



# The Kite Call

## Ohlone Audubon Society, Inc.

*A chapter of the National Audubon Society  
Serving Southern & Eastern Alameda County CA*

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August 16—September 30, 2015

### Calendar

- Aug 15** **FIELD TRIP**  
*Hayward Shoreline*
- Sept 1** **MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
*Fremont*
- Sept 8** **BOARD MEETING**
- Sept 10** **FIELD TRIP**  
*Alameda South Shore*
- Sept 15** **DEADLINE KITE CALL**
- Sept 19** **FIELD TRIP**  
*Vaux's Swifts, San Rafael*
- Oct 3** **FIELD TRIP**  
*Hawk Hill, Marin Co*



Don't forget  
your reusable  
cup at meetings!

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### MEMBERSHIP MEETING

## Great Gray Owls

**Presenter:** Harry Fuller

**Date:** Sept 1 **Time:** 7:30PM

**Location:** Carlton Plaza  
3800 Walnut Avenue  
Fremont 94538

We will have Harry Fuller to speak to us on Great Gray Owls. Some of you may know Harry from his excellent presentations in the past.

Harry recently published a book that he co-wrote on the elusive Great Gray Owls of California, Oregon and Washington. His research on this California endangered species turned up four different breeding populations in the state, not just the one around Yosemite. This is the southernmost population even though they are found across the Northern Hemisphere. It is likely these owls were left in isolated relict habitats after the last Ice Age. Harry will also share the story of a man who became a surrogate father for four young Great Gray Owlets this past summer. Where and how can you find this elusive bird? Come and find out!



**Due to a scheduling conflict, our September 1st meeting presentation has now changed. We hope to catch Jennifer Rycenga at a later date!**

Harry Fuller has been the Klamath Bird Observatory board president since 2013. Harry worked in television media, mostly for San Francisco TV stations, until 1998. In addition to his work in media, Harry has worked as a volunteer and professional birding guide for more than ten years. He moved to Ashland in 2007, where he continues to lead birding trips. Beside the book on *GREAT GRAY OWLS*, he is also the author of *FREEWAY BIRDING*, a guide to birding spots along Interstate 5.

**Directions:** To reach Carlton Plaza of Fremont, take I-880 to the Mowry Ave off-ramp, then Mowry east (inland) to Fremont Blvd. Turn right on Fremont Blvd, then left on Walnut. Carlton Plaza is on Walnut between Fremont Blvd and Paseo Padre Pkwy. From Mission Blvd, turn right on Walnut and Carlton Plaza will be on the left, between Paseo Padre and Fremont Blvd.

**FIELD TRIPS****Hayward Regional Shoreline,****Leaders: Kathy Robertson & Rich Nicholson**

Meet at the Grant Avenue staging area in San Lorenzo for a walk along the canal to the shoreline and south to reach Oro Loma Marsh. We expect to see shorebirds such as Red Knots, Short-Billed Dowitchers, Ruddy Turnstones, and Black-Bellied Plovers as well as gulls and terns and maybe a resident Osprey.

**Saturday August 15 8:30 AM****([rsn711@yahoo.com](mailto:rsn711@yahoo.com))**

**Directions:** From I-880 south take the Washington Avenue exit. Turn right on Washington and right on Grant Avenue. From I-880 north take the Hesperian Blvd. exit. Make a sharp left onto Hesperian and a right on Grant Avenue. In both cases continue west on Grant Avenue to the parking lot near the end of the road.

**Alameda South Shore****Leader: Jerry Steenhoven, 510-881-1233****Thursday, Sept. 10, 9:00 AM**

This area usually provides good views of shorebirds as they arrive from northern breeding grounds. Meet at the Elsie Roemer Bird Sanctuary viewing platform where Broadway meets Shore Line Drive.

