



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

Volume 49, Number 4

www.ohloneaudubon.org

November 16—December 31, 2015

Calendar

- Nov 27 FIELD TRIP**
Pinnacles Nat'l Park
- Dec 1 MEMBERSHIP MEETING**
Pleasanton
- Dec 4 PRECOUNT MEETING**
Hayward-Fremont CBC
- Dec 5 FIELD TRIP**
Sandhill Cranes
- Dec 13 FIELD TRIP**
Eden Shores, Hayward
- Dec 15 DEADLINE KITE CALL**
- Dec 17 FIELD TRIP**
Garin RP, Hayward
- Dec 18 CBC (Eastern Ala. Co.)**
- Dec 20 CBC (Hayward-Fremont)**
- Jan 5 MEMBERSHIP MEETING**
San Leandro
- Jan 7 FIELD TRIP**
Pescadero

UPCOMING PROGRAM!

Joe Morlan
January 5, 2016

When we see a bird that looks different, or doesn't quite match the picture in the book, is it a different species or perhaps just a different subspecies or other type of variation? Come and find out how to differentiate the differences and subtleties with Joe! (San Leandro Library)

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Birds of Fremont 2015 Annual Holiday Cookie Exchange

Presenter: Jerry Ting

Date: December 1, 2015

Time: 7:30PM

Location: Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave., 94566

We are in for a treat in our December meeting! First, our own member, outgoing leader, and bird photographer extraordinaire, Jerry Ting, will present a program on "Birds of Fremont 2015" to wrap up the year and remind us what we saw or missed in 2015! This program is not to be missed.

After the visual treat, our annual traditional Holiday Cookie Exchange will follow as we socialize. If you would like to bring a plate of cookies and copies of your recipe, it would be great. However, all are welcome to attend whether you have sample cookies or not. There are always plenty of cookies to go around!

Jerry Ting has been an avid birder since 2007 and has become a well known birder and bird photographer in the San Francisco East Bay Area in recent years. In pursuing well-documented images of Bay Area species, he has done Photo

Big Years since 2010 and conducted several Bird-A-Thons since 2013. As a member of Ohlone Audubon Society, he leads field trips at Coyote Hills Regional Park in Fremont where he has photographed over 220 species. A frequent contributor to local Audubon chapters and to online birding groups, his work has appeared in publications of the East Bay Regional Park District, Ohlone Audubon Society, Golden Gate Audubon Society, Santa Clara Audubon Society, Save the Bay, *Bay Nature*, and more. NBC Bay Area recently showcased Jerry's photographic work on the TV series, "Open Road with Doug McConnell."

Directions to Pleasanton Middle School: From I-680 take the Bernal Avenue exit and head east on Bernal to Case Avenue. Turn right on Case. The school is on the right. Enter the first driveway and park at the south end of the parking lot. Follow signs to meeting room.

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.



FIELD TRIPS



Come along with Ohlone Audubon the day after Thanksgiving for a field trip to Pinnacles National Park!
Friday, November 27, 9:00AM - Dusk
Leaders: Phil and Pat Gordon, pagpeg@aol.com , 510-538-3550



Join us the day after Thanksgiving to walk off some of that turkey, and maybe see some! California Condors are a distinct possibility (but not guaranteed!). Bring lunch in your backpack. We'll take a shuttle bus to get from the Visitor Center to the upper lot. From there it should be a lovely fall day walk, looking at wintering passerines and always keeping an eye on the sky for the condors. The condors have faithfully flown in in the late afternoon to roosting sites above the campground, so plan on staying until dusk. The leaders have taken a campsite for the weekend so stay for a potluck leftover dinner if you like. This field trip will go rain or shine. All are welcome, and pre-registration is not required. Interested in carpooling?

Contact the leaders if you have seats to share or are looking for a ride.

