

The Stilt

The Newsletter of the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory

Vol. 15 No.3

Fall 1996

1981 - 1996

SFBBO's 15 Years of Flight!

by Howard L. Cogswell

It all began in the mid '70's with a group of students in an adult education class studying the birds of California: a desire to get out of that classroom and into the field to study the birds here in our own backyard, the San Francisco Bay area. In 1978, two of the group, Mike and Theresa Rigney, had color-tagged herons on outer Bair Island. I have in my files a letter from Mike written in August 1979, thanking me for reporting sightings of these birds in Hayward and explaining that they "hope to provide additional data on juvenile dispersal... and provide new information on colony recruitment." The printed letterhead is that of the "South Bay Institute for Avian Studies", with the Rigney's home address typed below. The original group had no formal bylaws or board of directors and no headquarters, but at least by 1979, they did have a name!

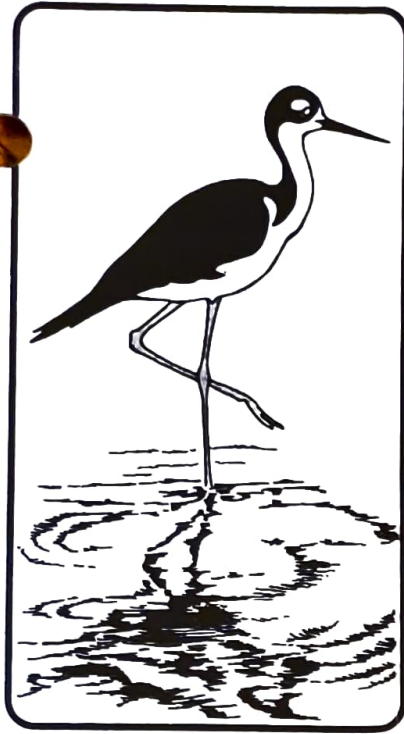
And just how did SBIFAS become SFBBO? In 1981, Mike sought scientific and organizational advice from Dr. Dick Mewaldt, with whom Mike and a number of the others had studied. Dick and his graduate student C. John Ralph had conceived of and spear-headed the founding of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory in 1964, and the new group conferred with PRBO before establishing itself as an

"observatory". As a long-time friend, Dick prevailed upon this writer (verbal arm-twisting to be more exact) to join SFBBO in 1981.

The Institute's reports on Bair Island and the salt pond system's waterbird populations demonstrated the need for greater understanding of the ecological complexities of the south bay. Soon, the Institute was under contract with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game for additional studies. 1981 brought formal incorporation and non-profit status and in 1982, the new Board of Directors, including Peg Woodin, Susie Formenti and others, officially changed the name to the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory. Mike Rigney was Executive Director — the only paid



SFBBO Headquarters since 1983 in the Bayside Cannery Building in Alviso (Photo by Dr. Richard Mewaldt)



Vicki R. Jennings

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**San Francisco Bay
Bird Observatory**
P.O. Box 247
Alviso, CA 95002
(408) 946-6548

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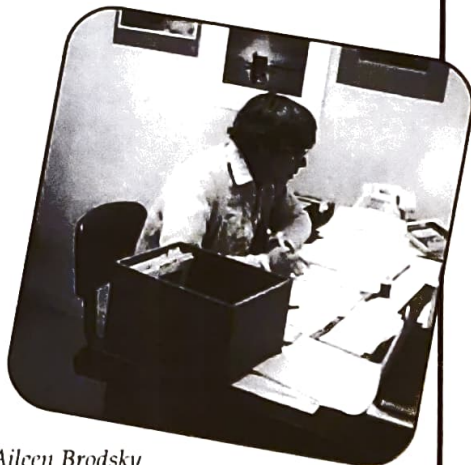
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* but where are they now? We would appreciate hearing from or about them.



