



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

- Nov 17 FIELD TRIP
Skywest, Hayward
- Nov 30 FIELD TRIP
Pacific Commons, Fremont
- Dec 2 GENERAL MEETING
Niles Discovery Church
- Dec 5 FIELD TRIP
Elsie Roemer, Alameda
- Dec 10 FIELD TRIP
Coyote Hills, Fremont
- Dec 11 FIELD TRIP
Garin RP, Hayward
- Dec 14 Hayward-Fremont CBC
- Dec 19 Eastern Ala Co CBC
- Dec 27 FIELD TRIP
Cosumnes, Woodbridge
- Jan 3 FIELD TRIP
Arrowhead Marsh, MLK

Next Meeting:
January 6, 2026 via Zoom



ZOOM MEETING INSTRUCTIONS:

Welcome! You are invited to join a meeting: Ohlone Audubon Membership Meetings. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email about joining the meeting.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIsf-iupj4iGNwWOZRGoiFQxSQ-ANIL8dNP#/registration>

Membership Meeting

Member Holiday Cookie Exchange, Photo Share, and Short Films



(ZOOM meeting instructions below left)

Date: Tuesday, December 2, 2025 **Time:** 7:30 PM



Location: Niles Discovery Church, 36600 Niles Blvd, Fremont.

We will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall, and there are parking lots on both sides of the church.

Come and join us once again for our annual holiday cookie exchange, photo share and a viewing of two short films focusing on California Condors. As in previous years, we invite members to bring ten of their favorite photo images/slides to share. There are some great photographers in our group, and we would all love to see your photos. Please bring a flash drive to the event. Our annual Cookie Exchange will follow the presentation. If you would like to bring a plate of cookies and copies of your recipe, that would be great. However, all are welcome to attend whether or not you bring cookies. There are always plenty to go around!

Directions: *From the South or West via I-880, Take Mowry Avenue exit. Follow Mowry across Fremont east, to Mission Boulevard, turn left. You will pass Niles Blvd and the Sullivan Underpass. Turn left at Nursery Ave. Turn left on Niles Blvd. You will see the church just on the left after the turn.*

From the North via I-880: *Take Alvarado Niles Boulevard (east): From the freeway exit, turn left to go over the overpass, then in approximately four miles (through Union City and into the Fremont city limits), you will see the church on your left (just after Nursery Ave.).*

From Pleasanton or Livermore, or other points to the east of the hills , you can take I-680 to the first Mission Boulevard exit, and turn right onto Mission. Stay on Mission until you get to Nursery Avenue, and turn left. Turn left on Niles Blvd. You will see the church just on the left after the turn.

From the North via Mission Boulevard: *Turn right on Nursery, and left on Niles Boulevard. You will see the church just on the left after the turn.*



Field Trips

Skywest Golf Course

Monday, November 17, 9am - 11:30am
Leaders: Kathy Robertson & Bob Toleno
bob@toleno.com

This former golf course sits on the eastern edge of Hayward Regional Shoreline, in between San Lorenzo and Hayward. Long thought by many to be off limits, it was only relatively recently discovered by birders. We'll walk on the old golf cart paths around the course, looking for songbirds, woodpeckers, raptors, and waterfowl in the old ponds.

Directions: From I-880 take the A St exit heading west. Turn right on Hesperian Blvd, then almost immediately turn left onto Golf Course Rd. Park in the lot at Kennedy Park

Pacific Commons Linear Park

Sunday, November 30, 8:30am - noon
Leaders: Rich Nicholson & Bob Dunn
rsn711@yahoo.com

Fremont's Pacific Commons Linear Park is a productive winter birding site. The ponds are excellent for many waterfowl species. Waders such as American Bittern inhabit the pond edges and wetlands. The fields are productive for wintering sparrows. We have a good chance at seeing interesting raptors such as Ferruginous Hawk and Golden Eagle. Snow, Ross's and Cackling Geese often visit this time of year. Bring a scope if you have one. Heavy rain cancels.