Directions: From the Bay Area, take I-880 or I-680 south toward San Jose. In San Jose take US-101 south toward Los Angeles and exit at Hwy 25 (Exit 353) toward Hollister. Turn left onto CA-25 and proceed for 41 miles, thru Hollister and Paicines, watching signs to stay on CA-25. Turn right onto CA-146W to the Visitor Center on the left. Entry fee \$10 for the National Park (Golden Age, Senior Pass okay). For GPS the address is approximately 5000 California 146, Paicines, CA 95043. Total distance about 100 miles; plan on 2-1/4 hours driving time.

Sandhill Cranes of Cosumnes River Preserve and Woodbridge Ecological Reserve

December 5, Saturday, 11AM—5 PM

Leaders: Bill Scoggins & Marty Morrow, 510-581-5186

Each fall Sandhill Cranes return to the Central Valley where they feed, socialize and roost together. The steady loss of wetlands has adversely affected crane survival in California and all over the world. See www.savingcranes.org for more information. Recently local citizens have come together to watch over the Greater Sandhill Crane and wetland habitat in the Central Valley. Please contact them at Save Our Cranes, <http://www.soscranes.org>. American White Pelicans, Tundra Swans, Sandhill Cranes, winter waterfowl and raptors have highlighted past trips to the area. We'll start at Cosumnes River Preserve and make our way to Staten

Island or Woodbridge Ecological Reserve for sunset fly-in.

Beginners will receive plenty of help on this trip.

Directions: From Livermore, take I-580 to I-205 to I-5. Take I-5 north to the Twin Cities Road exit (the first exit north of the Sacramento/San Joaquin county line). Go east on Twin Cities Road about 1 mile to the first cross road, Franklin Blvd. Turn right (south) on Franklin Blvd. and continue about a mile or so to the Visitor Center parking lot nearest the road. Rain or flooding cancels the trip. No pets.



Eden Shores/Eden Landing Ecological Reserve

December 13, Sunday, 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Leaders: Brenda Senturia 510-581-1997, Bbsenturia@sbcglobal.net

Enjoy a flat, leisurely walk along the Hayward shoreline on a one-way trip from Eden Shores to Eden Landing (approx. 2.3 miles). We will pass through a variety of habitats: ponds, open fields, and tidal marshes. We can expect a good variety of waders, shorebirds, and wintering waterfowl. Scopes will be very helpful. **Directions:** To

reach Eden Shores, from Jackson St. (SR 92), go south on Hesperian Blvd. for 1.7 miles. Turn right on Eden Shores Parkway. Continue straight via the overpass to Eden Shores Community Park. Keep right around the park to the parking area (restrooms). We will ferry drivers back to Eden Shores using vehicles left at Eden Landing. Hard rain cancels.

Garin Regional Park

December 17, Thursday, 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Leaders: Jerry Steenhoven 510-881-1233 & Vicki Robinson

The outdoors in the late fall can be especially beautiful – fresh and clear with deciduous plants shedding spent leaves that have turned yellow and brown. We'll spend our morning in Garin Park, looking for wintering sparrows, warblers, and thrushes. Be prepared for rain and cold. Heavy rain cancels.

Directions: To reach Garin Park, take Mission Blvd. in Hayward to Garin Avenue, just south of Industrial Pkwy. Follow Garin uphill until you reach the park. Meet at the barn. Free. All are welcome, and pre-registration is not required.

FIELD TRIPS (continued)**Birding the Coast: Pescadero and Half Moon Bay
Leaders: Mona Brauer and Stephanie Floyd****January 7, Thursday, 9:00 - 3:30 PM**
fieldtripsATohloneaudubon.org

Wintering warblers, sparrows and thrushes are commonly seen along the coast. In past years, rarities showed up, too. On this trip in 2015 we had a remarkable sighting of 500 Black-Vented Shearwaters in a feeding frenzy off the coast of Pescadero State Beach. We'll check out a small park in Half Moon Bay and then move on to scenic Pigeon Point Lighthouse where from the bluffs we may see a variety of gulls, cormorants, shorebirds such as oystercatchers and surfbirds, guillemots, loons, and maybe even a passing whale. As time allows, we'll visit other hotspots in the area where good birds have been sighted. One year, we took a short drive up Pescadero

Creek Road to see a rare Black-Throated Blue Warbler! Be prepared for cold and wind. Scopes are helpful at the lighthouse. Bring a lunch or join us at Chez Shea in Half Moon Bay for a late sit-down lunch after the field trip. Rain cancels.

