



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

Membership Meetings

Calendar

- Feb 17 FIELD TRIP**
Sacramento/Colusa NWRs
- Feb 18 FIELD TRIP**
Llano Seco/Gray Lodge Refuges
- Feb 28 FIELD TRIP**
Quarry Lakes
- Mar 5 GENERAL MEETING**
Via Zoom
- Mar 14 FIELD TRIP**
Lake Elizabeth/Gomes Park
- Apr 2 GENERAL MEETING**
Via Zoom
- Apr 13 FIELD TRIP**
Rails—Bay Point

 **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/tZlzf-
 iupj4iGNwWOZRGoiFOxSQ-
 ANIL8dNP#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/join/https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlzf-iupj4iGNwWOZRGoiFOxSQ-ANIL8dNP#/registration)

Birding Adventures in the Central Himalayan Kingdoms of Nepal, Sikkim and Bhutan

with Dr. James Bland

Date: March 5, 2024 at 7:30 pm Via Zoom (pre-register here)



Join Dr. James Bland for an indulgence into his ornithological knowledge, exploration, and photography across the Himalayan Kingdoms of Nepal, Sikkim, and Bhutan. Learn how the Himalaya Region came to be a global biodiversity hotspot. Enjoy photographs of representative landscapes and wildlife, primarily birds, taken by Dr. Bland. Learn the top Himalayan birding destinations and other essential information for planning your own Himalaya birding tour.

Dr. Bland's 40-year love affair with the Himalaya Region began with a travel grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service to present the results of his college senior thesis on Himalayan Snowcocks (conducted in Nevada). He has returned to the region, including Tibet and Southwest China, many times to conduct ornithological research, including his Doctoral Dissertation, and for personal exploration and photography. Dr. Bland holds wildlife-related degrees from Cal Poly-Humboldt, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and UCLA. He is a retired Professor of Biology (Santa Monica College) and a retired upland gamebird researcher. He now pursues his passion for wildlife photography from his home base in Los Osos, California, at the southern tip of Morro Bay.



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

Programs continued

Coming up April 2, 2024 - David Yeamans! Journey to Photograph All 50 State Birds (via Zoom)



Dave Yeamans, author, narrates his photo and bird sound program taking the audience around the USA to photograph every state bird in its own state. Enjoy this 45-minute plunge into his nine-year project. There are beautiful birds, amazing scenery, and a few stories. Questions and answers follow for as long as we want.

Dave Yeamans grew up in the outdoors of northern New Mexico. He is a lifelong adventure leader and wildlife observer. He was a Grand Canyon river guide for decades, a bird guide in Arizona, and one of the top birders in Alameda County, California. Dave was instrumental in forming the Los Alamos Nature Center in New Mexico, has taught many years with the Outward Bound schools, has destroyed nuclear weapons, and now is retired from the working world. He became a serious birder in 2009 and plans to continue his chase for suboscines into 2025 with another trip to Panama.

Field Trips



Sacramento and Colusa NW Refuges
Saturday, February 17, 9:00 – 11:00am
(Sacramento NWR); 12:30 – 3pm (Colusa NWR)
Leaders: David Riensche & Maggie Clark
RSVP required by 2/12/2024
to maggielark99@gmail.com
Questions? Email driensche@ebparks.org

At these two premier bird watching destinations in the heart of California's Central Valley you can witness the drama and dynamics of the Pacific Flyway on a spectacular scale. Join us and be mesmerized by the sights and sounds of hundreds-of-thousands of ducks, geese and swans spiraling overhead like a tornado! During this adventure you may observe a rich array of waterfowl, waders, shorebirds, raptors, and songbirds. With more than 70,000 acres of habitat this refuge complex provides habitat for almost 300 species of birds! These Important Bird Areas play winter host to nearly the entire global population of Tule Greater White-fronted Geese and most of the Ross's Geese.

