



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

- Apr 1 GENERAL MEETING**
Via Zoom
- Apr 9 FIELD TRIP**
Sabercat Creek
- Apr 12 FIELD TRIP**
Bay Point
- Apr 16 FIELD TRIP**
Birding by Ear—Garin RP
- Apr 19 FIELD TRIP**
Pine Canyon
- Apr 26 FIELD TRIP**
Mill Creek
- May 6 GENERAL MEETING**
Via zoom
- May 14 FIELD TRIP**
Mitchell Canyon

Membership Meetings



Flows of Water and Waterbirds Across California

Nathan Van Schmidt , SFBBO

Date: Tuesday, April 1, 2025

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

Nathan Van Schmidt will be talking about research on the challenges facing waterbirds of the Pacific Flyway. Over a million waterbirds utilize San Francisco Bay for migratory stopover or over-wintering habitat each year, including many species which have already lost substantial habitat elsewhere within the Western United States. Their habitat needs complicate efforts to restore tidal marsh throughout the Bay Area, and a careful design of a balanced mosaic of habitats may be necessary to ensure the diverse species' persistence. He will dig into over two decades of monitoring data on ten foraging guilds including shorebirds, ducks, gulls, terns, fish-eaters, and more within the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project and nearby remaining commercial salt production ponds, and draw connections between challenges facing these regions and other waterbird populations across the western United States. The talk will dive deep into the ecology of two unique waterbirds with specialized habitat needs -- Wilson's Phalaropes and California Black Rails--the former of which was recently petitioned to be listed under the Endangered Species Act due to threats to saline lakes across the Great Basin.

(continued on page 2)



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/joining/register/tZIsf-iupj4iGNwWOZRGoiFOxSO-ANIL8dNP#/registration>

Next Meeting Tuesday, May 6, via Zoom
Watch for upcoming details!

April Program continued

Nathan Van Schmidt is a Science Director at San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory (SFBBO), running their Waterbird and Climate Change research programs. A native of the Midwest, he obtained his B.S. from University of Wisconsin - Madison and moved to the Bay Area in 2011 to obtain his Ph.D. at U.C. Berkeley, where he studied how anthropogenic wetlands allowed Black Rails to persist through California's droughts. He has worked as a researcher in the U.S. Geological Survey, U.C. Santa Cruz, and the International Crane Foundation. In his current role he leads monitoring and research on the Project's non-breeding waterbird guilds, community scientist monitoring of colonial waterbird breeding activity across the nine counties of the Bay Area region, waterbird disease and abatement research, and is the Lead Author of the Central Coast Regional Report for California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment. His interdisciplinary research couples long-term field ecology datasets on bird populations and their habitats with climate and land-use change forecasting to assess how species persist in human-dominated landscapes.

Field Trips



Sabercat Creek
Wednesday April 9, 9AM-12 Noon
Leaders: Kathy Robertson & Pat Gordon
katbirdca@aol.com

Sabercat Creek trail follows a stream in Fremont with excellent riparian woodland in addition to many ornamentals. There are also grassy hillsides with sites for perching birds. We have a good chance to see both Allen's and Anna's Hummingbirds and have a five woodpecker day. Since we will be in the middle of Spring migration we should see great birds. We will start the trip from Old Mission Community Park where parking is plentiful and restrooms available. After a couple of blocks of street walking we will access the trail at its Pine Street entrance. Sabercat Creek has seen extensive excavations for fossils so there are many interpretive signs and even an online audio tour if you would rather listen to it than the birds. The trail is mostly level and paved the entire way. Total length is 3.2 miles but since it is an out-and-back, you can turn around whenever you wish.

Directions: Old Mission Community Park is at 1000 Pine Street in Fremont. Heading south on I680, take the first Mission Blvd exit. Turn left on Mission and then right on Pine. The park will be at the intersection of Pine and Ibero Way. From I-880 take the Auto Mall Parkway/Durham Road exit. Head east on Durham Road then left on Paseo Padre Parkway. Make a right on Camino del Campo and then left on Ibero Way to the park.

