



# The Kite Call

## Ohlone Audubon Society, Inc.

*A chapter of the National Audubon Society*

*Serving Southern & Eastern Alameda County CA*

*Our Mission: To celebrate and protect birds and their habitats in  
Southern and Eastern Alameda County*

[www.ohloneaudubon.org](http://www.ohloneaudubon.org)

### Calendar

Jan 3 FIELD TRIP  
Arrowhead Marsh, MLK

Jan 6 GENERAL MEETING  
(via zoom)

Jan 10 FIELD TRIP  
Panoche Valley

Jan 17-18 FIELD TRIP  
Sacramento Valley Refuges

Jan 31 FIELD TRIP  
Springtown, Livermore

Feb 2-6 OWLING FIELD TRIPS  
Local area

Feb 3 GENERAL MEETING  
(via zoom)

Feb 8 FIELD TRIP  
Shadow Cliffs

Feb 12 FIELD TRIP  
Waterbird Reg Preserve

Next meeting February 3,  
2026 via Zoom. Topic to be  
announced



### ZOOM MEETING INSTRUCTIONS:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/  
meetings/87904131865/  
invitations?  
signature=Ckt\\_Exb50VCVaJT  
NW2RHiYtrX8J02a6NzSC90sq  
B60M](https://us06web.zoom.us/meetings/87904131865/invitations?signature=Ckt_Exb50VCVaJT_NW2RHiYtrX8J02a6NzSC90sqB60M)

## Membership Meetings

**Update on Condor Recovery Program  
and Introducing “Ohlone”!**



**By Joe Burnett and Kelly Sorenson  
Ventana Wildlife Society**

**Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026      Time: 7:30 PM**

*Via Zoom (instructions below to left)*

Join us for a very special evening with Joe Burnett and Kelly Sorenson from the Ventana Wildlife Society who will give a brief update on condor recovery and status in the wild, as well as a special presentation on a wild-raised chick, named “Ohlone” in honor of the Indigenous Peoples of California. “Ohlone” was raised in a wild nest in central California and has a very special story. Through the generosity of our members, Ohlone Audubon has adopted this wild fledged chick in memory of Phil Gordon.



**Joe Burnett, Sr. Wildlife Biologist, CA Condor Recovery Program Manager**, first began working with Ventana Wildlife Society in May 1993 as a Field Assistant for VWS' Bald Eagle Restoration Program in Big Sur, CA. In 1996, Joe became Field Supervisor for VWS' Condor Restoration Program and coordinated the first seven releases of condors in central California, six in Big Sur and one at Pinnacles National Monument. Joe left VWS in 2003 to start up Oregon Zoo's Captive Breeding Program for condors. His experiences with captive condors vastly broadened his knowledge base of the species. In 2005, Joe returned to VWS to coordinate the release effort once again. Joe received a bachelor's degree in Wildlife and Fisheries, focusing on birds, from West Virginia University in 1994. He began his field studies of birds as an undergraduate in 1992 and now has over 25 years experience working with a variety of bird species. He is currently a two-term Monterey County Fish and Game Commissioner.

*(Continued on page 2)*

*January Program continued*

**Kelly J. Sorenson, Executive Director**, is a wildlife conservationist and “jack of all trades,” blending science, storytelling, and leadership to protect California’s endangered birds. For more than three decades, he has led major recovery efforts for the California Condor and Bald Eagle, helping reestablish wild populations across Central California. Sorenson has co-authored scientific studies on wildlife recovery and lead poisoning, produced award-winning documentaries such as Giants of Big Sur and Condor Canyon, and secured the funding and partnerships that power long-term conservation. He also serves as a managing director for the California Central Coast Joint Venture. With a background in wildlife management and public administration, Sorenson continues to bridge research, film, and community engagement to advance conservation throughout the West.



## Field Trips

### Arrowhead and New Marsh - Martin Luther King Regional Shoreline

Saturday, January 3, 9am – 11:30am

Leaders: David “Doc Quack” Riensche &  
Maggie Clark RSVP: maggieclark99@gmail.com

A 8.4 high tide will hit Arrowhead Marsh creating an opportunity to see Ridgway's Rails, Virginia Rails, and Soras. Wintering ducks and shorebirds will be plentiful. We will use “Doc Quack’s” special access code to visit the New Marsh and “peep at” the newly finished “Shorebird Sanctuary” island. Dress in layers. The area is completely paved. This is a wheelchair-accessible field trip. The trip will be canceled if inclement weather is forecasted (i.e., high wind, and rain).

