



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

- July 12-13 FIELD TRIP**
Mono Lake & eastern Sierra
- July 26 FIELD TRIP**
Elsie Roemer, Alameda
- Aug 9 FIELD TRIP**
Hayward Shoreline-
Grant Avenue
- Sept 3 GENERAL MEETING**
Via Zoom
- Sept 24 MEMBERSHIP
APPRECIATION PICNIC**
Livermore

Membership Meeting

No General Meetings in July and August

Next meeting - Tuesday, September 3, 2025 via Zoom

*Look for details for the September program in our next issue .
Your current zoom link will continue to work.*

Field Trips



**Mono Lake & Eastern Sierra Nevada
Saturday & Sunday, July 12 - 13
Leaders: Bob Toleno & Juli Chamberlin
RSVP required, limited to 12 participants**

Mono Lake sits on the eastern flank of the Sierra Nevada, almost due east of Yosemite. In July, thousands of early-migrating shorebirds, especially Wilson's and Red-necked Phalaropes, stop over at the saline lake to fatten up on brine shrimp and brine flies before continuing their long migration. Occasionally Baird's Sandpipers also can be seen foraging on the mudflats along the lake's edge.

Also at this time of year, many resident and neotropical migrant breeding birds will be present, nesting and raising young. We'll be looking for birds in the sagebrush, juniper, and pine habitats that dominate the region, and along the riparian areas that run through this dry habitat. Some species we'll hope to see: Juniper Titmouse, Sage Thrasher, Mountain Bluebird, Williamson's Sapsucker, MacGillivray's Warbler, Clark's Nutcracker, Pinyon Jay, and American Dipper.

(More details next page)

SAVE THE DATE

**Sunday
September 14, 2025**

**Field Trip 11am
Lunch noon**

**MEMBERSHIP
APPRECIATION PICNIC
3 Calhoun Sisters Ranch
Livermore**

In recognition and appreciation of the support of our members, you and your family are invited to a catered (no charge) luncheon.

More details and RSVP next issue!

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 continued****Mono Lake (continued)***

We'll meet on Saturday morning at Mono Lake County Park, near the northwest corner of the lake. We'll bird the park and from there drive to a few different spots covering shorebird, pinyon-juniper, pine, and sagebrush habitats. On Sunday morning, we'll do a hike in Lundy Canyon where snowmelt should have the canyon flowing with cascades and waterfalls.

For more information, email birding@toleno.com to reserve your spot on this trip.

Elsie Roemer Bird Sanctuary
Saturday, July 26, 12:30pm - 2:30pm
Leaders: Bob Toleno & Juli Chamberlin
birding@toleno.com

Hayward Shoreline - Grant Ave
Saturday, August 9, 9:30am - noon
Leaders: Kathy Robertson and Rich Nicholson
rsn711@yahoo.com

San Francisco Bay is one of the most important areas for migrating shorebirds on the west coast of North America. When the tide is just right, Elsie Roemer Bird Sanctuary can provide excellent views of these migrating shorebirds, and in July, most will still be in full breeding plumage. Meet at the Elsie Roemer viewing platform where Broadway meets Shore Line Drive. Bring a scope if you have one. All are welcome, no RSVP required.



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.

Directions: From Hayward or San Leandro, take I-880 to Davis Street exit west then turn right on Doolittle Drive 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.

Directions: From I-880 north take the Hesperian Blvd exit. Make a sharp left onto Hesperian and a right on Grant Avenue. Continue west on Grant to the parking lot near the end of the road.



Ohlone Audubon Budget 2025-2026

INCOME

NAS DUES	2,712.25	
CHAPTER DUES	6,500.00	
SALES	0.00	
CONTRIBUTIONS	1,000.00	
DIV/INT/refund	24,000.75	
TOTAL INCOME		\$46,213.00

EXPENSES

KITE CALL	9,300.00	
MEMBER MEETINGS	5,000.00	
PURCHASE MDSE	0.00	
OPERATING EXP*	6,013.00	
CONSERVATION	4,000.00	
EDUCATION	1,900.00	
C'MAS BIRD COUNT	1,500.00	
FUND RAISING	2,000.00	
BW MEM GARDEN	500.00	
special event	16,000.00	
SALES TAX	0.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$46,213.00

Approved by Board of Directors 6/12/2025

Board of Directors— 2025-2026

The following Slate of officers were approved for
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

Other members of the board include continuing
Directors at Large and committee chairperson
appointed by the President



ED NOTE: You won't see the wonderful articles and President's Column this issue as our esteemed President, Bill Hoppes, recovers from recent surgery. We wish him a speedy recovery!