Directions: To reach the park, exit I-880 in Fremont at Auto Mall Parkway. Go west on Auto Mall Parkway for a mile to a small pull-off area on the left at an entrance sign, and park along the road. No facilities at Pacific Commons, but you pass a Starbucks on the north side of Auto Mall Parkway on your way to the park.

CBC's

Hayward– Fremont
Sunday, Dec. 14, 2025

Eastern Alameda County
Friday, Dec. 19, 2025



Details page 4

Elsie Roemer Bird Sanctuary

Friday, December 5 9am-noon
Leaders: Kathy Robertson & Karen Kramer
katbirdca@aol.com

San Francisco Bay is one of the most important areas for wintering shorebirds on the west coast of North America. Elsie Roemer Bird Sanctuary usually provides good views of shorebirds on their wintering grounds. Meet at the Elsie Roemer viewing platform where Broadway meets Shore Line Drive.

Directions: From Hayward or San Leandro, take I-880 to Davis Street exit west and go to Doolittle Drive. Turn right on Doolittle 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. Bring lunch, binoculars and scopes. This is planned as a 3-hour trip. We'll end at Crab Cove Visitor Center where facilities are available.

Coyote Hills Regional Park

Wednesday, December 10, 8:30am - noon
Leaders: Rich Nicholson & Bob Dunn
rsn711@yahoo.com

No Name Trail leads us out about a mile into the heart of San Francisco Bay where thousands of birds using the Pacific Flyway stop off to rest and refuel. Good numbers of birds and sometimes rarities can be seen here. The trail is flat and well worth the walk, but it turns to sticky clay in the rain. Restrooms are available. Rain cancels. Meet at the Quarry staging area, first parking lot on the left after you enter the park. \$5 parking fee, free to annual EBRP pass holders.

Directions: To reach the park from I-880 take SR-84 towards the Dumbarton Bridge. Exit at Paseo Padre Parkway, turn right on Paseo Padre and go about one mile. Turn left on Patterson Pass Rd. to enter the park.

More trips next page!!!!!!!!!

(Field Trips Continued)

Garin Regional Park
Thursday, December 11, 8:30am - 11am
Leader: Bob Toleno
bob@toleno.com

Garin Regional Park in late fall can be especially beautiful. Come get a little preview of the Christmas Bird Count that will be held here a few days later. We'll take a short, relatively flat walk to Jordan Pond and back, looking for wintering sparrows, warblers, woodpeckers, thrushes, and other species. Be prepared for cold. Heavy rain cancels. All are welcome, and pre-registration is not required.

Directions: From I-880, take the Industrial Pkwy exit and head east. Make a right on Mission Blvd. then an immediate left on Garin Ave. Follow Garin Ave uphill until you reach the park. If the kiosk is staffed, there may be a \$5 fee for parking (free for EBRPD pass holders). Meet in the parking lot near the bridge.

**Cranes & other Charismatic Critters:
Cosumnes River Preserve, Woodbridge
Ecological Reserve and more...**

Saturday, December 27, 1:30 pm to sunset
Leader: David "Doc Quack" Riensche
RSVP driensche@ebparks.org

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



Each fall, Sandhill Cranes return to the Central Valley, where they feed, socialize, and rest in the fields and then fly to roost overnight in wetlands. Tundra Swans, Cackling Geese, Snow and Ross's Geese, rafts of winter ducks, and other waterfowl and raptors are commonly seen. During this season, more than 200 species of birds may be observed! We'll bird the boardwalk at Cosumnes River Preserve and drive by the Desmond Road ponds, check out Staten Island, and make our way to Woodbridge Ecological Reserve for sunset fly-in (~4:53pm). The field trip ends at Woodbridge, where you can easily get back on I-5 for the drive home. Wear layers and bring snacks and water. Cosumnes River Preserve is about 70 miles from Livermore.

