



# 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

- Feb 22 **FIELD TRIP**  
American Canyon Wetlands
- Mar 4 **GENERAL MEETING**  
Via Zoom
- Mar 9 **FIELD TRIP**  
Lake Elizabeth  
Gomes Park
- Mar 16 **FIELD TRIP**  
Quarry Lakes
- COMING!**  
June 1-5 Inyo Country

### Membership Meetings



#### RaptorQuest: Chasing America's Raptors By Scott Harris

**Date: Tuesday, March 4, 2025**

**Time: 7:30 PM Via Zoom (instructions to the left)**

**Scott Harris** spent 17 months chasing 53 Raptors across 34 states - his version of a Raptor Big Year. *RaptorQuest* is about his adventures, misadventures, successes and failures. From -36 degree days, to ones over 100 degrees, to just getting on the bird just in time, to the frustrations of missing one by minutes. It's about the birds of course, but it's also about the people he met, the things he learned and why he's already working on his next adventure.



#### 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)



**Scott Harris** and his wife Randi retired to South Carolina in March of 2020 - something Scott will tell you was one of the best decisions they have made in their 45 years of marriage. It was also when he first started birding – a hobby he never imagined himself participating in, but now can't imagine living without. His interests and hobbies include the largest collection of John Steinbeck's *Travels with Charley* and playing harmonica in a blues band. He has written more than fifty books in the past seven years and the one he'll be discussing is his first entrée into the world of birding and birds. That book, *RaptorQuest: Chasing America's Raptors*, is the story of his year-long adventure tracking down every species of raptor in the Lower 48 states.

**American Canyon Wetlands Edge Park**

**Saturday, February 22, 8:30 AM - noon**

**Leaders: Kathy Robertson /Bob Dunn/Bob Toleno Katbirdca@aol.com**



### Field Trips

The low-lying flood plains found in American Canyon include mudflats, tidal and seasonal wetlands, former salt ponds, riparian corridors, and marshes. The wetlands are home to many species of birds, both residents and winter visitors. This is a hotspot for wintering waterfowl, shorebirds, and raptors.  
*(continued page 2)*

*Field Trips continued*

**DIRECTIONS:** From I-80, north of Vallejo, take the Hwy 37 exit, westbound. After approx. 2 miles, take Hwy 29 northbound, towards Napa. Follow Hwy 29 for about 1.5 miles, then turn left on West American Canyon Rd. Follow this road until it dead-ends at Wetlands Edge Dr., then turn right. At Eucalyptus Dr., turn left and enter the parking lot on your left. Bring a lunch if you'd

**Lake Elizabeth & Gomes Park - Fremont**  
**Sunday, March 9, 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. 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.

**Quarry Lakes Regional Recreation Area**  
**Sunday, March 16, 9:00AM - noon**  
**Leader: Kathy Robertson & Karen Kramer**  
**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 all are welcome.

**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.

**PROPOSAL: A Tour of Inyo County's Breeding Birds & Migrants      June 1 - 5, 2025**  
**Leaders: Bob Toleno & Juli Chamberlin**

Proposed cost: \$825 per person, includes all food and lodging (surplus benefits Ohlone Audubon Society)  
 Email: bob@toleno.com

On the southeast flank of the Sierra Nevada range, Inyo County spans a huge range of habitats and elevations, and offers some of the best inland birding in California. On this proposed tour, we would explore those extremes, from moist fir and aspen forests in the Sierra Nevada to the dry bristlecone pine forest of the White Mountains, which contain the oldest living things on our continent. From the rich lowland riparian areas of the Owens Valley to the natural and artificial oases of the extreme deserts of the region, including the lowest place on the continent, Death Valley.

The breeding birds we would be searching for on this trip include a few that can't be found anywhere else in California, and a lot that can only be found east of the Sierra Nevada. A partial list: Gambel's Quail, Chukar, Greater Roadrunner, Black Swift, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Black-backed Woodpecker, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Plumbeous Vireo, Pinyon Jay, Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay, Juniper Titmouse, Verdin, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, LeConte's Thrasher, Crissal Thrasher, Sage Thrasher, Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, Black-throated Sparrow, Sagebrush Sparrow, Scott's Oriole, Lucy's Warbler, and Virginia's Warbler.