**Directions:** From I-880, go west on Hegenberger towards the airport and turn right on Pardee. Make a left at Swan and turn right into the entrance to Martin Luther King Regional Shoreline. Follow the entrance road all the way to the end. On the way to the parking lot, drive slowly and keep an eye out for Burrowing Owls on the berms to the right.

### Panoche Valley

Saturday, January 10, 8:00am – 4:00pm

Leaders: Bob Toleno & Juli Chamberlin

RSVP by January 4 to [birding@toleno.com](mailto:birding@toleno.com) – limited to 12 participants

Nestled in the hills on the western side of the Central Valley, Panoche Valley is a fantastic birding spot, especially in winter. We'll meet at the dirt parking lot overlooking Little Panoche Reservoir. We'll start at the reservoir, bird a few spots along the road in Little Panoche Valley and Griswold Hills. We'll then continue south through Panoche Valley and finish in Paicines around 4:00pm (give or take). We'll be looking for all the area specialties, especially Ferruginous Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Phainopepla, Mountain Bluebird, Bell's Sparrows (and maybe even a Sagebrush Sparrow), Sage Thrasher, and of course, Mountain Plovers.

All are welcome. Bring a lunch and plenty of water, as there is no place to buy food on the route. Heavy rain will cancel the trip. There's a port-a-potty at Little Panoche Reservoir, and pit toilets at a couple other spots on our route, but services are very limited. A little walking may be involved, but no serious hiking.

**Directions:** From Castro Valley, head east on I-580, then south on I-5, where you'll continue past Los Banos to Exit 379 (Shields Avenue/Mendota). From there, turn right onto Little Panoche Road and drive west about 4 1/2 miles to Little Panoche Reservoir.

*(Field trips continued page 3)*

**(Field Trips Continued)**

**Sacramento Valley Refuges**  
**Saturday and Sunday January 17-18, 9:00am- 4+pm (both days)**  
**Sacramento and Colusa NWRs (Sat)**  
**Llano Seco NWR and Gray Lodge Wildlife Area (Sun)**  
**Leaders: Pat Gordon and Kathy Robertson**  
**pagpeg@aol.com and katbirdca@aol.com**

Join us for a hopefully spectacular weekend of waterfowl in California's Central Valley! We have planned the weekend to include the Sacramento and Colusa NWRs on Saturday, followed on Sunday by visiting the Llano Seco unit of the Sacramento NWR and ending the day at Gray Lodge Wildlife Area, near Gridley, with many hopefully staying for the fly-in (or fly-out?) at sunset. Often on the drive to this unit we see Tundra Swans in the fields, along with Sandhill Cranes.

There should be hundreds of ducks, geese, and swans, along with shorebirds and a host of raptors! Three of the refuges offer auto tour routes, and there will be some walking at Llano Seco, which has a viewing platform that affords great close views of ducks and geese. A short hike at Gray Lodge is also planned.

**Saturday** – meet at the new Visitor Center at Sacramento Wildlife Refuge.

**Sunday** - meet Starbucks in Willows.

Bring lunch both days. Trip will go rain or shine.

For those wishing to spend the entire weekend with us, overnight accommodations can be found in Willows or Williams. (Best Western, Holiday Inn, Super 8, Motel 6, etc.). We are tentatively planning a group dinner in Williams on Saturday night.

**North Livermore/Springtown**  
**Saturday, January 31, 9:00am – noon**  
**Leaders: Kathy Robertson & Karen Kramer**  
**katbirdca@aol.com**

We will walk along the Arroyo, where we can expect wading birds such as stilts and egrets, ducks, including Cinnamon Teal, and many wintering and resident songbirds. Rails and snipe are possible. The open fields are productive for raptors - Golden Eagle has been seen here. Wide, level trails make walking easy. Bring your scope if you have one. Heavy rain cancels.

**(More field trips page 4)**

**Note:** Sacramento NWR requires a pass, or it is free for seniors, and/or a Federal Duck Stamp (registration at entry kiosk). Gray Lodge Wildlife Area does require a CDFW Lands Pass (\$5.66 in 2025), which can be purchased online at <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Lands-Pass> or by calling (800) 565-1458.

**Directions: Saturday**—To reach **Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge** headquarters, which is located approximately 90 miles north of Sacramento on Interstate 5 and six miles south of the town of Willows. When traveling north on Interstate 5, pass the town of Maxwell, take exit #595/Road 68, and make a left turn and travel north on County Road 99W for 1.5 miles to reach the refuge entrance. The six-mile Auto Tour Route starts at the Visitor Center. Restrooms and parking spaces are available at the Visitor Center, where we will meet.

