



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

- 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/join/87904131865?signature=Ckt_Exb50VCVaJT_NW2RHiYtrX8J02a6NzSC90sq_B60M)

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 – 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

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** 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

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

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 (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.

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 Flessatti

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
David Kimball
Jean King
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
Bruce Schine

Bill Scoggins
Brenda Senturia
Steve Shay
Paul Smith
Tom Southworth
Terry Spraggins
Stan & Vicki Stadelman
Carlos Stahlhut
Donna Stanley
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

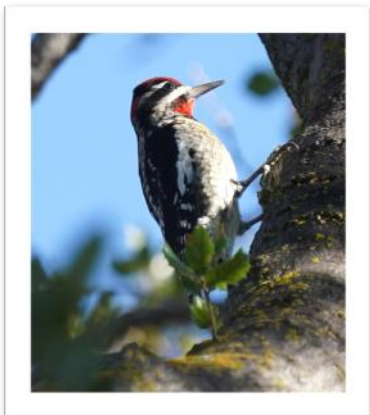
Winter is here, which means our wintering sparrows, waterfowl, and shorebirds are all back. 2025 was a particularly good autumn for rare birds in Alameda County. Hayward Regional Shoreline hosted a Bar-tailed Godwit for a few weeks in November.

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.



Bar-tailed Godwit (Bob Toleno)



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

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

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



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

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 couchi*; 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.

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

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SAN LEANDRO, CA
PERMIT NO. 5759

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED



**Please renew your Ohlone membership by the date shown on your address label.
For those receiving our electronic copy, an email will be sent. Direct questions about Kite Call delivery
to the Membership Chair.**

PRESIDENT: Bill Hoppes, President@OhloneAudubon.org
VICE PRES: Marty Morrow VicePresident@OhloneAudubon.org
TREASURER: Gail Ryujin Treasurer@OhloneAudubon.org 925-829-1895
REC SECTY: Kathy Robertson Secretary@OhloneAudubon.org
CORR SECTY: Jackie Bertillion 510-782-4874
DIRECTORS: 2024: Vicki Robinson Director2024@OhloneAudubon.org
2025: Dave Riensche Director2025@OhloneAudubon.org
2026: Dr. Marlina Selva Director2026@OhloneAudubon.org
WEBMASTER: Allison Rolls webmaster@OhloneAudubon.org
WEBSITE: <http://OhloneAudubon.org>

CONSERVATION: Carin High (West) Bill Hoppes (East)
Conservation@OhloneAudubon.org
EDUCATION: Marty Morrow education@ohloneaudubon.org
EDITOR: Phil & Pat Gordon, editor@Ohloneaudubon.org 510-538-3550
FIELD TRIPS: Bob Toleno FieldTrips@OhloneAudubon.org
HOSPITALITY: Ramona Confer hd02mona@comcast.net
MEMBERSHIP: Pat Gordon, Membership@Ohloneaudubon.org 510-538-3550
PROGRAMS: Diana Brumbaugh, Programs@OhloneAudubon.org
PUBLICITY: Vicki Robinson, Director2024@OhloneAudubon.org
NAS CALIFORNIA: 765 University Ave, Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95825
916-649-7600, <http://www.ca.audubon.org>

Yes, I want to Join Ohlone Audubon Society!



Please sign me up today

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

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

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

I prefer to receive the Kite Call by e-mail ☐ (Recommended) Please send me e-mail updates and action alerts ☐.

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