In addition to all the great breeding birds, early June is prime time to find migrants, especially vagrants from eastern North America. As nocturnal migrants fly over the deserts, when the sun rises, they must find patches of habitat where they can feed so they can continue northward. The artificial and natural oases act as magnets for migrating birds, and in early June, many of those can be rare eastern birds. For example, in just one short morning walk at Furnace Creek a few years ago, I was able to see Gray Catbird, American Redstart, Bobolink, Indigo Buntings, and two Cape May Warblers! You just never know what can show up.

If you're interested, please email Bob to let him know. At least six participants would be needed to make the tour work, and the maximum number would be ten. This would be a caravan-style tour, so participants would need to arrive in their own vehicles (carpooling is always encouraged, when possible). Lodging would be in motels and hotels, meals in restaurants, and all would be reserved for you in advance. It should be a lot of fun in a unique and exciting birding area in California!

## President's Corner

How did those New Year's resolutions go? Over the past few years I have put up birding New Year's resolutions for myself. It's January again and time to see how I did.

**1. Chase one rarity** Nope. I really blew this one. The Slate-throated Redstart hung around San Francisco for weeks. Every time I thought about heading over there I thought, "surely it can't still be there", but it was. The Nelson's Sparrow made another appearance at Arrowhead Marsh which I missed. In 2025, I will do better. Hope you spotted both these great birds.



**2. Attend one birding festival** Complete. This was a two-fer. Attended the Lodi Sandhill Crane Festival followed by the Central Valley Birding Symposium.

**Shoulda, coulda, woulda. Slate-throated Redstart in San Francisco.**

**3. Go birding at least 24 times** Easy. According to eBird I submitted 287 checklists in 2024,. That's up five from 2023.

**4. Go on a pelagic trip** I usually avoid pelagics but when T and I went on a birding tour of Australia I went out on one. Saw scads of albatross.

**5. Target ten life birds and get them** Zip for 2024. In addition to missing my nemesis bird, I hoped to spot Louisiana Waterthrush on a trip to Arkansas. Best bet for numbers is a road trip to Los Angeles for parrots.

**6. Learn 20 bird songs** I am there. Reviewing my backyard bird list I am confident on 48 species. Need to keep working on this .

**7. Get your nemesis bird** **Pygmy Nuthatch ARH&SH&ER#\$@!!!!!!!!!!**

**8. Start using eBird** Complete. Use it for all my bird records. Going to retire this one .

**9. Buy a new gadget or guide** Won't need anything for awhile, going to retire this one for a few years.

**10. Volunteer for one citizen science project** Complete. Still mist-netting at Coyote Creek. T and I monitor for Snowy Plovers all year, do the annual SF bay shorebird survey, participate in two Christmas Counts (although travel to Europe caused us to miss both this year) and run two USFWS Breeding Bird Census routes .

**11. Adopt a birding hotspot and get to know it** Getting there. Wanted this to be Coyote Hills as it is my favorite birding spot, but I don't get out there enough. I have arbitrarily set a rule that to adopt a hotspot you need to visit it at least monthly. I am there on Sycamore Grove and want to get there for Shadow Cliffs.

**12. Write one letter or attend one meeting promoting bird conservation** Complete. With so much going on in our area that is never a problem.

**13. And a new one. Record a dozen podcasts in 2025** Starting last year, I began recording 2-3 minute podcasts on field trips or issues on birds that interest me. You can access them on the Ohlone website. Will work to put up a dozen this year.

So there is a baker's dozen? Did you set any resolutions? Hope you did and got them all. Happy birding in 2025!

- Bill Hoppes

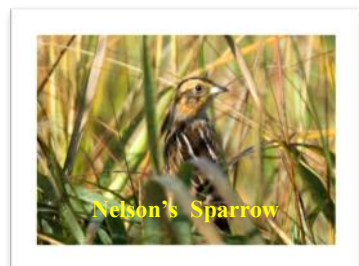
# ***BIRDING OBSERVATIONS***

January 2025

by Vicki Robinson

Welcome to the new year. Lots of water birds have migrated here to enjoy our streams and lakes and the bay.