**Directions: Sunday**—The Starbucks is located at 505 N. Humboldt Street in Willows. From I-5 in Willows, go east on Hwy 162, turn left on N. Humboldt to the Starbucks. If you wish to go directly to Llano Seco, continue on Hwy 162 through Butte City, left on Road Z, staying on that road, then left on 7 Mile Road to the unit. Restrooms are available. The group should be there about 10 AM. (Note: last year we ran into flooding, making several detours!)



**Directions:** Take I-580 east to Exit 54 for First Street/Springtown Blvd; turn left onto First Street, which becomes Springtown Blvd. Turn right (east) on Bluebell Dr. and continue about a mile and a half to Marlin A. Pound Neighborhood Park. We will meet at the bridge crossing the Arroyo. Park on either side of the street. No restrooms are on our route, so you may wish to make a pit stop before arriving at the meeting point.

**More Field Trips!**

**Owling in Garin Regional Park**  
**February 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, 5:30pm - 7pm**  
**Leader: Bob Toleno**  
**RSVP: [bob@toleno.com](mailto:bob@toleno.com)**

Though highly sought after, owls are often the most difficult birds for us to see, for the obvious reason that most are typically only out after dark. On this trip, we'll take a short walk (less than a mile over mostly flat ground) into Garin Regional Park with the primary goal of finding Western Screech-Owls, and getting a flashlight on them so all participants can get a look. February is when they're starting their nesting cycle, so they should be active and vocal as soon as it gets dark. We will likely also hear Great Horned and American Barn Owls.

These trips will be limited to only eight participants per outing. You **must** RSVP to **[bob@toleno.com](mailto:bob@toleno.com)** and specify which date you would like to go. Try to have a back-up date in mind, also, in case the date you choose is already full. The meeting location and directions will be provided via email before the trip. If all trips fill up, there will be a waiting list. Any rain or wind at all will cancel an outing, though I will do my best to reschedule cancelled trips, if possible.

**Shadow Cliffs**  
**Sunday, February 8, 9:00am – noon**  
**Leaders: Kathy Robertson & Karen Kramer**  
**[katbirdca@aol.com](mailto:katbirdca@aol.com)**

Join us at Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area to explore the lake, levees, and marsh for wintering waterfowl, Common Gallinules, egrets, herons, and grebes. Osprey are found around the lake and ponds, while the trees hold woodpeckers and nuthatches. Notable sightings in past years included Bald Eagle, Golden Eagle, Great-tailed Grackle, California Thrasher, Common Loon, Common and Hooded Merganser, Wilson's Snipe and Peregrine Falcon. Wide, level trails make walking fairly easy except for one short, steep uphill section to get onto the levee. Scopes are helpful.

**Directions:** From I-580 eastbound, take the Santa Rita Road exit, keep right and follow signs for Downtown to merge onto Santa Rita Road. Turn left on Valley Avenue and left on Stanley Boulevard. Turn right into the park. Meet in the first parking lot by the swimming beach. \$6 parking fee

**Flirtation of the Fowl Kind – Waterbird Regional Preserve**  
**Thursday, February 12, 8:00 –10:30am**  
**Leader: David "Doc Quack" Riensche**  
**RSVP: [driensche@ebparks.org](mailto:driensche@ebparks.org)**

**The trip will be canceled if inclement weather is forecasted (i.e., high heat, high wind, and rain)**

With a wiggle of their tail or a bob of their head, waterfowl send their valentines suggestive messages! Come join us for a pair bonding adventure into the wonderful world of duck dating. The blending of habitat conditions at Waterbird Regional Preserve makes it possible to record nearly 175 bird species seasonally.

**Directions:** From I-680 north in Concord, about two miles before the Benicia-Martinez Bridge, take the Waterfront Road exit toward Marina Vista Road, turn right onto Waterfront Road and make a right turn onto Waterbird Way. Birding is best during the early morning hours when the sun will be at your back.

**UPCOMING SPECIAL TRIP!!!!**

**Tour: Breeding Birds and Migrants of Inyo County (plus a little Mono)**

**Dates: May 24 - 29, 2026**

**Leaders: Bob Toleno and Juli Chamberlin**

**Cost: TBD, probably about \$950 per person for a shared room**

We're running a repeat of last year's popular Inyo County tour. We're adding one additional night and an extra half day to try and see just a few more birds than we did last year. Some examples of breeding birds we saw on last year's tour: Gambel's Quail, Greater Roadrunner, Lesser & Common Nighthawk, Black Swift, Calliope Hummingbird, Black-backed Woodpecker, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Plumbeous Vireo, Juniper Titmouse, Verdin, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, LeConte's Thrasher, Black-throated Sparrow, Sagebrush Sparrow, Scott's Oriole, Lucy's Warbler, and Summer Tanager.

