

BAY BIRD REVIEW

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION ON THE SCIENCE AND CONSERVATION OF BIRDS AND THEIR HABITATS



SAN FRANCISCO BAY
BIRD OBSERVATORY

Director's Message

The fall season is an exciting time for bird life in the Bay. Many are using the estuary as a stopover point on their long-distance migrations south, while others prepare to overwinter locally. The fall is also an exciting time at SFBBO. Some of our programs wrap up their field seasons, like our Snowy Plover and Colonial Waterbird Programs. Others, like our Landbird Program at SFBBO's Coyote Creek Field Station and our Waterbird Program, shift into high gear as migrating birds increase the diversity and abundance of birds in the Bay.

Each fall, I particularly enjoy the added excitement that comes with SFBBO's annual California Fall Challenge (CFC). This year, during the CFC—SFBBO's largest fundraising campaign of the year—we hope to raise \$28,000 to support our science and outreach programs in their efforts to conserve birds and their habitats. During the month-long campaign (Sept 13-Oct 12), we'll host more than 20 bird-watching trips and other events designed to show our supporters the incredible diversity of bird life in the Bay Area. In addition to many of the long-standing trips that are so popular each fall, this year we'll also offer the organization's first Kids' Art Contest, hold a new bird banding demonstration event just for families, and lead several birdwalks to view species and places that few people have the chance to experience.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE *continued on page 2*



A SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER AT SHORELINE PARK IN MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA.

PHOTO BY GREG BARSH

Science Report

Pacific Flyway Shorebird Survey Gains National Recognition

Pacific Flyway Shorebird Survey

Each fall since 2010, SFBBO has worked with over 30 partners to carry out a coordinated program led by Point Blue Conservation Science to monitor wintering shorebirds across 65 sites in Washington, Oregon and California. This effort, called the Pacific Flyway Shorebird Survey (PFSS), is part of the Migratory Shorebird Project, which surveys birds across 10 countries from Canada to Peru, and is the largest coordinated survey of shorebirds in the Americas. The PFSS data is collected by a combination of trained biologists and more than 300 citizen scientists who are experienced birders.

When shorebird data from all 65 sites is evaluated over many years, it helps us better understand how populations are changing over time, which species are at greatest risk, and which habitats are most critical for their long-term survival. For migratory species like many of these shorebirds, we need to understand how populations are changing range-

wide to inform conservation activities.

Wintering Shorebirds in the South Bay

SFBBO's role in this monitoring program is to coordinate surveys of wintering shorebirds in South San Francisco Bay. On November 15, 2013, 19 SFBBO citizen scientists and three staff surveyed nearly 90,000 shorebirds at 40 locations, from Eden Landing and Bair Island down to the San Jose Wastewater Treatment Facility. Highlights included: hotspots in Newark and Eden Landing with 28,000+ and 14,000+ roosting shorebirds, respectively; a Bar-tailed Godwit recorded in an Alviso survey; and an American Avocet banded by USGS 7 or 8 years earlier. Overall, PFSS surveys for the South Bay revealed shorebird abundances that were similar to those observed in 2012.

An Award Winning Effort

On March 12, 2014, Point Blue, SFBBO and the other partner organizations, received a "Wings Across the Americas

SCIENCE REPORT *continued on page 2*

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE *from cover*

In addition, for the third year running, we'll also be conducting a month-long Band-a-Thon to raise funds specifically for our Coyote Creek Field Station. During this year's CFC, we aim to raise \$3,000 through per-bird pledges or lump sum donations. H.T. Harvey & Associates, an ecological consulting company based in Los Gatos, has agreed to provide a match of an additional \$3,000 if we reach our \$3,000 goal, so please consider making a donation to the Band-a-Thon!

I'm excited to announce that our CFC fundraising contest, Click Off photo contest, and Mewaldt Cup Bird-a-Thon competition will take place again this year, and will include **fantastic** prizes for the winners. Prizes will include trips such as a 14 day birding trip to South Africa with internationally recognized Rockjumper Birding Tours, a trip with Wildside Nature Tours, a boat tour to explore the Farallon Islands (with Oceanic Society Expeditions), whale watching in Monterey Bay (with Cheeseman's Ecology Safaris), and overnight stays at several B&Bs located in prime bird-watching areas. Prizes also include merchandise from vendors like Patagonia, Los Gatos Birdwatcher and REI, and visits to San Francisco's Exploratorium and other exciting destinations.