Our new year started out with a visit to MLK Regional Shoreline (Arrowhead Marsh) during king tide, when the marsh birds have fewer places to hide. **Virginia Rails, Ridgway's Rails**, and **Soras** are all being seen there.



Nelson's Sparrow

There are many sparrows hiding in the trees and shrubs at Arrowhead Marsh and you can find **Savannah, Fox, Song, White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrows**. Also, **Marsh Wrens** and **Common Yellow-throats** are easy to find. Two uncommon **Nelson's Sparrows**, with a buffy-orange breasts with faint streaks, brought many photographers and birders to see them.

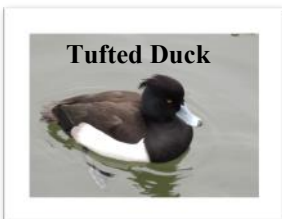


Virginia Rail



Sora

Some uncommon ducks that we don't see every year have been seen in local waters. **White-winged Scoter** at Seaplane Lagoon, Alameda, **Long-tailed Duck** at San Leandro Marina and **Tufted Duck** at Lake Merritt. Some other ducks that we don't always see are coming thru this time of year, including **Ring-necked Ducks**, **Redheads** and **Eurasian Widgeons**.



Tufted Duck



Long-tailed Duck



Eurasian Wigeon



Burrowing Owl

A **Snow Goose** was spotted flying around Lake Elizabeth in Fremont.

Overwintering **Burrowing Owls** have returned, and at least six have been sighted at Coyote Hills.



Snow Goose



Merlin

**Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** have also been sighted at Coyote Hills, as well as at Quarry Lakes.

**Merlins**, in the falcon family, are being seen in our regional parks.



Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

The most surprising uncommon bird so far this year was a **Lesser Black-Backed Gull**, seen at Lake Elizabeth. An **Iceland Gull** was also spotted there.

(all photos by V. Robinson)

## Conservation

### City of Dublin presses forward on road project impacting Doolan Canyon open space

With Dublin's public vote allowing the city to annex the last significant open space separating Dublin from Livermore in order to promote commercial development to fund the North Canyons Parkway,

the Dublin City Council unanimously approved hiring a consultant to design the \$160 million road. City officials attempted to separate funding the design effort from any attempt to annex and develop the 180 acre "Crosby Property"; however commercial development on at least 80 of the 180 acres is one of the few ways Dublin could pay its share of the roadway costs. (B Hoppes)

### Benefit Assessment for Funding for Proposed Flood Control Projects on Upcoming Ballot Mailed to Property Owners

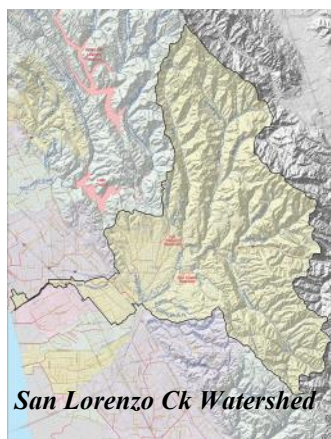
The Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) timeline shows ballots plan to be mailed to property owners in February 2025 to vote in favor of, or in opposition to, the proposed benefit assessments. The District needs more funding through the benefit assessment to implement the highest priority flood protection projects in zones 2, 4, and 9.

The San Lorenzo Creek Watershed lost fish passage for steelhead trout and salmon beginning 60 years ago when five miles of engineered channel was constructed up to downtown Hayward. There is a need for an increased Flood Control Benefit Assessment and projects that are necessary to prevent significant flood, property damage, and flood insurance risks and regain salmonid fish passage.

The District began stakeholder engagement (e.g., elected officials, agencies, community organizations, and general public) in their effort to put forth a property owner vote to increase flood control revenue to fund approximately \$373 million in unmet capital needs in flood control zones 2, 4, and 9. Zone 2 includes the San Lorenzo Creek Watershed.