Directions: *Sac NWR headquarters, approximately 90 miles north of the metropolitan area of Sacramento on I-5 and 6 miles south of the town of Willows, take exit #595 Road 68 (n of Maxwell), and make a left turn and continue north on County Road 99W for 1.5 miles and reach the refuge entrance. The six-mile Auto Tour Route starts at the Visitor Center. Restrooms and parking spaces are available at the Visitor Center. The driving surface of the auto tour route is an all-weather packed gravel road. At this location a fee is required for a pass, or it is free for seniors, and/or a Federal Duck Stamp.*

Directions to Colusa NWR: *From Sac NWR: return to I-5 southbound take the Hwy 20 exit east toward Colusa. The refuge will be on the right in about 8 miles. We will meet at the Interpretive kiosk located at the start of the three-mile self-guided auto tour route. The driving surface is an all-weather packed gravel road. As time permits, we may explore the one-mile Nature Discovery Walk and viewing deck. Restrooms and parking spaces are available at the staging area/ Interpretive kiosk.*

Llano Seco & Gray Lodge State Wildlife Area
Sunday, February 18, 9:00am – sunset
Leaders: Phil & Pat Gordon
pagpeg@aol.com

After a great day of birding the other two refuges above, continue onto the Llano Seco Unit and later Gray Lodge State Wildlife Area for more views of waterfowl. Llano Seco has viewing platforms which afford great close views of ducks and geese! Often on the drive to the unit we see Tundra Swans in the fields, along with Sandhill Cranes. Afterwards we will proceed south to Gray Lodge to hopefully view the fly in (or out?) of waterfowl at sunset. Depending on timing we may do a short walk. We plan on meeting the group at Starbucks in Willows at 505 N. Humboldt. This is just adjacent to I-5 on the east side. We can then drive to Llano Seco together checking the fields. Bring your lunch. Trip will go rain or shine.

(FIELD TRIPS continued on page 3)

Field Trips continued

Llano Seco/Gray Lodge continued

If you plan on an overnight stay, there are several hotels in Willows (Best Western, Holiday Inn, Super 8, Motel 6)

Note: Gray Lodge Wildlife Area does require a CDFW Lands Pass (\$5.40 in 2023), which can be purchased <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Lands-Pass> or by calling (800) 565-1458.

Directions: *from I-5 in Willows go east on Hwy 162, turn left on N. Humboldt to the Starbucks. If you wish to go directly to Llano Seco, continue on Hwy 162 thru Butte City, left on Rd 2, staying on that road, then left on 7-mile Rd to the unit. Restrooms are available. The group should be there sometime after 10:30 AM.*

Quarry Lakes Regional Rec Area, Fremont

Wednesday, Feb 28, 9:00AM - noon

Leaders: Kathy Robertson & Vicki Robinson

katbirdca@aol.com

Join us at Quarry Lakes in Fremont to explore the lakes and marsh for wintering waterfowl. Pelicans, grebes, ospreys, loons, ducks, cormorants, and sometimes rare gulls are found at the lakes, while the trees hold woodpeckers, kinglets, Yellow-rumped Warblers and more. Bald Eagles moved in in Fall 2015, and it's not unusual to see Peregrine Falcons and Merlins. We'll be on the lookout for early spring arrivals. Be prepared to walk about 2 1/2 miles on flat, gravel paths. Scopes are helpful. Parking fee \$5 unless you have an EB Parks annual pass. Heavy rain cancels. Pre-registration is not required, and

Directions: *Exit I-880 at Decoto Road and go northeast (away from the bay, towards the hills). Turn right on Paseo Padre Parkway, then left on Isherwood Way. Continue on Isherwood past the Isherwood staging area through several stop signs to reach the main park entrance on your right, on Quarry Lakes Drive. From Mission Blvd., take Nursery Avenue to Niles Blvd. and go west (away from downtown Niles). Turn left on Osprey Drive, then left on Quarry Lakes Drive. After entering the park at the kiosk, follow the sign to head left and park by the swim beach to meet the group.*

Lake Elizabeth & Gomes Park - Fremont

Thursday, March 14, 9:00 AM - noon

Leader: Bob Toleno

bob@toleno.com

Lake Elizabeth provides excellent late winter birding. Breeding Allen's and migrating Rufous Hummingbirds may be near the palm trees, late wintering geese are often on the soccer fields, and early migrants might be found in the willows. We'll walk on mostly paved sidewalks a little over half a mile to Gomes Park. On the way, we'll visit the stand of willows, where we should see warblers, goldfinches, and maybe Pine Siskins. Plan to walk about 2.5 miles round trip, mostly on paved paths. Heavy rain cancels.

Directions: *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 lake end of the parking lot*

Secretive Marsh Birds Sunrise Saunter

Bay Point Regional Shoreline, Bay Point.