Directions: We'll meet in Hayward to form carpools and then caravan over the San Mateo Bridge. Go east on Jackson from I-880 and turn right on Santa Clara (the first right after you leave the freeway). Go past the Lucky's, make a U-turn at the first light, and park along the street by the apartments. If you prefer to meet us at the coast, contact the leaders to arrange a meeting site.

**EASTERN ALAMEDA COUNTY
FRIDAY DECEMBER 18**

Join the Alameda Creek Alliance and Ohlone Audubon Society for the 7th annual **Eastern Alameda Christmas Bird Count**, to be held on Friday, December 18.

The Eastern Alameda County count circle is in the vicinity of the towns of Sunol, Pleasanton and Livermore, and includes five East Bay Regional Parks, significant SFPUC watershed lands, and exciting East Bay birding hotspots such as lower Mines Road, Sunol Wilderness, Calaveras Reservoir, Lawrence Livermore National Lab, Sycamore Grove Park and Springtown Preserve. Birders and volunteers with any level of experience can participate in the Christmas Bird Count. The count is coordinated with the East Bay Regional Park District, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Livermore Area Recreation & Park District, and Lawrence Livermore National Lab, to provide maximum access to significant bird habitats within the count circle. The post-count dinner will be held at Callippe Preserve in Pleasanton. A \$5-10 sliding scale donation gets you an amazing dinner. To sign up or for more information, please contact Rich Cimino at Yellowbilledtours@gmail.com or (925) 353-0266

**HAYWARD FREMONT
SUNDAY DECEMBER 20**

Join us for the 116th National Audubon Christmas Bird Count. Please come out again this year and participate in this worthwhile citizen science. Last year we had an incredible day: 171 species and 141,983 individuals through the effort of 72 participants. It was a great year

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

for Acorn Woodpeckers, lots of Pine Siskins, 250 Cackling "Aleutian Geese", the rare Yellow-bellied Sapsucker returned for the 3rd year, and an absolute Long-tailed Duck beauty. Besides these specialties, we found over 22,000 Dunlin along the bay and 7658 Black-bellied Plovers, perhaps the nation's high again!

We need your help to be successful once more. Our leaders and participants really came through last year and we hope for a repeat performance. Everyone's help is invaluable and is greatly appreciated. Remember that there is no longer a participant fee and the post count dinner is free. It must be stressed that our success in securing the important, basic "scientific" accuracy of the count hinges on coverage and consistency (participants - you!). The count benefits from the participation of each person who carries out the necessary jobs from recording data, returning borrowed keys, helping with the dinner or just being out there! All are welcome and very much needed.

There will be a precount meeting at the home of Pat and Phil Gordon. All are welcome, especially new participants and leaders. It's a good time to meet the leaders, pick your area, and share the latest bird information. Meet **Friday, December 4, 7:30 p. m.** at 1922 Hillsdale Street, which is northeast off the upper end of E Street in Hayward. It is very helpful, but not mandatory, to attend this meeting to participate in the count. If you have questions, contact the compilers at PAGPEG@aol.com or call 510.538.3550. (Please call for directions)

The American Birds e-Newsletter with final results from the 115th CBC will be sent out in mid-November. If you have not done so already, to receive future editions please sign up here:
Audubon.org/citcsisignup

BIRDING BITS

By Stephanie Floyd

They're back!

A Hermit Thrush showed up in my garden a week or two ago, making its distinctive "tchuk" and "scree" sounds as it darts around foraging for insects and ground-up nuts under my bird-seed feeders. I hear Cedar Waxwings and a Northern Flicker calling from the redwoods at the corner of the street. Ruby-Crowned Kinglets, Golden-crowned Kinglets, White- and Golden-Crowned Sparrows, Fox Sparrows, winter ducks, Say's phoebes, Red-Breasted Sapsuckers, Cackling Geese - even a Tropical Kingbird for a day or two! - they're all back in our local parks like Coyote Hills and Lake Elizabeth.