(Directions next column)

Crane Directions: Take I-580 east to I-205 east to I-5. Take I-5 north to the Walnut Grove/Thornton exit 493. Go east (right) on Walnut Grove, turning left onto Thornton Rd at the Chevron Station and proceed north about 3 miles to the visitor center (facilities available). Look for the group in the parking lot or on the boardwalk.

Note: CDFW requires you to carry a Lands Pass at Woodbridge. For general information on Lands Passes, go to <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/licensing/lands-pass>. To purchase a Lands Pass to print at home go to: <https://www.ca.wildlifelicense.com/InternetSales/>. You can purchase a day pass and

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.



You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.

Jane Goodall

2025 Hayward - Fremont CBC

Sunday, December 14



Last year, a great team of almost 100 field counters and feeder watchers found a record 183 species, our highest total ever. Let's see if we can beat that this year! We're looking for volunteers to help out counting birds in the field, or from home at your feeders (contact us to find out if your home is inside the circle).

Our in-person CBC compilation dinner will be held at the Math-Science Nucleus building in Fremont, and sponsored by Ohlone Audubon. All counters are welcome and encouraged to join. **Doors will open at 5pm** on the evening of the CBC, with **dinner served at 6pm**. There is no cost for participants.

We have been successful in years past and need your help to be successful once more. Community science projects like the CBC benefit from broad participation, consistent coverage from our area leaders, and the work of each field and feeder counter.

Want to help? Sign up through the link below.

<https://www.mobilize.us/audubon-community-science/event/865348/>

Questions? Email our co-compilers, **Bob Toleno (bob@toleno.com)** and **Kate Reed (birdingkate@gmail.com)**



2025 Eastern Alameda County CBC

Friday, December 19

The 2025 Eastern Alameda County Christmas Bird Count will be held on **Friday, December 19, 2025**.

The Christmas Bird Count is an annual nationwide volunteer-based bird survey effort coordinated by the Audubon Society to promote bird conservation and assess long-term trends in winter bird populations. In its 17th year, the annual Eastern Alameda County bird count was initiated in 2009. The 15-mile diameter count circle is in the vicinity of the towns of Sunol, Pleasanton, and Livermore, and includes five East Bay Regional Parks, significant San Francisco Public Utilities Commission watershed lands, and East Bay birding hotspots such as lower Mines Road, Sunol Wilderness, and Sycamore Grove Park.

Birders and volunteers with any level of experience can participate in the Christmas Bird Count. If you're interested in participating in this year's count, please send an email to eac.cbc@gmail.com

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

President's Corner

Owls and One Other Thing

I listen to a birding podcast called **BirdNote**. On a recent podcast on owls, they stated that there were 19 species of owls in the ABA count area (the lower 48, Alaska, and Canada). This was a surprise to me, as I didn't think there were that many. I checked my field guide and it was true. Of course, the next step was to see how many I had seen. When I totaled them up, I had seen twelve. Owls are tough, and I was surprised I had seen that many. Probably the best ones I have seen are the Northern Hawk Owl in Alaska and a Spotted Owl in New Mexico. So which ones am I missing? Two – the Flammulated Owl and Northern Pygmy-Owl are in the southwest Rocky Mountains and Pacific Coast, and the Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl is most commonly seen on stakeouts in the Southwest. Two – the Boreal Owl and Snowy Owl – will require another trip to the north. The one most "gettable" is the Great Gray Owl, which has been seen from Yosemite and north. That is the next one on the target list.