On October 21, the District discussed their goals and some of the proposed projects within the Castro Valley area during their presentation at the Castro Valley Municipal Advisory Council (CVMAC) meeting. The District stated that their goal is "to increase the capacity of our flood infrastructure to withstand more severe storms, to meet current FEMA design standards, and to upgrade or reconstruct aging facilities." Some projects will be on San Lorenzo Creek and Don Castro Dam.

Public comments made at the meeting included restoration of fish passage. Conservation organizations, including Friends of San Lorenzo Creek (FSLC), advocated for the need of the District's efforts to include fish (i.e., rainbow trout, steelhead trout, and salmon) and addressing fish passage barriers. Ohlone Audubon Society (OAS) commented on the importance of habitat and fish passage restoration. (M. Selva)



#### San Lorenzo Creek Watershed

**Size:** 48.2 square miles

**Flow:** The watershed begins in the East Bay hills at the Dublin Grade, incorporates the unincorporated communities of San Lorenzo, Ashland, Cherryland, Fairview, and Castro Valley, and includes portions of San Leandro and Hayward. San Lorenzo Creek flows generally west, entering central San Francisco Bay near Roberts Landing, west of San Lorenzo.

**Includes:** Bolinas Creek, Crow Creek, Norris Creek, Cull Creek, Hollis Creek, Castro Valley Creek, Chabot Creek, Eden Creek, Palomares Creek, Upper Sulphur Creek, and San Lorenzo Creek

**Parks and reservoirs:**

Cull Canyon Lake and Regional Recreation Area, Don Castro Reservoir, Sulphur Creek Nature Center

**Cities:** Castro Valley, Hayward



Ohlone Audubon strongly supports the designation of the Tesla wildlands lands as a State Natural Reserve, as this is the highest level of protection, while still providing public access, to Tesla's unique and irreplaceable natural and cultural landscape for the following reasons:

- The 3100 acres of Tesla wildlands have been identified through a number of independent scientific review processes as supporting one of the highest levels of biodiversity throughout the region, and more significantly, the state. The Tesla wildlands support 53 special-status species including 10 that are listed as endangered, threatened or candidate species, and lands that have been identified as critical habitat for two listed species.
- 32 of the species that occur within the 3100 acres have been identified as "Species of Greatest Conservation Need" by the California State Wildlife Action Plan.
- The site includes at least 45 special rare plant species, plus at least 74 locally rare plants, and 9 sensitive vegetation communities.
- The Tesla wildlands straddle an important linkage corridor within the Diablo Range, connecting the Northern and Southern portions of the range, meaning actions that fragment the landscape for plant and wildlife species could result in negative impacts that extend well beyond the confines of the 3100 acres.
- Tesla's irreplaceable natural features are matched by its equally important cultural resources, and Tribal Cultural Landscape, including part of the ancestral lands for the Northern Valley Yokuts from the Central Valley, Costanoan tribes from the East Bay, and other tribes from the region. It was a place used for hunting and gathering of wildlife, plants, and materials for items such as food, clothing, shelter, tools, ornaments and medicines. It was used for spiritual ceremonies, social gatherings, and trading amongst and between tribes. Tribal members lived and thrived on Tesla throughout the seasons and over the millennia. The entirety of the 3100 acres of the Tesla wildlands represent a tribal landscape for the Indigenous People who used and lived on the land. An appropriate name for the 3100 acres is Hismet Warep Horsetka - meaning Sacred Earth in Harmony.
- Historical sites tied to the Historic Tesla Town and Mine site operating from the late 1800's to the early 1900's have been recommended by the Ca State Parks Office of Historic Preservation for designation in the National Register of Historic Places.

Protection of this irreplaceable natural and cultural landscape, while still allowing for recreational activities such as hiking, photography, educational programs and research, can only be accomplished with the classification of these lands as a Natural Reserve.

For well over a year, California State Parks held stakeholder meetings and public workshops to determine the fate of 3100 acres of wildlands in Eastern Alameda County, that we call the Tesla wildlands. Ohlone Audubon had been actively participating as a stakeholder in the classification process as that process determines the types and intensity of recreational and other activities that can occur within State Park's lands. There are a number of ways State Park's lands can be classified, ranging in this case from a Reserve to a State Park or Recreation Area.

