



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

- May 16 FIELD TRIP
Niles Hot Spots
- May 20 FIELD TRIP
Mill Creek
- May 31 FIELD TRIP
Point Reyes Nat Seashore
- May 31 ELECTION DEADLINE
- June 4 ANNUAL POTLUCK
Lake Chabot Reg Park
- June 8 FIELD TRIP
Behind the Scenes
Hayward Shoreline

Next Meeting

September 3, 2024 via ZOOM
Enjoy the summer and watch for
our summer field trips!



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



Do we have your email?
Stay current with
upcoming events!
Send to pagpeg@aol.com
(We DO NOT share emails!)

Membership Meeting

June Meeting



Annual Meeting Potluck Dinner Installation of Officers

Date: June 4, 2024

Bird Walk: 4PM Setup: 5PM Dinner: 6PM

Location: Lake Chabot Regional Park

Group picnic area near restrooms

17600 Lake Chabot Road, Castro Valley

Our annual meeting dinner will take place outdoors with a potluck picnic, (in-person!) with us flocking together at Lake Chabot Regional Park in Castro Valley. Time to catch up with fellow members about birds, happenings, or life, over delicious food. We will also be installing our new Board of Directors for FY 2024-25, (have you voted? See ballot inside).

Come early—Rich Nicolson and Kathy Robertson will lead a bird walk beforehand. Please bring your own table service, utensils, and a dish to share (about 10 to 12 servings) Last names: **A-G: salad; H-O: entrée, vegetable or side dish; P-Z: dessert.** Beverages will be supplied, courtesy of OAS. (Visitors are requested to refrain from alcoholic beverages in the park).

Directions: In Castro Valley on I-580 westbound, take the Strobbridge Avenue exit. Turn right on Strobbridge, right on Castro Valley Boulevard, and left on Lake Chabot Road. The Lake Chabot Marina is about two miles ahead on the right. In Castro Valley on I-580 eastbound, exit at Redwood Road and go left, go left at Castro Valley Boulevard, right at Lake Chabot Road, and follow the directions above. From I-580 in San Leandro, exit at Fairmont Drive and go east (uphill). The marina entrance will be to the left at the bottom of the hill. (Parking fee/EBRPD pass)



Field Trips

Niles Hotspots

Thursday, May 16, 9:00am - noon
Leader: Kathy Robertson
katbirdca@aol.com

We will visit several birding spots in the Niles area, along the Alameda Creek channel and adjacent riparian areas, in the hopes of seeing spring migrants and nesting birds, including orioles, warblers, and waterfowl. Pre-registration is not required, and all are welcome. Heavy rain cancels. Meet at Niles Community Park.

Directions: To reach the park from I-880, take Decoto Rd. northeast about 2 miles. Turn right on Alvarado Niles Blvd. and stay on it for about 2.5 miles (it becomes Niles Blvd.) Turn right on H Street. The park is at the end of H Street. From I-680, take Niles Canyon Rd. (Hwy 84) southwest to Fremont. Cross Mission Blvd. to reach Niles Blvd., and bear right on Niles Blvd. to go through the main part of Niles. Turn left on H Street. The park is at the end of H Street. From Mission Blvd. north or south, turn onto Niles Blvd. and follow directions above.

Mill Creek Road, Fremont

Monday, May 20, 8:30-11:30am
Leaders: Kathy Robertson,
katbirdca@aol.com

Mill Creek Road is an underappreciated birding hotspot in Fremont. It parallels Mill Creek, a rich riparian habitat that flows from Mission Peak. We hope to see recently arrived breeders like Ash-throated Flycatcher, Cassin's and Warbling Vireos, Orange-crowned and Wilson's Warblers. Resident Rufous-crowned Sparrow should be singing, and we'll hopefully hear the song of the Grasshopper Sparrow, too. Lazuli Buntings and Black-headed Grosbeaks should be abundant and singing on their breeding territories. We'll walk about 1.5-2 miles on a paved road up the fairly gentle hill and then back again. *(Directions next column)*

(Mill Creek continued)

Directions: From I-880 S, take Auto Mall Pkwy east, then get on I-680 N for 2 miles, exit on Mission Blvd, turn right, then turn left on Mill Creek Rd. after just a couple blocks. From I-680S, take the Mission Blvd. exit, and turn left on Mission, then left on Mill Creek Rd. Park on the street near the corner of Mill Creek Rd. and Linmore Dr. There are no restrooms, so be sure to stop at the McDonalds or a gas station on Mission Blvd beforehand to use the facilities.

