

BAY BIRD REVIEW

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



SAN FRANCISCO BAY
BIRD OBSERVATORY

Director's Message

New Year, New Nest

As the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory celebrates its 25th Anniversary, we also bid farewell to our home of 25 years, the Bayside Canning Co. of Alviso.

Our 25 years there was made possible through the generosity and partnership extended to us by our good friends at the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. We especially thank Clyde Morris, the South Bay Refuge Manager, for his help, encouragement, and support over the years.

The Bird Observatory's first office was the ground floor "classroom" in the cannery. Those initial intrepid volunteers and staff installed heaters, typewriters, phone lines, and file cabinets. No one anticipated that two years later the infamous Alviso flood of 1983 would force them to salvage what they could of their hard work and reestablish the office upstairs.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE *continued on page 2*

SAN FRANCISCO BAY BIRD
OBSERVATORY OPEN HOUSE
AND VOLUNTEER
APPRECIATION NIGHT

Thursday, March 29, 7–9 p.m.

Visit our new office at 524 Valley Way in the Sobrato Center for Nonprofits, Milpitas. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres, desserts, and good company! RSVP by March 26 to outreach@sfbbo.org or 408.946.6548.



CAITLIN ROBINSON *looking for plovers at the Dumbarton ponds.*

Waterbird Science Report

Implications of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project on the Bay's Snowy Plovers

The San Francisco Bay is home to a number of threatened and endangered avian species. The threatened Western Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*) is a small shorebird that nests in open areas with sparse vegetation such as coastal sandy beaches and alkaline areas of western North America.

In the South San Francisco Bay, plovers nest on dry salt evaporation ponds. For the past three years, the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory has joined biologists from the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge in monitoring these plovers. Areas surveyed by biologists, interns, and volunteers include salt ponds in Ravenswood, Alviso, Warm Springs, Dumbarton, Coyote Hills, and Eden Landing Ecological Reserve.

History

The Western Snowy Plover was listed as

a threatened subspecies by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in 1993. This subspecies is defined as those plovers that nest near or along tidal waters.

Their population has been in decline over the past 100 years, including a 20% decline from the late 1970's to the late 1980's. These declines were likely caused by habitat degradation such as development along the beaches and recreational RESTORATION PROJECT *continued on page 4*



PLOVER CHICKS

PHOTO BY LESLIE TUCCI

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE *continued from cover*

Originally the cannery dormitory, this upstairs space served as headquarters for the next 17 years. In 2000, with the entire building in a serious state of decline, the Bird Observatory's office moved into a doublewide trailer located behind the cannery.

Last year, as expanding staff and programs demanded more space, we began the search for new offices in earnest. We are extremely pleased to announce that the Bird Observatory has been awarded a grant from the Sobrato Foundation that provides affordable office space to South Bay nonprofit organizations.

Our new office is at 524 Valley Way in the Sobrato Center for Nonprofits in Milpitas, and it features our extensive ornithology library, which will soon be open to our members. In addition to our own suite, we have the use of beautiful, newly renovated meeting rooms in the complex and a nonprofit resource center.

This move is only the beginning of a larger strategy that ultimately leads to a permanent future home for the Bird Observatory. Our success at this stage is the result of the care and support provided by you—our members and partners.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Open House and Volunteer Appreciation Night on March 29, 2007. Come by and celebrate!

By Janet T. Hanson, Executive Director

Please update your records with our new address at the Sobrato Center for Nonprofits: 524 Valley Way, Milpitas, CA 95035.



THE BIRD OBSERVATORY bids farewell to its home of 25 years.



DANIELLE LE FER rejoins the Bird Observatory.

Migrations



At the end of January, former Waterbird Program Director **Cheryl Strong** moved across country to Knoxville, Tennessee where her husband will pursue a Ph.D. at the University of Tennessee in wetlands in the Department of Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries. While she is not certain what she will be doing yet, it will be related to bird conservation. Cheryl said, "In the meantime, spring migration in the Great Smoky Mountains should be really nice."

The Bird Observatory welcomes back **Danielle Le Fer, Ph.D.** as the new Waterbird Program Director. Danielle was our Waterbird Field Biologist from 1998 to 2000 before leaving to pursue her Ph.D.

At the Bird Observatory, she assisted with studies of California Gull and Forster's Tern productivity and carried out botulism monitoring surveys. She also studied seasonal variation in Virginia and Sora Rail density in tidal marshes by trapping and tracking in San Francisco Bay sloughs and through call counts.