Bay Point Regional Shoreline
Saturday, April 12, 5:30AM – 8:30AM
Leader: David "Doc Quack" Riensche
Reservations required by 4/9/2025
[to driensche@ebparks.org](mailto:driensche@ebparks.org)

"Secretive Marsh Birds Sunrise Saunter"

This pre-dawn adventure will focus on finding California Black Rail, Sora, Virginia Rail and American Bittern. During our stroll along the one-mile, flat Harrier Trail, we will explore its namesake bird while enjoying views of kites, shrikes, shorebirds, and wonderful waterfowl. We will use "Doc Quack's" special access code to visit this newly restored marshland, so you must be there by 5:30 am as all access gates will be locked at 0545. Dress in layers and bring light rain gear as needed. This is a wheelchair-accessible field trip. Pre-registration is required, and all are welcome. Rain cancels the field trip.

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

Continued on page 3

Field Trips continued

Garin Regional Park - Birding by Ear
Wednesday, April 16, 9AM - 11AM
Leaders: Maggie Clark &
Bill Scoggins
maggieclark99@gmail.com

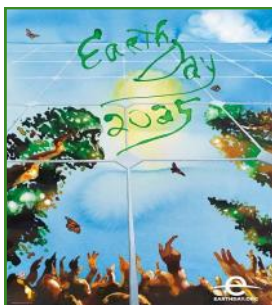
Come explore by ear and other gadgets the willow and sycamore-lined creekside supporting an amazing array of insects, which in turn provides food for foraging and nesting Neotropical songbirds, such as Tree Swallows, Swainson's Thrush, Black-headed Grosbeak, Bullock's Oriole, Wilson's Warbler, and much more. Research has revealed that this rural setting provides habitat for nearly 150 bird species of which more than 65 are breeding birds.

Directions/address: From Hwy 880 in Hayward, take the Industrial Parkway exit and travel east to Mission Blvd. Make a right onto Mission Blvd. and travel one block to Garin Ave and then make a left. The park entrance is approximately one mile uphill, address 1320 Garin Avenue, Hayward.

Pine Canyon, Walnut Creek
Saturday, April 19, 8:30 AM - noon
Leaders: Rich Nicholson and Bob Dunn
rsn711@yahoo.com

Enjoy a nice walk through oak woodlands in the Diablo foothills. Paved trails and moderate hills will give us a chance to see birds such as Cassin's Vireo, Rock and Canyon Wrens, and possibly nesting Peregrine Falcons. Scopes can be useful in certain areas, but they are not necessary. Meet at the Diablo Foothills Staging Area parking lot (1700 Castle Rock Rd.) at 8:30 am.

Directions: Take I-680/24 to Ygnacio Valley Rd. Turn right onto Ygnacio and then turn right again at Walnut Ave. (NOT Walnut Blvd.). Follow Walnut Ave. to the traffic circle and bear right onto Castle Rock Rd. Drive past the horse stables to Diablo Foothills parking area, 1700 Castle Rock Rd.



EARTH DAY
2025
April 22, 2025
Tuesday

Mill Creek Road, Fremont
Saturday, April 26, 8:30am - noon
Leaders: Bob Toleno, Juli Chamberlin,
& Kate Reed
birding@toleno.com

Mill Creek Road is an underappreciated birding hotspot in Fremont. It parallels Mill Creek, which creates a rich riparian habitat that flows from Mission Peak. In late April, we hope to see migrants like Ash-throated Flycatcher, Cassin's Vireo, migrating warblers, as well as Rufous Hummingbird, and maybe even a Calliope Hummingbird. Resident Rufous-crowned Sparrow should be singing, and we'll likely hear the song of the recently arrived Grasshopper Sparrow, too. Lazuli Buntings and Black-headed Grosbeaks should be relatively 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: From I-880 S, take Auto Mall Pkwy east, then get on I-680 north for 2 miles, exit on Mission Blvd, turn right, then turn left on Mill Creek Rd after just a couple blocks. 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.

Mitchell Canyon, Mt. Diablo State Park
Wednesday, May 14, 8:30 AM - noon
Leaders: Rich Nicholson and Bob Dunn
rsn711@yahoo.com

Enjoy an easy to moderate walk on a dirt road for a two to three mile round trip. Migration will be in full swing, so we'll be looking for flycatchers, thrushes, vireos, and warblers, in addition to the resident woodpeckers and raptors. Scopes can be useful, but they are not necessary. Lunch is optional as we recap the list after the walk.