Aileen Brodsky
working in the original SFBBO
office in the Bayside Cannery Building.

staff, I believe. A homebase was established in the Bayside Cannery building in Alviso, tenancy generously granted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, with the agreement that the Observatory would monitor and report on the waterbirds nesting on and near the Refuge, our "rent payment" so to speak. SFBBO volunteers re-covered the critical part of the roof, fixed the plumbing, converted an office to classroom, built a darkroom and library shelves, brought in sundry file cabinets, desks, etc.. creating the quarters we still occupy. Now the Observatory had a homebase for meetings, office and field equipment, boats and a research library.

California Gulls

One of the great finds in the 1981 survey of salt-pond dike nesting was the colony of California Gulls on the Knapp tract, west of outer Alviso Slough. Thirty pairs all nested successfully that year and for the next seven years a special SFBBO project was the banding of large numbers of the young of this colony, which grew at a very rapid rate, and for a couple of years in smaller satellite colonies to the east and north. Thousands of young gulls were marked, and we still have reports coming in of sighted birds about the bay, in southern California and even Mexico.

The banders usually got to those islands by an ingenious human-powered short-range ferry with no hand-holds or railings. I have the honor of being the only participant ever to slip off, into water deep enough to flood my chestwaders! Despite squishing at every step, it was a lot of fun watching the banders at their head-lamp illuminated activities.

Two graduate students have completed their theses on the gulls' breeding activities and diet. We are still monitoring the colony; more than 4,000 pairs of gulls nested on the Knapp tract in 1996. An account of its growth is included in a combined PRBO/SFBBO report in preparation on the statewide status of the California and Ring-billed gulls.

This program eventually grew into SFBBO's Colonial Waterbird Monitoring Program, which tracks the nesting success of all the gulls, terns, herons, egrets, cormorants, and now Black Skimmers that utilize the bay and its surroundings for breeding purposes. For 15 years, our volunteers have scoped nesting colonies on salt pond islands, former salt ponds, diked marshes, trees, even in PG&E towers to document the year's waterbird breeding season.

Bair Island

Annual monitoring, and some banding, of herons and egrets on Bair Island continued. The preference of the larger birds for the tallest



coyote bushes (*Baccharis pilularis consanquinea*) took its toll on those shrubs, which gradually died. This native shrub is fire-adapted and deteriorates if not burned, leaving almost no young replacements. So, in 1986 SFBBO volunteers, led by President Ed Roberts, carried out the difficult task of ferrying materials, tools, etc. to the island and actually built a number of elevated nesting platforms. This was at least partly successful, but then, by the late 1980's, nests were found destroyed by predators: there was "sign" of the non-native red fox on this island. Nearly annual monitoring of the areas has continued since, but no Snowy Egrets nest here now, having moved across Steinberger Slough to a eucalyptus grove and the Great Blue Herons moved up, into the PG&E towers, beyond the reach of the fox. With part of outer Bair now under DFG ownership and returned to tide action, this area has tremendous potential for nesting waterbirds, if foxes and human disturbance can be brought under control.

Coyote Creek Riparian Station

Meanwhile, Dr. Mewaldt was looking for a "close-to-home" site to carry on regular sampling of landbird populations, particularly migrants. He had done several years of mist-netting of such birds in a riparian corridor on Hart Mountain in southern Oregon, and at least one year of intensive checking by the same method on the Wool Ranch near Monument Peak, east of Milpitas. Then he discovered the bird-funneling effect of the strip of willows, cottonwoods, and box-elders along Coyote Creek as it approaches the southernmost end of San Francisco Bay — and furthermore, it was owned by a public agency which had reasons to keep the general public out of the area. There seemed no better location for an ongoing research program where nets and other equipment could be left in the field from day-to-day. So, Coyote Creek Riparian Station was "born" as a sub-unit of SFBBO. After several years of intensive netting (and some trapping), it was decided by the then SFBBO Board that this type of concentrated study at one site was diluting the Observatory's ability to carry out its area-wide study of waterbirds and CCRS was thus established as a separate organization. Now, we are two organizations headquartered at the west and east "ends" of Alviso, with different emphases but nevertheless similar overall goals that should, I feel, cooperate whenever a

project or activity suits the abilities of both.