Prizes will be awarded at our Annual Meeting at Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve in Woodside on Saturday, October 18th. The meeting will also feature bird walks, updates about SFBBO's science and outreach programs, and a silent auction (page 8).

I hope you'll consider participating in our CFC fundraising efforts this year, by joining us for a trip or event, supporting our Band-a-Thon and/or Bird-a-Thon, participating in our fundraising competition, or entering our Click Off photo contest. However you decide to join in, we appreciate your support! Check out the pages that follow, and our website, for more information on how to get involved.

By Cat Burns, SFBBO Executive Director

Our thanks to these supporters of the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory!



Thank you new and returning members and generous donors January-June 2014

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Thank you to the 128 people who gave up to \$59 each.

MATCHING CORPORATE GIFTS

Thank you to our donors who doubled the power of their gifts by participating in their company's matching gifts program. Please consider asking your company to match your donation and augment your support for bird and habitat conservation.

SCIENCE REPORT *from cover*

Award" from the U.S. Forest Service for promoting international cooperation through participation in the PFSS and Migratory Shorebird Project. This award recognized the partner organizations for leading a collaborative multi-national research program to protect shorebirds during a time of rapid environmental change.

Join us in 2014!

If you'd like to participate as a citizen scientist and help us collect data during the 2014 PFSS, please let us know! Contact SFBBO Waterbird Program Coordinator Natalie Washburn at nwashburn@sfbbo.org or 408.946.6548 ext. 13. The 2014 survey will be carried out in mid to late November with at least 20 citizen scientists.

By Cat Burns, SFBBO Executive Director and Natalie Washburn, SFBBO Waterbird Program Coordinator



WESTERN BURROWING OWL

SUE PETERSON

CALIFORNIA FALL CHALLENGE

Supporting Avian Conservation Science and Outreach

Accept the Challenge – Join the Fun

The 18th Annual California Fall Challenge is the time to celebrate your passion for Bay Area birds and help meet our mission to conserve birds and their habitats through science and outreach. Please help us reach our goal of raising \$28,000 during this month-long series of events and support the important work of our science and outreach staff and volunteers! To participate, visit www.sfbbo.org or call 408.946.6548. Participants who give at a level of \$50 or more will receive the new 2014 CFC T-shirt!

Five Ways to Support SFBBO

SIGN UP FOR A GUIDED TRIP

Whether you are a birder, nature lover, photographer, kayaker, or are interested in conservation science, there is a CFC Guided Trip for you! See pages 4, 5, and 6 for a listing of trips.

BAND-A-THON CONTEST

Help fundraise for SFBBO's Coyote Creek Field Station banding program by donating a set dollar amount per bird captured at the Coyote Creek Field Station or a lump sum from Septem-

ber 13th – October 12th. If we meet our goal of raising \$3,000 through our CFC Band-a-Thon, H.T. Harvey & Associates will make a matching gift of \$3,000 to support our field station! See page 5.

COMPETE IN THE CLICK OFF PHOTO CONTEST

Share your best photos, support our mission, win great prizes, and tell the story of Bay Area birds by competing in our Click Off photo contest. This year's categories are *Birds and Their Habitats*, *Birds and Humans*, *Bird Behavior*, and *Bird Portraits*. See page 7 for information.

FUNDRAISE FOR PRIZES

Share SFBBO's story with your friends and colleagues and ask them to sponsor you. This year's 1st place winner will receive a 14-day Eastern South African Tour with Rockjumper Birding Tours!

JOIN THE BIRD-A-THON

If you love a competition, sign up for our Mewaldt Cup Bird-a-Thon, the signature Fall Challenge contest! Join a team and do a Big Day anywhere in the state of California during the CFC period of September 13th to October 12th. See page 7.

Visit www.sfbbo.org for all the details!