Besides the breeding birds, late May is also peak migration time, so we'll be searching the desert oases for the birds who are just passing through on their way north.

The tour will be limited to ten participants. If you're interested, email [bob@toleno.com](mailto:bob@toleno.com) (Half-full!!!!)

## President's Corner

The Christmas Bird Count season has begun. I hope you are able to participate in one of several of the counts going on in our area. Today, Sunday, December 14, was Ohlone's own Hayward-Fremont count. Each year, we have some of the highest shorebird counts in the nation. Ohlone also supports the Eastern Alameda CBC, which will happen on Friday, December 19. I work on both of them and always have a great time.



**Red-naped Sapsucker,  
missing in action**

My area of the Hayward-Fremont Count was Niles Community Park. A bird that would be a first for the count area, a Red-naped Sapsucker, has been hanging around the park for the past couple months. On my pre-run Friday, I spotted him. Today when it "counted", we saw a sapsucker, but it was a Red-breasted, not the Red-naped. Others will hunt for him this afternoon. I took solace in that our species count for the park was 50, a very good number.

On another front, I am a couple of weeks into Project Feederwatch. I am really enjoying this. Each Monday and Tuesday morning, I sit on my front porch with my coffee and do Citizen Science. Over the weeks, I have noticed a few things. The scads of Lesser Goldfinches that were emptying my niger seed feeder almost daily have, for the most part, disappeared. Where I used to have a dozen goldfinches at a time at the feeder, now I only have one or two. Second, the number of White-crowned Sparrows has dropped and the number of Golden-crowned Sparrows has increased. The only constant is the number of House Finches, that are emptying my black sunflower seed feeder on a daily basis. That's what I love about birding. Whether you are hiking for miles or sipping a cappuccino on a porch, you can be birding. I hope you are too.

*Bill Hoppes*

### Seeking New Program Chairperson!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The Ohlone Audubon Society is currently looking for a new Program Chairperson to serve on our Board. The Program Chair is responsible for arranging presenters for our monthly virtual membership meetings (first Tuesday of the month), as well as for our three in-person events: June Membership Potluck Picnic, September Membership Appreciation Picnic, and December Holiday Cookie Exchange. The Chair also reserves venues for the three in-person events. The Board meets virtually the second Thursday of each month, except for July. We would love to have you join the Board! If interested or if you have any questions, please email our president, Bill Hoppes, at [hoppes1949@gmail.com](mailto:hoppes1949@gmail.com).

### From our Archives: May, 1966

BULLETIN FROM OHLONE CHAPTER  
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

May, 1966

The monthly meeting of the Ohlone Chapter, National Audubon Society, was called to order at 7:30 p.m., May 3, 1966, by President pro-tem Mrs. Gladys Conklin.

The discussion of a name for our chapter resulted in "Ohlone", as proposed by Mr. Philip Gordon, winning the most votes. The Ohlone Indians lived in our area at the time the antelope and tule elk were prevalent. We may regard them as being very early day conservationists since they respected the land and never took from it more than they could use.



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

## New and Renewing Members

Hollie Adamic  
 Ken & Linda Back  
 Melanie Barnett  
 Janet Barton  
 Peter Beiersdorfer  
 Barbara Benda  
**Allen & Jackie Bertillion**  
 Ira Bletz  
 Forrest Bottomley  
 Mona Brauer  
 Tom Browne  
 Karalee Brune  
 Alexa Budde  
 Lynn Candaux  
 John Cant  
 Carol Castro  
**Edie & Steve Christensen**  
 Nancy Christensen  
**Michael Christopherson**  
 Debbie Clark  
 Patti Cole  
 Edwin Duerr  
**Denise M. Dugas**  
 Beth Farmer  
 Paula Flessanti  
 Raymond Fontaine

Norma Foss  
 Gil Garza  
 Gatty Gatty  
 Tim Gavin  
 Grant Gladman  
 Alan Goggins  
**Anne Marie Gonsalves**  
 Ramesh Gopalan  
 Jerry Green  
 Joyce Gross  
 Helen Hancock  
 Brian Harrell  
 Christine Hayamizu  
 Margo Heath  
 Cherie Holcomb  
**William & Tanya Hoppes**  
 George Horogh  
 Arnold Joe  
 Irene Jones  
 Catherine Jurca  
 Peini Kao  
 David Kimball  
 Jean King  
 Barbara Kornblum  
**Eric & Angela Korpela**  
 Paula Krauter