And how about those warblers? On October 23, birders and photographers enjoyed an 8-warbler day at Ardenwood Farm: Magnolia (rare), Tennessee (rare), Nashville (rare), Yellow, Yellow-Rumped, Orange-Crowned, Wilson's and Townsend's.

Did I mention all the Pine Siskins?

Not all the migrants are arriving; some are late in departing. Grasshopper Sparrow is a breeding bird in Alameda County, here in the spring and summer - but one is still hanging around Arrowhead Marsh in Oakland on its way to Mexico. Perhaps it heard about Hurricane Patricia...?

And the Sandhill Cranes have returned to winter in the Delta! On October 19, I counted more than 500 cranes along Woodbridge Road and at Cosumnes River Preserve in Lodi. Join Bill Scoggins and Marty Morrow for a field trip to see the cranes (and geese and ducks and raptors and more) on December 5.

A little further afield, migration has turned up some great birds. A White Wagtail (from eastern Siberia) dropped in to Rodeo Lagoon in the Marin headlands for a few days this past week, and a Yellow-billed Cuckoo is being seen at Owl Canyon in Bodega Bay. The north bay is a great place to see uncommon birds.

Go to birding.aba.org to see what else is out there!

Tropical Kingbird, V. Robinson



Welcome New Members

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

Liz & Bob Bathgate, Jane Chinn, Grant Gladman, Lee Ellis, Jim Halligan, Steve Huckabone, Pat Mann, Ethel Murphy, Carol Schneider, Ken Walters, Judy Wuelfing

Donations : Liz & Bob Bathgate, Gerry McChesney



Is it time to renew? Look at your mailing label - it will tell you. For example: "Pd Thru 12/1/15" indicates that you are paid thru Dec 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**. **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 94541-5428. You can also renew thru PayPal on our website www.ohloneaudubon.org. Thanks!

E-Kite Call? You can now receive your Kite Call via email! An electronic version (with color!) can be sent to your email address. Save trees! Saves \$\$\$\$. Please consider and let us know at pagpeg@aol.com



Don't forget your reusable cup at meetings!

ED NOTE: We thank Stephanie for taking on this job of bird sightings! Much appreciation. . .

CONSERVATION

Carin High, West County Bill Hoppes, East County

Western County:

Caltrans held a public scoping meeting for the proposed **Niles Canyon Safety Improvements** project in mid October. Caltrans laid out the proposed scope of work that covers everything from replacement and installation of traffic signs, rock wall drapery, removal of fixed objects (including trees), curve "improvements" and shoulder widening. The meeting was well attended, and most in attendance were very vocal in expressing concerns that the "safety improvement" projects might not improve safety at all, but instead result in drivers driving at increased speeds through the canyon. The public was emphatic that the scenic, biotic, and historic features of the canyon must be preserved.

The public comment period on the Notice of Preparation (of the EIR) closed at the end of October. Caltrans anticipates the draft EIR will be released in 2016. The EIR for the Alameda Creek Bridge will be re-circulated for public comments, and it is anticipated that document will be released before the end of the year. You can find more information on both projects at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist4/nilescanyon/>

The **Bay Ecosystem Habitat Goals Update** has recently been released. This is an update of the report that was originally released in 2000, and provides conservation recommendations for the greater San Francisco Bay ecosystem. You can read the update at this link: <http://baylandsgoals.org/science-update-2015/>



South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project

The South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project, held their all day Science Symposium in October. The research covered a wide range of topics, from the uncertainties of sediment imports into the south bay, water quality, fish populations, mercury, Snowy Plovers and shore-birds. It was a lot of information to digest. Fortunately, that information will be posted at some point in the future on the SBSRP website. So, if you could not attend, you will be able to read the results of the latest scientific studies covered at the symposium at: <http://www.southbayrestoration.org/science/2015symposium/>



Eastern County:

The wind energy company that received a controversial extension from the Alameda County Board of Supervisors in March to continue operating hundreds of old wind turbines in the Altamont Pass is now planning to shut them down. According to information provided by KQED, Altamont Wind Farms, Inc., one of the largest operators in the East Bay's Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area, told the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in an October 23 email that it is permanently shutting down all its turbines by November 1, 2015. The company operates 828 turbines in the Altamont.