California Fall Challenge Guided Trips

Saturday, September 13th, 2014

7:00 am – 10:00 am

PLOVERS PLIGHT, LED BY CAITLIN ROBINSON-NILSEN

COST: \$50

Join former SFBBO Waterbird Program Director Caitlin Robinson-Nilsen for a unique field trip and educational experience focused on the federally threatened Western Snowy Plover and the ongoing conservation efforts in San Francisco Bay. Caitlin is recognized as an authority on the Western Snowy Plover, and led SFBBO's plover research for many years. Participants will enjoy a morning in the field observing these rare birds at several locations in the South Bay.

Saturday, September 13th, 2014

7:00 am – 3:00 pm

KAYAKING THE SOUTH BAY— ADVANCED GROUP, LED BY CAT BURNS, JOSH SCULLEN, AND JEFF ENGLANDER

COST: \$150

Explore the South Bay by kayak with SFBBO Executive Director Cat Burns, Landbird Program Director Josh Scullen, and Jeff Englander from Environmental Volunteers! Paddle from the Palo Alto Baylands to the Alviso Marina, pass by restored marsh habitat (including an exclusive look at restored pond A6, generally off-limits to the public), view birds and other wildlife, discuss the Bay Area's conservation issues, and stop for provided snacks and lunch. Trip involves about 6 hours of kayaking across 9 miles

Signing up for Guided Trips

Some trips fill quickly, so please don't wait to sign up!

Use the enclosed envelope or register online at www.sfbbo.org. Pay at the time of registration. By email, you will receive a confirmation with details to prepare you for a great trip. This will include where to meet and park, what to bring, and what to expect. You will receive SFBBO's 2014 commemorative T-shirt if you participate in a guided trip at the \$50 and above level.

of water; half the trip will be in the often-choppy open bay. Prior kayaking experience and good physical fitness required. Trip is one-way with coordinated car-pooling for the return.

Saturday, September 13th, 2014

7:30 am – 2:00 pm

THE FLEDGLINGS, A GUIDED WALK AND BIRD-A-THON FOR KIDS, LED BY PATI ROUZER

COST: \$50 PER CHILD/ONE PARENT FREE

This fun team welcomes young birders ages 6-16 who have basic binocular and ID skills, the interest to bird for 6 hours, and a willing parent to accompany them. The Fledglings will identify the birds, with the parent or chaperone allowed to help spot and carry scopes. Contact trip leader Pati Rouzer at parouzer@yahoo.com to make sure your child will be a good fit before registering. Pati has served on the SFBBO Board and is an avid birder and international trip leader.

Sunday, September 14th, 2014

8:00 am – 11:00 am

THE SARATOGA SIT! LED BY STEPHANIE ELLIS

COST: \$50

Join Executive Director Stephanie Ellis of Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society for a morning of "patio style" birding in her backyard in Saratoga, nestled along a riparian corridor on Saratoga Creek. Participants will enjoy mimosas, snacks, and great company in this beautiful "birdy" backyard location. We expect 25+ species and maybe some migrant surprises!

Sunday, September 14th, 2014

8:30 am – 11:30 am

BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY AT SHADOW CLIFFS, LED BY BILL ROSE

COST: \$50

Join Bill Rose for a walk focused on the art of bird photography at Shadow Cliffs Regional Park in Pleasanton and enjoy Nuttall's Woodpeckers, Red-shouldered Hawks, Common Gallinules and others. Bill is a citizen science volunteer for SFBBO's Colonial Waterbird Program and leads bird walks for the Ohlone Audubon Society. Those interested in exploring digiscoping can bring a lunch

and stay longer (an adapter will be available that will fit most cameras, please indicate interest when you register). Adults and children 12 years and older.

Sunday, September 14th, 2014

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

BIRDING GUADALUPE RIVER PARK AND GARDENS, LED BY GREG KEREKES

COST: \$50

The Guadalupe River flows from the Santa Cruz Mountains through downtown San Jose and to San Francisco Bay, serving as a wildlife corridor. The Guadalupe River Park and Gardens in San Jose is home to a large number of bird species year round and serves as a rest stop for migrant birds. Join local naturalist Greg Kerekes in a bird watching adventure along the river and through the gardens. No prior birding experience needed, experienced birders can reinforce their knowledge. Walk is open to all ages.

Thursday, September 18th, 2014

7:30 am – 3:30 pm

COASTAL MAVERICKS, LED BY ALVARO JARAMILLO

COST: \$100

The San Mateo coast offers a wide variety of birding, from shorebirds and raptors to vagrants at migratory stopover sites. This trip will help you find some of the goodies, specialties and diversity the coast has to offer! Alvaro is a senior biologist at SFBBO known for his popular workshops. He leads international birding trips and pelagic outings through his company, Alvaro's Adventures.

