsuckers are winter birds, arriving in fall and leaving in winter. eBird shows no records during the breeding season from the middle of May through (continued page 8)

(Sapsuckers continued)

the middle of September, when the Red-breasted move to higher elevations in the Sierras and the Pacific Northwest, where they breed in coniferous forests, often with some deciduous trees, as well as orchards and second-growth woodlands. In the winter when they are here, they move to wooded areas, including parks and suburbs.



The second sapsucker you are likely to see is the Red-naped Sapsucker. It used to be considered a subspecies of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, which we will discuss below, but was split off as a separate species in 1998. The Red-naped primarily breeds in mixed forests in the Rocky Mountains and Great Basin. It winters south into Mexico. In the last ten years, eBird states that there have been several hundred observations in our area. The most likely place to see them is in the Santa Cruz Mountains. But they have been seen at Sunol, Chabot, Ed Levin Park and Ulistac Natural Area. Here is what one looks like (left). This is a little closer to our baseline species, but look closer. Do you see the red on the throat? None of our other woodpeckers have this. Also, the red on the head extends onto the forehead, which neither of our baseline species has.

But wait we don't always have a good look at the head; what if we only have a look at the back? Here is a view of the two sapsuckers and two baseline species.

Going clockwise from left, Downy, Nuttall's, Red-naped, and Red-breasted, but you should know that by now. Do you see the characteristic double stripe on the sapsuckers, very different from the large white stripe on the Downy and lateral bars on the Nuttall's? Even from the rear, you should know you have a sapsucker. If you look at the photo of the Red-naped, you can see the red on the "nape of its neck" from which it gets its name. This is really hard to see in the field, but sometimes, if you are patient, you will get lucky.



**Downy
Woodpecker**



**Nuttall's
Woodpecker**



**Red-naped
Sapsucker**



**Red-breasted
Sapsucker**

Now let's go on to the two species we are very unlikely to see here.

Williamson's Sapsucker is a bird of coniferous forests of the Rocky Mountains, Sierras, and Cascades. In the last ten years, there have been only a handful of records in our area, mostly from the Berkeley Hills. Here is what the male and female (right) look like. *(See photos next page)*. Note the red on the chin and the yellow breast and belly feathers. The female is completely different in appearance from the male, with that brownish head with black streaking and fine barring on the back, breast and sides. The female was once considered to be a totally different species and named the Black-breasted Woodpecker by Cassin.

(continued page 9)

(Sapsuckers continued)

Williamson's Woodpeckers
left—male right—female

Finally, if you are headed back east, there is one more sapsucker you might see, the Yellow-bellied. This looks very much like the Red-naped, but you can see there is no red on the nape of the neck. Also listen to the call of these two on your app; they are very different. Reports of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers are actually more frequent than Williamson's, with several dozen in our area over the past ten years. They have been seen in the usual haunts such as Ed Levin Park, the Oakland Hills, and Shadow Cliffs. Be extra careful in reporting this species, making sure you aren't actually seeing a Red-naped, which are by far more common.

Yellow-bellied
Sapsucker



Enjoy these "extra" woodpeckers, listen to their syncopated rhythm, and see if you prefer it to the Leroy Anderson version.

HELP WANTED!

Our wonderful hospitality committee of Allen and Jackie Bertillion are retiring (although Jackie will still do corresponding for us) and we are in dire need of a replacement. We only meet in person three times a year now and at the CBC dinner. Our Hospitality Committee is responsible for setting up the coffee/hot water /drinks at those events, organizing the delicious Christmas cookies, arranging the June potluck dishes, and setting up a caterer for our September Members' Appreciation Day. No cooking required! Please, can you help us out?



Contact Bill Hoppes at hoppes1949@gmail.com for more info.

Thank you.



Allen Bertillion and Mona Brauer working away at the Membership Appreciation Picnic 9/7/24 (photo by R. Confer)

Welcome New Members

Thank You Renewing Members!

Carol Garberson Georgeann Hardy Dwight Law Paul McCollom John Sack Uri Shaft Joseph Smith Karen Smith Jana Welschmeyer



Donations

*In Memory of
Nancy Mendoza
Joan Lewis*

*Lawrence Abbott
Carol Garberson*

*Diana Brumbaugh
Georgeann Hardy*

RETURN TO:
OHLONE AUDUBON SOCIETY
1922 HILLSDALE STREET
HAYWARD, CA 94541

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SAN LEANDRO, CA
PERMIT NO. 5759

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED



Please renew your Ohlone membership by the date shown on your address label. For those receiving our electronic copy, an email will be sent. Direct questions about Kite Call delivery to the Membership Chair.

PRESIDENT: Bill Hoppes, *President@OhloneAudubon.org*
VICE PRES: Marty Morrow *VicePresident@OhloneAudubon.org*
PAST PRES: Evelyn Cormier 510-471-0475
TREASURER: Gail Ryujiin *Treasurer@OhloneAudubon.org* 925-829-1895
REC SECTY: Kathy Robertson *Secretary@OhloneAudubon.org*
CORR SECTY: Jackie Bertillion 510-782-4874
DIRECTORS: 2023: Dr. Marlina Selva *Director2023@OhloneAudubon.org*
 2024: Vicki Robinson *Director2021@OhloneAudubon.org*
 2025: Dave Riensche *Director2022@OhloneAudubon.org*
WEBMASTER: Bill Hoppes Jr *webmaster@OhloneAudubon.org*
WEBSITE: <http://OhloneAudubon.org>

CONSERVATION: Carin High (West) Bill Hoppes (East)
Conservation@OhloneAudubon.org
EDUCATION: Marty Morrow *education@ohloneaudubon.org* 510-357-1615
EDITOR: Phil & Pat Gordon, *editor@Ohloneaudubon.org* 510-538-3550
FIELD TRIPS: Bob Toleno *FieldTrips@OhloneAudubon.org*
HOSPITALITY: Allen & Jackie Bertillion 510-782-4874
MEMBERSHIP: Pat Gordon, *Membership@Ohloneaudubon.org* 510-538-3550
PROGRAMS: Diana Brumbaugh, *Programs@OhloneAudubon.org*
PUBLICITY: Vicki Robinson, *Director2024@OhloneAudubon.org*
NAS CALIFORNIA: 765 University Ave, Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95825
 916-649-7600, <http://www.ca.audubon.org>

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.
Hayward, CA 94541

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.