Great Gray Owl, next on the list



"Ohlone" Condor chick 1371

Condor recovery has great interest to our members. Over the past few years, the Ventana Wildlife Society that runs the Big Sur recovery program suffered two serious blows. First was the Dolan Fire in 2020 that burned through the Big Sur Condor Sanctuary facility. Second was the announcement that the US Fish and Wildlife Service was ending \$450,000 in grants to the Society. Your Board, trying to help, contacted the Society to make a \$5000 donation to the recovery program. In response, the Society asked if Ohlone wished to suggest a name for one of the Condor chicks that would fledge this year. Considering the nexus of the Ohlone people, their connection to Condors, and their history in the naming of our organization in honor of them by Phil Gordon, our treasurer, Gail Ryujin, suggested we put forward the name Ohlone. It was accepted. Here is a poor picture of "Ohlone", but the best one we have to date. We will have more details in a future **Kite Call**.

Bill Hopper



Project FeederWatch began November 1 and runs thru April 30, 2026!

Sign up for **Project FeederWatch**, a fun and easy way to make your bird observations count this winter. By sharing your observations, you help us understand how birds are doing and identify effective conservation actions. This year, FeederWatchers will also have a chance to participate in an international study on bird-glass collisions – one of the major threats facing birds today. [Sign up here](#)

Our Bird Observations columnist, Vicki Robinson, is on vacation this month! In lieu of this enjoy Bob Toleno's photos!



Red-naped Sapsucker, Niles Community Park, 10/29/25; photo by Bob Toleno

Conservation

Court Rules on Dublin Boulevard Extension

In a tentative ruling, an Alameda County Superior Court judge ordered the city of Dublin to conduct an environmental study of a successful ballot measure that opened the boundaries of a protected open space area before breaking ground on the land. Judge Michael Markman, on October 1, wrote that he intends to grant a petition filed by two open space advocate groups that sought to repeal the ballot

measure. He plans to make a final decision pending any challenge or objection from city officials. The two groups — Save Mount Diablo and Friends of Livermore — that sued to block the measure voters approved last year, considered the judge's ruling a victory. The ballot measure had paved the way for potential commercial development in the Doolan and Collier Canyons. (B. Hoppes)

New 1,168 Acre Conservation Easement in Doolan Canyon

Tri-Valley Conservancy announced the largest conservation easement in its history, permanently protecting 1,168 acres in Doolan Canyon. This easement safeguards a mosaic of grasslands, wetlands, streams, and riparian areas that provide critical habitat for sensitive species like the California tiger salamander and Western Burrowing Owl. The newly established 1,168-acre easement is a key piece of the greenbelt buffer between the cities of Livermore and Dublin. Doolan Canyon has immense ecological value. It's home to diverse plant



communities and habitat types, including annual grasslands, groves, seasonal and perennial wetlands, stock ponds, and seeps. Cottonwood Creek runs through the area, providing a riparian corridor for wildlife. (B. Hoppes)

Proposed Mowry Village



Proposed Mowry Village site, Mowry Avenue, Line B and Cargill salt ponds, and the Bay in the upper portion of the photo, Line D running between the palm trees out to join Mowry Slough. Wetlands can be seen right up to the project boundary.

On October 23rd a coalition of environmental groups presented 2,755 signatures to the Newark City Council, urging that when the Mowry Village Project comes before them next month, that they say "No." 777 signatures were from Newark residents who don't want to see houses built in an area that may require protection in the future as sea and groundwater levels continue to rise.

The Mowry Village Project is proposed to be built on 29 acres of land that lies west of the Union Pacific Railroad tracks, near the western terminus of Mowry Avenue. Part of the proposed development site is the Pick-N-Pull auto wreckers facility and an adjacent 10 acres of undeveloped land. The 29 acres, part of Newark Area 4, lies north of Alameda County Flood Control channel known as Ohlone Creek. The area north of Ohlone Creek was zoned Golf/Recreation when the Areas 3 & 4 Specific Area Plan was approved; the proposal for a golf course was dropped a decade ago. The project location is surrounded by water from Ohlone Creek, Mowry Slough, Line B and adjacent wetlands. The proposed development would consist of 196 single family units and a 31-unit apartment complex. (continued pg. 7)

Conservation (continued)

(Mowry Village continued)

With just 10-12 inches of sea level rise and a 100-year storm, much of the area will be inundated, according to the Bay Conservation and Development Commission's (BCDC) Adapting to Rising Tides Flood Explorer Map (<https://explorer.adaptingtorisingtides.org/explorer>). The developer is proposing to raise the building pad upon which the houses would be built; the existing ground elevation would be raised by 8.5 feet in the lowest areas. However, the lands surrounding the building pad, right up to the edges of the proposed development, could be inundated as sea levels continue to rise.