Donna Learn  
**Don & Roberta Lenkeit**  
 Robin Leong  
 Jaan Lepson  
 Regina Lin  
 Patricia Lindsey  
 Cathy Loewen  
**Keith & Cindy Markbreiter**  
 Beata Milhano  
**Marie & Wayne Miller**  
 Ray Miranda  
 Jennifer Moran  
 Ethel Murphy  
**Vaijayanthi Nagarajan**  
 Suzanne Naone  
 Jeffrey Nelson  
 Rich Nicholson  
 Alayne Noble  
 Kathy O'Sullivan  
 Duke Otoshi  
 Ana Penny  
**Don & Judy Person**  
 Stephanie Pruegel  
 William Quirk  
 Nancy Rodrigue  
 Steven Rothi

Jo Ruffin  
 Marilyn Russell  
 Nancie Ryan  
 Bruce Schine  
 Bill Scoggins  
 Brenda Senturia  
 Steve Shay  
 Joseph Smith  
 Paul Smith  
 Tom Southworth  
 Carlos Stahlhut  
 Donna Stanley  
 Sue Stanton  
**Jerry & Judy Steenhoven**  
 Vegavahini Subramaniam  
 Srinivasan Suresh  
 John Taylor  
 Stephen Taylor  
**Irv & Diane Tiessen**  
 Suzanna Townsend  
 Martin Vitz  
 Kenneth Walters  
**Carol & Paul Weicker**  
 Chris & Teri Wills  
 Stephen Wright  
 Barbara Ziegenhals

## Donations

Hollie Adamic  
 Ken & Linda Back  
 Vinnie Bacon  
 Elisabeth Bathgate  
 Barbara Benda  
**Allen & Jackie Bertillion**  
 Mona Brauer  
 Tom Browne  
 Karalee Brune  
 Alexa Budde  
 Lynn Candaux  
 Carol Castro  
**Edie & Steve Christensen**  
 Nancy Christensen  
**Michael Christopherson**  
 Thomas Colby  
 Patti Cole  
 Barbara Correa  
 Edwin Duerr  
**East Bay Nature**  
 Beth Farmer  
 Sandy Ferriera  
 Paula Flessanti

Raymond Fontaine  
 Norma Foss  
 Tim Gavin  
 Grant Gladman  
 Alan Goggins  
**Anne Marie Gonsalves**  
 Ramesh Gopalan  
 Jerry Green  
 Helen Hancock  
 Christine Hayamizu  
**William & Tanya Hoppes**  
 Arnold Joe  
 Irene Jones  
 Catherine Jurca  
 Peini Kao  
 Karen Kenney  
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 Barbara Kornblum  
**Eric & Angela Korpela**  
 Paula Krauter  
 Donna Krehbiel  
 Donna Learn

Don & Roberta Lenkeit  
 Regina Lin  
 Patricia Lindsey  
 Cathy Lowren  
 Pat Macsata  
**Keith & Cindy Markbreiter**  
 Beata Milhano  
**Marie & Wayne Miller**  
 Ray Miranda  
 Jean Moran  
 Jeffrey Nelson  
 Rich Nicholson  
 Alayne Noble  
 Duke Otoshi  
 Ana Penny  
**Don & Judy Person**  
 Stephanie Pruegel  
 William Quirk  
 Nancy Rodrigue  
 Steven Rothi  
 Jo Ruffin  
 Marilyn Russell  
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Bill Scoggins  
 Brenda Senturia  
 Steve Shay  
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**Stan & Vicki Stadelman**  
 Carlos Stahlhut  
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 Sue Stanton  
**Jerry & Judy Steenhoven**  
 Srinivasan Suresh  
 John Taylor  
 Steve Taylor  
**Irv & Diane Tiessen**  
 Suzanna Townsend  
 Marilyn Trabert  
 Martin Vitz  
 Kenneth Walters  
**Carol & Paul Weicker**  
 Chris & Teri Wills  
 Shirley Wodtke  
 Stephen Wright  
 Barbara Ziegenhals

Robert Battagin (in honor of Phil and Pat Gordon)  
 Peter Beiersdorfer and Jaan Lepson (in memory of Phil Gordon)  
 Eva Katherine Bear (in appreciation of Tina Grondahl)  
 Forrest Bottomley (in fond memory of Phil Gordon)

**In passing -**  
 We send our condolences to the family of George Trabert, who recently passed away. Marilyn, his wife, was our wonderful Program Chair for many years.

# BIRDING OBSERVATIONS

*Late Fall 2025*

*By Bob Toleno*

Winter is here, which means our wintering sparrows, waterfowl, and shorebirds are all back. 2025 was a particularly good autumn for rare birds in Alameda County. Hayward Regional Shoreline hosted a Bar-tailed Godwit for a few weeks in November.