Directions: Take SR-24 east or 680-north to Walnut Creek; exit at Ygnacio Valley Rd. Proceed east 8.5 miles to Clayton Rd; turn right. Drive one mile to Mitchell Canyon Rd.; turn right. At the end of the road, enter the park after paying the \$6 entry fee. Meet at the parking lot. Restrooms are available.

President's Corner

A couple of opportunities present themselves this month.

Sandhill Crane Festival



The Lodi Sandhill Crane Festival is looking for volunteers. If you are a steady reader of my President's Corners you know I am a great fan of this fall festival. I go every year. There are a number of retirements this year from the Board and the Planning Committee of the Lodi Sandhill Crane Association. To remedy this, the LSCA is seeking motivated individuals, with a passion for cranes, to serve on the Board of Directors, and committees; most specifically, the Festival Planning Committee. The LSCA currently meets **virtually, and most of the work before the festival, can be done from home**, making it an accessible opportunity for those with flexible schedules. If you are interested in volunteering to help plan and execute the 2025 Lodi Sandhill Crane Festival, please contact Ken Nieland directly, at nieland4@gmail.com. If you know anyone else who may be interested, absolutely, please forward this email to them. If you want to keep a great festival going, I urge you to lend a hand.

From time to time, Ohlone gets requests from folks wishing to donate spotting scopes they no longer want or need. If that is you, the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory is looking for you. SFBBO's Waterbird, Tern, and Education programs are looking for donated spotting scopes to help carry out their community science research and outreach programs. Please contact Lead Biologist, Amy Parsons at aparsons@sfbbo.org to learn more or donate a scope.

I hope you can take advantage of these opportunities and are getting out birding. The current record at my Niger seed feeder is 17 Lesser Goldfinch all at one time. Can you beat that?
- *Bill Hoppes*

GOT PHOTOS ?



We will soon have a newly updated website! Our webmaster is looking to include photos from some of our great photographers out there. How about a wonderful shot of our emblem bird, the White-tailed Kite? Got one? Share it!

Please send your HD photos to me and I can pass them onto our new webmaster (who we will introduce in a future issue).

Email to pagpeg@aol.com. Thanks and looking forward to them!

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

BIRDING OBSERVATIONS

March 2025

by Vicki Robinson

Wood Ducks and **Hooded Mergansers** have been seen during a field trip to Niles Community Park as well as a large number of **Cedar Waxwings**.



American Bittern

American Bitterns are being seen again at Coyote Hills and “Fernando”, the **Chilean Flamingo**, is still being seen on the Bay at Coyote Hills.

Swallows are returning and setting up in nesting boxes and tree cavities. **Tree Swallows** in large numbers, and **Violet-green**, **Northern Rough-winged** and **Barn** are moving in.



Wood Duck

Bald Eagle



Osprey



Western and **Clark's Grebes** are at Quarry Lakes and have been engaging in courtship behavior, which includes rushing, where the pairs “run” side-by-side on the water.



Violet-green Swallow

Also at Quarry Lakes, **Bald** and **Golden Eagles** have been spotted. **Ospreys** have been seen at Quarry Lakes and near the Dumbarton Bridge.

Western Flycatcher



Allen's Hummingbirds have been showing up at local feeders, and our local **Anna's** Hummingbirds are nesting. A few **Rufous Hummingbirds** have been spotted.

Yellow-rumped Warblers and **Townsend's Warblers** are still around, and **Wilson's**, and **Orange-crowned Warblers** are showing up.

Chipping Sparrow



Warbling Vireos and **Western flycatchers** (previously Pacific-slope Flycatcher) are showing up in many places, and resident **Hutton's Vireos** are singing. A **Swamp Sparrow** was spotted at Coyote Hills, and a **Chipping Sparrow** was seen by many at Tex Spruiell Park in Livermore.

Vermillion Flycatcher



Ring-necked Pheasant



Rufous-crowned Sparrows are found at Vargas Plateau and a **Grasshopper Sparrow** has been seen at Garin Regional Park.