Other concerns about the proposed development, is that there is just one road in and out – Mowry Avenue – that crosses the three sets of railroad tracks entering the Union Pacific Railroad switching yard. Trains often stop in this location which may prevent emergency response vehicles from accessing the site in a timely manner. The site is at minimum away from existing grocery stores, elementary and middle schools, and other basic amenities, and is not near a transit hub.

One of the biggest concerns in an era of rising sea levels and groundwater levels, this area will require future flood protection, with the uncertainty of who will pay for the expense.

But even worse than that, we will lose an unparalleled opportunity in the South Bay to restore tidal wetlands habitat, and in doing so providing resilience for the ecological health of the Bay and for the existing community of Newark. Tidal wetlands help us fight climate change – they can sequester as much as 10 times the carbon as forested lands, reduce the impacts of flooding, improve water quality, support fisheries and biodiversity, and provide areas where residents can get back in touch with nature. Tidal wetlands are recognized globally as one of the most important habitats because of the ecological, economic, societal, and resilience benefits they provide.

That is why 2,755 Newark, Fremont, Union City and other Bay Area residents have said "NO" to the proposed Mowry Village Project. (C. High)

For more information please visit: www.saveneckwetlands.org

Tesla Wildlands



We just recently received notice that the online survey for the Alameda-Tesla Wildlands has been extended to November 30th. Ohlone Audubon supports the designation

of the 3,100 acres of the Tesla Wildlands as a State Natural Reserve, prioritizing meaningful and lasting protection of its natural and cultural landscape, while only allowing low-intensity uses like hiking, photography, bird watching, and interpretive and educational programs. State Parks owns 300+ acres of "Other State Parks Lands" that are adjacent to Tesla, which already have existing utilities and other infrastructure on some of the 300+ acres and could support higher intensity uses.

If you have questions concerning the online survey (it is a bit confusing), please contact us at OhloneAudubon.org. You can also visit: <https://teslapark.org/saving-tesla-park/>

(C. High)

**Blackpoll Warbler,
Lake Elizabeth, 10/26/25
photo Bob Toleno**



“Tern Town” Breeding Season Summary – 2025

Nestled along the eastern shoreline of the San Francisco Bay is the expansive and enchanting Hayward Regional Shoreline, and home to a very special bird sanctuary affectionately called “Tern Town”. This year we had **95** California Least Tern (*endangered*) **breeding pairs** on Island #5 (also known as “Tern Town”). We had a total of 95 incubated nests, of which 90 hatched (95% nest hatching rate!) producing a total of 180 chicks. Preliminary evidence suggests that of the 204 eggs laid at the site, a total of **148 California Least Tern fledglings** have been produced!

Terns were first seen on April 14, 2025, and departed the Hayward Shoreline on August 9, 2025. With the reported low number of adult California Least Terns nesting throughout southern California this season (CDFW - personal communication) our 1.6 fledglings/pair ratio is making a significant contribution to the statewide species recovery effort. In addition, we observed 1 pair of Western Snowy Plovers (*threatened*) breeding on the site, which produced 2 fledglings. This is the 18th year in a row that the California Least Terns and Western Snowy Plovers have nested together on this restored island. This year the colony also hosted an amazing number of successfully hatching Black Skimmer (*species of special concern*) nests (17 in total, resulting in 30 fledglings!). This is 10th time that all three listed special status species have utilized this site!!! Lastly, this is the 4th year in a row that a pair of Black Oystercatchers (*Audubon Priority Bird – a species of conservation concern*) nested successfully, producing a fledgling.