The Flood of 1983

The great Alviso flood of March 1983 set back the studies barely underway at Coyote Creek and SFBBO operations at the old Cannery. Our photo display on the lower floor gives some details. Many valuable field records and some other items were lost to mold during the week or more of submergence. Although higher levees have now been built, we have since kept all items of current or historic value on the upper floor. Alviso itself is some 7 to 12 feet below usual higher high tides in the adjacent sloughs, the land having subsided during years of groundwater pumping in Santa Clara County. So, as long as we are here, we must beware.

Short-term Projects

Several short-term projects have been carried out by SFBBO teams, resulting in valuable reports. In 1983, the birds at the Palo Alto Airport and neighboring baylands were observed for interactions to the aircraft using this small but busy airport. The August 1984 report to the County of Santa Clara Transportation Agency, entitled *The Effects of a Small Aircraft Airport of Birds in the Palo Alto Baylands*, is 51 pages of text, maps and charts, authored by Ginny Becchine, Phyllis Browning, former Executive Director Kathy Hobson and Peg Woodin.

In 1985 a broader study was undertaken for the FWS, Endangered Species Office in Sacramento, on the subspecies of the Common Yellowthroat of the bay and vicinity, commonly called the Salt Marsh Yellowthroat, although it breeds primarily in freshwater marshes and riparian thickets. This effort checked for breeding evidence, or at least presence of singing males, at a great range of locations from Santa Clara Co. north to Sonoma and Solano, with the general finding that overall populations had apparently increased about 3-fold since a 1977 study by Foster. The SFBBO report was authored by K. Hobson, Peter Perrine, Ed Roberts, Marti Foster and Peg Woodin.

In early 1994, SFBBO contracted with the U.S.F.W.S. to carry out a survey of Moffett Field for presence and numbers of six species of "special concern", information needed by NASA, now managing the field upon closure of the Naval Air Station. This study was carried out almost single-handedly by SFBBO Biologist Valerie Layne, investigating habitats for the Snowy Plover, Least Tern, Yel-



Vicki Knirk and Ginny Becchine crossing the slough to the Gull Colony on make shift raft.



Ed Roberts and Jason Formenti taking soil samples in the Bair Island Great Blue Heron Colony.



Volunteers constructing Great Blue Heron nesting platforms on Bair Island.

lowthroat, as well as one mammal and two amphibian species. Her superb 75-page report, *Sensitive Species Surveys at Moffett Field 1994*, is a model for others to follow.

For 14 years, SFBBO has monitored two sloughs in the south bay for evidence of avian botulism among the birds that utilize these areas that receive large volumes of effluent from major sewage treatment plants. This "disease" is really a poisoning from toxin produced by bacteria living in the mud. There have

Continued on page 4

been no recent large outbreaks, at least partly we feel, due to our diligence, but it is important for the treatment facilities to be on watch for it, and we are pleased to continue to work with them each year.

Our original research project on shorebirds has become an ongoing program, due to the dearth of information regarding them and the enthusiasm of our volunteers for collecting that information. The first study, done in 1992-93, gathered data on the numbers of birds, their locations and behaviors during high tide periods. Fielded by then Executive Director Dianne Kopec and funded partially by the San Francisco Estuary Project, it specifically used volunteer field observers to monitor 23 separate units of south bay shoreline on a bi-monthly schedule. Although some areas were inaccessible due to levee conditions, especially in winter rains, we have a reasonably complete survey. The limited funds covered most of the data entry and preliminary analyses enough to lead to a draft report, *Habitat Location and Utilization by Wintering and Migrating Shorebirds during High Tides in South San Francisco Bay*, by Janet T. Hanson and A. Dianne Kopec (83pp.).