MY FIVE YEARS HERE HAVE BEEN A GREAT LEARNING EXPERIENCE AND IT HAS BEEN MY PLEASURE TO WORK WITH SOME GREAT VOLUNTEERS!

—CHERYL STRONG

Danielle's doctoral research on the Great Plains Piping Plover population, which was listed as threatened in 1986, focused on how habitat quality affects reproductive success on the Missouri River. Most recently a wildlife biologist for the Common Murre Restoration Project at USFWS, she has enjoyed

monitoring Common Murres and Brandt's Cormorants, obtaining data on egg lay dates and reproductive success, deploying social attraction equipment onto Devil's Slide Rock, and writing reports and manuscripts.

Danielle told us, "I look forward to conducting research related to habitat protection and species recovery to generate effective policies and management decisions...I believe that habitat availability and quality are the critical issues facing wildlife, particularly in the San Francisco Bay Area."

We're thrilled to have her rejoin the Bird Observatory team!

Correction

CFC 2006 Bird-a-thoners list in the Winter 2006 issue should also include Leslie Nicholson.

Predator Patrollers Walk the Line to Save Birds

Predation of birds in mist nets can become a problem during bird banding efforts, especially at long-term, year round banding stations. Yet banding stations are often wary of increasing visits to the nets to deter predators since human disturbance would influence bird behavior and cause a change in the capture rates of birds at the nets.

However, new research from the Bird Observatory suggests that increased human patrols at net lanes may deter predators while not affecting capture rates at the nets, at least for resident species.

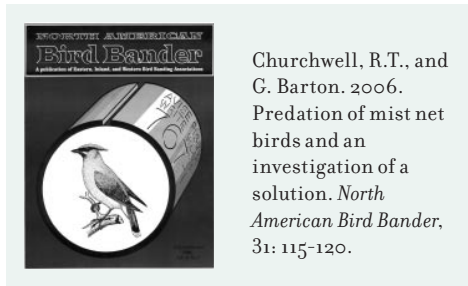
"We feel that predator patrol is an acceptable method to deter predators, but we would encourage others to test its effect after an initial-use period, as we have," say researchers Roy Churchwell and Gina Barton.

The study site at the Coyote Creek Field Station is a restored riparian site where bird banding has occurred since 1982. In the winter of 2001, it became clear that predators like the grey fox and house cats had learned that the mist nets provided an easy meal, and there was an average of one bird per week being taken from the nets. Beginning in 2002, researchers at the banding station assigned banding volunteers to patrol the nets for predators.

Churchwell and Barton explain, "Discussions with other bird observatories led us to believe that increased activity at the mist nets could cause a change in capture rates, but we decided that the safety of the birds took precedence."

In the study, the researchers compared the capture rates of four year-round resident species—Bushtit, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Common Yellowthroat, and Song Sparrow—before and after predator patrol within a four-year analysis period. No significant difference was found between the before and after timeframes. Furthermore, no correlation was found between the site data and regional trend data, meaning that regional variations have not distorted local data.

This new information will be helpful for other banding stations that need to explore options when facing predation of mist net birds. While such chronic incidents have been rare, they ulti-



VOLUNTEER HELEN GREEN on predator patrol. PHOTO BY ROD GOLDEN

mately require solutions where both bird safety and sound data are priorities. Churchwell and Barton also note that further research would be needed to show whether transient species would behave the same way.

Since 2002, volunteer predator patrollers at the Bird Observatory's banding station have reported only an average of 1 predation per year compared to 13 predations per year before predator patrol. As quickly as they learned how to reach easy meals caught in mist nets, predators have learned to avoid an area with human presence.

Or perhaps they simply find new easy meal targets. While banding outside in September 2006, volunteer Joelle Buffa discovered that a scavenger had poached her packed lunch.

She reports, "I retrieved the sandwich, and noted damage: a large bite and part of the plastic bag was gone. When I looked more closely at my pack, I saw 2 distinct fox prints on the front where it had placed its front feet when it had its head in my pack. I put the sandwich out of reach for the rest of the day. A couple hours later, I was eating a banana by the table and a gray fox walked boldly out of the bushes, onto the path, and looked longingly at the banana. It ran into the bushes when I yelled at it."

Needless to say, banders at Coyote Creek Field Station now leave their lunches locked in their cars.



A SONG SPARROW waiting to be extracted.

By Juliana Chow, Outreach Specialist



PLOVER NEST

PHOTO BY CAITLIN ROBINSON

RESTORATION PROJECT *continued from cover*

use of beach habitat. The introduction of beach grass has also reduced the amount of the preferred open beach habitat.