Saturday, April 13, 5:30 – 8:30 am

Leader: David Riensche

fieldtrips@ohloneaudubon.org

Reservations required by 4/10/24

driensche@ebparks.org

For questions driensche@ebparks.org

This pre-dawn adventure we will focus on finding California Black Rail, Sora, Virginia Rail and American Bittern. During our stroll along the one-mile, flat Harrier Trail, we will explore its name sake bird while enjoying views of kites, shrikes, shorebirds, and wonderful waterfowl. We will use "Doc Quack's" special access code to visit this newly restored marshland, so you must be there by 5:30 am as all access gates will be locked at 5:45 am. Dress in layers and bring light rain gear as needed. This is a wheelchair-accessible field trip. Pre-registration is required, and all are welcome. Rain cancels the field trip.

Directions: *From Highway 4 in Bay Point, exit at the Bay Point/San Marco Boulevard exit and go north onto Willow Pass Road, towards the river. After about one-half mile, turn left onto Port Chicago Highway. Proceed for about 1.25 miles and take McAvoy Road to the trail staging area on the left.*

BIRDING OBSERVATIONS

Winter 2024

By Vicki Robinson

Welcome to Winter 2024. Good rain but not too much so far. Fingers crossed.



Redhead



Barrow's Goldeneye



Red-necked Grebe



White-winged Scoter



Sage Thrasher

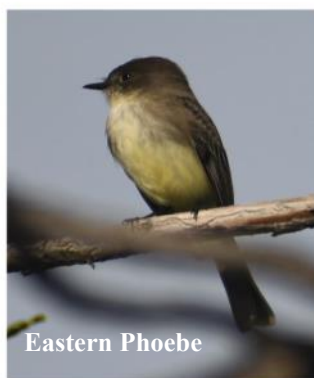
The most exciting birding location for Alameda County has been at MLK Jr. Regional Shoreline and Arrowhead Marsh. During January, we have seen **Redhead, Blue-winged Teal, Barrow's Goldeneye, Red-throated Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Brant goose**, and the continuing **Nelson's Sparrow**. Other rare birds were a **Tufted Duck** and a **White-winged Scoter**.

At high tides, **Arrowhead Marsh** is still the place to see **Soras, Virginia Rails, and Ridgway's Rails**.

Coyote Hills Regional Park has also been a great place to see our special birds. On the bay are hundreds of **American White Pelicans, American Avocets, American Wigeons**, and a **Eurasian Wigeon** in the mix. The **Chilean Flamingo** (Fernando!) is still around and seems to be doing fine. An uncommon **Glaucous Gull** has been seen, and occasional groups of **Bonaparte's Gulls** fly over. At the Quarry Staging Area at Coyote Hills, there was an uncommon **Sage Thrasher** that many birders came to photograph and add to their bird list.

During the East County Christmas Bird Count in the Pleasanton area a very uncommon **Eastern Phoebe** was found along the Arroyo del Valle Trail and another one found on the Hayward-Fremont count in the Palomares Road area. Along this trail also can be found **Wood Ducks** and **Hooded Mergansers**.

Our warblers list is not very long, but **Yellow-rumped Warblers** and **Common Yellowthroats** are still in large numbers, and an occasional **Orange-crowned** and **Townsend's Warblers** are still around. (all photos by V. Robinson)



Eastern Phoebe

FUN FACT!

Collective Nouns For Birds



ESL.COM

President's Corner

For the past 20 years or so, I have been following the USFWS efforts to eradicate feral mice from the Farallon Islands. Recently, there seemed to be major progress when, last year, the Coastal Conservancy gave its support to the effort. It struck me the other day, that it has been about a year since then, and there had been no news on the status of the effort. I contacted USFWS for an update and was told that the project was on hold while USFWS prepared the Record of Decision (ROD).



The Farallons, feral mouse control program still on hold



Cedar Waxwings, they seem to be everywhere this winter.

An ROD signals formal federal approval of an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment concerning a proposed project. The ROD authorizes the respective agency to proceed with the project, based on the availability of funds. The project cannot proceed until the ROD is published.

So, that is where we are. I will keep tracking this project and keep you updated.

Godwit Days, here we come! I so enjoyed the presentation a few months ago that included a discussion on Godwit Days up in Arcata in April, that T and I signed up for it. We are looking forward to five great days of birding in Northern California. If you haven't signed up for a birding festival, give them a look.

Finally, has anyone else noticed the numbers of Cedar Waxwings this year? In years past, I remember seeing them every once in awhile. This year, they seem to be everywhere. I have seen them during my morning walk pretty much every day this winter. I checked eBird and waxwing numbers are up 18% in California over the past decade. It seems much greater than that and it is always fun to see them.