**Directions:** From Hayward or San Leandro, take I-880 to Davis Street exit west and go to Doolittle Drive. Turn

right on Doolittle to the bridge to Alameda, where the street becomes Otis Drive. Turn left at Broadway, drive southwest to Shore Line Drive, and park along the street. Do NOT park on streets posted "No parking on Thursdays for street sweeping." Bring lunch, binoculars and scopes. This is planned as a 3-hour trip. We'll end at Crab Cove Visitor Center where facilities are available.

**Vaux's Swift Migration****Leaders: Gail Ryujin, [gailryujin@yahoo.com](mailto:gailryujin@yahoo.com) and Jerry Steenhoven****Saturday, Sept. 19, 6:30PM – sunset**

We hope to see the spectacle of thousands of migrating Vaux's Swifts entering a brick smokestack at the McNear Brickyard near San Rafael at sunset (7:14 p. m.)

**Directions:** Take I-580 West across the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge to 101 North. Exit at the 1st off ramp from 101, which is for downtown San Rafael. Turn right at the

signal onto 2nd St. (one-way to the right). In two blocks the street becomes Pt. San Pedro Rd., which is a two-way street. Follow Pt. San Pedro Rd. 3.4 mi. along the shoreline to the entrance drive of the McNear Brickyard. We will meet outside the locked gate and drive into the brickyard as a group. Please do not block the road that continues around the point.

**Hawk Hill & Rodeo Lagoon - Marin Headlands****Saturday, Oct 3 9AM – 3PM****Leaders: Phil and Pat Gordon, [pagpeg@aol.com](mailto:pagpeg@aol.com), 510-538-3550**

Join us at Golden Gate Raptor Observatory's Hawk Hill in the Marin Headlands during fall migration when thousands of southbound birds pass overhead. As many as 17 species of raptors have been seen here (once including a Mississippi Kite), from the more common Red-Tailed, Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks to uncommon Merlins and even Broad-Winged Hawks. Our trip is planned for the peak of the season. On a clear day, Hawk Hill can be amazing with the added challenge of other passing migrating species such as Band-tailed Pigeons, Lewis's Woodpeckers, swifts, swallows and Varied Thrushes!

We will begin below at **9:00 AM** at Rodeo Lagoon, first looking for rarities in the willows and then returning later

in the day for a more thorough search of the main lagoon and coast. We will plan to head up to Hawk Hill by **11:00 AM** to park and carry our lunches and water up to join the rest of the hawk-watchers at the Hawk Lookout. We should be able to attend the noon docent program where a volunteer will talk about hawk migration and identification. Usually a newly banded bird is brought out and released in front of us! Time here will mostly be spent training our sights on the distant horizons - hoping for sightings of approaching hawks, eagles, and falcons. As the activity decreases, we will return to the lagoon and spend some time "sea-watching."

*(Directions continued next page)*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Climate Change anyone?

Well, one thing I discovered in the L.A. area while attending a conference on climate change is that the air is a lot cleaner in L.A. than the Bay Area. This was confirmed by current and former L.A. residents.

So I was in the L.A. area, landing in Burbank, staying in Glendale, and attending the conference in the Highland Park area, home to NAS' Deb's Center. We spent all day Saturday being immersed in the details of Climate Change or Global Warming, whichever term resonates with you. We were walked through the pitch by NAS climate science researchers. Then we learned what we are in for.

California Audubon has received a grant from NAS to conduct this plan because California is on the cutting edge of efforts to deal with climate change. Of course Audubon's effort is focused on the plight of the birds, but whatever we do to the birds, we do to ourselves. The climate change groups will work through their various councils, at least initially, to get our own members concerned and actively involved in addressing the problems facing us and our feathered friends.

I will be sharing more details with Ohlone's board, seeking advice and work to implement some actions that will help us all make the world and us a cooler, cleaner place.

*—Evelyn Cormier*

### Hawk Hill (continued)

Besides lunch and water, dress in layers as it can be cold and windy in the headlands even when the sun is shining. A camp stool might come in handy on the hill. Carpooling is recommended as parking can be very limited. Meet the leaders at **9:00 AM** at Rodeo Lagoon at the large dirt parking area on the right before the bridge over the lagoon, near the willows. Or meet us at **11:00 AM** up on Hawk Hill (Conzelman Rd). Restrooms are available at the Marin Headlands Visitor Center near the lagoon. A portable toilet is at the base of Hawk Hill.