Saturday, September 20th, 2014

8:00 am – 11:00 am

PHOTOGRAPHING BIRDS — WALK, PHOTOGRAPH, AND LEARN WITH LEE AURICH

COST: \$50

Oakland's Lake Merritt, with some of the most approachable birds in the East Bay, provides the subjects for a gentle stroll with stops for photos, learning opportunities, sharing of insights, and growth. Lee is a Bay Area photographer (<http://aurich.com/photos>) involved with the Golden Gate Audubon Society whose bird

3rd Annual CFC Band-a-Thon Matching Gift Challenge!

You can help raise money for SFBBO's banding station by pledging to donate a set dollar amount per bird captured at the Coyote Creek Field Station from September 13th – October 12th. Since 2003, captures during this period have ranged from 379 to 1026 birds, so a pledge of 25¢ per bird would equal \$94.75 to \$256.50. You can also pledge a lump sum if you'd prefer greater certainty!

The full amount of your donation will directly support research at SFBBO's Coyote Creek Field Station. In addition, if we meet our goal of raising \$3,000 through our CFC Band-a-Thon this year, the ecological consulting firm H.T. Harvey and Associates will make a matching gift of \$3,000, in honor of SFBBO early leader Dick Mewaldt, to support our field station!

Donors who participate in the Band-a-Thon will qualify for fundraising prizes. Visit our website at www.sfbbo.org for more information.



H.T. HARVEY & ASSOCIATES

Ecological Consultants

photography specializes in telling the stories of birds by capturing their behaviors, beauty, and relationships. Adults, and families with children 12 years and older, are welcome. Designed for beginner to intermediate photographers.

Saturday, September 20th, 2014

8:00 am – 10:30 am

FAMILY BIRD BANDING DEMO

COST: \$50 PER FAMILY UP TO 5 PEOPLE, \$10 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL MEMBER

Join SFBBO citizen scientists Tom Stewart and Martha Castillo for a fascinating bird banding demonstration at SFBBO's Coyote Creek Field Station in Milpitas. Adults and kids ages 7 and up and their families can tour mist nets, explore riparian habitat, get a close up look at birds, and do hands-on crafts. Come see scientists in action and learn why bird banding is so important.

Sunday, September 21st, 2014

8:00 am – 12:00 pm

BIRDING PESCADERO MARSH, LED BY GINNY MARSHALL AND MALIA DEFELICE

COST: \$50

Pescadero Marsh is a gem of bird habitat on the San Mateo county coast. Join Sequoia Audubon Society board members Malia DeFelice and Ginny Marshall in exploring the varied habitats of Pescadero Marsh. Weather permitting, the group will start with a sea watch, then

hike into the marsh looking for ducks, marsh birds and fall migrants. Adults and children 12 years and older.

Sunday, September 21st, 2014

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

RAPTORS AND MORE AT HAWK HILL, LED BY BOB POWER

COST: \$50

Join Bob at the premier hawk migration site in western North America: Hawk Hill in Marin County. The end of September is the peak of the fall accipiter migration and often produces 12 species of raptors or more. Raptor ID will be a non-stop field experience as hawks, falcons, accipiters, kites, and more move through this natural migration funnel. Early arrivals get mimosas and coffee cake! Bob is the former Executive Director for the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society.

Saturday, September 27th, 2014

7:00 am – 1:00 pm

SALT POND SHOREBIRDS, LED BY NATALIE WASHBURN AND JASON ST. PIERRE

COST: \$50

Join SFBBO's Waterbird Biologists Natalie Washburn and Jason St. Pierre for shorebirding in the Salt Ponds of the South Bay, an important stopover and wintering area for countless species. These salt ponds can hold a spectacular number and diversity of shorebirds, and 15 to 20 species can be found in a day. Natalie

and Jason will offer ID tips and look for some less-common species such as Red Knot, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling and even a vagrant or two. They may also spend some time on ducks, grebes and any other species of interest. Adults and children 12 years and older.