The population decline region-wide can also be attributed to the introduction of non-native predators, as well as the increase in native predators that coexist well with human actions. Within the Bay, the plover population is declining in part because of the increase in predators both native and nonnative. Changes in the salt pond landscape could also be contributing to the decline of the species as the amount of dry pan habitat varies from year to year in the Bay.

Prior to the beginning of the commercial salt industry in the San Francisco Bay, there were no records of Snowy Plovers in the area. However, there are records as early as 1918 documenting plovers nesting on the levees surrounding the salt ponds in the East Bay at the Alvarado salt works in Alameda County. At that time, salt pond workers reported breaking a number of eggs with their wheelbarrows. The following year, a plover nest was collected from salt ponds near Redwood City, indicating that plovers also nested in the Peninsula.

In 1971, there were approximately 150 breeding pairs in the South Bay. Plovers were observed foraging in areas where they no longer exist such as Bair Island,

Moffett Field, and in the Drawbridge area.

A survey in 1978 found 351 adult plovers in the Bay, many in the same ponds they breed in today. The highest numbers were found at what is now called Eden Landing Ecological Reserve (formerly called Baumberg), the Coyote Hills ponds, and the Dumbarton ponds. A paper published by PRBO Conservation Science in 1981 declared the Bay one of the most important breeding areas in the state because of the high numbers of plovers nesting here.

Current Research Results

The number of Western Snowy Plovers nesting in the San Francisco Bay has decreased dramatically since the 1970's. This past breeding season from March through August, the Bay was home to approximately 99 adult plovers. This is 5.28% of the total number of plovers counted along the Pacific Coast during a breeding window survey in May 2006 (total count was 1874 plovers). In 2005, there were 124 plovers counted during the breeding window survey, and in 2004 there were 113 plovers observed during the same period.

In 2006, the Bird Observatory and the Refuge monitored 81 nests in salt ponds at Alviso and at Eden Landing in Hayward. Plovers also nested in Ravenswood, Warm Springs, the Dumbarton Ponds, as well as near the Alviso Marina.

The number of nests at Eden Landing increased dramatically from 7 in 2005 to 70 in 2006. The low number of nests in 2005 is attributed to the high water levels in Eden Landing ponds due to late spring rains. In general, this year's nesting was more comparable to the nesting season of 2004, when 61 nests were found in the Bay Area: 11 on the Refuge and 50 in Eden Landing.

Although there were more plover nests this year, the plovers experienced much higher predation rates than the previous two years. This year, 28% of the nests were predated, as compared to 10% in

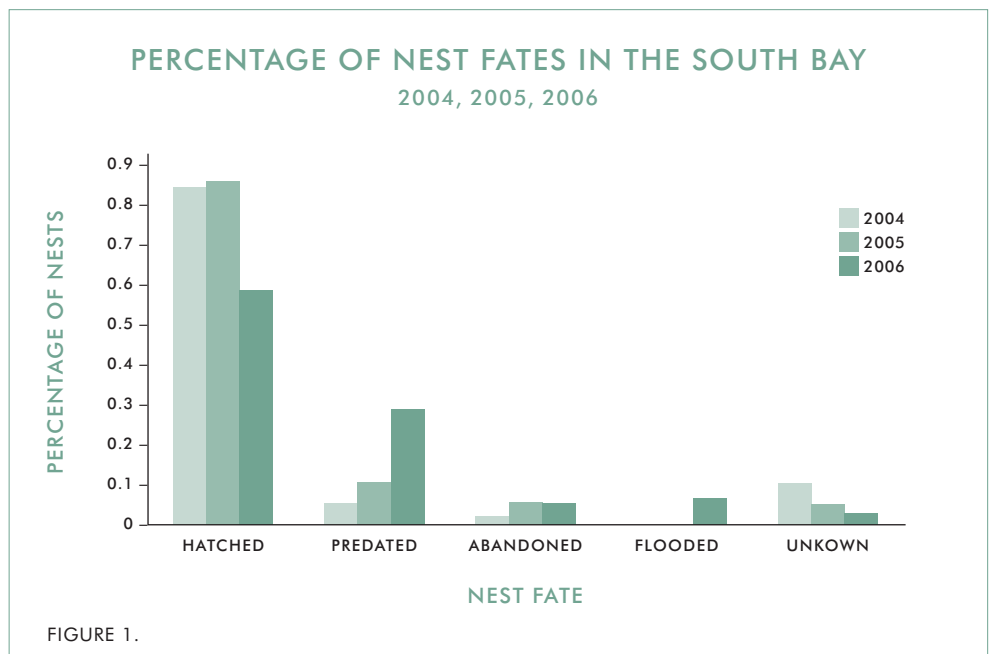


FIGURE 1.