**DIRECTIONS:** Google maps recognizes both "Rodeo Lagoon" and "Hawk Hill" as destinations. Either destination is about 1 hour northwest of Hayward via the Richmond Bridge. Take I-580W over the bridge to Sir Francis Drake Blvd. in Marin County. Take exit 2A from I-580W. Get on US -101 South. Follow US-101S to Alexander Ave. Take exit 442 from US-101S. Turn right onto Alexander Ave. and left on Bunker Rd. towards the Marin Headlands. (It is a very short distance from the freeway to Bunker Rd.; if you are headed down into

Sausalito, you have gone too far.) Continue on Bunker Rd. through the one-way tunnel to Rodeo Lagoon. If you are driving directly to Hawk Hill instead of Rodeo Lagoon, after exiting the freeway head up Conzelman Rd. and you will come to the parking lot for Hawk Hill. A fairly short, steep hike takes you up the hill. To get to Hawk Hill from Rodeo Lagoon, return the way you came in on Bunker Rd. Turn right on McCullough Rd. and right again on Conzelman Rd. to reach Hawk Hill. (Pat's cell phone is 510-364-6472.)

## Welcome New Members

### A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW AND RENEWING OHLONE MEMBERS!

Ohlone sends a warm welcome and thank you to the following **new** and **renewing** chapter members:

Marcia Brandt, Diana Brumbaugh, Stephen & Arlene Chin, Don Driggs, Henry & Phuong Malkin, Laura Mercier, Sheila Mohammed, Joy Shonfeld, Joanne Smith, Helen Sowers, Marge Trevorow, Carol & Paul Weicker, Kathleen Yamanoto



### AND THANK YOU FOR DONATIONS!

**Donations :** Nancy Christensen and Mark Greenstein (in honor of Marilyn Trabert's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday!)

## MEMBERSHIP DUES INCREASE

It was decided at the last board meeting that the time has come to increase our membership dues from \$20 to \$25 annually. This increase will be in effect commencing September 1, 2015. All new and renewing memberships after this date will be at the higher rate.

The OAS board felt we had to do this because of the increase in our operating costs. This increase will help us increase our level of conservation advocacy, additional educational activities, and continue our great programs.

If you have questions/comments please contact President Evelyn Cormier or any board member. (Contact info on last page).

## CONSERVATION

Carin High, West County Bill Hoppes, East County

### Plans to expand Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area in Corral Hollow Canyon face another level of opposition after the Alameda County Board of Supervisors vote unanimously to oppose expansion of the park.

The Alameda County supervisors' vote came less than a week before the deadline for comments on the expansion's environmental review.

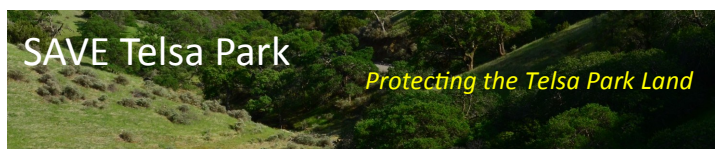
Alameda County's position, as expressed in a letter to State Parks Department, was that the environmental review lacks a detailed description of how the state would compensate for the effects of off-road vehicles in previously undisturbed parts of Corral Hollow Canyon.

Traffic is a concern, too. The county's letter notes that while there would be more visitors to the expanded park, no changes to Tesla-Corral Hollow Road are proposed, and the state never consulted with the Alameda County Transportation Commission on the likely increase in traffic to and from the park. Alameda County joins

a long list of local agencies opposing the expansion of the park.

**OAS'** concerns are that impacts to biological resources have NOT been adequately identified, analyzed or mitigated. Ohlone Audubon Society shared the costs to hire an expert to review the document and submit a comment letter. In addition, our conservation chairs submitted an additional letter on behalf of OAS. OHMVRD must now review all these comments. CEQA requires that they respond to the comments and address substantive issues. Let's see if that actually happens.