Conservation

Annual Hearing for Benefit Assessment for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Please reference the link for more information from which this article came: <https://acfloodcontrol.org/notices/>

The proposed benefit assessment for fiscal year 2025-2026 applies to all zones. In parallel to this benefit assessment, property owners in **Zones 2, 4, and 9** will have the chance to vote on a proposed benefit assessment increase. If the proposed benefit assessment increase passes, it will replace this benefit assessment in Zones 2, 4, and 9. If the proposed benefit assessment increases fail to pass, this is the benefit assessment that will take effect for the 2025-2026 fiscal year in all zones.

To enable the District to make critical repairs and upgrades, property owners in Zones 2, 4, and 9 will have the chance to vote on the proposed benefit assessments. The money from the benefit assessment increase will fund a carefully selected list of critical flood control projects and can only be used for critical projects identified in that zone.

On June 17, 2025 at 9:30 AM, or as soon thereafter as the matter could be heard, the District Board of Supervisors held a Public Hearing on the proposed benefit assessment increases at the Alameda County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 1221 Oak Street, Room 512, 5th Floor, Oakland, CA 94612 and, at that time, received public testimony, heard protests, and directed the tabulation of assessment ballots. Ballots were required to be submitted prior to the close of the public hearing in order to be tabulated.



Update: Since the ballot tabulations are expected to go beyond the date of the public hearings, the results are anticipated to be reported by the District at the Board's next regularly scheduled meeting on 07/08/2025.



Take the East Bay Regional Parks District Survey Today!

The East Bay Regional Park District is creating our next District Plan, a high-level document to guide the Park District into its next century. It provides a strategic roadmap with key priorities to move toward the vision of an extraordinary and well-managed system of open space parkland in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Your voice is important. Please share your ideas by taking this survey and participating in District public engagement activities.

The survey takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. All questions are optional. Make your voice heard and stand up for birds and their habitat by completing the online survey by **July 31, 2025**.

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8272903/EBRPD-District-Plan-Survey>

Your Local National Wildlife Refuge Needs Some TLC!

We all have heard about the funding challenges for our public lands. Well, here is an opportunity to demonstrate how important these areas are to all of us, and it's right in our backyard. Please see the message from the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge regarding their monthly Volunteer Stewardship Days:



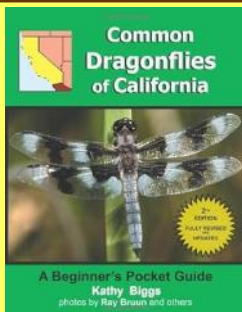
Our national wildlife refuges are facing very challenging times right now, and our very own Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge is no exception. Bay Area residents will have an opportunity to help out when the Refuge holds a Stewardship Sunday, July 27, 2025 from 9 a.m. to Noon. The event is perfect for all ages and skill levels, and volunteers will meet at the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center located at 2 Marshlands Road in Fremont.

Activities will consist of invasive plant removal and/or trash pick-up. All supplies will be provided, but you are encouraged to bring your own gloves. Wear sun protection, sturdy close-toed shoes, and wear layers. To sign up, go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/stewardship-saturday-at-the-wildlife-refuge-tickets-1334708762839?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=cp&aff=ebdsshcopyurl>

The Refuge's Stewardship Weekends will continue through October."

Please save the following dates:

Sunday, July 27, 2025 -- 9am Saturday, August 23, 2025 -- 9am
Sunday, September 14, 2025 -- 9am Saturday, October 4, 2025 -- 9am



Dragonflies, to Beat the Summer Doldrums!

By Kathy Biggs

Summer is here, the birds are nesting, but you're anxious to be out in nature, finding creatures. Dragonflies are the perfect solution! They are active in the warm summer sunshine and you have already developed the skills necessary for making identifications. Alameda County has 53 of California's 114 species of Odonates (the preferred name for the two suborders).

There's the Cardinal Meadowhawk, Flame Skimmer, Blue Dasher, Western Pondhawk, Common Whitetail, and more. They come in all the colors of the rainbow and have interesting and unique and quite advanced anatomy and biology, especially when you consider that they have been on the planet since before the dinosaurs! Kathy Biggs' prior pocket guide, now quite out of date at age 25, ***Common Dragonflies of California***, has grown up and Kathy has partnered with field biologist Sandra von Arb to publish the new, more extensive Dragonflies (Anisoptera) of California.

The new guide contains large full color photos of both the male and the female of each dragonfly species with descriptions of the necessary marks to make identifications, distribution maps, habitat preferences, a photo of the nymph for each genus, behavior and ovipositing techniques, and a similar species list with descriptions.