WESTERN SNOWY PLOVER
PHOTO BY CAITLIN ROBINSON

2005 and 5% in 2004. Many avian predator species seen foraging in and around the ponds include Common Ravens, American Crows, Northern Harriers, White-tailed Kites and California Gulls. While we did not observe any direct nest predation, the populations of some predators are growing.

Managing Ponds for Plovers

The largest adjustment that lies ahead for the Bay's Western Snowy Plovers is the habitat changes planned by the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project. This large-scale project plans to convert 15,100 acres of salt ponds to tidal marsh, while maintaining some managed wildlife ponds as waterfowl and shorebird foraging habitat and plover nesting and foraging habitat.

One of the first steps in managing ponds for nesting plovers and migratory shorebirds started last year with the active water management in five salt ponds at Eden Landing. This involves lowering water levels early in the spring to create dry nesting areas for plovers. Throughout the breeding season, the ponds still have some water in areas to provide suitable foraging areas for the birds. After the breeding season is over, ponds are flooded at varying depths to provide foraging and roosting areas for migratory shorebirds.

In 2006, the ponds with active water management were the first to dry at Eden Landing and had very high numbers of plovers nesting on them in the beginning of the season. However, once ponds in other areas of Eden Landing dried out, plovers moved to the new ponds and nested. This is likely because water levels in the managed ponds had dropped too low and no longer provided

Commentary

Pacific Coast Snowy Plover Populations Improve But Still Need Protection

THE WESTERN SNOWY PLOVER has become emblematic of the effort to preserve and protect the natural beauty of California's beaches. Its recovery takes a multifaceted approach that interweaves scientists banding the endangered species to track movement, children painting educational signs, and retirees volunteering as docents on beaches to reduce disturbance by people and dogs on important wintering sites.

Cooperation between state agencies and non-profits organizations has benefited the plover. With over a decade of increased public education, Californians are increasingly aware of the need to balance activity and use of the state's beaches for their enjoyment today and for future generations.

I recently helped organize the Range-wide Western Snowy Plover Annual Meeting at the San Francisco Zoo from January 24 to 26, which convened biologists, land managers, agency staff, volunteers, and educators. We reviewed restoration efforts since the draft recovery plan of 2003, as well as Snowy Plover management within the San Francisco Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project. We also discussed best practices for predator management, population estimates, banding, habitat restoration, and outreach programs.

In California, a state that sees exceptionally high summer use of beaches (including widespread use of beach-grooming trucks to level the sand), the Western Snowy Plover is long gone as a breeder from many of its historic nesting sites, including most of southern California. The overall increases in plover numbers since the 1993 listing can be attributed to management actions currently being implemented on the West Coast. By choosing not to de-list the plover this past fall, the USFWS recognized the importance of protection and management to the species survival.

For more information, please visit:
www.westernsnowyplover.org
http://ca.audubon.org/snowy_plover.html
www.sfbbo.org/plover.htm

.....
By Claudia Eyzaguirre. Claudia is the Chapter Outreach Coordinator at California Audubon.

choice foraging habitat. Through our monitoring work, this water management will continue to be developed to maintain plover foraging and nesting habitat within the dried ponds.

The Northern Harrier population may also increase as the amount of its potential nesting habitat increases due to the Restoration Project. This past year, harriers that nested in marsh areas adjacent to the plover nesting ponds were frequently seen hunting over ponds. In the 2007 breeding season, the Bird Observatory and the Refuge will study Northern Harrier foraging territories to better understand how harriers use the salt pond habitat.

With the Western Snowy Plover popu-

lation at a 30-year low and with all the changes that lie ahead in the Bay, the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory will be carefully watching these small birds. Bird Observatory field biologists and volunteers will continue to play a major role in monitoring the plovers. We will also continue to make management recommendations to help ensure the future of this threatened species.

.....
By Caitlin Robinson. Caitlin is a field assistant for the Bird Observatory's Western Snowy Plover Recovery project and a master's student at San Jose State University. She is writing her thesis on Snowy Plover use of managed salt ponds in the South Bay.

Thank you to our 2006 Fall Challenge Donors for pledging support to the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory!