California Thrasher (juvenile)

At the Alameda Creek-Staging Area the rare **Vermilion Flycatcher** that was found during the Christmas Bird Count is still being seen. A **Pacific Golden-Plover** was also seen in that area, and **Ringed-necked Pheasants** have been spotted.

On a nighttime owling trip with Bob Tolento at Garin/Dry Creek, we were able to hear and see six **Western-Screech Owls**.

Redwood Regional Park has recently been a good place to see **Pacific Wrens**, **Varied Thrushes**, **Golden-Crowned Kinglets** and **California Thrashers**. (All photos by V. Robinson)

REMEMBER YOU CAN SUBMIT YOUR BIRD PHOTOS FOR OUR NEW WEBSITE.

Submit HD photos to pagpeg@aol.com

Conservation

East County Conservation Report

City of Livermore Approved Funding to Preserve Open Space Lands

The City of Livermore approved spending \$670,000 to purchase 82 acres outside its urban growth boundary to be preserved as permanent open space. The funds will be combined with a \$650,000 grant from the Altamont Landfill Open Space Committee to purchase the \$1.3MM Geocken Road Property located north of Altamont Pass Road one mile east of Greenville Road. Significantly, the parcel borders Brushy Peak Regional Preserve on the west. (B. Hoppes)



Update on Benefit Assessment Vote for Alameda County Flood Control Funding

All across California, property owners pay for the benefit that they receive from the management of storm water and flood control projects. According to Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (the District), property owners will receive a notice and ballot by mail in spring 2025.

The District website (https://acfloodcontrol.org/th_e-work-we-do/investing-in-community-safety/) states the following:

The notice will include information on the proposed new benefit assessment and the amount for that property. Property owners will have 45 days to return their ballot to indicate whether they approve or disapprove of the

proposed new assessment. The benefit assessment amount is based on the stormwater and flood protection benefit each property receives from the management of stormwater and the proposed projects.

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors will then hold a public hearing on the assessment during one of its regular meetings. Ballots will be tabulated after the close of the hearing. Votes are weighted based on the amount of each property owner's benefit assessment. For example, if homeowner Jones is assessed twice as much as homeowner Smith, Jones's vote will carry twice the weight of Smith's vote. If a majority of the weighted votes are in favor of the assessment, the Board of Supervisors will have the authority to approve the new assessment at a future meeting.

This process is in alignment with the requirements of Proposition 218, which regulates local government finance.

For more information, please contact:


Alameda County Flood Control & Water Conservation District
399 Elmhurst Street
Hayward, CA 94544-1395
phone: (510) 670-5480
email: info@acpwa.org (M. Selva)

Alameda Creek Watershed

Forum

STATE OF THE ALAMEDA CREEK WATERSHED CONFERENCE


- Presentations
- Minute News
- Networking
- Sponsorships



SAVE THE DATE
THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025
Shannon Center, Dublin, CA

Working Together to Move Forward!

HOSTED BY



ALAMEDA COUNTY
Flood Control & Water Conservation
DISTRICT

Register here:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/state-of-the-alameda-creek-watershed-conference-2025-tickets-1221616109669>



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

*Denise Bedford
Andrea Bennett
Kim Brink
Natalie Brophy
Kathleen Claxton
Ramona Confer
Madhura Doppa
Elizabeth Dunbar
Margaret Fry
Arnold Joe
Shruti Joshi
David Kimball
Donna Krehbiel
Victoria Krysiak*

*Mike Hall
Jim Hargrove
Jennifer Jones
Christopher Lazik
Donna Learn
Joan Lewis
Donna Learn
Cheryl Lowder
Sherry Mattson
Paul & Lisa McCollom
Prasanna Narayana
Alayne Noble
William Quirk
Deanna Rose*

*Dave Riensche
Anna Rouse
William Rose
Nancie Ryan
Bruce Schine
Marlina Selva
Rita & Joseph Sklar
Barbara Sullivan
Steve Taylor
Susan & William Teefy
Janet Waldron
Lester & Rebecca Whittaker
Julice Winter
Debbie Wong*

Donations

*Kim Brink
Natalie Brophy
Kathleen Claxton
Denis Dugas
Jim Hargrove
Shruti Joshi
David Kimba*

*Victoria Krysiak
Donna Krehbiel
Joan Lewis
Cheryl Lowder
Sherry Mattson
Paul & Lisa McCollom
William Quirk
Deanna Rose*

*Marlina Selva
Rita & Joseph Sklar
Barbara Sullivan
Susan & William Teefy
Lester & Rebecca Whittaker
Julice Winter
Stephen Wright*



Nominations 2025-2026

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 situation, the slate of Officers for the Board of Directors 2025-2026 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://forms.gle/329h7PdPco5g6nBi7> or via mail to 1922 Hillsdale St, Hayward, CA 94541.