According to the **Friends of Tesla Park, ([www.telsapark.org](http://www.telsapark.org))** "State Parks Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division received over one thousand comments. We believe the majority were from supporters like you who ardently want to preserve Tesla. In addition to hundreds of comments from individuals, at least 11 public agencies and 25 community organizations also submitted substantive comments on the proposed project to expand Carnegie SVRA into the sensitive Tesla park land. Your work has set a high bar for Carnegie to respond to. We sincerely thank you for your help on DEIR comments and over the last four years."



### Zone 7 identifies nitrate "hot spots" in East County

*The Independent* reported that Zone 7 Water Agency directors approved a plan designed to keep nitrates from reaching harmful concentrations in the underground water basin in and around Livermore. The board voted unanimously at its meeting June 17 to approve the Nutrient Management Plan (NMP). It will be sent on to the State Water Control Board and the Alameda County Environmental Health Department. The plan identifies five hot spots of nitrates in the Valley.

They are at May School Road, Buena Vista Avenue, Greenville Road, Mines Road, and in Happy Valley, where there has been a county-imposed moratorium on building for years. Animal and human waste are sources of the nitrates that can contaminate water. One approach that would protect the underground water basin from nitrates in rural areas would involve the installation of efficient septic systems, however the NMP leaves setting requirements and enforcing them up to the county.

### West Nile Virus activity on the rise in California and Alameda County

Thirty-one counties, including Alameda County, have reported virus activity this year. The number of California counties with virus activity is 10 more than this time last year and also well above the five-year average of 18. Drought conditions may play a role in the

rise of WNV activity because of reduced water sources for birds and mosquitoes. As birds and mosquitoes seek water, they are coming into closer contact with each other than usual, which could amplify transmission of the virus.



**CONSERVATION** *(continued)*

## The South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project, the largest tidal wetland restoration project on the West Coast



Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse

The **South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Report for Phase 2** alternative plans at the Alviso and Ravenswood Ponds is now available for download on the project website at <http://www.southbayrestoration.org/planning/phase2/downloads.html>.

More information about the environmental document is on the Project website at <http://www.southbayrestoration.org/planning/phase2/>.

The Project welcomes comments from the public on the draft document. The **deadline to comment** is close of business on **Tuesday, September 22, 2015**.

Please send comments to:

**Email:** [phase2comments@southbayrestoration.org](mailto:phase2comments@southbayrestoration.org)

**Website:** Brief comments can be submitted through the website [http://www.southbayrestoration.org/Question\\_Comment.html](http://www.southbayrestoration.org/Question_Comment.html).

**Regular mail:** Brenda Buxton, Project

Manager State Coastal Conservancy, 1330 Broadway, 13th Floor Oakland, CA, 94612

### Contacts for More Information:

For general questions about the meeting, how to review the draft document or how to submit comments: Ariel Ambruster, [aambrust@ccp.csus.edu](mailto:aambrust@ccp.csus.edu), 510-528-5006, or ask via the website comment form.

For questions about the document content or the NEPA/CEQA process:

Anne Morkill, US Fish and Wildlife Service Don Edwards Refuge, [anne\\_morkill@fws.gov](mailto:anne_morkill@fws.gov), 510-792-0222  
Brenda Buxton, State Coastal Conservancy, [bbuxton@scc.ca.gov](mailto:bbuxton@scc.ca.gov), 510-286-0753

### Hard Copies Available for Review

Hard copies of the document are also available for public review, during business hours, at:

Visitor Center, **Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge**, 2 Marshlands Road, Fremont, CA 94555, 510-792-0222, ext. 363