The sudden move is important, because hundreds of birds die at the Altamont each year after getting hit by wind turbine blades, or colliding with windmills. After getting a three year extension to implement upgrades to the turbines in 2013, AWI went before the Alameda County Board of Supervisors in March, 2015 to request another three year extension. The Board of Supervisors approved the request, reversing a unanimous decision of the East County Board of Zoning Adjustment.

Leslie Koenig (OAS member) added: *My understanding is that properties that have had contracts with AWI in the past are going to be signing agreements with other turbine companies. Albeit they will be required to remove the old ones and reinstall the bigger ones that have fewer bird mortalities. It's not as though the bird mortality will be completely stopped. So partially good news.*

And from Cindy Margulis for Golden Gate Audubon:

We're not finished with holding them, or all other companies (and Alameda County) accountable for reducing mortality AND creating conditions that enable our wildlife to thrive out there in those East Bay grasslands. More to come on that...But for now, just wanted to share this very exciting news. The five {Bay Area} chapters of Audubon {including OAS} have all worked so hard, and collaboratively, for years to stop those relic 1980's era turbines from destroying our wildlife. And finally, the worst operator is shutting down those deadly menaces!!!!



CITIZENS COMMITTEE TO COMPLETE THE REFUGE

453 Tennessee Lane, Palo Alto, CA 94306

Tel: 650-493-5540

www.bayrefuge.org

cccrrefuge@gmail.com

CITIZENS COMMITTEE TO COMPLETE THE REFUGE INFORMATION

(by Carin High)

The **Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge** has an ongoing history of interest in wetlands protection, wetlands restoration, and wetlands acquisition. The Committee was originally formed in 1965. Our senior members were part of a group of citizens who became alarmed at the degradation of the Bay and its wetlands. We joined together, and with the support of Congressman Don Edwards, requested that Congress establish a wildlife refuge. The process took seven long years and in 1972 legislation was passed to form the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. We turned to Mr. Edwards again, and in 1988 (the first year he submitted it) his legislation to double the size of the Refuge was signed into law, and the wildlife refuge now appropriately bears his name.

Our membership is approximately 2,000 people and we have the support of 40 local and national organizations--Leagues of Women Voters, hunters, environmental groups, etc. We have been very fortunate to have a great relationship with the **Ohlone Audubon Society**, and have worked side-by-side on many local issues.

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT THEIR WEBSITE AT www.bayrefuge.org and the great video by Sam High on the OAS' LaRiviere Marsh viewing platform and Florence LaRiviere's remembrances of working with the Honorable Don Edwards!

While we are still interested in the acquisition of land for the Refuge we recognize the Bay does not exist in isolation from surrounding natural resources. Watershed protection is absolutely necessary.

We have taken an active interest in Clean Water Act (CWA), California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and Endangered Species Act (ESA) regulations, policies, implementation, and enforcement. We have established a record of providing information regarding possible CWA and ESA violations to the Corps, EPA, and FWS. We regularly respond to Corps public notices, and inform the public of important local CWA and ESA issues. We review and comment on CEQA documents. We also respond to ESA comment periods including five-year reviews, proposed listings, and recovery plans. All of these actions demonstrate our ongoing commitment to wetland and plant and wildlife issues, and towards protecting the public interest in wetlands, in Section 404 and 401 of the CWA, CEQA, and the ESA.

We have worked hard to educate the public about the quality-of-life-issues related to the health of the Bay and its wetlands. We have sponsored workshops to educate regulators, agency

staff, consultants, and environmental advocates about the range of habitat types that once occurred (and can be restored) within the tidal marshes of San Francisco Bay. We co-sponsor an annual poster contest with OAS and another group, the Friends of Coyote Hills. The contest is designed to educate K-6 students about the importance of preserving habitats.