Have fun birding.

- Bill Hoppes

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

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!

Send your request to pagpeg@aol.com

City of Hayward's Climate Action Plan Investment in Infrastructure Without Protecting the Natural Environment

The City of Hayward has recently held public hearings regarding adoption of its updated Climate Action Plan (CAP) as an amendment to the Hayward General Plan. The CAP is being amended to include strategies to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to meet the City's 2030 GHG reduction target. The project includes amendments to the Safety Element to address and update hazards related to flooding and fires, and to include climate adaptation and resilience strategies. The project also includes adoption of a new Environmental Justice Element.

According to the City's website, "This update will build upon Hayward's current CAP, adopted in 2014, to provide strategies to reduce GHG emissions, increase community resilience, and support the state and global climate goals. The CAP strategies, called "measures," are organized into five sectors: Transportation, Building Energy, Water and Wastewater, Solid Waste, and Carbon Sequestration. Measures are then supported by multiple "actions," which are specific programs and steps to achieve the identified goals. Most measures start with an action that builds a community partnership or calls for a feasibility study."

The project does not include conservation efforts to preserve, protect, and/or enhance the natural environment. While there was 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 was also discussed.

The focus at the hearings and in the 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 ignored the community's feedback about this issue and ignored the urgent need to protect the natural landscape and ecosystems.

- M. Selva

Conservation

Mowry Village

The proposed Mowry Village Housing Development, located at the western end of Mowry Avenue in the city of Newark, consists of the construction of 203 single family housing units on top of the 19 acres of the Pick-n-Pull auto wrecking yard and an adjacent, undeveloped 10-acre parcel. These 29 acres have previously been designated as park or open space. The project is proposing to rezone the site from Park/Open Space to Single Family Residential with 6,000 SF lots. Newark will lose 29 acres of future park or open space land if the project is constructed.

We are certainly aware of the need to provide housing for Bay Area residents; however, Mowry Village's location puts future residents at risk of living on an island surrounded by rising sea levels and groundwater. Housing will be built above what the city and developers claim will be the limits of sea level rise; however, the only access road, Mowry Avenue, will have no elevation changes. Even more exciting is the busy rail line, which Mowry Avenue crosses at-grade, that separates the Mowry Village location from the rest of Newark. Emergency access to the proposed site could be blocked by train traffic, resulting in police, fire, and medical access disruptions of response times to the Mowry Village development and residents. Public transportation at the proposed location is lacking. Developers offer no relief for residents who would need to get in their cars to get to work, shopping, schools, and other public amenities.

As important, is the lost opportunity to see these lands restored to wetlands and associated habitats, that can serve as natural infrastructure that provides crucial climate resilience and ecosystem services for the community, while also protecting the biodiversity of the Bay.

A draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was issued the summer of 2023 and the public and various environmental groups and agencies submitted comments. At this time, we are waiting for the release of the Final EIR (FEIR) which we have been informed will be available in May of this year. Once released, environmental groups,

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*Conservation continued***Mowry Village continued**

regulatory agencies, and the public will only have 10 days to respond to the information contained in the FEIR. After the 10-day period ends, the city will review the comments and then will hold a public hearing on the project during a city council meeting. We hope members of the public will turn out and voice the desire to protect these lands from being paved over.

To learn more about the project and to sign the “Say No to Mowry Village” petition, please visit: <https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/tell-newark-protect-newark-baylands-say-no-to-mowry-village-project>

-C. High

Aramis Solar Project Habitat Conservation Plan open for public comment

The US Fish and Wildlife Service announced last week that it had made available two documents related to a controversial solar power project in North Livermore. The Aramis Industrial Solar Project, located 3.5 miles north of I-580 will build solar panels and battery storage over 405 acres. The Environmental Assessment has been finalized and now released. The Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) will accept public comments through 16 February. The HCP focuses on five species: Monarch Butterfly, California Tiger Salamander, California Red-legged Frog, San Joaquin Kit Fox, and Golden Eagle. The HCP can be accessed at: <https://www.fws.gov/office/sacramento-fish-and-wildlife/open-public-comment>.

-B. Hoppes



Thank you to the following new and renewing members and those who have generously donated. We do sincerely appreciate your continued support.