Abruptly, late last year, State Parks switched gears and went from making a classification determination to including that decision within the context of a General Plan process. California State Parks has initiated the formal General Plan and Environmental Impact Report (GP/EIR) process for the 3100-acre Tesla wildlands. For more information regarding the State Parks environmental review process you can visit the State Parks website at <http://www.alamedateslaplan.com/>

As this process moves forward, we will need our members to attend public workshops and webinars to speak up for classification of the Tesla wildlands as a State Natural Reserve, or for conceptual plans or alternatives that are consistent with the designation of a Reserve. This is a significant opportunity for the State of California to demonstrate its commitment to the tennets of its pledge to prioritize protection of biodiversity, through the protection of the entirety of this natural and Tribal Cultural Landscape as a Reserve.

Please visit <https://teslapark.org/> for more information including a video that describes the significance of this landscape, a Biological Assessment, peer reviewed by University of California at Berkeley, that describes the significant biological resource identified to date and a review of the impacts of recreational activities on natural resources. You can also follow these efforts on the Save Tesla Park Facebook and Instagram pages.

We will keep you posted on opportunities to speak up on behalf of the Tesla wildlands. (C. High)



**We thank each of you for your invaluable support—whether renewing, donating, or joining us this year. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.**

### ***New Members and Renewals***

*Hollie Adamic  
Tim Becker  
Peter Beiersdorfer  
Val Blakely  
Ira Bletz  
Mona Brauer  
Diana Brumbaugh  
Lynn Candaux  
Roger & Donna Case  
Nancy Christensen  
Debbie Clark  
Maggie Clark  
Lavonne Coleman  
Linda Dalton  
David Donovan  
Edwin Duerr  
Daniel Egolf  
Ed Ellebrandt  
Judith Felber  
Ray Fontaine  
Gatty Gatty  
Ramesh Gopalan  
Grant Gladman  
Doris & Douglas Green  
Gerald Green*

*Dolores Lori Henry  
Erica Herron  
Philip Hirschberg  
Mark Interrante  
Edward & Esther Keller  
Karen Kenney  
Stephanie Klein  
Joanne Landers  
Iyun Lazik  
Robin Leong  
Jaan Lepson  
Pat Lewis  
Hensl Lise  
Ned Lyke  
Lois Lutz  
Pat Mahoney  
George Massey  
Carol McCabe  
Marty Morrow  
Jeffrey Nelson  
Dina Oakes  
Don & Judy Person  
Jim & Tamara Reus  
Kenneth Roux*

*Eric & Pamela Ryan  
Gail Ryujin  
Claudia Schwalm  
Bill Scoggins  
Lynn & Carrie Shaeffer  
Steve Shay  
Paul Smith  
Shawna Sorensen  
Sue Stanton  
Jerry & Judy Steenhoven  
Michael Stein  
Ronnie Stinnett  
Brian Swift  
Susan Towle  
Susan Townsend  
Harvey Trop  
John Tyler  
Marge Walker  
Ken Walters  
Scott & Becky Whitaker  
Joyce Wilson  
Vivianna Wolinsky  
Stephanie Woods  
Leland & Florence Younker  
Barbara Ziegenhals*

### ***Donations***

*Alvaro's Adventures  
Peter Beiersdorfer  
Val Blakely  
Mona Brauer  
Lynn Candaux  
Roger & Donna Case  
Nancy Christensen  
Maggie Clark  
Tom Colby  
Lavonne Coleman  
Linda Dalton  
David Donovan  
Edwin Duerr  
Daniel Egolf  
Ed Ellebrandt  
Judith Felber  
Ray Fontaine*

*Ramesh Gopalan  
Gerald Green  
Dolores Lori Henry  
Erica Herron  
Philip Hirschberg  
Mark Interrante  
Karen Kenney  
Jaan Lepson  
Pat Lewis  
Ned Lyke  
Pat Mahoney  
Pat Mascata  
Marty Morrow  
Jeffrey Nelson  
Dina Oakes  
Don & Judy Person  
Jim & Tamara Reus*