Size measurements are given and also a line is shown in the predominant color of each species and shows the average length. Flight seasons are listed (hint - most are April – October) and there are sections on how to distinguish dragonflies from the sub- order damselflies. Photo Quick Guides are provided for each family. It is so easy to record your sightings using the checklist at the end of the book. The study of dragonflies is barely past its infancy and your contributions can add to the knowledge base. More species may be found in Alameda County! This guide is printed in two forms – one is spiral bound so it will lay flat while in use and another, available on Amazon.com, is in the standard perfect bound form with a spine to show on book shelves.

Buy at Amazon.com or from Kathy & Sandra directly at <https://tinyurl.com/2v97apmk>.

Healthy, Responsible Bird Feeding

By Stephanie Floyd

(Reprinted from April 1-May 15, 2016 *Kite Call*)

It's fun to feed birds! Along with the enjoyment of bird feeding, we have a responsibility to be conscientious and aware of what's going on with our feeders and birds. Wild birds move around, and while a flock may feed for a few days in one area or even on one berry-producing tree, in nature they are almost never concentrated into one small place. With bird feeders, bills are poking into a few small holes, feet are perched in the same spots repeatedly, droppings happen, and it's pretty much impossible for contamination not to occur. **Avian pox, mycoplasma, and salmonellosis** are three infectious and in some cases fatal bird diseases associated with bird feeders. None of these is contagious to humans. Here's how to spot these diseases and what to do if a sick bird comes to your feeder.

Avian pox is a highly infectious disease caused by a virus. You'll see wart-like lumps usually on unfeathered parts of the bird such as the face, legs, or feet, but sometimes protruding through the feathers. Pox doesn't kill a bird outright. Instead, these growths interfere with feeding or breathing or seeing or getting around. Pox exists in the wild population, and not all birds die of it. Those who recover may go on to be carriers, and some birds who never show the disease outwardly are carriers. Pox is spread through direct contact with infected birds, contact with contaminated surfaces such as perches and bird feeders, and ingestion of water and food that has been contaminated by sick birds. It can also be spread by mosquitoes (mosquito bites infected bird, then bites uninfected bird).

Mycoplasma conjunctivitis, a bacterial eye infection, is commonly seen at bird feeders. You'll see birds with red, swollen, runny, or crusty eyes sitting quietly, often fluffed; the disease may have blinded the bird, subjecting it to starvation, exposure, and predation. This disease is highly infectious. Direct contact between birds isn't required: they can get it by landing on or feeding from a feeder that a sick bird was previously on. It even spreads by airborne particles.

Recently, California Department of Fish and Wildlife alerted the public to an outbreak of **Salmonellosis**, a bacterial infection. Birds catch the disease from food, water, and feeders that are contaminated by bird droppings, and for some, particularly Pine Siskins, it

is highly fatal with death coming in as little as 24 hours. Sick birds are lethargic, fluffed, and show labored breathing.

Prevention & action are key!

To prevent the spread of disease, clean feeders and bird baths at least weekly or between seed refills and water changes. The Lindsay Wildlife hospital recommends that you wash them with soap and water, then disinfect with a 10% bleach solution for 10 minutes. Rinse and let dry. Metal and plastic feeders are best; it's hard to properly disinfect wood feeders. Keep an eye on your birds, especially the House Finches, siskins, and goldfinches. If you see a sick bird at your feeder, take quick action. Remove and disinfect your feeders, then leave them down for two weeks. This allows time for the birds to disperse. Initially, the birds will still come looking for food - and it can be hard to refuse! Never fear; when you put the feeders back up, they'll return.

If you have a sick bird that is so compromised that you can catch it, take it to your local wildlife hospital right away (go to <http://www.sfbaywildlife.info/resources/rescue.htm>.)

Photos of the diseases mentioned in this article can be seen at Cornell Lab's Project FeederWatch site: <http://feederwatch.org/learn/sick-birds-and-bird-diseases/>



NEW MEMBERS AND RENEWALS

Carin High
Garrett Lau
Mugdha Patil
Marlina Selva
James Watts Jr

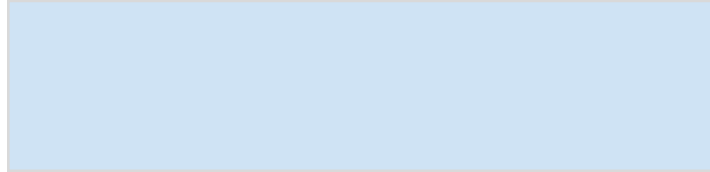
DONATIONS

Carin High
Marlina Selva
Marilyn and George Trabert
(in memory of Phil Gordon)

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1922 HILLSDALE STREET
HAYWARD, CA 94541

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Please sign me up today

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

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

Pat Gordon
OAS Membership
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Hayward, CA 94541

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