The second shorebird study began in the winter of 1995 with the advent of seasonal high-tide shorebird counts. Every winter, spring and fall, winter permitting, an average of 50 observers carry out a simultaneous count of the entire south bay shoreline. The year-by-year accumulation of such data will improve our understanding of shorebird biology in this area, the largest shallow estuary on the west coast of the lower 48 states. Some of us also participated in a trial-run this past spring of counting Western Sandpipers through a low-tide cycle, a coast-wide project being developed by David Lack at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia. SFBBO held a 4-session course of shorebird identification this last spring, as part of an overall revival of our educational program. And we have kept in close contact with the research team radio-marking Western Sandpipers here on the Bay and following their progress to northern breeding grounds. Thanks to our relationships with the U.S.F.W.S., the CDFG, Cargill Salt Division and many other important agencies around the bay, SFBBO is well-positioned to continue study of our many shorebird species as well as other groups of birds that are ecologically associated with the bay's shores, waters, marshes and salt ponds.

Golden Gate Park Herons Coming and Going

by Nancy DeStefanis

Our fourth season at Stow Lake was successful beyond our wildest hopes. We had seven nests, nine nestlings and five fledglings. During the first two seasons, we had only one nest each year. Last year, we had two, one successful with three fledglings and the other setting a record for sitting on unhatchable eggs for six months! But our rookery literally exploded this year. The season started quietly enough with a pair of herons occupying each of the two nests from last year. However, in mid-March, extra herons started arriving and congregating in the trees surrounding the original two nests. Pretty soon, we witnessed spectacular courtship displays and a frenzy of nestbuilding as the herons paired off and started sitting in the Monterey pines and cypress trees on the island opposite the boat house.

Thousands of park visitors soon became aware of the rookery and people came from all over to see the herons close-up: the distance from the path to the island is less than 150 feet. On Earth Day, I put up a scope and hundreds of visitors were thrilled to see their first Great Blue Herons.

By early May, four of the nests had produced nine chicks. We lost four of the nestlings after the mid-May storm. Two other pairs also abandoned at that time. On June 1, we were surprised when a pair

of herons started building a new nest but a week later, they abandoned it also.

Our oldest youngsters started flying at six and a half weeks, quite early compared to birds at Audubon Canyon Ranch, where eight weeks is the norm for first flight. We were startled to see both fledglings return from brief flights and fly into the wrong nest. In short order, they were kicked out by the two residing nestlings. They finally made their way down the tree into their own nest. These forays into the wrong nest continued, mostly when the parent at the other nest was present, making us wonder if this was really an attempt to cadge a free meal.

As luck would have it, our fledglings departed on June 24th. On June 26th, a raccoon was spotted on the island by Park Ranger and Rookie Volunteer Lorraine Grassano. We knew it was only a matter of time before the raccoons started swimming over to the island and climbing the trees in search of eggs and nestlings. Our next project is to work with the Recreation and Park Department to install sheet metal collars to prevent and future predation by the raccoons.

We held our second annual Stow Lake Rookery Observers Picnic on May 24th and all joined in on the chorus of....."My Blue Herons!"



Top row: left to right: Jean Palmeter, Tom Henry, Carol Henry, Mike Hayman, Kathy Lyons, Linda Hoogasian. Front row: Lorraine Grassano, Ann Hoogasian, Nancy DeStefanis, Jody Benton Lee and Samantha Lee (not pictured: Kate Ulrich, Perry Whittle and Sharon Nearn)(Photo by Jean Palmeter).

Board of Directors Election 1996

Robin Smith, Chairman, Nominations Committee

The Observatory's standing Board of Directors' Nomination Committee has prepared the slate of candidates to fill the three board seats that come up every year for election. The following are nominated for approval by a majority vote of the membership, for the term 1996 - 1999:

Richard Carlson - Incumbent. Richard is a business economist and Chairman of Spectrum Economics, Inc. of Palo Alto. In 1994, he co-authored *Fast Forward*, a look at where America and the world will be in the next 30 years. An international adventurer and birder (wherever airfare is "on special" on the 'Net!), Dick made it back last year in time to organize the Alviso Christmas Count.