<p>Renewals</p> <p>Hollie Adamic Val Blakely David Donovan Madhura Doppa Christopher Lazik Iyun Lazik Pat Lewis Pat Mahoney Beth Milhano Dina Oakes Wendy Parfrey Leta Rogers Francine Salvaggio Marlina Selva</p>	<p>Samantha Swatling -Holcomb Lynn Shaeffer Barbara Sullivan Susan Wijeyesekera</p> <p>Donations</p> <p>Pat Mahoney Beth Milhano Dina Oakes Kathryn Robertson Marlina Selva Barbara Sullivan Susan Wijeyesekera Terri Wills</p>
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Congratulations Conrad!

The Sara Mathews Committee has awarded **Conrad Fay** a \$500 scholarship to the San Francisco State University Sierra Nevada Field Station camp this summer. Conrad will participate in the June camp, Birds of the Sierra Nevada.

From Conrad: *I am currently taking classes full-time at Diablo Valley College with the goal of pursuing further education in wildlife biology or natural resources. I graduated from UC Davis in 2016 with a B.S. in Computer Science and spent several years working in game development. I left the industry two years ago, hoping to work more with animals, which has been a lifelong passion. I worked at an animal shelter, helping with adoptions and animal care, and am now enrolled in classes to build a better academic foundation in biology. I also volunteer with Oakland Animal Services, working with cats and pigeons; with Palomacy, transporting pigeons; and with organizations such as San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, doing workdays and surveys.*

With this workshop at the Sierra Nevada Campus, I am hoping to gain more first-hand experience in the field, and to garner interest in the ecosystem of the Sierras with which I am not very familiar. Birds have been a driving force of my interest in wildlife, and learning about their place in such a rich ecosystem makes me especially interested in this course. I hope to use the learnings gained from this course to pursue further education in wildlife biology and to affiliate with those in the field.

A Walk Through Eponymous Names by Bill Hoppes

You have likely heard of a proposal by the American Ornithological Society (AOS) to rename birds with eponymous names (birds named after people). There are strong views, pro and con, on this initiative. You heard some of that at our last membership meeting. Over the past few years, I have written articles on the stories behind the people honored with having birds named for them. It has led me to a greater knowledge and appreciation of the history of birding and ornithology and the debt we owe to those who came before us. Before the AOS proposal erases these people and further buries the history of the avocation we all love, I intend, over 2024, to write a series of articles for the **Kite Call** that will cover the birds and people that I haven't yet written about.

Ross's Goose

In 1861, Ross's Goose was named in honor of Bernard R. Ross (1827–1874), a fur trader and clerk with the Hudson's Bay Company in Canada's Northwest Territories. Ross was a keen naturalist who sent hundreds of specimens of birds to the Smithsonian and British Museum, along with skins of Ross's Goose. Members of the Hudson's Bay Company were the first Europeans to discover the arctic nesting grounds of Ross's Goose in 1940. The first recognizable description of Ross's Goose, under the name "horned wavey", was given by explorer Samuel Hearne the first European to travel the Coppermine River to the Arctic Ocean, eighty years before John Cassin (Vice-President of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, and of Cassin's Finch fame) named the bird after Ross.



Samuel Hearne, saw a Ross's Goose and named it the Horned Wavey

Steller's Eider

Steller's Eider was first described and illustrated in 1769 by the German naturalist Peter Simon Pallas from a specimen collected on the Kamchatka Peninsula in Eastern Russia. He coined the binomial name *Anas stelleri* to honor the German naturalist and explorer Georg Wilhelm Steller. Steller (1709–1746) most famously participated in Vitus Bering's Great Northern Expedition (1733–1743), one of the largest exploration enterprises in history, mapping most of the Arctic coast of Siberia and some parts of North America, greatly reducing "white areas" on maps. Steller is credited with being the first European to set foot on Alaskan soil.