Cheryl Adams, Norman and Melvia Akita, Jr., Catherine Denise Alexander, Cheri Anderson, Russell Anello, Paul and Joan Armer, Nicole Athearn, Karenlee Atkin, Peter Backus, George and Irma Baldwin, Kathy Baldwin, Lisa Ballard, Joyce Bartlett, Liz and Bob Bathgate, Leonie Batkin, Irene Beardsley, Virginia Becchine, Bonnie Bedford-White and Richard White, Douglas and Maren Bell, Norton and Ann Bell, Nel Benningshof, Judy Berthiaume, Shelley Beville, Laura Black, William Black, Bonnie Bosworth, Russell Bradley, Susan Brain, Jim Bramlett, John Brown and Moira Urich, Raymond Brulotte, Deborah Brusco, Juliette Bryson, Ruth Buckwalter, Eleanor Buffa, Joelle Buffa, Florence Butler, Brenda Buxton, Dorothy Calabrese, Carolyn Carson, Miriam-Jeannette Castaneda, Joanna Cezniak, Louise and Martin Chao, Doug and Gail Cheeseman, Paul and Marijane Chestnut, Rita Colwell, Kathy Compagno, Tom Condit and Marsha Feinland, Anthony and Wendy Cooper, Marvin Cooper, Evelyn Cormier, Dennis and Sylvia Cox, Lori Cuesta, Nancy Cushing, Machiko Cyr, Walter D. Hodges, Robin and Steve Dakin, Maryann Danielson, Randall and Sharon Dardenelle, Lori Davis, Courtenay Dawson-Roberts, Janice and Frank Delfino, Karen DeMello, Joseph DiAndrea and Kathy Harris, Charmian Dobell, Robert Douglas, Lisa and William Dove, Richard Drechsler, Deanna Dubois, Jean and Pat Dubois, Noney Eckert, Gerry Ellis, Steve and Marcia Ellis, Lorrie and Ron Emery, Carol Engberg, Hans and Diane Ernst, Alice Evans, Yan Fang, Arleen Feng, James and Amy Feng, John Fisher, Leslie Flint, Susie and Dave Formenti, Russ and Marilyn Fowler, Gordon and Jutta Frankie, Lonna Franklin, Audrey Freeman, Lillian Fujii and Steven Hayashi, Harold Fukuma, Josephine Gandolfi, Rebecca Gates, Joseph and Estela Genduso, Ellen Goff, Thomas Goodier, Eric Goodill, Helen Green, Katherine Greene, Kenneth Greenwood and Sonia Jacob, Ann Gruye, Joan and David Hadden, Pauline Hale, Kathleen Haley, Frank and Cynthia Hanson, Janet and Jay Hanson, Gerry Harp, Pat Hartley, Garth Harwood, Charles Hathcock, Nick and Kathy Hendig, William Hepburn, Kathy and Bill Herington, Howard Higley, Roland and Linda Hill, Jan Hintermeister, Mary Hocken, Ben Hoffman, Rick Holden and Sandy Moll, Mark and Janet Homrighausen, Grant and Karen Hoyt, Stanley Huang and Helen Choy, Celia Huddleston, Sherry Hudson, Patrick Humphrey, Ph.D., Dorothy Hunt, Susan Hunt, Brian and Linda Hutchins-Knowles, Carole Hutchinson, Richard Hutson and Robert Barry, Amy Hutzler, John and Janet Hyland, Chris and Cyndie Illes, Richard Jeffers, David Johnston, Ph.D., Charles and Helen Jones, Jane Jordan, Annette Jung, Justin Kitzes, Kallin Tea and Shu Ping Guan, Dawn Kang, Kristine Karnos, Tim Kask, Suzanne Keith, Karen Khan, Dr. Kianian, Julie Kitzenberger, Julie