*Gail Ryujin  
Bill Scoggins  
Steve Shay  
Paul Smith  
Shawna Sorensen  
Jerry & Judy Steenhoven  
Brian Swift  
Susan Townsend  
Tri-city Ecology  
Harvey Trop  
Marge Walker  
Ken Walters  
Scott & Becky Whitaker  
Vivianna Wolinsky  
Stephanie Woods  
Leland & Florence Younker*



## Helen Sowers/Sara Matthews Scholarship Recipients 2024

We are proud to share the interesting stories of these young women in science along with Association of Women in Science, East Bay Chapter and congratulations all!



### Srihita Panati



I'm Srihita Panati, an incoming sophomore at Contra Costa College studying Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. I enjoy research and the process of exploring new ideas and solving complex problems. I'm the vice-president of a school club (STEM-MESA) where we plan engineering based events at school and also a mentor for a local organization (YouthCodeNow) that teaches young students hands-on engineering. In my free time, I like to do creative projects, and spend time with family. I'm very grateful for this scholarship opportunity and I hope to do more for my community with this support.

### Jimena Romano Silva



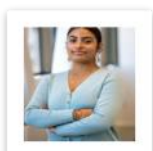
My name is Jimena Romano Silva, and I am a rising junior at UC Berkeley, majoring in Integrative Biology. Initially driven by my passion for environmental science, I have expanded my focus to include human health and wellness. At Berkeley, I am deeply involved in Latinx health initiatives, such as researching pesticide exposure among pregnant farmworkers and volunteering as a language interpreter at a community health clinic. I am deeply grateful for this scholarship, which will help fund my journey to medical school, allowing me to pursue my dream of becoming a physician who prioritizes holistic health and culturally sensitive care.

### Lindsey Fontenot



Lindsey is an incoming 4th year grad student in UC Berkeley's metabolic biology PhD program. She researches nuclear hormone receptors and their potential use as therapeutic targets for inflammatory bowel disease. Before starting grad school, Lindsey earned her bachelors in microbiology, immunology, and molecular genetics from UCLA. Born and raised in San Francisco, Lindsey is happy to be back in the Bay. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, cooking, traveling, and cheering on local sports teams.

### Sofia Esteva



Sofia A. Esteva a descendant of the Binnizaa-Zapotec people who grew up in the social justice community. Gaining knowledge of social factors that implicate overall health rooted her to dedicate her career in health equity. Today she is pursuing her Masters in Public Health and City Planning at the University of California, Berkeley with the hope of supporting Black and Brown communities in living long and healthy lives in their neighborhoods.

### Preeti Sundaramurthi



I am Preeti. I am currently working as a research technician in a Neurophysiology Lab, studying sleep using the fruit fly as a model organism. I was born and raised in India, and moved to the US nearly a decade ago. I graduated with my Master's degree in Biological Sciences from California State University - East Bay in summer 2024. I am applying to PhD programs in Fall 2024. I would like to work in translational research that focuses on bringing life-saving medication to patients in an accelerated timeline. In my spare time, I like exploring San Francisco and neighboring areas with my husband.

### Mya De Leon



I am a junior standing student at CSU East Bay, studying environmental science to be able to assist with our world's climate change crisis! It is my dream to eventually work with wildlife to ensure their own and their habitats conservation. I love all nature, all animals, and remaining physically and mentally active. I am currently interning for a research team whose goal is to make wastewater treatment more sustainable and I am extremely grateful for this stepping stone into the environmental science world!

## Another Group of Birds Named for People

By Bill Hoppes

This is next in a series of articles I am writing about the folks that have birds named for them. As you probably have heard, AOU plans to remove these names in the future and bury the history, good and bad, of the hobby we love. This is my effort to tell you a bit of that history before you have to dig further to find it.

### Grace's Warbler



Grace's Warbler, quite the gift

Grace's Warblers breed from the south-western United States to Nicaragua and winter from Sinaloa and Durango south. They are almost always found in pine forests, even in migration. In the United States and northern Mexico, they typically occur at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 ft. Farther south they occur as low as 700 ft.