I would like to acknowledge the contributions made by the staff of the Hayward Regional Shoreline (Robbie, Joel, Justin, and Sarah), Alternative Work Program (Eric, Ross and Civicorps crew), Integrated Pest Management (Pam, Jaclyn, Tatiana, and Barbara), GIS Department (Christie and Dave), ASD-Tern Town A-TEAM (Sabrinia, Karla, Lea and Anita), USDA-Wildlife Services (Nathan and Brian), Wildlife Innovations (Dan and Jake) and our Public Safety – Special Enforcement Unit, for all their tremendous efforts to maintain and help protect the site during the breeding season. Lastly, our Wildlife Volunteers, who monitor the area collecting valuable data, helping information recovery plan tasks that are consistent with managing habitat for California Least Tern, Western Snowy Plover, and Black Skimmer. To date, 8,260 people have contributed over 49,880 hours of volunteer service in support of this conservation effort, not to mention the more than \$180,000 in grant funds.

(D. Riensche)

Tern Town – State-wide significance statistics:

California Least Terns: from 2005 – 2025 a total of 1,644 nest ~1,703 fledglings.

Western Snowy Plovers: from 2008 – 2025 a total of 63 nests ~ 86 fledglings.

Black Skimmers: from 2015 – 2025 a total of 95 nests ~ 145 fledglings.

Black Oystercatcher: from 2022 – 2025 a total of 4 nests ~ 4 fledglings.



New Members/ Renewals

Kathleen Boswell
Barbara Correa
Sara Jane Frisbee
Georgeann Hardy
Jennifer Henry
Gloria Huet
Cathy Loewen
Chris & Maureen Oakes
John Sack
Malathy Sethuraman
Srinivasan Suresh

Donations

Sara Jane Frisbee
Georgeann Hardy
Cathy Loewen
Malathy Sethuraman
Srinivasan Suresh



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.

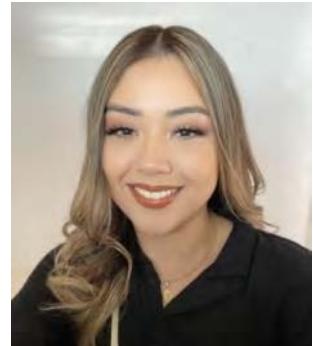


Sara Matthews and Helen Sowers 2025 Scholarship Recipients

Ohlone Audubon was able to fund four scholarships from our Sara Matthews (3) and Helen Sowers (1) Fund, made possible by Sara's and Helen's generous donations. These funds are to be used to support our "Women in Science" program, thru the American Women in Science Association (AWIS) East Bay Chapter. See the four bios of these deserving young women.

Daisy Nunez Valenzuela *Helen Sowers Scholarship*

I am a third-year Biological Sciences student at CSU East Bay, with a concentration in Cell and Molecular Biology, driven by a strong interest in understanding how cells function and how that knowledge can be applied in the field of dermatology. My goal is to help individuals who struggle with skin conditions such as acne or rashes regain confidence and improve their quality of life. Alongside my academic journey, I have worked at In-N-Out Burger for five years, where I have developed strong leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills in a fast-paced environment. These experiences have shaped me into a resilient and adaptable individual, prepared to thrive in healthcare settings. As I continue pursuing my degree, I am eager to gain hands-on experience through internships and shadowing opportunities in dermatology offices, where I can begin bridging my classroom knowledge with real-world patient care.



Maxine Gutierrez *Sara Mathews Scholarship*

Maxine Gutierrez was born in the Bay Area as the daughter of Filipino-American immigrants and is the first scientist in her family. Her appreciation for nature and younger brother, who has Down Syndrome, inspires her passion and curiosity in science. After studying kinesiology, rehabilitation sciences, and Spanish at San José State University, she pursued her Masters in cell and molecular biology at CSU East Bay. Her studies and research experience shape her desire to give back to underrepresented groups in STEM. In her free time, she enjoys art, music, reading, film, quadball, sports, and spending time with loved ones.