Point Reyes Rare Bird Round-up

Friday, May 31, 7:30am - 3pm
Leaders: Bob Toleno & Juli Chamberlin
birding@toleno.com

Late spring 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 7:30am so we can get to the outer point as early as possible. You should plan to arrive at least 15 minutes early 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: 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.

Field trips continue next page

Field Trips continued



Behind the Scenes at “Tern Town” – Hayward Interpretive Center
Saturday, June 8, 8:30 – 11:00 am

Leaders: David “Doc Quack” Riensche & Maggie Clark
RSVP: maggielark99@gmail.com by June 4, 2024

Join us for a behind the locked gates tour at the Hayward Shoreline. We will have an opportunity to see nesting California Least Tern, Western Snowy Plovers and Black Skimmers. We may see migrating Black Terns and numerous other summer shorebirds. Scopes will be essential as we will want to minimize disturbances to nesters. We will have to go in together so be sure to arrive on time. The trip is limited to 20 participants; you must RSVP to the email address above to join this outing.

The trip will be canceled if inclement weather is forecasted (i.e., high heat, high wind or rain)

Directions: From I-880 in Hayward, exit onto Hwy 92 West toward the San Mateo Bridge, then take the Clawiter Road/Eden Landing Road exit. Go straight through the light (do not turn onto Clawiter). Make the first left onto Breakwater Avenue. Turn left to stay on Breakwater Avenue. Go all the way to the end of the street and park near the Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center.

President's Corner

A couple of months ago one of our monthly meetings was on Northern California birds, and the presenter mentioned Godwit Days, the birding festival up in Arcata, California. It sounded so interesting that T and I went this year and just got back. You know I am a big fan of birding festivals, and this one was loads of fun. Much of the birding is similar to our area in winter and spring, but there are some specialties. There are, of course, thousands of Marbled Godwits, but you also have excellent opportunities to see Spotted Owl, Marbled Murrelet, and the southernmost breeding colony of Tufted Puffins. It is the closest you can get to Alaskan birding without going to Alaska. You also have the opportunity to visit the most recent California Condor release program. If that isn't enough, there are the Redwoods. When you are planning your birding trips for 2025, give this festival a thought.

The Ohlone Audubon podcast is up. Just go to your podcast app, search for Ohlone Audubon and you will find it. Right now most of podcasts are of our monthly meetings, but there are other birding entries as well, so keep checking.



Ohlone Audubon often participates in local, outdoor events. One we will be at is on June 2 at Coyote Hills Regional Park, my favorite Bay Area birding locality. It is the annual Butterfly and Birds Festival. It is a fun one to attend. If you come, look for the Ohlone table and say Hi!

Finally, you know I am a big fan of citizen science, and now we have a new opportunity at Sycamore Grove Park in Livermore. There are a set of Western Bluebird boxes at Sycamore Grove that have been monitored off and on over the years. The Livermore Area Recreation and Parks District and the

California Bluebird Recovery Program are trying to get them going again. If you are interested in getting involved in monitoring bluebirds please contact Mia Guarnieri at mguarnieri@larpd.org for more info.

-Bill Hoppes



BIRDING OBSERVATIONS

Spring 2024

By Vicki Robinson



Ash-throated Flycatcher



Western Tanager



House Wren



White-throated Swift



Calliope Hummingbird



White-faced Ibis

Spring is a great time to go birding as new groups of birds are arriving to nest or migrating through. Our overwintering birds, the crowned sparrows, **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, and **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** are leaving, and the **Hermit Thrushes** will soon be replaced by **Swainson's Thrushes**.