Klingmann, Joanna and Ralph Koch, Rebecca Koch, Diane Kodama, Marge Kolar, Paul and Paula Konrady, Mike and Ina Korek, Kris and Angela Krauel, Wes and Joy Krauel, Cindy Ku, Phil Lacroute, Barry and Virginia Langdon-Lassagne, Michael and Mary Anne Larimore, Phil and Florence LaRiviere, Michael Larkin, Peter and Sue LaTourrette, Sue Lebeck, Gretchen LeBuhn and Mark Reynolds, Gayle Ledgerwood, Brian Lee, Diane Lee, Kathleen Lee, Sue Lehr, Scott Lehrbaum, Lisa Myers, Dean and Margaret Lewis, Robert and Hannelore Lewis, Jennifer Liu, Ms. Kristine Long, Andra Lorenz, Kay Loughman, Roger Harris (LSA Inc.), Christian and Jeff Machler, Julie and Robert MacLean, Carol Maddison and Don Higgins, Joseph and Mari Mammoser, Michael Mammoser, Larry and Judie Manning, Marshall Marlowe, Peter Marra, William and Carol McCarey, Bart McDermott, Patty McGann, John McLemore, Eunice McMurray, Dave Meeker and Dennis Brown, Ramsey and Marlene Melugin, Sonny Mencher, Gary Meyer, S.B. Meyer, Susan Michelle and Greg Jepsen, Nancy Miller, Paula Miller, Carmen Minch, Mike Monroe, Sandy and Steve Moore, T. Charles and Meredith Moore, Dr. Thomas Morris, Dolores Morrison, Clyde and Lillian Mosier, Jean Myers, Jerry Nausbaum, Connie Nelson, Paul and Madelyn Noble, Dick and Lisa Norris, Scott Norton, Carol Oda, George and Marti Oetzel, Keith Ohmart and Helen Chen, Kristen Olson, V.M. Orth, John and Nena Padley, Stephen and Laurie Pakula, Deanne Phillips, Sara Polgar and

Ayan Al-Shaikh, Bill and Marge Quackenbush, David Quady, Sylvia Quast, Cynthia Ramseyer, Emily Renzel, David Rice, Irene Rice, Gail Richardson, Rick and Laurie Roberts, John and Lucy Robinson, James Hall (Robots Printing Co.), Michael Rogers and Alma Kali, Renato Roscher and Lisa Hatamoto, James and Sarah Ross, Patricia Rouzer, D.C., Jacqueline Sand, Sandy Saucedo, Gary Schepke, Fred Schulenburg, Michael Sears, Robert and Renia Seibel, Jean Shadomy, Anita and Richard Sheats, Kevin Shepard, Martin and Barbara Sidor, Ashutosh Sinha, Alice Smith, Jan Smith, Robin Winslow Smith, Tate Snyder, Geoffrey So, Jen Stankiewicz, Don Starks and Carol Woodward, Zoe Ann Stivers, Mark and Mary Stoering, Emilie Strauss, Brian Strong and Wilma Linsky, Ralph and Barbara Strong, Linda Sullivan, Mark and Leila Sutherland, Liz Talmage, Jill Tarter, Helen Tashjian, Barbara and Andre Tenyehuis, Jim Thomas, Phil and Heather Thorp, Edward and Nancy Tindle, Francis Toldi, J. M. Toyoshima, Ruth and Gene Troetschler, Wallace and Sylvia Tsang, William and Kimberly Umansky, M.D., Suzanne Van Stee, Fredric and Linda Van Wert, Ann Verdi, Hannes Vogel, Kevin and Michelle Von Luehrte, Victoria von Schwerin, Sally Walters, Lisa Weber, Sherri Weeks, Jannine Weiss and Valerie Myers, Robert and Marilyn White, Asher Williams, Laura Willner, Erin Wilson, Randy Windham, Meg Withgott, Darlene Woodbury, Judith Wright, Gerald Young, Lou Young, Malcolm and Heidi Young, Stephen Young, Bob and Carol Yutzy

2007 Board of Directors

We welcome **Patricia Rouzer, D.V.** to our board of directors. Patricia brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in finance, and her leadership will be invaluable to us as our programs continue to expand. Thank you to departing board members S.B. Meyer and Scott Terrill for their years of support and guidance.

Patricia's interest in the natural world began in childhood collecting insects and spending summers in field biology classes and on horseback. After twenty years as a chiropractor, the early love of nature increasingly leads towards a fascination with birds.

Patricia looks forward to supporting the board, staff, and volunteers of the Bird Observatory in their dedication to scientific discovery and furthering the understanding of the avian ecology in the San Francisco Bay.



PATI ROUZER

Please see page 7 for updated Board of Directors roster.

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

We thank all of these members for their contributions during the fourth quarter of 2006.