Write-ins are also accepted. Please vote by May 31, 2025. Thank you.

Slate of Officers for FY 2025-2026

*President: Bill Hoppes
Vice President: Marty Morrow
Treasurer: Gail Ryujin
Recording Secretary: Kathy Robertson
Corresponding Secretary: Jackie Bertillion
Director at Large (2028) Vicki Robinson*

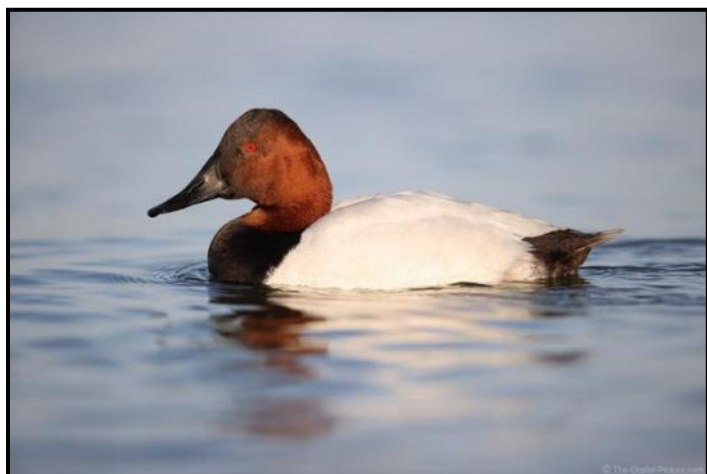
*I accept the above slate of Officers
Yea ___ Nay ___ Write in: _____*

Red-Headed Strangers

By Bill Hoppes

When waterfowl migration comes to our area among the Mallards, Wigeon, Scaup, and Pintails, there are a couple of red-headed ducks that can give beginner birders a bit of trouble. These two are, of course, the Canvasback and the Redhead. They aren't that hard to tell apart, but let's review them here so we can be confident in IDing these guys.

Let's start with the Canvasback, our largest diving duck. Scottish-American naturalist, Alexander Wilson, first described the canvasback in 1814. The duck's common name is based on the assertion of early European inhabitants of North America that its back was a canvas-like color. The Canvasback breeds in North American prairie potholes and migrates to wintering grounds pretty much throughout North America. That is when we see them here. According to eBird, they start appearing in October and depart in April. During winter, you can see them pretty much in any aquatic habitat, but they prefer brackish estuarine bays and marshes with abundant submergent vegetation. Let's take a look at one.



Canvasback in breeding plumage. Wintering birds are just a bit more washed out. In addition to the chestnut head note the smooth curved slope between head and bill and the slight bump on the bill that gives it the "Roman nose".



Roman sculpture with the "Roman nose". Can you see something similar on the Canvasback? Check the eye color on the Canvasback, we will come back to that

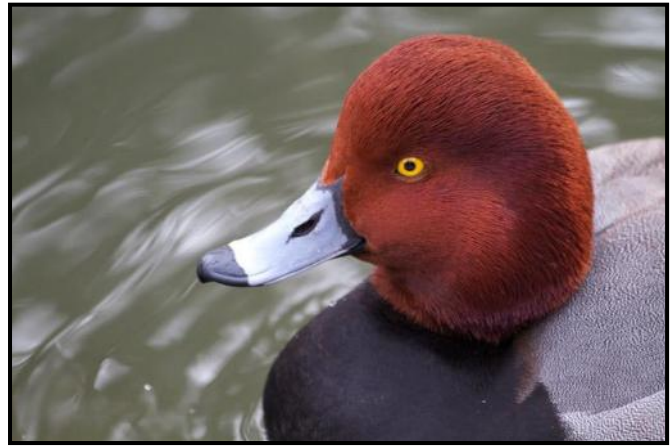
Canvasbacks are beautiful ducks. The contrast between the chestnut head, dark chest and light body is striking. What we are going to focus on is the slope where the beak meets the head. The slope is smooth with no abruptness. It is called an aquiline or "Roman nose". An aquiline nose is characterized by an outward curvature in the center. The Romans associated them with great leaders and strong personalities. Here is a Roman and a canvasback side by side. Can you see the smooth flow from the head to the upper beak and the slight outward curvature?