The reliable **Western Flycatchers** (formerly **Pacific-slope Flycatcher**) have arrived on schedule. Others, **Ash-throated Flycatcher** and **Western Wood-Pewee**, have been sighted. The **Olive-sided Flycatcher** has been heard in the higher hills, calling it's "*quick three beers*" call.

Hooded and **Bullock's Orioles** are being seen in many places, including Garin, Lake Elizabeth, Ardenwood, and in our backyards.

The most colorful of the spring migrants, **Western Tanager** and **Lazuli Bunting**, have arrived, along with **Western Kingbirds**, **House Wrens**, and **Black-headed Grosbeaks**.

Warbling Vireos and **Cassin's Vireos** have arrived and, though often hard to see, can be recognized by their unique songs. They have been heard at Sunol Regional Park and Ardenwood, among other places.

All of the usual swallows have arrived and can be seen grabbing insects in flight – **Barn**, **Cliff**, **Northern Rough-winged**, **Tree**, and **Violet-green**. Also high up with the swallows can be seen **White-throated** and **Vaux's Swifts**.

Not to leave out warblers. **Wilson's Warblers** seem to be everywhere, **Orange-crowned** are plentiful, and occasional **Black-throated Gray**, **Nashville**, **MacGillivray's** and **Hermit Warblers** are around, but harder to find.

Anna's Hummingbirds are nesting near our backyard feeders, and **Allen's** and **Rufous Hummingbirds** will also come to our feeders. A **Costas's Hummingbird** has been seen at a home in Berkeley for over a year now. Our smallest hummingbird, the **Calliope**, has been seen in a few places and is always a treat to see.

A surprise bird was a **White-faced Ibis** at Pacific Commons, on its way somewhere, but uncommon in Alameda County.

Another uncommon bird for Alameda County, a **Blue Grosbeak**, has once again been seen up on Mission Peak, if you want a nice uphill hike. You might also see **Grasshopper Sparrow**, **Lark Sparrow**, **Lazuli Bunting**, **Rock Wren**, and **Horned Lark** at that location.

The star of the season is a **Pileated Woodpecker**, heard and seen by many at Sunol Regional Park.



Pileated Woodpecker

(all photos by V. Robinson)

Conservation

East County Conservation Report—Niles Canyon Trail

A draft environmental impact report (EIR) for the Niles Canyon Trail project is available for public comment now through the end of May. When complete, the six-mile Niles Canyon Trail will serve walkers, bikers, and equestrians. The trail will parallel Alameda Creek and the Niles Canyon Railway. To accommodate user parking, the project features staging areas in downtown Niles, Palomares Road, and a new parking area to be constructed by the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) in Sunol. The project will include the construction of a new trail from Niles Canyon Railway to Sunol. The public has until May 20 to comment on the draft EIR. The report can be viewed at acpwa.org.

Welcome new members and thank yous to Renewing Members!

**Thank
you!**

Mary Ashby
Bob Beggs
Ira Bletz
Bruce Brown
William Clark
Steven Davis

Sandy Ferreira
LaVonne Gallo
Lloyd Hartshorn
Christine Hayamizu
Margo Heath
Helen Johnson

Donna Krehbiel
Sue Kruphe
Laura MacDonald
Kathy Miller
Shawna Sorensen
Carlos Stahlhut

And Thank You to the following for your donations!

Bruce Brown
Juli Chamberlin
William Clark

Lavonne Gallo
Christine Hayamizu
Leslie Koenig

Shawna Sorensen
Carlos Stahlhut
Stephanie Woods

Nominations 2024-2025



In accordance with the Bylaws of our organization, the slate of officers nominated for the upcoming year must be presented to the membership, followed by the election of officers to occur at the May monthly meeting. In view of the current zoom meeting situation, the slate of Officers for the Board of Directors 2024-2025 FY is listed below and members will be asked to vote “virtually” or by mail. Other board positions are appointed by the President.

Please send your vote (yea or nay) electronically via this link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfPKvM78diVj2fEwz5WuSmX5c_8liOgKnMQ0-xGCJtNY2Oig/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0 or via our Facebook page

or via mail to 1922 Hillsdale St, Hayward, CA 94541. Write-ins are also accepted. Please vote by May 31, 2024. Thank you.