PARTNER

Barry and Virginia Langdon-Lassagne

CONTRIBUTOR

Roy Carlson, John Johnson, Carl and Shirley Larson, Scott and Linda Terrill

SUPPORTER

David Ainley, Joelle Buffa and Clyde Morris, Carolyn Carson, T. Michael Chaves, Bill and Jean Clark, Terry and Zeo Coddington, Jim Collins, William Espey, Bingham Gibbs, Christopher Hamilton and Donna De Diemar, Linda Henry, Rebecca Jackrel, Julie Klingmann, Gerald and Rosette Koch, Julie and Robert MacLean, Gerard and Laurie McChesney, T. Charles and Meredith Moore, Marguerite Ryan, James and Andrea Sandstrom, Thomas Stewart and Martha Castillo, Paul Vlasveld, Bill Wagman, Charles Woodrum

ASSOCIATE

Nancy Arbuckle and Cedric Crocker, Connie Armitage, Bonnie Bedford-White and Richard White, William Bigler, Juliette Bryson, Bliss Carnochan, Rita Colwell, Beth Dyer, Andrea Eyring, Rita Faix, Ronald Fredrick, Dennis Geiler, Mary Gerber, Phil and Pat Gordon, Laurie Graham and Jeff Fairclough, Nancy and Herbert Greenfield, Reid and Sharon Gustafson, Lee Harnett, Rosemary and Robert Heil, Martha and Robert Helseth, Andree Hest, Jan Hintermeister, Barbara Hurtig-Willis, M. Anne Jennings, David Johnston, Ph.D., Kay Klumb, Lisa Konie, Susan Kritzik, Bill Lafayette, Rosalie Lefkowitz, Larry

and Judie Manning, Carol McKee, Mike O'Brien, Carol Oda, Elizabeth Porter, Barney Quinn, Gayle Reynolds, Rick and Laurie Roberts, Carolyn H. Serrao, Don Starks and Carol Woodward, Bert Tom, Joanne Sarg Wallin, Mike White and Greta McElroy-White, Sophia Wong, Ann Yasuda

INDIVIDUAL

Nancy J. Alexander, Mary Allan, Paul Babwin, Henry Barton, Vikki Bay, Karen Bernstsen, Peg Bernucci, William Bilobran, Susan Black, Pete Bloom, Conni Bock, Karin Bredfeldt, David Brown, Philip Brown, Karalee Brune, Rebecca Burleigh, Brian Carr, Caryl Carr, Valerie Carter, Denise Catalano, Laura Chamberlin, Carol Chetkovich, John Colwell, M.D., Judy Davis, Karen DeMello, Al Dieckmann, Kris Diede, Gerry Ellis, Thomas and Pauline Ferrito, Moe Flannery, Helen Green, Nancy Hay, Nick and Kathy Hendig, Lisa Hocevar, Grant Howe, David Hughes, Kathy Jarrett, Carroll Johnson, R. Kent Johnson, Janet King, Jack and Jan Knecht, Barbara Lane, Lisa Myers, Emily Lim, John Luther, Mary Magee, Joan Mancini, Jerri Mariott, Marshall Marlowe, Virginia Marshall, James Martin, Joanne McDermott, Brenda McGowan-Sass, Barbara McLaughlin, Mike Monroe, Patricia Moorhead, Martha O'Neal, Peter Ohara and Pat Margis, Thomas Olson, Marie Perucca-Ramirez, Ken Phenicie, Jr., Richard Poley, Michael Pollack, Richard Rairden, Donna Riley, Claire Rittenhouse, Glenn Rogers, Annamarie Rosengreen, Leonard Rush, Nancie Sailor, Jessie Schilling, Fred Schulenburg, Carol Schwartz, Linda Scott, Rodney Siegel, Shoba Sinha, Eric Sorenson, Sheila Sousa, Geetha Srikantan, John Steiner, Karlene and Terry Stoker, Peter Sullins, Scott Taylor, Kent Tool, John Trone, Irene Watt, John Weaver, M.D., Mark Weinberger, Julice Winter, Ed and Marilyn Wojcik

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jennifer Krauel, *President*
Lisa Myers, *Vice President*
Joelle Buffa, *Secretary*
Patricia Rouzer, D.C., *Interim Treasurer*
John McLemore
Gerry Ellis, *Board Member Emeritus*
Jan Hintermeister, *Board Member Emeritus*
Lou Young, *Board Member Emeritus*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Janet Tashjian Hanson

WATERBIRD PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Cheryl Strong

LANDBIRD PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Roy Churchwell

COYOTE CREEK FIELD STATION MANAGER

Gina Barton

BIOLOGISTS

Sherry Hudson, Alvaro Jaramillo,
Cynthia Padula

FIELD ASSISTANTS

Evan Childress, Leslie Nicholson,
Caitlin Robinson, Brittany Stieg, Leslie Tucci

OFFICE MANAGER

Delma Montes

EDUCATION SPECIALIST

Laura Weiss

OUTREACH SPECIALIST

Juliana Chow

The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation dedicated to the conservation of birds and their habitat through science and outreach, and to contributing to informed resource management decisions in the Bay Area. Annual membership is \$40; donations are appreciated. Renewals and donations should be sent to the office.