Grace's Warbler was discovered by Elliott Coues in the Rocky Mountains in 1864. He requested that the new species be named after his 18-year-old sister, Grace Darling Coues, and his request was honored when Spencer Fullerton Baird (of Baird's Sandpiper fame) described the species scientifically in 1865. I wasn't able to find any information on Grace. If anyone has some please pass it on.

### Blackburnian Warbler



A warbler and a crater on Venus,  
quite the legacy.

The Blackburnian is one of our most beautiful warblers. They breed in eastern North America, from southern Canada west to the Canadian Prairies and the Great Lakes and south from New England to the Carolinas. They winter in southern Central America to South America.

The Blackburnian Warbler was named for Anne Blackburne, an English botanist. Anne (1726 –1793) assembled an extensive collection of natural history specimens and corresponded with several notable naturalists of her era. Blackburne was born into a family of landowners and merchants. After her mother's death, she lived with her father John Blackburne who was known for his interest in botany and his hothouses for exotic plants. John Blackburne also had an extensive library where Anne studied botany; she later taught herself Latin so she could read the *Systema Naturae* of Carl Linnaeus. She developed a natural history museum where she collected insects, shells, minerals and birds. Blackburne corresponded with other naturalists including Linnaeus, to whom she sent a box of birds and insects. Her brother Ashton, who lived in New York, sent her specimens of North American birds to the Welsh naturalist Thomas Pennant who studied these bird specimens and included them in his book *Arctic Zoology*. After her father's death, Blackburne and her museum moved to nearby Fairfield Hall. When she died in 1793, her nephew inherited the collection. Several species are named after her, including a beetle, the Blackburnian Warbler, and several flowering plants, as well as a crater on Venus.

(continued on page 10)

(Bird Names continued)

## Bell's Sparrow

If you are willing to take a tough little hike at Del Valle you may spot this guy. The Bell's Sparrow is a neat, gray-headed sparrow emblematic of California's coastal sage and chaparral. They also occur in Baja California, the Mojave Desert, and on San Clemente Island, California (a federally threatened subspecies). During the nineteenth century all the "sage" sparrows from the Rocky Mountains west to the Pacific Coast were known as Bell's Sparrow, although ornithologists noted there were several regional forms. By 1910 they had split Bell's Sparrow into the two distinct species we know today, but a revision in 1957 lumped them together as the Sage Sparrow. In 2013, they were split back into two species, now known as the Sagebrush Sparrow of the Great Basin and Bell's Sparrow of the sagebrush habitat along the California Coast.

Bell's Sparrow was named for John Graham Bell (not that Graham Bell), an American taxidermist and collector. Bell (1812-1889) taught young Theodore Roosevelt how to preserve animals for collection and display and may have been the first to tell young Roosevelt about bison roaming the Dakota prairies.

Before Theodore Roosevelt was born, Bell had established himself as one of the premiere collectors and taxidermists of his day. He worked closely with the great American ornithologist John James Audubon. In 1843, with Audubon, nature artist Isaac Sprague, and others, Bell explored the birds and animals near Fort Union (near what is today Williston, North Dakota). Bell sought, discovered, located, and shot birds for Audubon, and served as his main field taxidermist. Audubon called Bell "an excellent companion in our not un-perilous rambles," and he named a newly discovered species of bird after him: Bell's Vireo. Audubon credited Bell with discovering Smith's Lark-Bunting while they were on an earlier expedition in southern Illinois. Throughout his career, Audubon gratefully received specimens of birds and waterfowl sent him by Bell.

Bell later became the proprietor of a taxidermy shop in Manhattan. As a present for his fourteenth birthday, Theodore Roosevelt's father gave him taxidermy lessons from Bell. In his 1918 article "My Life as a Naturalist," Roosevelt recalled that Bell taught him "the art of preparing specimens for scientific use and of mounting them." Some of these early attempts—a Snowy Owl, Egyptian Plover, Spruce Grouse—found their way into the American Museum of Natural History.