Also at the Hayward Shoreline, a few keen birders found a Leach's Storm-Petrel, a pelagic species that is usually only found many miles out to sea, and is extremely rare in SF Bay.

In mid- December, a Rock Sandpiper was found on the Albany mud flats, only the second one ever seen in the county.



*Red-naped Sapsucker (Bob Toleno)*

A **Yellow-billed Loon** has been foraging for crabs at Crab Cove in Alameda for a few weeks, often just a few feet from shore, giving birders and photographers excellent looks.

On the edge of San Leandro Bay, a **Green-tailed Towhee** has settled in for winter.

The **Red-naped Sapsucker** found in October continues in Niles Community Park.

It has also been a fantastic winter for geese, with **Canada**, **Cackling**, **Greater White-fronted**, **Snow**, and **Ross's Geese**, all being seen in various places around the county. (ED NOTE: Speculation is this may be due to that persistent fog in the Central Valley, sending birds here)

**Cassin's Kingbirds** continue at Pacific Commons Linear Park, where they nested earlier this spring, the furthest west, they've ever nested in our county. A **Tropical Kingbird** has also been seen at this location. **Ferruginous Hawk**, **Golden Eagle**, **Bald Eagle**, **Prairie Falcon**, and other raptors are regularly seen there, as well.

**2025 eBird Taxonomy Update**

For the latest updates go to [update](#)

## Conservation

### Judge Rules Dublin Must Repeal Measure II

The Alameda County Superior Court of California ruled that the City of Dublin must repeal Measure II, the 2024 ballot measure that granted the Dublin City Council authority to pursue commercial development on 80 acres of land east of its urban limit line.

In its November 19 final decision, the Court ruled that the measure required a public study of the environmental impacts of the measure before placing it on the ballot, something Dublin failed to do. Measure II would have allowed commercial development on the southern end of Doolan Canyon,

violating the greenbelt between Dublin and Livermore.

The purpose of this planned development is to help pay Dublin's share of the cost of connecting Dublin Boulevard and North Canyons Parkway. Southern Doolan Canyon is the only remaining open space between Livermore and Dublin, and for decades Tri-Valley residents have worked to keep it intact. The City of Dublin has not stated whether it plans to appeal. (B. Hoppes)

*Conservation (continued)*

## Save Skywest as Open Space in Hayward

As a reminder, the public can provide comments to the City of Hayward on how much the unique open space known as Skywest means to its community. Phone calls, letters, and statements during open public comment periods can be made at Hayward City Council meetings. The City of Hayward website contains a calendar of the meeting dates that can be attended, both in person and remotely on a Zoom link or telephone.

The Hayward City Council has plans to redevelop the former 126-acre Skywest Golf Course, which closed its doors in September 2020 after nearly 60 years of operation. Development of this open space into an industrial business center would destroy the wildlife habitat, contribute to the urban heat island effect, and exacerbate climate change. The Residents of the community have worked tirelessly towards



preserving Skywest as open space.

There have been over 130 species of birds (30 of whom were breeding) reported in this fragile ecosystem. The Western Pond Turtle, a California species of special concern, has also been identified in the largest pond of Skywest. Skywest also has eucalyptus trees that serve as a refuge for hundreds of wintering Monarch butterflies. Their populations have steadily been declining in the U.S. due to habitat loss.

Contact the Save Skywest grassroots organization to learn more:

[SAVESKYWEST@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SAVESKYWEST@GMAIL.COM)

Facebook account: <https://m.facebook.com/sosskywest/>

To sign the petition to Save Skywest, click on the link:

<https://www.change.org/p/save-skywest-as-open-space-in-the-city-of-hayward-from-destruction>

(Marlina Selva)

## Newark City Council Approves the Mowry Village Project

On Thursday, December 11, the Newark City Council voted to approve the Mowry Village project, located near the western terminus of Mowry Avenue, in a 3-1-1 vote – one Council Member strongly opposing the project and another abstaining.

We recognize the need for housing and affordable housing, but putting new development in an area that will be uniquely vulnerable to sea level rise, groundwater rise, and storm events doesn't make sense. It isn't the type of planning we need in the Bay Area as we grapple with protecting existing development and infrastructure. With an estimated \$95-105 billion dollar shortfall for the implementation of sea level rise adaptation measures by 2050, it makes no sense to put more real estate and infrastructure at risk!