Slate of Officers for FY 2024-2025

President: Bill Hoppes
Vice President: Marty Morrow
Treasurer: Gail Ryujin
Recording Secretary: Kathy Robertson
Corres Secretary: Jackie Bertillion
Director at Large (2026) Dr. Marlina Selva

I accept the above slate of Officers

Yea ___ Nay ___ Write in: _____

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

More Eponyminity

By Bill Hoppes

This is the second in a series of articles I am writing on the history of the people who had birds named after them. Let's get right into it.

Vaux's Swift

Vaux's Swift was named for the American scientist William Sansom Vaux (1811-1882) a mineralogist from Pennsylvania. Vaux's parents were early Quaker settlers in Pennsylvania and amassed great wealth through their businesses. He inherited his parent's wealth after their deaths but never engaged in business. His inheritance allowed him to dedicate his life to the study of science and mineralogy in particular. He became a member of the Academy of Natural Sciences in 1834, and served it in various capacities for the next forty-eight years. He was also a member of the Zoological Society of Philadelphia and one of the original members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He was elected to the American Philosophical Society in 1859. He bequeathed his mineral and archaeological collections to the Academy of Natural Sciences, along with his library and an endowment for their preservation. He was commemorated in the name of Vaux's Swift, first discovered by his friend John Kirk Townsend (1809-1851), one of America's greatest naturalists, and who I wrote about in a previous article.

Rivoli's Hummingbird

When I started birding in the 1970s, this southwestern hummingbird was called the Magnificent Hummingbird, a great name. In 2017, the AOU split the Magnificent into two species. What I knew as the Magnificent from the southwestern US south to Nicaragua become Rivoli's. The second species was named the Talamanca Hummingbird, named after a mountain range in Costa Rica. The Talamanca is found in mountains from central Costa Rica into western Panama. and has a blue gorget as opposed to Rivoli's purple gorget. In 1829, natural historian and surgeon René Primevère Lesson named a subspecies of the Magnificent Hummingbird as the Rivoli's Hummingbird in honor of the second Duke of Rivoli, an amateur ornithologist. Lesson also named Anna's Hummingbird in honor of the duke's wife. The Duke of Rivoli accumulated a large bird collection of 12,500 specimens, which he sold to Dr. Thomas Bellerby Wilson in 1846. Wilson gave the collection to the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences. Rivoli refers to a region of Italy near Turin so, the name of the species in English could just as well be Rivoli Hummingbird, in the same manner as California Gull and Canada Goose. This great name may last.



Castle of the Dukes of Rivoli in the Piedmont region of Italy

Costa's Hummingbird

Costa's Hummingbird occurs in the Southwestern US and occasionally gets up our way. It was first formally described by the French ornithologist Jules Bourcier in 1839, who gave it the binomial name *Ornismya costae*. Bourcier was born in Cuizer, Saone-et-Loir in France. He was the mayor of Millery, Rhone, from 1832-1837, and he was the French consul to Ecuador from 1849-1850 where he became an expert in hummingbirds. In 1857, he became a corresponding member of the Société linnéenne de Lyon. Bourcier chose the specific epithet to honor the French nobleman Louis Marie Pantaleon Costa, Marquis de Beauregard (1806-1864). Costa was a member of the Savoyard nobility and a diplomat in Sardinia. Costa was a friend and aide to King Charles Albert (who served as the King of Sardinia from 1831, until his abdication in March 1849 in favor of his eldest son, Victor Emmanuel II). Costa was a member of the Academie des Sciences, belles-lettres et arts de Savoie (1828) and was made a Commander of the Legion of Honour and a Knight of the Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus. As an ornithologist he was an avid collector, especially of hummingbirds.



Louis Costa,
collector of
hummingbirds

(continued on page 7)

Allen's Hummingbird

(continued from page 6)

Allen's hummingbird was first collected in 1845 near Monterey, California, by Charles Andrew Allen. Allen was a businessman and amateur naturalist who developed an interest in birds and assembled a large collection of bird specimens from the West Coast of the United States. In 1847, when Allen noticed a slight difference between the tail of the Rufous Hummingbird and a similar hummingbird sample he'd collected, he suggested to the renowned Bostonian ornithologist William Brewster that it may be a subspecies of the Rufous Hummingbird. Brewster passed the specimens to Henry Wetherbee Henshaw of the US Biological Survey who, by 1877, confirmed the variation as a new species and as acknowledgement named it after Allen.