Anne Moser is a retired teacher who has been birding for the past 8 years. She served for ten years on the board of the Menlo Park City School District. She also served on the Sequoia Audubon chapter's board for 6 years, and was president for 2 terms. An outstanding achievement has been her work on the revised edition of *Sequoia's San Francisco Peninsula Birdwatching*, which recently went to press and is now available. Anne has already worked on Observatory shorebird surveys and event planning.

Ed Pandolfino has a Ph.D. in biochemistry and is Chief Operating Officer and General Manager of Origin Medsystems, a division of Guidant Corporation. They are makers of products for performing laparoscopies and other minimally-invasive surgeries. Ed has been an "obsessive" birdwatcher for the past 5 years. We particularly enjoyed his response when asked to join our board and reprint a portion of it here:

"I am pleased to join the SFBBO board in the hopes that I can be of some help in the task of improving the quality of the Bay Area habitat. When I try to imagine the bay as it was when the first Europeans arrived — salt, tidal and fresh-water marsh rimming the bay and extending miles up the delta, the sky filled with migrating ducks and geese, the mud flats teeming with shorebirds refueling for their spectacular onward journeys, it is difficult not to feel regret. However, a cold November morning at Hayward Shoreline is a great antidote. There I can see how quickly and dramatically the habitat can recover with a little help, a little time and the concern of people like the one's who support the SFBBO. I look forward to meeting and working with you all."

SFBBO Updates

Refuge Dedication Ceremony

On Saturday, June 1, the refuge officially became the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, in honor of retired Congressman Don Edwards, who was instrumental in establishing the refuge in 1972 and in its expansion in 1988. Observatory staff and Board Members Ginny Becchine and Howard Cogswell attended the invitation-only event, along with Representatives Pete Stark, Nancy Pelosi, Zoe Lofgren, Norm Mineta and Tom Campbell. Our congratulations to the Refuge Staff on providing a first-class ceremony and reception.

Black Skimmers in Alameda County....

Black Skimmers nested this year again at the Hayward Shoreline. Staff Biologist Valerie Layne and Park Supervisor Mark Taylor banded 3 of the 4 chicks in late July. The colorbands are white with black numerals. Please contact us if you sight any of the chicks. We believe all 4 survived to fledging.

....And Black Skimmer Publication

For an account of the first two years (1994-1995) of skimmers nesting here on the south bay, please note the following publication:

First nesting of Black Skimmers on San Francisco Bay, by Valerie L. Layne, Robert J. Richmond and Peter J. Metropulos, in *Western Birds* 27:159-162, 1996.

The beautiful cover photo of this issue was taken by SFBBO member Alan Walther at Charleston Slough in August 1995.

Costa Rica Here We Come

A happy and anxious group of birders are preparing to leave for Costa Rica on a trip especially arranged for SFBBO by veteran trip leader Dan Keller. Almost every birder knows that prime time for Costa Rica is the dry season in January. But Dan has discovered a second "mini" dry season in August. In addition to the weather, one outstanding advantage of this off-peak trip is the absence of many of the common North American migrants, allowing for concentration on the specialties Costa Rica is famous for. The group will visit: Rancho Naturalista, Chacon's, Gavilan, LaSelva Reserve, Solimar, Tarcol and the Carara Reserve. Price included all meals, ground transportation, commemorative T-shirt and complete trip lists. Expect to hear all about this adventure and see Rich Kuehn's excellent video of earlier trips at our Annual Meeting.