Georg Wilhelm Steller, first European to Alaska

Stejneger's Scoter

Stejneger's Scoter is primarily found in the far north of east Asia. It is a regular visitor and rare breeder in Alaska. It was first described by American ornithologist Robert Ridgway in 1887 and named *Oidemia* *stejnegeri* to honor the Norwegian-born ornithologist Leonhard Stejneger. It was formerly considered



Stejneger's Scoter. Look for one next time you are in Alaska

conspecific with the White-winged Scoter. Leonhard Hess Stejneger (1851–1943) was a Norwegian-born ornithologist, herpetologist, and zoologist. Stejneger specialized in vertebrate natural history studies. He gained his greatest reputation with reptiles and amphibians. Stejneger attended the Smith Theological School in Bergen from 1859 to 1860, and the Bergen Latin School until 1869. His interest in zoology developed early. By age sixteen, he had printed a catalogue of birds and painted birds in watercolor. Stejneger moved to the United States on the advice of the great German ornithologist Jean Cabanis, where he immediately joined the Smithsonian Institution. Stejneger participated in numerous expeditions to the northern parts of the North American continent. From 1882 to 1883 he was on an exploration mission to Bering Island and Kamchatka. In 1895 he went to the Commander Islands, studying fur seals for the U.S. Fish Commission. Within the Smithsonian Institution, in 1884 he was Assistant Curator for birds, in 1889 Curator for reptiles, in 1899 Curator for reptiles and amphibians, and from 1911 on, Head Curator for biology, a post he held until his death, having been exempted from retirement by a presidential decree. Stejneger published more than 400 scientific works on birds, reptiles, seals, and the herpetology of Puerto Rico.

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(Names continued from page 8)

Barrow's Goldeneye

Barrow's Goldeneye was formally described in 1789 by the German naturalist Johann Friedrich Gmelin, when he revised and expanded Carl Linnaeus's *Systema Naturae*. He coined the name *Anas islandica*. Gmelin based his description on the "Hravn Oend" that had been briefly described in 1776 by Danish naturalist Otto Friedrich Muller. Muller's *Zoologiae Danicae Prodomus* (1776) was the first survey of the fauna of the combined kingdoms of Norway and Denmark, and classified over three thousand local species. Barrow's Goldeneye was placed in the genus *Bucephala* with the Common Goldeneye and Bufflehead in 1858 by American naturalist Spencer Baird, the first curator of the Smithsonian Institution. The genus name is derived from the Greek boukephalos, meaning "bullheaded", shortened to bous "bull", and kephale, "head". The specific epithet *islandica* is for Iceland. Barrow's Goldeneye was named for Sir John Barrow (1764–1848), an English geographer best known as the Second Secretary of the British Admiralty from 1804 until 1845. In his position at the Admiralty, he was a great promoter of Arctic voyages of discovery. The Barrow Strait in the Canadian Arctic, as well as the city of Barrow, Alaska are named after him.



Barrow's Goldeneye, a bull-headed Icelander

Gambel's Quail

Gambel's Quail (*Callipepla gambelii*) inhabits the desert regions of the American Southwest and Baja California. It is named in honor of William Gambel (1823-1849) a 19th-century explorer and naturalist of the Southwestern U.S. In 1838, Gambel met naturalist Thomas Nuttall, and they quickly became friends. In 1841, at the age of eighteen, Gambel set off on his own for California to collect plants and other specimens for Nuttall. Upon reaching Independence, Missouri, he joined a group of traders and headed for Santa Fe. Gambel reached Santa Fe in June and spent the next couple months collecting plants. In September, Gambel joined a party heading to California and, arriving in early November 1841, became the first botanist to enter California overland from the east. Gambel spent the next year collecting along the coast from Los Angeles up to Monterey. In addition to plants, Gambel collected bird specimens and observed them in their habitat. He later published his observations in **Remarks on Birds Observed in Upper California**, with descriptions of new species (1847/1849).



Gambel's Quail, named for one of the most remarkable naturalists of the 19th Century.

The new bird species he collected included Gambel's Quail (*Callipepla gambelii*), Mountain Chickadee (*Parus gambelii*), and Nuttall's Woodpecker (*Picoides nuttallii*). By midsummer, Gambel was out of money and became a clerk on the U.S. Navy ship, Cyane. For the next three years he served on several navy ships, visiting Mexico, the Hawaiian Islands, Tahiti, the Marquesas Islands, Peru, and Chile. In March 1845, his ship left Chile and sailed to the East Coast via Cape Horn. When Gambel returned to Philadelphia in July 1845, he had difficulty establishing a medical practice. California was booming because of the Gold Rush and presented an opportunity for a new doctor. He shipped his medical books and equipment by sea and made arrangements for his wife to join him after he became settled. In April 1849, Gambel left for the difficult overland journey to California. In December, he reached Rose's Bar, a gold mining camp on the Yuba River. The settlement was in the midst of a typhoid epidemic. Gambel tried to treat the ill miners but became sick himself and died on December 13, 1849. He was buried at the base of a giant ponderosa pine, but the entire site was soon washed away by hydraulic mining.

