

# Up Your Creek!

The electronic newsletter of the Alameda Creek Alliance

## Watch for Steelhead in Alameda Creek

Significant rainfall is predicted in the East Bay over the next week, so we could have some good runoff in lower Alameda Creek. Keep a lookout in the flood control channel and at the BART weir for migrating steelhead trout.

A deceased Chinook salmon was seen in lower Alameda Creek below the BART weir on November 28, 2018. ACA member Dan Sarka got a photograph of two turkey vultures eating the last of this salmon.



## Watershed Bird Count

On December 14, 2018, we held the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Eastern Alameda Christmas Bird Count. We had 97 birders covering 28 sections within a 15 mile radius count circle, in the vicinity of Sunol, Pleasanton and Livermore. We tallied 139 bird species in our count circle, somewhat below the count average of about 145 species.

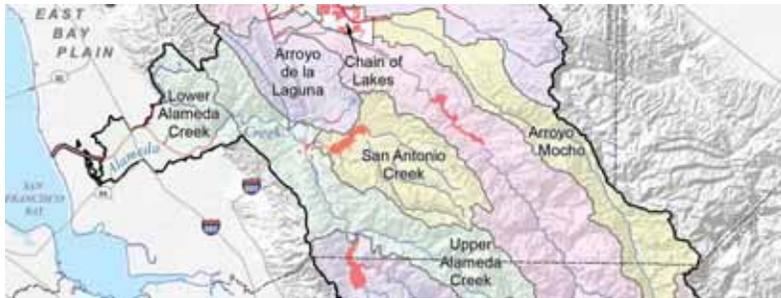
Notable sightings this year included: 29 Mountain Bluebirds, a new species for the count; 176 Wood Ducks; 42 Hooded Mergansers; 8 Bald Eagles; 8 Ferruginous Hawks; a count of 50 Golden Eagles (but numbers will go down due to duplicate sightings); and 25 Phainopepla. Counts of sensitive species that appear to be declining: 2 Burrowing Owls; 14 Loggerhead Shrikes; and 71 Yellow-billed Magpies. Numbers of Wild Turkeys and European Starlings, both Introduced species, continue to increase.



Mountain Bluebird and Yellow-shafted Flicker

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. The annual Eastern Alameda County bird count is in the upper Alameda Creek watershed, and includes five East Bay Regional Parks, significant SFPUC watershed lands, and East Bay birding hotspots such as lower Mines Road, Sunol Wilderness, and Sycamore Grove Park.

## Explore Alameda County Watersheds Online



The Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District has created full-featured, interactive maps of every watershed in Alameda County. You can explore the maps online, or you can easily download KMZ watershed map files to your personal Google Earth Pro. These interactive maps let you compare the historical and present-day watersheds, zoom in on creeks and follow them to the Bay, and learn more about restoration projects and other features and points of interest.

<https://www.acfloodcontrol.org/resources/explore-watersheds/>

## Regional Salmon Restoration News

[\*Will Gavin Newsom Change the State's Water Course? Fish and Farmers Will Soon Find Out\*](#)

Los Angeles Times - January 4, 2019

[\*Lagunitas Creek Monitors Expect Busy Coho Run\*](#)

Marin Independent-Journal - January 1, 2019

[\*Brown and Zinke Announce Water Plan That Will Decimate Fisheries and the Sacramento Delta\*](#)

Red Green & Blue - December 16, 2018

[\*Where to Watch Coho Salmon Spawn in the Bay Area\*](#)

San Francisco Chronicle - December 13, 2018

[\*Big Setback for Gov. Brown's Twin Tunnels Delta Water Project\*](#)

San Francisco Chronicle - December 7, 2018

[\*Editorial: Brown, Feinstein Betrayal of the Delta Is Unacceptable\*](#)

East Bay Times - December 4, 2018

[\*Could This Obscure California Agency Derail Jerry Brown's Delta Tunnels?\*](#)

Sacramento Bee - November 30, 2018

[\*Huge Delta Water Deal Backed by Dianne Feinstein, Jerry Brown, Kevin McCarthy\*](#)

Sacramento Bee - November 30, 2018

[\*\*Governor Jerry Brown Backs Deal to Increase Pumping Delta Water to Big Ag\*\*](#)  
Indy Media - November 30, 2018

[\*\*Salmon Surge: Habitat Improvements Paying Off On One California River\*\*](#)  
San Francisco Chronicle - November 28, 2018

[\*\*Departments of Interior and Commerce Sign Agreement to Expedite Water Deliveries\*\*](#)  
Daily Kos - November 21, 2018

[\*\*Fish 'FasTrak' System Shows Napa Steelhead Come Home\*\*](#)  
Kokoma Perspective - November 13, 2018

[\*\*Delta Stewardship Council Staff Finds California WaterFix Inconsistent with Delta Plan!\*\*](#)  
Daily Kos - November 8, 2018

[\*\*SF Must Do Better In Sharing Water\*\*](#)  
San Francisco Chronicle editorial - November 6, 2018

[\*\*San Joaquin Water Plan Is Good for the Delta and Valley\*\*](#)  
Sacramento Bee guest editorial - November 6, 2018

[\*\*SF Mayor Breed Vetoes Supervisors' Resolution That Supported State River Plan\*\*](#)  
San Francisco Chronicle - November 2, 2018

[\*\*Bay Delta Plan Pits San Francisco Against Environmentalists\*\*](#)  
KQED Forum – October 31, 2018

[\*\*SF Supes Urge Backing Off Alliance With Farmers, Trump On Reviving Rivers\*\*](#)  
San Francisco Chronicle - October 30, 2018

[\*\*Massive California Water Tunnel Project Forges Ahead on Several Fronts\*\*](#)  
News Deeply - October 30, 2018

[\*\*Here's How Trump Could Mess With California's Water\*\*](#)  
KQED - October 19, 2018

[\*\*'So Much Water.' Trump Moves to Slash Environmental Rules on Delta, Putting Farms Before Fish\*\*](#)  
Los Angeles Times - October 19, 2018

[\*\*Steelhead Rescuer Begins Trek to Capitol\*\*](#)  
Gilroy Dispatch - October 17, 2018

[\*\*Plan to Revive Rivers Pits SF Against California\*\*](#)  
San Francisco Chronicle - October 14, 2018

***The Alameda Creek Alliance is a non-profit community watershed protection group. Please support our efforts by [becoming a member](#)***