SFBBO's 1996 Donation Drawing

SFBBO is once again co-sponsoring a donation drawing with Wildlife Rescue of Palo Alto. Grand prize this year: a week in Cabo San Lucas!! Plus many other wonderful assorted prizes. For every book of tickets you buy or sell on our behalf, your name will be entered in a random drawing to be held at the Annual Meeting. Or better yet, win the Top Ticket Seller prize! Remember, when you receive your tickets through the Observatory, half goes to support our waterbird and shorebird programs, while the other half helps support Wildlife Rescue's excellent network of volunteer rehabilitation specialists. Now that's two good causes for the price of one!

Volunteer Opportunities

Forster's Terns Nesting Island Research

Three terns species (Least, Forster's, Caspian) nest along the shoreline of San Francisco Bay. Forster's Terns nest predominantly on islands in the south bay's salt pond system. As their young fledge, it is a good time to conduct research on the features of their preferred nesting habitat. This study will investigate the vegetation, topography and soil characteristics of these artificially created islands. The levees enclosing the salt pond system need periodic maintenance and are repaired with mud dredged from the bottom of the bay and from within the salt ponds. Excess dredged material is deposited in one area within the pond, creating an island. In combination with the foraging opportunities in the ponds themselves, the islands have become important Forster's Tern habitat.

Volunteers are needed to participate in this study. The research is already underway and will continue through October 1996; hours are Thursday through Sunday, 6 am - 11 am. Some experience canoeing is helpful but not necessary and the ability to lift 20 pounds is essential. All equipment will be provided. For more information, please contact Robin Dakin at (415) 960-6826 or call the Observatory.

Clean Up and Help Out

Do you have a closet full of birding magazines with photos too beautiful to throw out? Do you have a shelf of dusty biology or birding books that someone else might enjoy? Here's your chance to clean house, recycle, and help the Observatory. Due to the popularity of the magazine exchange table at our 1995 Annual Meeting, we plan to expand the offerings. We are now accepting donations of birding magazines and relevant books (no newsletters, please). This may help the Observatory, or some other worthy friend, obtain a more comprehensive library and will help you to a tidier environment at home! To arrange for drop-off or pick-up, give us a call at 408/946-6548.

Beginning Birding

SFBBO Member Steve Shunk will be teaching a class in beginning birding through the Palo Alto Adult School. The class, called "Wings over Palo Alto", meets once a week for 9 weeks, beginning on Wednesday evening, September 11. For more information, call 415/329-3752.

Upcoming Fall Classes

All classes are held at our Alviso Headquarters in the Bayside Cannery Building unless otherwise notified. Please call the office for more information.

Pelagic Birds of Monterey Bay - Debbie Shearwater

If you have been thinking of venturing out on a pelagic trip on Monterey Bay, preview the species you may see and their field marks. Debbie will present slides and videos of previous trips and offer a special discount to participants on future boat trips by Shearwater Journeys.

Wednesday, September 18 and 25: 7:30 - 9:30 pm.

\$30 member/\$45 Nonmember (includes one year membership)

Shaded Pencil Drawing - Chuck Stasek

Chuck, who holds a Ph.D. in zoology from U.C. Berkeley, is one of the most popular instructors with Pt. Reyes Field Seminars, with many returning students. This all-day class will help beginners (any kind, not just birders) get started and more advanced students improve their skills.

Saturday, October 5, 9 am - 5 pm (bring a lunch)

\$45 Member/\$60 Nonmember (includes one year membership)

HawkWatch: the Fall Migration - Allen Fish

Here in the bay, we have access to one the west coast's premiere raptor migration observation spots, at Hawk Hill at the Marin Headlands. Allen, who is Director of the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory, will help us understand raptor i.d., migration ecology and conservation, then lead us on a trip to the Hill during the height of fall migration.