Even if you can't, remember on the Canvasback, the wonderful chestnut head and the smooth slope from the head onto the beak.

Now on to our next red-headed stranger, the aptly named Redhead. The Redhead is an other diving duck and closely related to the Canvasback. The Redhead is distinguished from most other ducks by the male's copper - colored head and pale blue bill during the breeding season. It is differentiated from the Canvasback by the more rounded head and shorter bill. But let's look more closely.

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued Redheads)



Redhead in breeding plumage above, wintering birds are a bit more washed out. Note the abrupt break between the head and bill as opposed to the Canvasback. Also note, the bluish bill on the Redhead. This is a field mark I have trouble seeing. Check out the eye color on the Redhead, see any difference between it and the Canvasback?

Look closely at the head of the Canvasback and the Redhead. See anything different? It's the eye. In breeding season, the Canvasback has a red eye and the Redhead a yellow eye.

We mostly get Redheads in winter from October through May. In winter, they can join in with other large flocks of diving ducks on any large body of water. When the light is bad, the chestnut head can look black and you can think you are looking at a scaup. Be patient and the light will turn and that gorgeous chestnut head will appear.

Female redheads build their nests thick with strong plant material in emergent vegetation. Redheads do not defend their nests, but are social while on their breeding grounds. This is thought to facilitate brood parasitism on other closely related species. In this process, Redheads lay their eggs in the nests of Canvasbacks, Ring-necked Ducks and scaup.

Keep an eye out for these two red-heads. Canvasbacks are much more abundant than Redheads, but they are both around in winter, and you can amaze your birding friends with your knowledge of the Redhead's life history.

WE NEED HELP!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



We have scheduled our Annual Potluck Picnic Tuesday June 3, 2025. Our wonderful Hospitality Chairs Allen and Jackie have had to retire, so your help is needed at this event. If you can help us out—setting the tables, providing beverages, and all the other necessary jobs to make this successful (and fun) please let us know immediately. Email me at pagpeg@aol.com. or Bill Hoppes at OhloneAudubon.org And of course, the Hospitality Chairperson position is open. We can give you details and thanks so much for helping out.



Sunday June 1, 2025 at 10AM to 3PM

25th Annual Butterfly & Bird Festival

8000 Patterson Ranch Rd, Fremont 94555

Join the annual celebration at Coyote Hills Regional Park to connect with parks, people, and pollinators. Enjoy garden tours, family-friendly activities, special presentations, music, and more! This community event aims to support pollinators' health and increase the number of species of butterflies, birds, and local pollinators across our Bay area landscapes.

Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour

Online Tour *Saturday and Sunday, April 5 and 6, 2025 10:00-3:00*

In-Person Tour *Saturday and Sunday, May 3 and 4, 2024, 10:00-5:00*

Registration for the Twenty first Anniversary online and in-person Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour and Green Home Features Showcase is open!

<https://app.grouplist.io/l/hIYzTAN5NdFjK2a6K80rnA/8IGXh1cTMT29sVeaRmZHMq/S0OzmmM55FsEcgaKK8OQag>



Online Tour: This year's two-day, online Tour includes a keynote talk by Doug Tallamy, and a presentation from Berkeley Fire Chief Colin Arnold on how to protect your home from fire, followed by a talk on fire-resistant native plants given by our very own Jennifer Dirking.

Over the course of this event we'll also tour six home gardens (one of them is a rental); and learn how to prune natives from Tour host and aesthetic pruner Lesley Buck. There will also be talks on gardening for native bees, the amazing Skyline Gardens Restoration Project, and how to prevent bird/glass collisions.