**State Coastal Conservancy**, 1330 Broadway, 13th Floor, Oakland, CA 94612, 510-286-1015

**US Army Corps San Francisco District**, 1455 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94103, 415-503-6804

## OHLONE MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE!

**Is it time to renew?** Look at your mailing label - it will tell you. For example: "Pd Thru 9/1/15" indicates that you are paid thru SEPTEMBER 2015. A **"RENEW?"** indicates that this is your last Kite Call! If you see a **"JOIN LOCAL?"** on your label this indicates that you have joined the National Audubon Society, but alas, **not** your **local Ohlone chapter**. Please consider joining us! To renew or join us please send a \$20 check (\$25 after 9/1/15) to Pat Gordon, Membership Chair, 1922 Hillsdale Street, Hayward, CA 94541-5428. Thanks!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Pinnacles Condor Experience



Discover the California Condors of Pinnacles National Park in a day of learning, hiking, birding, condor tracking and end-of-day meal; featuring experts in wild condor care, botany, geology, birds and wildlife

Saturday 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM - October 10; November 7; December 5

Choice of hike: overlook (climb) or riparian (flat); 15 people per hike

\$150 per person. Benefiting Pinnacles Condor Fund & Pinnacles Partnership

Information and Registration at: [www.PinnaclesPartnership.org](http://www.PinnaclesPartnership.org)

**Richard Neidhardt** is an active volunteer California condor tracker working with the Pinnacles/central CA coast condor flock. He is the featured community education speaker at events leading up to the fall 2015 Pinnacles Condor Experience fundraising program.

Richard grew up on a lake in South Carolina, obsessed with everything that crawled, hopped, swam or flew. After three years in the Army, he bought 20 acres of land in the Arkansas Ozarks, built a log cabin with hand tools and raised three daughters. In 1986, Richard was offered a job on a hospital project at Travis Air Force Base in Solano County, which brought him and his family to California. He served as a Solano County Parks and Recreation Commissioner before relocating to the East Bay in 1993. After 40 years in the construction busi-

ness, Richard retired in 2009. Shortly thereafter he began as a volunteer with the California Condor Recovery Program at Pinnacles National Monument, which became a National Park in 2013. This work has been his passion for more than five years. In 2013 Richard and Jeff Robinson co-founded the Pinnacles Condor Fund to raise supplemental money for the park's condor protection operations. This fund is now part of Pinnacles Partnership, the official 501(c)3 friend-of-the-park organization for Pinnacles National Park. Richard frequently leads guided birding/nature hikes in the park particularly as fundraisers for the Pinnacles Condor Fund. In addition to his condor conservation work, Richard is a member of the Contra Costa County Sheriff's search and rescue team (CoCoSAR).

## REI CONDOR LECTURES

RICHARD NEIDHARDT, Pinnacles Condor Fund Chairman and expert condor tracker, will present a one hour free lecture on Pinnacles condors at 7PM at the following local REI retail locations. The lectures are free. However, REI suggests that you register for the sessions you would like to attend. Some of the lecture rooms have limited capacity and registration will ensure you are seated. The registration links are listed below:

**FREMONT** Tues 22-Sept 7-8:30PM

510-651-0359

<http://www.rei.com/event/67655/session/120654/09262015>

**DUBLIN** Sat 26 -Sept 9-10:30AM

925-828-9832

<http://www.rei.com/event/67656/session/120655/09302015>

## SILENT AUCTION

This original lithograph by J. Gould and HC Richter, "Sumatra Elegant Trogons," was donated to Ohlone several years ago. It was valued by Clars Auction Gallery at \$200-400. The Ohlone Board has decided to sell it by a silent auction.

The Silent Auction has been extended to September 1, contact Helen Sowers for more details. (Contact info last page)



## HABITAT MEANS HOME POSTERS

The posters will be displayed in State Senator Wieckowski's office and the students and their families are looking forward to an ice cream social. Thank you Carin High and team!