Monday, September 30 and October 7, 7:30 - 9:30 pm

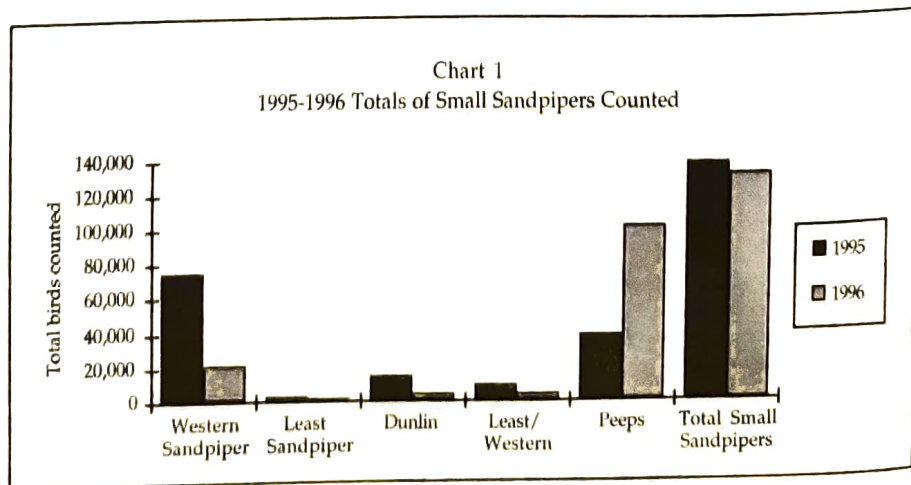
Field trip: Sunday, October 13; 10 am - 2 pm (bring a lunch)

\$40 Member/\$55 Nonmember (includes one year membership)



Correction to the last newsletter

In the last issue of The Stilt, page 2, we inadvertently printed the wrong chart for Chart 1. Please see the correction version below.



Our thanks to these supporters of the Observatory

Memberships

We welcome the following new and returning members of SFBBO (May through July 1996):

Monika Bjorkman, Jennifer Catron, Robert Christiansen, Robert Clement, Jay Davis, Nancy DeStefanis, Don and Margaret Emery, Ernie Goitein, Phil and Pat Gordon, Nancy Grove, Jay and Janet Hanson, Elaine Harding Smith and Glenn Smith, Marge and Carl Heintze, Lillian Henningsen, Richard Horrigan, M.D., Lee Hung, Barbara Johnson, Rich Kuehn and Dean Schuler, Barbara Lapp, Ruth Levenson, David McIntyre, Cheryl Millett, Don Peer, Edith and Bill Pounders, Lynne Reardon, Elsie Richey, Glenn Rogers, Mildred Rose, Allen Royer and Family, Tibby Simon, Mike Spence, Jane Starbird, Jean Sutherland, Peter White, Crystal Woodin.

Contributions

We thank the following individuals for their contributions to SFBBO (May through July 1996):

Paul and Joan Armer, Ginny Becchine, Janice and Frank Delfino, Don and Margaret Emery, Dave and Susie Formenti, Nancy Grove, Lance Hull, David Jaffe, Paul Jones, Rich Kuehn, Ruth Levenson, Martin Lycan, Sharon Nearn, Marty Nelson, Jean Palmeter, Peter Radcliff, Susan Ramos, Susan Rosso, Stephen Schneider, Tibby Simon, Al Spears, Mike Spence, Jane Starbird, Helen Stevenson, Hazel Tilden, Peter White, Allan Wofchuck, Timothy Young, Lou and Jean Young

Special Thanks

We have a newly upgraded, much faster PC system with CD thanks to board member Lou Young and his highly computer literate son Tim.

One casualty of last winter's storms was our wooden sign over the side door here at the Cannery. Dan Stout salvaged the original and then greatly improved it with a fresh new Stilt and even a map of the bay on the back. Thank you, Dan.