Ridgway's Rail

Up until 2014, there was just one Clapper Rail, with various sub-species on the east, gulf, and west coasts, and in South America. In 2017, the AOS split the Clapper Rail. The east coast birds retained the name Clapper Rail, and the west coast birds became Ridgway's Rail. These are the ones we see out at Arrowhead Marsh. Ridgway's Rail (*Rallus obsoletus*), has three resident subspecies: *yumanensis* (in the lower Colorado River area), *levipes* (in coastal southern California), and *obsoletus*, our bird (in coastal marshes of the San Francisco Bay Area). All three birds are on the Federal Endangered Species lists, and recovery efforts are ongoing.

Got all that? So who was Robert Ridgway that he deserved a great bird like a rail named after him? Golden Gate had a good writeup in 2014. Robert Ridgway (1850-1929) was a giant of late 19th and early 20th century American ornithology. He worked at the Smithsonian Institution for 55 years, 43 of them as Curator of Birds. Working with the Institution's collection of approximately fifty thousand bird skins, Ridgway devoted himself to unraveling the taxonomic relationships among North American bird species. Robert Ridgway's career-crowning work on bird systematics was the monumental 6,000-page **The Birds of North and Middle America**, published by the Smithsonian in eleven volumes between 1901 and 1950. He was also a founding member of the AOS (formerly AOU) and later its president, and during his lifetime he described more new taxa of American birds than anyone else, among them the subspecies of the rail that now bears his name. Other birds named for Ridgway include the **Buff-collared Nightjar**, *Caprimulgus ridgwayi* (once known as Ridgway's Whip-poor-will); Turquoise Cotinga, *Cotinga ridgwayi*; the Caribbean subspecies of the Osprey, *Pandion haliaetus ridgwayi*; the Big Island subspecies of the Elepaio, *Chasiempis sandwichensis ridgwayi*; Ridgway's Hawk, *Buteo ridgwayi*; and Juniper Titmouse, *Baeolophus ridgwayi*.



Robert Ridgway, a giant of North American ornithology



Annual Budget 2024-25 Approved by BOD 5/9/24

INCOME

NAS DUES \$2,712.25
CHAPTER DUES \$6,500.00
SALES \$0.00
CONTRIBUTIONS \$11,800.00
DIVIDEND/INTEREST \$14,000.75

TOTAL INCOME \$35,013.00

EXPENSES

KITE CALL \$8,300.00
MEMBER MEETINGS \$4,500.00
PURCHASE MDSE \$0.00
OPERATING EXP* \$5,313.00
CONSERVATION \$1,200.00
EDUCATION \$1,000.00
C'MAS BIRD COUNT \$1,200.00
FUND RAISING \$2,000.00
BW MEM GARDEN \$500.00
Special event/Sara Mathews \$11,000.00
SALES TAX \$0.00

TOTAL EXPENSES \$35,013.00

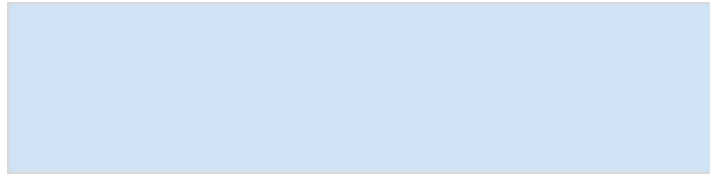
Helen Keating

We send our heartfelt condolences to the family and many friends of Helen who passed in early May. We will miss her smile!

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Please sign me up today

Name: _____

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By mailing a \$25 check payable
To OAS with this coupon to:

Pat Gordon
OAS Membership
1922 Hillside St.
Hayward, CA 94541

I prefer to receive the Kite Call by e-mail ☐ (Recommended) Please send me e-mail updates and action alerts ☐.

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