Instead, the area proposed for Mowry Village should be preserved for the long-term survival of tidal salt marsh habitat, resilience of the San Francisco Bay, and nature-based adaptation to climate change, as Bay Area scientists have been suggesting for over a decade. Newark should have ensured the Pick-n-Pull site was cleaned up by the business owner, as required by the City of Newark's conditional use permit and the County of Alameda, and worked with partners and funders to acquire and restore the area to tidal wetlands habitat and flood protection zone. Tidal wetlands restoration is one of the ways to provide resilience for the community and the health of the Bay.

*(Conservation continues on page 9)*

## Conservation (continued)

The Mowry Village project plans to develop 196-market rate homes at a starting value of \$1.5 million and more, and a 30-unit affordable housing apartment complex with one additional unit for the manager. The site is comprised of an approximately 19-acre Pick-n-Pull auto wrecking business, and 10-acres of undeveloped lands also owned by Pick-n-Pull. Both parcels are situated within 100-acres that were zoned for park use in 2015 with approval of the recirculated Areas 3 & 4 Specific Area Plan.



**Mowry Village site sandwiched between the Whistling Wings Duck Pond and the Cargill salt ponds. Photo by Derell Licht**



**Mowry Village site surrounded by diked tidal wetlands to the west and south.**  
Photo by Derell Licht

Two flood control channels, Mowry Slough, and wetlands occur on three sides of the lands surrounding the project site.

Those who supported the project stated, “There are no wetlands on the project site,” “This site won’t flood,” “The developer will be raising the site so it won’t flood,” “Mowry Village is an infill development,” “Sea level rise isn’t just Newark’s issue, it’s everyone’s issue,” and “...sea level rise is a global issue and it’s pretty difficult for one city or one neighborhood to attack it by itself. The solution is going to be a Bay Area wide, California wide sort of approach to resiliency...”

Yes, sea level rise is a huge issue, but it’s an issue that all shoreline communities must address as they are governed by our elected officials. In 2023 Senate Bill 272 passed to require that all shoreline communities prepare Shoreline Adaptation Plans. The San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) was tasked with the development of guidelines that encourage each community to take a broader, regional perspective by considering not only their own community, but also to consider the impacts their planning and sea level rise adaptation strategies might have on neighboring communities, the region and the Bay.



Newark can live in denial and hope that some other entity will come in and save the day, or Newark can step up and ensure that the projects they approve and adaptation measures they implement or forego, don’t exacerbate the problems of sea level rise inundation and flooding.

Meanwhile, the lands surrounding the Mowry Village site are currently wet, surrounded by creeks and wetlands they will only get wetter.  
(Carin High)

**Newark City Council deliberating on Mowry Village while photos of the site flooding in 2023 were presented for their consideration**



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## More Birds Named for People

By Bill Hoppes

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

### Couch's Kingbird



Not a bad looking toad

**Couch's Kingbird** (*Tyrannus couchii*) is a passerine tyrant flycatcher of the kingbird genus. It is found from the lower Rio Grande Valley of southern Texas, along the Gulf Coast to the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico, Belize, and northern Guatemala. There have been a few records from southern California deserts. Couch's Kingbird was named after soldier and naturalist Darius N. Couch (1822-1897), an American soldier, businessman, and naturalist. He served as a U.S. Army officer during the Mexican-American War, the Second Seminole War, and the Civil War. Couch took a one-year leave of absence from the army from 1853 to 1854 to conduct a scientific mission for the Smithsonian Institution in northern Mexico. There, he discovered the species now known as Couch's Kingbird and Couch's spadefoot toad. Couch is also commemorated in the scientific names of two species of reptiles: *Sceloporus couchii* and *Thamnophis couchii*; one frog, *Scaphiopus couchii*; and the Monterrey platyfish, *Xiphophorus couchianus*.

### Sabine's Gull

**Sabine's Gull** (*Xema sabini*) is the only species in the genus *Xema*. It has also been known as the **Fork-tailed Gull**. It breeds in colonies on arctic coasts and tundra, laying two or three spotted, olive-brown eggs in a ground nest lined with grass. Sabine's Gull is pelagic outside the breeding season. It takes a wide variety of mainly animal food, and will eat any suitable small prey. It is a rare, but a regular visitor to our coast. Sabine's Gull was formally described in 1819 by naturalist Joseph Sabine. Sabine based his description on specimens collected by his brother, Captain Edward Sabine, who had accompanied Captain John Ross on a voyage to look for the Northwest Passage. The birds were found breeding on low-lying islands off the west coast of Greenland in July 1818.