## CHARACTERISTICS ABOUT HUMMINGBIRDS (ESPECIALLY FEEDING)

1. Wing beat = avg of about 52 beats/second (up to 200 b/s in courtship dives; attaining speeds of about 50 mph).
2. Achieves high energy use (esp. when awake).
3. Long, inactive hours all night would result in starvation and death because of too high a rate of heat loss through body surfaces (high ratio of surface to volume when creatures are smaller) = cannot store enough reserve fat, thus:
4. Torpor at night is a natural defense to ward off starvation (by reducing all metabolic processes, i.e. breathing, heartbeat, circulation, muscle activity, etc.) – also, long cold spells are less likely to kill birds that are well fed.
5. Shelter from predators is needed for respite at night, i.e., dense shrub or small tree (or larger tree with dense foliage to nearer the ground). Day time precautions must also be considered regarding vulnerability of hummingbirds to predation by cats (or even preying mantises) or disturbance from curious children or adults.
6. Nests may be placed (by Black-chinned, Anna's, Costa's, or Allen's, around here in Alameda County) on low branches of shrubs or trees (see 5 above). Roosting is by female in her nest; male is commonly nearby; although male is basically independent of the nesting once it's established. Occasional nesting takes place on human structures closer to houses, especially hanging planters, eaves or roof supports, sometimes right outside a door or window. Spiders with open webs should be encouraged as the webbing is gathered to construct nests – and the spider likely consumed.
7. Feeders can be placed at house/yard corners so to be hidden from each other to reduce competitive guarding (especially by males) and allow more simultaneous feeding. Here more than one feeder is advised, including at least one Oriole Bar feeder (1/4 inch holes).
8. Male hummingbirds station themselves at a single (best) food source, thus much energy is expended in defending their food source. Peak numbers of hummers can occur during migration when multiple-holed feeders may support several birds at the same time.
9. Female hummingbirds (instead of "territorial" feeding) will often use a "trapline" feeding method, to visit a series of food sources (which may be of lower unit volume of nectar, but collectively sufficient). Feeder stations may break down this natural adaptive behavior, thus further necessitating the multiple feeders or deliberate planting of plants with prime attracting qualities, i.e., high nectar production, long, tubular, red flowers on small-leaved plants with long seasonal availability (note: red flowers emit more ultra-violet colors – hummingbird attractants).
10. Arrival of migrating Rufous & Allen's - (unusually, Black-chinned, Costa's, and Calliope) from southern wintering ranges is usually in late January and February. Fresh feeders should then be available. Nesting may take place shortly after this. (Our resident Anna's Hummingbirds have been recorded to nest in all months; but most nest in early to mid-Spring).
11. Hummingbird feeder juice ("nectar") can best be prepared with a 20% mix of granulated (white) sugar (sucrose) to 80% fresh water (tap water is O.K.; set overnight if chlorinated). Red coloring is no longer used in the mix – regarded as harmful; plenty of red is supplied, decorating most feeders. To suppress growth of mold, first boil the mix (i.e., 1500cc/300cc) for about 4 – 5 minutes – let cool – fill feeder(s). Best to clean feeders before each filling – no soap, but scrubbed with slender bottlebrush w/ bent tip. Ant invaders can be controlled with an in-line cup of water (sold at bird supply stores; i.e., East Bay Nature, Dublin & Walnut Creek or Wild Birds Unlimited, Pleasant Hill).
12. Liquid food is augmented (especially for young during nesting) by flying insects, which are conspicuously snatched from the air by hovering hummers. Garden insecticides are thus, most inappropriate, in fact this is a good reason for bio-control of mosquitos. Some bird species can benefit with a small, clean supply of insoluble sand or fine gravel. This is mostly feed to nestlings of seed-eating birds, i.e., finches and sparrows; but, also swallows.
13. Interruption of continual food supplies (vacations away from home) should be minimized or accommodated. Placement of feeders re: bird baths, sprinklers or spray zones, sun vs. shade, nearby temporary perches; need also to be considered.



Anna's Hummingbird

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HAYWARD, CA 94541

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**NAS CALIFORNIA :** 765 University Ave, Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95825  
916-649-7600, <http://www.ca.audubon.org>

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



Please sign me up today

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

[ ] I prefer to receive the Kite Call by e-mail [ ] Please send me e-mail updates and action alerts.

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