(Continued on page 10)

(Names continued from page 9)

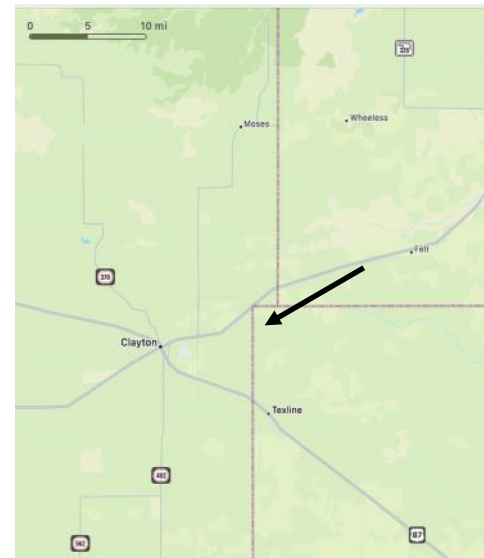
Clark's Grebe

Clark's Grebe honors John Henry Clark (1830-1885), a 19th-century American surveyor and naturalist. The genus name *Aechmophorus* comes from the ancient Greek "aichme", meaning "point of a spear", and "phoros", meaning "bearing"; together translating as "spear point bearer" referring to the bird's long, dagger-like beak.

John Henry Clark was a native of Anne Arundel County, Maryland. Educated as a naturalist at Dickinson College in Pennsylvania, he came to the Southwest in 1849 with John Russell Bartlett, and sponsored by Spencer F. Baird of the Smithsonian Institution, under whom he had studied at Dickinson. Clark was assigned to the boundary commission to collect specimens of fish from the Rio Grande, and birds and reptiles from the adjoining desert. He discovered many previously unknown species, some of which were named in his honor, among them a lizard now known as Clark's Spiny Lizard (*Sceloporus clarkii*).

Clark is best known for one of the worst surveys in the history of the U.S. The story is outlined in an article by T.W. Strong in the 2018 Texas Standard. If you look at a map, you would see that the border between Oklahoma and New Mexico doesn't meet up exactly with the border between Texas and New Mexico. The line makes a jog to the left (west). It goes 2.3 miles west before heading straight south. That jog is the result of a survey error. But it isn't just a two mile error – that error gets bigger as it continues south, 310 miles to the bottom Texas-New Mexico corner, where it turns west and heads for El Paso. All totaled, the mistake amounts to 942 square miles. That land should have gone to New Mexico when Texas sold off its northern and western territories for \$10 million in 1850. The border between Texas and the New Mexico Territory was to be along the 103rd meridian. When the official survey was undertaken, almost ten years later, there were problems with water, Indians, stars, algebra, and math. Clark was hired to do the survey and plant the monuments along the 103rd meridian. He started from the south and surveyed northward until he ran out of access to water. So he stopped and went to the north end to come south. Clark headed south until the native Americans frightened him off. Though he was about 70 miles from connecting his two lines, he stopped and turned in his work. His two lines wouldn't have intersected anyway. His northern starting point was about 2.3 miles west of where it should have been, and his southern corner was nearly 3.8 miles west of where it should have been. Consequently, that border slides 1.5 miles southwest over a distance of 310 miles. That error amounts to 603,348 acres.

No one knew it was wrong, and the survey was certified by the U.S. in 1891 and became the legal boundary. When New Mexico was to get statehood with the Enabling Act of 1910, New Mexico officials became aware of Clark's error and slipped into the statehood law a clause saying that the eastern boundary would be the true 103rd meridian. New Mexico would get its land back. That didn't sit well with John Farwell, owner of the XIT Ranch. He realized that the XIT would lose hundreds of thousands of acres (and mineral rights) if the New Mexico plan went through. Farwell contacted his good friend, President William Howard Taft, and Taft announced that the Clark border would be the legal border when New Mexico was made a state or it wouldn't be made a State. He said that since the boundary had existed for more than fifty years, and had been certified 20 years before, it had to be grandfathered in. Otherwise, people who believed they were Texans would suddenly be in New Mexico, and litigation over land titles would never end. That is how Clark's survey error made Texas almost a thousand square miles bigger than it was supposed to be. Don't know what he should be more famous for, that notch on the map, or a cool grebe.



Clark's "notch" at the Texas-New Mexico border



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