With Frank M. Chapman, Theodore Jasper, and Jacob Henry Studer, Bell authored *The Birds of North America* published in 1888. In addition to Smith's Lark-Bunting, Audubon recognized Bell as the discoverer of Baird's Bunting (Sparrow), Bell's Sparrow, Bell's Vireo, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Leconte's Sparrow, and Nuttall's Whippoorwill.

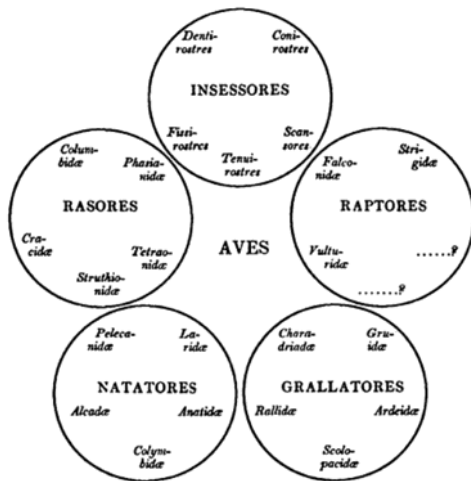
## Montezuma Quail

Next time you head to the Sky Islands of New Mexico and Arizona you might spot this secretive little quail in oak-juniper woodlands. It goes by a bunch of names; Mearns's Quail, the Harlequin Quail (for the male's striking pattern), and the Fool Quail (for its behavior). Only 10% of the population is in the U.S., the remainder extends south along the Sierra Madre from Mexico to Nicaragua.

The Montezuma quail is named after the famous Aztec emperor Montezuma Xocoyotzin, also known as Montezuma. This regal bird bears this name due to its association with the rich cultural history of the Aztec civilization. The Montezuma quail was formally described in 1830 by Nicholas Aylward Vigors based on a specimen collected in Mexico. Vigors (1785- 1840) an Irish zoologist and politician, popularized the classification of birds on the basis of the Quinarian System. The Quinarian System was a method of zoological classification popular in the 19th century among British naturalists. Quinarianism gets its name from the emphasis on the number five. It proposed that all taxa are divisible into five subgroups, and if fewer than five subgroups were known, the missing subgroup remained to be found. The system was never popular outside Great Britain and fell into disfavor after publication of Darwin's "*On the Origin of Species*" and the development of classification systems based on evolutionary relationships.

Vigors was a co-founder of the Zoological Society of London in 1826, and its first secretary until 1833. In that year, he founded what became the Royal Entomological Society of London. He was a fellow of the Linnean Society and Royal Society. He was the author of 40 papers, mostly on ornithology. He described 110 species of birds, enough to rank him among the top 30 bird authors historically.

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Vigor's Quinarian classification of birds. The missing entries represented groups that he expected remained to be



Botteri's Sparrow, not a heck of a lot to look at.

### Botteri's Sparrow

Another bird found primarily in Mexico that since the 1900's has extended its range into Southern Arizona and the lower Rio Grande Valley. If you want a "nondescript" sparrow this guy might fill the bill. It was named after Matteo Botteri (1808-1877) a botanist, ornithologist and collector. Botteri was born on the island of Hvar on the Dalmatian coast to an Italian family. He began his early career in Dalmatia and nearby areas in the Ottoman Empire. In 1854 he travelled to Mexico to collect specimens on behalf of the Royal Horticultural Society. He settled in Orizaba where he founded a museum and became professor of languages and natural history at Orizaba College. Philip Sclater secretary of the Zoological Society of London from 1860-1902 named Botteri's Sparrow after Matteo since Botteri collected the first specimen among 120 other birds in Vera Cruz in 1857.



Please take a moment to review the step-by-step directions we have for each way you can submit your data for the Great Backyard Bird Count. You may want to bookmark one of these for the weekend event.

**Using Merlin Bird ID App**

**Using eBird Mobile (phone or tablet)**

**Using eBird on a Computer**

GBBC data is entered entirely online. If you don't use these tools, see if a close family member or friend could enter your data. Or, consider reaching out to an [Audubon Chapter](#) to see if they have the capacity to get your birds counted.

See instructions on [Participates Page](#)

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