Kashish Vinayak *Sara Mathews Scholarship*

My name is Kashish Mehak Vinayak, sophomore at UC Berkeley. I'm majoring in Data Science, with a domain emphasis in Economics. I was the valedictorian of my high school, Tennyson High School. In my free time you can find me volunteering at my church, immersing myself into romance novels, and falling into consumerism as I up my wardrobe. I have a passion for helping people walking through different stages of life. This can look like my activism for the environment through enlisting Data Science to understand water quality in the Bay Area.



Itzel Parada *Sara Mathews Scholarship*

Hello! My name is Itzel Parada, and I'm an Environmental Science (ENSC) undergrad at CSUEB. I love nature, which is how I got steered towards studying ENSC. I hope to partake in conservation efforts and to help mitigate the climate crisis in the future. For now, I'm doing what I can to help my community. For the past year, I've been a research assistant in an NIC that has implemented an interdisciplinary climate curricula, otherwise known as CELI. It's been amazing contributing to this wide scale effort of supporting our teachers and students. I hope to do much more!



Some Other Shorebirds

By Bill Hoppes

When we are looking at sandpipers, we are generally scanning mudflats or marshes, trying to tell Western from Least and looking for an occasional Spotted or Solitary. But, there are other “sandpipers” that inhabit the rocky shoreline. Next time, we are at Point Reyes, Half Moon Bay, or Pigeon Point, scanning the rocks for Brandt’s and Pelagic Cormorants, we need to be ready to spot these guys: Rock Sandpiper, Wandering Tattler, and Surfbird. Following is a brief description of each one.

Rock Sandpiper (*Calidris ptilocnemis*)

The Rock Sandpiper breeds in the rocky tundra of western Alaska and the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands. In winter, the Rock Sandpiper inhabits rocky, ice-free shorelines along the North Pacific, feeding on invertebrates along rocky, coastlines. Its mottled gray-brown plumage provides excellent camouflage among coastal rocks and seaweed. During breeding season, males perform aerial displays over their territories. Adapted to cold, harsh environments, the Rock Sandpiper exemplifies extreme northern shorebird specialization.



Wandering Tattler (*Tringa incana*)



The Wandering Tattler breeds in the mountainous regions of Alaska and northwestern Canada, nesting near fast-flowing streams. After breeding, it migrates widely across the Pacific, wintering along rocky shorelines from California to South America and across many Pacific islands. Its gray plumage, yellow legs, and constant tail-bobbing help distinguish it from similar species. This solitary shorebird forages on intertidal rocks, feeding on crustaceans and marine worms. The Wandering Tattler’s vast migratory range and preference for remote, rugged coasts make it one of the Pacific’s most wide-ranging shorebirds. I like the origin of its name: “Wandering” refers to the bird’s wide-ranging, almost restless movements. It breeds in the remote mountains of Alaska and northwestern Canada, but spends the rest of the year wandering thousands of miles across the Pacific. Few shorebirds have such an extensive, ocean-spanning migration. “Tattler” comes from the bird’s loud, rapid, scolding calls—sharp “tew-tew-tew” or “tatt-tatt-tatt” notes—given when it’s alarmed or disturbed. Early naturalists thought the bird seemed to “tattle” on intruders, hence the name.

Surfbird (*Calidris virgata*)

The Surfbird breeds on alpine tundra from Alaska to the Yukon, nesting on rocky slopes near snowmelt pools. After breeding, it migrates to coastal areas from southern Alaska to Tierra del Fuego, following the entire Pacific coastline. In winter, it frequents wave-washed rocks, where it feeds on mussels, barnacles, and other intertidal invertebrates, often in mixed flocks with turnstones. Its gray and white plumage blends with its surf-swept habitat. Remarkably, the Surfbird’s nonbreeding range spans nearly the full length of the Americas, making it one of the most coastal and wide-ranging shorebirds of the Pacific.



Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, 10/25/25
Elsie Roemer, Alameda
Photo by Bob Toleno

So, we are scanning the rocks at Pigeon Point and see something that looks like a sandpiper. How do we know it is one of these guys? *(continued on page 11)*



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Some Other Shorebirds (continued)**Rock Sandpiper**

In winter plumage, the Rock Sandpiper (*Calidris ptilocnemis*) is a chunky, medium-sized shorebird that can be identified by a combination of structural features, coloration, and behavior. Here are the features to look for.

Habitat: Rocky shorelines in winter (not mudflats).

Leg color: Bright orange to yellow-orange legs.

Bill: Medium-length, slightly downcurved bill (think Dunlin) with dark tip and often orange base.

Plumage: Gray upperparts and pale underparts with some gray mottling on the breast—no dark belly patch.

Shape: Chunky, short-legged, short-winged appearance compared to Dunlin.

These five traits—**especially orange legs, rocky habitat, and stocky shape**—are usually enough for confident winter identification.

Wandering Tattler

Here are the minimum field marks to identify a Wandering Tattler (*Tringa incana*) in winter plumage:

Habitat: Found alone or in small numbers on rocky Pacific shores, often feeding on wave-washed rocks or reefs.

Legs: Yellow to yellow-green legs, relatively long.

Bill: Straight, medium-length, grayish bill, slightly drooping at tip.

Plumage: Plain gray upperparts, clean white underparts with fine gray streaking limited to the breast (belly unmarked).

Face pattern: Distinct white supercilium (eyebrow) extending behind the eye, contrasting with a darker gray cap and lores.

These traits—**gray-and-white plumage, yellow, not orange legs, and rocky shoreline behavior**—are sufficient for identifying a Wandering Tattler in winter.

Surfbird

Here are the minimum field marks to identify a Surfbird (*Calidris virgata*) in winter plumage:

Habitat: Almost always on rocky Pacific coasts, feeding in the surf zone with waves breaking nearby.

Shape: Stocky, short-billed, thick-necked shorebird with a short tail and broad wings.

Legs: Yellow to yellow-orange legs.

Bill: Straight, short, dark-tipped bill with a yellowish base.

Plumage: Smooth brownish-gray upperparts and breast with little or no streaking, and brown-spotted white underparts,—appears very plain overall.

These key features—**chunky build, yellow legs, short, yellow-based bill, and rocky surf habitat**—are usually enough for confident winter identification of a Surfbird.

At first glance Surfbird and Wandering Tattler seem similar but there are key differences.

The **Tattler** is slimmer, has a longer bill, streaked breast, and strong eyebrow. The **Surfbird** is chunkier, has a shorter bill, un-streaked breast, and no eyebrow.

Here is a summary comparing all three,

Wandering Tattler = slim, long bill, streaked breast, strong eyebrow.

Surfbird = chunky, short bill, un-streaked breast, no eyebrow.

Rock Sandpiper = plump, scaly gray, orange legs

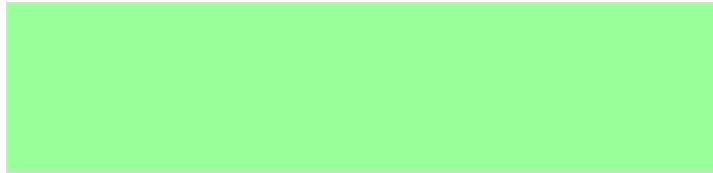
Identifying these three sandpipers takes close observation, usually helped by a scope. If you are watching the rocky shoreline and spot a small shorebird working the wave splashed rocks, it is likely one of these three. Take your time and observe carefully and you will add they to your life list.

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