Our successes have proved exciting and rewarding. Our efforts have led to Refuge additions of 1600 acres of former tidal wetlands on Bair Island in Redwood City, over 400 acres of seasonal wetlands and vernal pool habitat in southern Fremont, 128 acres of tidal marsh at Mayhews Landing in Newark, the Munster property in Union City, Cullinan Ranch in Napa, and the Marin Islands, to name just a few.

Our work is not done, there are still lands along the edges of the bay that would be important additions to the Refuge, that are in danger of being developed. We hope to continue to work with OAS to see these pieces of lands finally and fully protected.

If you wish to make a donation to the Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge, you can click on the "Donate" button, or mail your donation to CCCR, P. O. Box 50991, Palo Alto, CA 94303. Thank you for your support!



REMEMBERING THE HONORABLE DON EDWARDS January 6, 1915—October 2, 2015

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Native Bird Connections

Ohlone Audubon sponsored Native Bird Connections at their recent children's program at Alden Lane Nursery in Livermore. OAS and NBC share a common purpose in eastern Alameda County - to protect birds and conserve habitats through education of both children and adults.

Native Birds Connections is a non-profit organization that, in partnership with their collection of non-releasable

wild birds like the Great Horned Owl, offers educational programs aimed at teaching us to respect, take responsibility for, and revere wild birds. We hope to have NBC bring one or more of their wild ambassadors to one of our membership meetings next year. For more information about NBC, go to their web site, native-birds.org. - SF



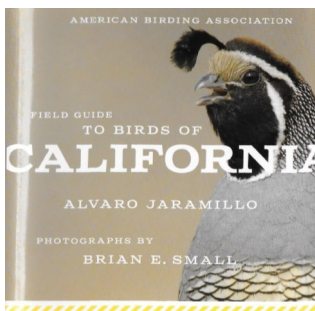
Jenny Papka w/ Eagle Owl

New Books

Field Guide to the Birds Of California

By Alvaro Jaramillo,
Photos by Brian Small

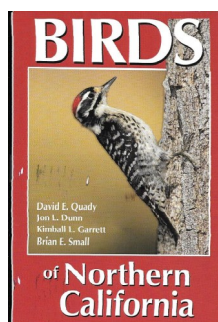
American Birding Association's fourth in the State Field Guide series, by local expert Half Moon Bay birder Alvaro Jaramillo! Great photos and descriptions, including seasonal distribution and habitat preferences, vocalizations of 308 species in California. (\$24.95)



Birds of Northern California

By David Quady, Jon L. Dunn, Kimball L. Garrett, & Brian Small

A regional, pocket-sized field guide with over 600 stunning color photos, written by California bird experts. (\$19.95)



Bette Wentzel Hummingbird & Butterfly Memorial Garden News

The garden is in all its fall beauty right now! The Pine-apple Sage, Mexican Blue Sage, and the Lion's Tail are an explosion of color and the Anna's Hummingbirds know it. Recent arrivals include Hermit Thrushes, White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrows. The Bewick's Wren can be heard singing on each visit. Several Monarch butterflies have been seen visiting the milkweed garden along with other flowers.

The garden was designed and named in memory of OAS president, Bette Wentzel, who loved hummingbirds and butterflies.

Come visit anytime or join us on "garden work day" every Tuesday morning, from 10AM to noon, with tea and goodies following.

The garden is a joint effort between OAS and the Friends of Heirloom Flowers Garden Club of Fremont. (FOHF Web-site:

www.nilesunity.com,
(click on communities)



The garden is located within the Shinn Historical Park and Arboretum, 1251 Peralta Blvd., Fremont 94539



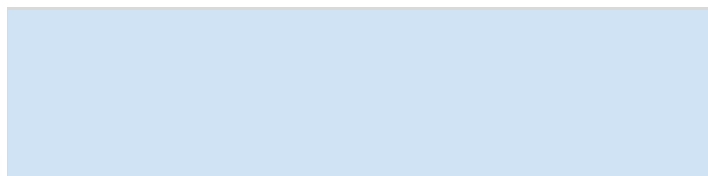
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THE
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Feb 6, 2016

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Please sign me up today

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Pat Gordon
OAS Membership
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Hayward, CA 94541

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