Saturday, September 27th, 2014

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

BIRDING FOR FAMILIES AT LAKE ELIZABETH WITH SANDY FERREIRA AND VICKIE EGGERT

COST: \$50 PER FAMILY UP TO 5 PEOPLE, \$10 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL MEMBER

Join Rangers Sandy Ferreira and Vickie Eggert for a bird adventure walk at Fremont's Lake Elizabeth. Learn about the Colonial Waterbird rookery on Duck Island, Tree Swallow Monitoring Program, Western Blue Birds, American Coots, Red-winged Blackbirds, Green-winged Teal, Black Phoebes, and other birds. Extra binoculars available; trip includes a visit to the park's Nature Center.

Sunday, September 28th, 2014

7:00 am – 5:30 pm

GALLINAGO GO GO'S, LED BY LISA MYERS

COST: \$100

Join Lisa for the Gallinago Go Go's 11th year in the Fall Challenge! All birding levels are welcome to join the Go Go's as they bird Santa Clara County. Lisa leads tours and teaches classes that provide a fun, easy-going environment to learn, ask questions, and increase skill level. Lisa has birded since her teens and leads tours throughout Central California and Central America. She is a member of Nikon's Birding ProStaff and a former member of the SFBBO Board.

Sunday, September 28th, 2014

7:30 am – 1:00 pm

VARIED TWITCHERS, LED BY MIKE ROGERS

COST: \$50

Mike is an expert birder and knows all the great birding spots of Santa Clara County. This fast-paced walk will take avid birders to the best Alviso and Shoreline Lake birding locations, with the goal to see and hear 100 species. Mike is

CFC TRIPS *continued on page 6*

CFC Fundraising Contest Guidelines – How Do I Win?

You win by raising the most money for our programs! Here's how you do it:

Register for the Fundraising Contest. Register online at www.sfbbo.org or use the enclosed envelope.

Tell everyone you know about the mission of the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory – the conservation of birds and their habitats through science and outreach. Set up a Crowdrise social networking account or spread the word via mail, email or through your Facebook community. **Ask for sponsorship** of SFBBO's California Fall Challenge at the \$500, \$200, \$50 or \$25 level, or whatever they feel is the **largest gift they can give** to avian research and conservation.

Ask for Per Bird Pledges. You can also ask donors to pledge a dollar amount per bird species that you see during a CFC Big Day Bird-a-Thon or Guided Trip that you participate in, or to pledge a dollar amount donation to our Band-a-Thon that supports our Coyote Creek Field Station.

Make it easy for them. Collect their cash and checks. Direct them to your social networking giving page. Donations can also be made through our website at www.sfbbo.org. Direct your sponsors to enter your name in the "dedication" window.

Be sure to add your own donation. Check to see if your company will match your gift.

The people who raise the most funds during the Fall Challenge **win fantastic prizes!**

Get the CFC T-shirt!

The 2014 CFC T-shirt, designed by artist Allison Connor and graphic designer Bob Nass, will be black and feature white silhouettes of the birds we study in our science programs. CFC participants who donate \$50 or more through Guided Trip fees, the Mewaldt Cup Bird-a-Thon, Click Off, a Band-a-Thon pledge, a donation in support of a fundraiser, or as a straight donation to SFBBO will receive a T-shirt.

CFC TRIPS *from page 5*

a former member of the California Bird Records Committee and is currently a Northern California regional editor for the journal *North American Birds*.

Saturday, October 4th, 2014

8:00 am – 10:30 am

HERMIT THRUSH MIGRATION, LED BY ALLISON NELSON

COST: \$50

Visit SFBBO's Coyote Creek Field Station and learn how Allison Nelson is using geolocator technology to discover the migratory patterns of the Hermit Thrush, a songbird with populations that either winter in the Bay Area or breed locally in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Participants will also get to tour mist nets and see bird banding. Allison is a graduate student at SFSU and has performed the majority of her Master's research field work at the field station. She is also a citizen science volunteer bird bander.

Saturday, October 4th, 2014

8:00 am – 12:00 pm

KAYAKING THE SOUTH BAY – BEGINNER GROUP, LED BY CAT BURNS AND JASON ST. PIERRE

COST: \$75

Explore the Alviso Slough by kayak with SFBBO Executive Director Cat Burns and Waterbird Field Biologist Jason St. Pierre! Enjoy a leisurely paddle, view birds and other wildlife, and discuss the history of the Alviso Slough and surrounding area. The group will stop for a snack (provided). This trip involves approximately 2.5 hours of paddling along 2 miles of slough (round-trip). Experience paddling a canoe or kayak preferred, but not required.