You can also learn about Assembly Bill 1572—which does not apply to single family homes—but beginning in 2027 (and being implemented in stages), will prohibit the watering of non-functional turf at schools, HOAs, libraries, universities, and city, county, and state-owned land. (This presents a fabulous opportunity to create native plant gardens for wildlife in what are now ecological deserts! Join us to find out what you can do to help transform these lawns into beautiful native plant gardens.) View the online Tour's agenda here, and register for it [here](#).

(<https://app.grouplist.io/l/hIYzTAN5NdFjK2a6K80rnA/8IGXh1cTMT29sVeaRmZHMq/S0OzmmM55FsEcgaKK8OQag>)

In-person Tour: More than fifty beautiful bird- and butterfly-friendly gardens will be open at various locations throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties over the course of the first week-end in May. Thirty talks will be given during this year's in-person Tour, and music will be performed at the Hillside Club in Berkeley and the Sorenson garden in Orinda. In addition, twenty-five homes with green home features, such as heat pumps, induction stovetops, and solar panels, will be showcased. Register for the Tour [here](#).

(<https://bringingbackthenatives.net/garden-tour-registration>)



U.S. Bird Populations Continue Alarming Decline



The 2025 U.S. State of the Birds report, produced by Audubon and a coalition of leading science and conservation organizations, reveals continued widespread declines in American bird populations across all mainland and marine habitats, with 229 species requiring urgent conservation action.

The worst losses are among grassland birds (down by 43% since 1970) but forest birds have been hit hard too. Even waterfowl, which had been improving, are showing steep declines since 2022. The report comes five years after the landmark 2019 study that documented the loss of 3 billion birds in North America over 50 years.

But it's not too late to take action! Despite the concerning trends, the report emphasizes that conservation efforts can succeed when adequately supported. Learn more about the health of the nation's bird populations and what you can do to help us bring birds back by checking out the 2025 U.S. State of the Birds report.

Learn more [here](https://click.everyaction.com/k/104022134/534013312/-727945671?ms=digital-eng-email-ea-x-engagement_20250317_null_state-of-the-birds-) (https://click.everyaction.com/k/104022134/534013312/-727945671?ms=digital-eng-email-ea-x-engagement_20250317_null_state-of-the-birds-)

Have you heard these collective nouns for birds?

- A worm of robins
 - A parliament of rooks
 - An exultation of skylarks
 - A murmuration of starlings
 - A hermitage of thrushes
 - A volery of wagtails
 - A chime of wrens
 - An orchestra of avocets
 - A mural of buntings
 - A water dance of grebes
 - A booby of nuthatches
 - A quilt of eiders
 - A mischief of magpies
 - An aerie of eagles
 - A wisdom of owls
 - A quarrel of sparrows
 - A wisp of snipe
 - A kettle of swallows
 - An invisibleness of ptarmigans
 - A committee of terns
 - A descent of woodpeckers
 - A pitying of turtledoves
 - A banditry of titmice
 - A cerclage of house martins
 - A scold of jays
 - A charm of goldfinches
 - A fall of woodchuck
 - A deceit of lapwings
- from a friend



PLEASE CONSIDER AN ELECTRONIC KITE CALL!

We are urging members to switch over to an electronically issued *Kite Call* (but you don't have to!) The benefits are a cost savings to our chapter, in both printing costs and postage. Other benefits include getting it quicker and it is **much more colorful!!!!!!** See all of these beautiful photos in color! Also, note that links are live!

Send your request to pagpeg@aol.com

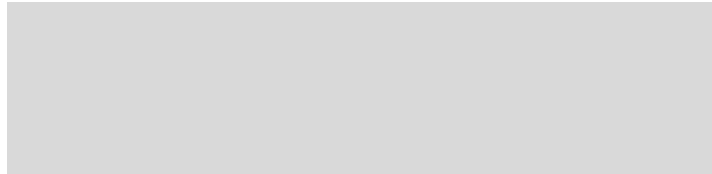
ACTION ALERTS

Want to be included in our action alerts when items come up that need your help? Please send an email to pagpeg@aol.com. (We do not share contact information)

RETURN TO:
OHLONE AUDUBON SOCIETY
1922 HILLSDALE STREET
HAYWARD, CA 94541

NONPROFIT ORG
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SAN LEANDRO, CA
PERMIT NO. 5759

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