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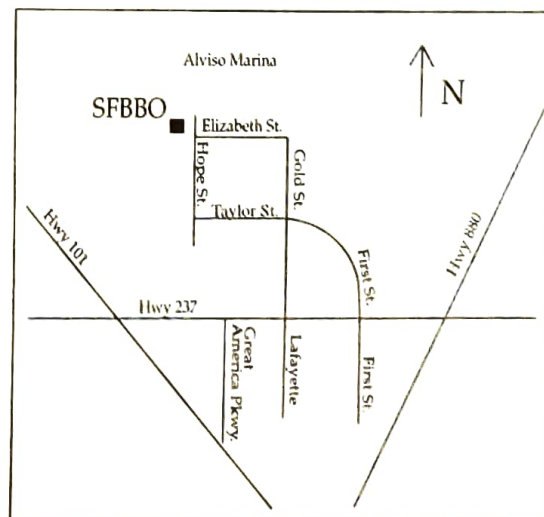
The Bird Observatory is located at 1290 Hope St. in Alviso. The office is open weekdays and some weekends, but specific hours vary with our field schedule. Before stopping in, call (408) 946-6548 and check when we will be available.

The Board meetings are open to the membership. Call the Observatory office for dates and times.

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The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory is a non-profit (501-C-3) corporation. All memberships and contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Annual memberships are as follows:

<i>Patron:</i> \$2,000	<i>Associate:</i> \$50
<i>Life:</i> \$400	<i>Family:</i> \$35
<i>Sustaining:</i> \$200	<i>Individual:</i> \$25
<i>Contributing:</i> \$100	<i>Student/Senior:</i> \$15



Mark your calendars!!

Saturday, September 14, 1996
3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

SFBBO's 15th Anniversary!!
Annual meeting and barbecue
at the Old Bayside Cannery, Alviso

Come join SFBBO Staff, Board of Directors, members and friends for an afternoon of local birding field trips, birding magazine and book sale, raffle and door prizes, the 1996 volunteer awards, special recognition of SFBBO's Founders, a sumptuous barbecued chicken feast, the return of the Gospel Accordion to Women, and...

Special guest speaker
Dave Shuford, Biologist, PRBO
"Status of California Ornithology"

Dave received his M.S. in ecology from UCD in 1975 and has been at PRBO ever since. His field work has ranged from the Arctic tundra to the Antarctic icecap, although his main research interests are the distribution, abundance and habitat needs of California birds. Dave is currently documenting the importance to shorebirds of wetlands throughout the west with his work on the Pacific Flyway project. In addition, he is studying the effects of changing lake levels on the breeding California Gull pop at Mono Lake, another atlas projects: the breeding distribution and habitat needs of birds in the Glass Mountain region of Mono County.

The Marin County Breeding Bird Atlas: A Distributional and Natural History of Coastal California Birds, available for sale and signing for \$26.76.

Calendar of Member Events

September

Pelagic Birds of Monterey Bay - Debbie Shearwater. Wednesday, September 18 and 25: 7:30- 9:30 pm. \$30 member/\$45 Nonmember (includes one year membership)

HawkWatch: the Fall Migration - Allen Fish. Monday, September 30 and October 7, 7:30 - 9:30 pm. Field trip: Sunday, October 13; 10 am - 2 pm (bring a lunch). \$40 Member/\$55 Nonmember (includes one year membership)

October

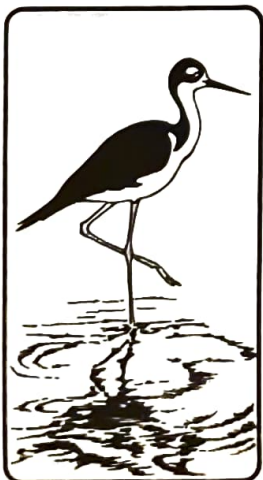
Shaded Pencil Drawing - Chuck Stasek Saturday, October 5, 9 am - 5 pm (bring a lunch). \$45 Member/\$60 Nonmember (includes one year membership)

December

South Bay shorebird census. Winter migration count. Saturday, December 7, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory

P.O. Box 247, Alviso, CA 95002 (408) 946-6548



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