Saturday, October 4th, 2014

8:00 am – 12:00 pm

VIVACIOUS VIREOS, LED BY GINA BARTON

COST: \$50

This trip will be a leisurely, fun morning of birding around the South Bay looking for songbirds and shorebirds. This will be a laid back trip for those who want to learn basic identification by sight or sound and enjoy the morning with others. Exact location will be decided closer to the trip. Children who are old enough to bird for a half day are welcome with an adult. Gina is a former SFBBO biologist.

Sunday, October 5th, 2014

7:00 am – 4:00 pm

WANDERING VAGRANTS, LED BY SCOTT TERRILL

COST: \$100

During migration, birds can deviate from their migratory routes. Here, most "vagrants" are birds that typically occur in eastern North America, but a few Asian vagrants also arrive. Location determined just prior to the trip. A specialist in avian ecology, Scott has written over 30 scientific papers, primarily on bird migration. He has served as a member of the California Bird Records Committee, Regional Editor for *North American Birds*, the Board President of SFBBO, Science Advisor to SFBBO, and is the primary author of the Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding.

Saturday, October 11th, 2014

8:00 am – 10:30 am

FAMILY BIRD BANDING DEMO

COST: \$50 PER FAMILY UP TO 5 PEOPLE, \$10 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL MEMBER

Join SFBBO citizen scientists Tom Stewart and Martha Castillo for a fascinating bird banding demonstration at SFBBO's Coyote Creek Field Station in Milpitas. Adults and kids ages 7 and up and their families can tour mist nets, explore riparian habitat, get a close up look at birds, and do hands-on crafts. Come see scientists in action and learn why bird banding is so important.

Sunday, October 12th, 2014

10:00 am – 1:00 pm

EXPLORING THE MARSH – A BIRD ADVENTURE FOR FAMILIES, WITH CHERYL STRONG AND DAVID THOMSON

COST: \$50 PER FAMILY UP TO FIVE PEOPLE, \$10 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL MEMBER

Do you like birds? Have you ever explored a marsh? Join us to learn about California Clapper Rails, Black Rails, and other marshland species with Wildlife Biologist Cheryl Strong of the Don Edwards S.F. Bay National Wildlife Refuge and Senior Ecologist David Thomson of SFBBO. This adventure for the whole family will start at the Refuge's LaRiviere Marsh in Fremont and finish at the Refuge pavilion. Watch birds, do fun crafts, and learn how people re-stored this area.

2014 CFC Click Off Photo Contest!

SFBBO's 5th California Fall Challenge Click Off photo contest will focus on birds living in or migrating through California and will run from August 15th to October 5th, 2014. Winners will be selected in the following categories: *Birds and Their Habitats*, *Birds and Humans*, *Bird Behavior*, and *Bird Portraits*. Please visit www.sfbbo.org for more information.

- **Merit Awards**—Judges will choose 5 photos in each category to win Merit Awards. These will be highlighted on SFBBO's Facebook page.
- **Category Winner**—One Merit Award winner in each category will be chosen as a Category Winner. Category Winners will win a \$100 gift certificate to Borrow Lenses and be highlighted at our Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday, October 18th.
- **People's Choice Award**—Attendees at the October 18th Annual Membership Meeting will vote on the People's Choice Winner, who will win a 2-day Bird Blind Photography Workshop with Bruce Finocchio at Ramrod Ranch in Monterey County and a copy of Adobe Lightroom photo software and book (valued at \$695).



TOWNSENDS WARBLER by Bruce Finocchio.

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The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation dedicated to the conservation of birds and their habitats through science and outreach.

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Compete in our Bird-a-Thon: Win the Mewaldt Cup

If you love a competition, sign up for our California Fall Challenge Mewaldt Cup Bird-a-Thon. Bird anywhere in California between September 13th and October 12th and record the most bird species in a 24-hour period to win the Cup, bragging rights, and a basket of goodies from our sponsors! Registration for the Mewaldt Cup Competition requires a \$50 donation per person. Register for the Competition using the attached envelope, email cfc@sfbbo.org, or call 408.946.6548. For complete guidelines, go to www.sfbbo.org.