**Joseph Sabine** was born into a prominent Anglo-Irish family in Tewin, Hertfordshire, in England. Sabine practiced law until 1808, when he was appointed Inspector General of Taxes, a position he held until 1835. He had a lifelong interest in natural history and was an original fellow of the Linnean Society. Sabine was honorary secretary of the Royal Horticultural Society from 1810 to 1830, and treasurer, receiving their gold medal for organizing the accounts left in a state of disarray by Richard Anthony Salisbury. The Society's gardens at Hammersmith were established under his guidance. He contributed forty papers to their Transactions on garden flowers and vegetables. His subsequent management of the accounts of the Society led to large debts and, after a threat of censure, he resigned in 1830.



Hammersmith, the gardens that broke the bank.

Sabine then focused on the position of secretary and vice-chairman of the Zoological Society of London, significantly increasing their collections. He was a recognized authority on molting, migration and habits of British birds. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1899.

(continued on page 11)

(Bird Names continued)

### Franklin's Gull

**Franklin's Gull** (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*) is a small black-headed gull. The genus name *Leucophaeus* is from the Ancient Greek, leukos, "white", and phaios, "dusky". The specific *pipixcan* is a Nahuatl name for a type of gull. The name Franklin's Gull was given to commemorate the arctic explorer Sir John Franklin, who led an expedition in 1825 on the Mackenzie River in Canada, on which the type specimen was collected. Franklin's Gull breeds in the central provinces of Canada and adjacent states of the northern United States. It winters in Argentina, the Caribbean, Chile, and Peru. It is an occasional visitor the San Francisco Bay Area.

Rear Admiral **Sir John Franklin** (1786-1847) was a British Royal Navy officer, explorer, and colonial administrator. After serving in the Napoleonic Wars and the War of 1812, he led two expeditions into the Canadian Arctic and through the islands of the Arctic Archipelago in 1819 and 1825, and served as Lieutenant-Governor of Van Diemen's Land, now known as Tasmania, from 1837 to 1843. During his third and final expedition, an attempt to traverse the Northwest Passage in 1845, Franklin's ships became icebound off King William Island in what is now Nunavut, where he died in June 1847. The icebound ships were abandoned ten months later, and the entire crew died from starvation, hypothermia, and scurvy.

### Leach's Storm-Petrel

**Leach's Storm-Petrel or Leach's Petrel** (*Hydrobates leucorhous*) is a small seabird of the tubenose order. It is named after the British zoologist, William Elford Leach. The scientific name is derived from Ancient Greek; *Hydrobates* from *hydōr*, "water", and *batēs*, "walker", and *leucorhous* from *leukos*, "white" and *orrhos*, "rump".

Leach's Storm-Petrel breeds on inaccessible islands in the colder northern areas of the North Atlantic and North Pacific Oceans. It nests in colonies close to the sea in well-concealed areas such as rock crevices, shallow burrows, or even logs. It lays a single white egg, which often has a faint ring of purple spots at the large end. The largest colony of Leach's Storm-Petrels is on Baccalieu Island off eastern Canada, where ~1.95 million pairs (estimate 2013) breed in summer.

**William Elford Leach** (1791-1836) was an English zoologist and marine biologist. He was born at Hoe Gate, Plymouth, the son of an attorney. At the age of twelve, he began a medical apprenticeship at the Devonshire and Exeter Hospital. By this time, he was already collecting marine animals from the Plymouth and Devon Coasts. From 1813, Leach concentrated on his zoological interests and was employed as an 'Assistant Librarian' (what would later be called Assistant Keeper) in the Natural History Department of the British Museum, where he had responsibility for the zoological collections. Here, he threw himself into the task of reorganizing and modernizing these collections. In 1815, he published the first bibliography of entomology and was the naturalist who separated the centipedes and millipedes from the insects, giving them their own group, the Myriapoda. In his day, he was the world's leading expert on the Crustacea. In 1816, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society at the age of 25.



Almost two million Leach's Storm Petrels breed on this island in the Canadian Arctic

However, in 1821, he suffered a nervous breakdown due to overwork and became unable to continue his research. He resigned from the museum in March 1822, and his elder sister, Jane, took him to continental Europe to convalesce. They lived in Italy, and he died from cholera in Genoa in 1836.

In 1837, Dr Francis Boott, Secretary of the Linnean Society of London, wrote, "Few men have ever devoted themselves to zoology with greater zeal than Dr Leach, or attained at an early period of life a higher reputation at home and abroad as a profound naturalist. He was one of the most laborious and successful, as well as one of the most universal, cultivators of zoology which this country has ever produced."

Despite his impact, today Leach is remembered mainly in the scientific names of the many species that honor him. In the years up to 1850 alone, 137 new species were named *leachii*, *leachiana*, *leachella*, *elfordii*, *elfordiana*. Leach's Storm-Petrel was named after him by Coenraad Jacob Temminck in 1820.

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