California Fall Challenge Prizes

Participants in the CFC Fundraising Competition will be competing for great prizes, including: 14-day Eastern South African birding tour with Rockjumper Birding Tours (\$4,000 value); a mystery trip (TBA) with Wildside Nature Tours; a pair of 10x42 Opticron Verano binoculars, the Sibley Guide to North American Birds, and assorted birdwatching items from the Los Gatos Bird Watcher (\$753 value); clothing and a day pack from Patagonia (\$686 value); boat trips in Monterey Bay with Cheeseman's Ecology Safaris and to the Farralon Islands with Oceanic Society Expeditions; 4 tickets to the Exploratorium in San Francisco; and more!



patagonia

Los Gatos
Birdwatcher



First Kids' Bird Art Contest

Please join us for SFBBO's first Kids' Bird Art Contest! The theme is "Birds in Their Habitats," and the contest is open to children ages 3–17. One entry per child; the deadline for submissions is October 10th, and winners will be announced at the annual membership meeting on October 18th. All entries should be works on paper. For information, email outreach@sfbbo.org.



SAN FRANCISCO BAY
BIRD OBSERVATORY

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Calendar

A BIRD IN THE HAND FOR FAMILIES

Saturday, August 16th, 2014
8:00 am – 10:00 am

SITE: COYOTE CREEK FIELD STATION, MILPITAS
Kids ages 7 and up and their families can visit SFBBO’s bird banding station, the Coyote Creek Field Station. We will tour mist nets, watch a bird banding demo, and explore restored riparian habitat. Please join us and learn why bird banding is so important for protecting birds and their habitats. This program is in partnership with the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society’s Young Audubon Program. RSVP required, please contact 408.252.3747 or program@scvas.org.

SFBBO’S 33RD ANNUAL
MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Saturday, October 18th, 2014
9:30 am – 12:30 pm

SITE: STANFORD UNIVERSITY’S JASPER RIDGE BIOLOGICAL PRESERVE, WOODSIDE
Join us for an optional morning bird walk (8:30 am), followed by the SFBBO membership meeting. The meeting will feature updates from SFBBO’s science and outreach programs, a silent auction, recognitions and CFC prizes, and more. Participants will also cast votes for the “People’s Choice” of SFBBO’s 2014 Click Off photo contest. To register for the meeting, please email cfc@sfbbo.org, or call us at 408.946.6548 by October 10th.

Workshops for the Birder and Naturalist – 2014 

WITH: *Alvaro Jaramillo, SFBBO Senior Biologist*
SITE: *Sobrato Center for Nonprofits in Redwood Shores*

SEABIRDS

Tuesday, August 19th and Wednesday, August 20th (instruction), 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm, TBA (fieldtrip)

Seabirds include some of the most amazing migrant species, birds that use the entire ocean as part of their annual distribution. The ocean off the coast of California is one of the richest places on Earth, with opportunities to observe iconic species such as albatrosses, puffins, shearwaters, auklets, and storm-petrels. The classroom portion of this workshop will focus on the identification, ecology and distribution of seabirds. This workshop can be taken as just a class or include a discounted pelagic trip. The class fee is \$90, and the pelagic trip will be offered at the discounted rate of \$110. Please visit www.sfbbo.org for more information.

MIGRANT LANDBIRDS

NEW DAYTIME SCHEDULE: Tuesday, September 23rd, early morning field trip, followed by 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm instruction; Wednesday, September 24th, early morning field trip, followed by 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm instruction

Migration has captured imaginations since ancient times. Today we have many tools at our disposal to help us understand migration and begin to explain how these little creatures do it. This course is an introduction and summary of bird migration, and will help participants learn to identify and understand the biology of local migratory landbirds, and will focus on warblers, vireos, tanagers, thrushes and a few others. Please visit www.sfbbo.org for more information.



MEMBER-ONLY ACTIVITY: Active SFBBO membership required to attend event.

To check your membership status, RSVP, or register for a workshop, go to www.sfbbo.org, call 408.946.6548, or email outreach@sfbbo.org and we will be happy to assist you!