BAY BIRD REVIEW is published quarterly by the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory. Deadline for submissions is five weeks prior to the start of the quarter. Contact the editor at outreach@sfbbo.org for submission guidelines. Please send address changes to the office.

San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory
524 Valley Way
Milpitas, CA 95035

t 408.946.6548
f 408.946.9279
www.sfbbo.org
sfbbo@sfbbo.org

*Design by Alterpop, San Francisco.
Layout by e.g. communications.
Printed on recycled paper by Alonzo Printing.
Copyright 2007
San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory*

CALENDAR *continued from back cover*

information, go to www.okaponds.com or the calendar at www.sfbbo.org.

Saturday, May 12, 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

BIRD BANDING AT COYOTE CREEK



SITE: COYOTE CREEK FIELD STATION

Visit the Bird Observatory's field station and experience conservation science in action. Tour mist nets, watch a bird banding demonstration, and explore a restored riparian habitat. Meet at the Borders bookstore parking lot in McCarthy Ranch, Milpitas. Please include a contact phone number in your RSVP. In the event of rain, the tour is cancelled.

Saturday, June 9, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

BIRDING THE BAY TRAIL WITH CHERYL ABEL



SITE: CARQUINEZ STRAIT REGIONAL
SHORELINE

Join Muir House Ranger Cheryl Abel for a bird walk on one of the trail loops. Annual grasslands slope down to the water with pockets of oak woodland and coastal scrub dotting the hillsides, offering lots of edge habitat for birds. The park's elevation above the water also provides an excellent vantage point to scan for waterfowl.

Co-sponsored by Mt. Diablo Audubon.

Calendar



WALK: RSVP to outreach@sfbbo.org or 408.946.6548. Space is limited to 20 people. Free for members; \$10 for non-members.



ACCESSIBLE: Please contact the Outreach Specialist so that we can coordinate with you.



SPECIAL EVENT



VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY

Sunday, March 11, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

BIRDING THE BAY TRAIL WITH ERIC FEUSS



SITE: CHINA CAMP STATE PARK

Join Eric Feuss to explore the waterfront on the San Francisco Estuary. Many ducks and waterbirds work the shoreline and deeper waters, while landbirds inhabit the grasslands, forest edges, and mixed oak habitat.

Thursday, March 29, 7–9 p.m.

OPEN HOUSE AND VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION NIGHT



SITE: BIRD OBSERVATORY OFFICE

Come visit our new office and ornithology library in Milpitas, and celebrate another year of valuable volunteer time spent on Bird Observatory fieldwork and projects! Enjoy hors d'oeuvres, desserts, and good company! RSVP to outreach@sfbbo.org or call 408.946 6548.

Interested in Carpooling?

Join our e-mail list group to make carpooling to San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory events easier at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BirdObsCarpool>.

Sunday, April 15, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

BIRDING THE BAY TRAIL WITH MURRAY BERNER



SITE: JOHN F. KENNEDY PARK

Join Napa-Solano Audubon trip leader Murray Berner on a walk at one of the few sites along the Bay Trail that is located some distance away from the Bay. It maintains a connection to the Bay via Napa River. The marshland habitat along the river provides many birding opportunities, and there is a pond on the right as you approach the park that can have waterfowl and shorebirds.

Co-sponsored by Napa-Solano Audubon.

Saturday, April 28, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.;

raindate: May 5

SALUTE TO GREAT BLUE HERONS DAY



SITE: VASONA LAKE COUNTY PARK

Bask in the springtime sun with a Great Blue Heron colony and their baby chicks. There will be an informational display, and Bird Observatory volunteers will be on hand with their scopes so that you can get a closer look at these beautiful birds. Look for us near the parking lot just across Los Gatos Creek if coming from the main park entrance. For more

CALENDAR continued on page 7

Monday through Friday, May 14 – 18

ADVANCED AGEING AND SEXING OF PASSERINES WORKSHOP

with Peter Pyle

SITE: COYOTE CREEK FIELD STATION AND BIG SUR

Join the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory and Ventana Wildlife Society's Big Sur Ornithology Lab in cooperation with the Institute for Bird Populations for an action-packed week. Biologists use various techniques for accurate ageing, sexing, and identification of birds in the hand and the field. Understanding these concepts is crucial to data collection and analysis, and participants will receive instruction on these methods.

Cost is \$650 for early registration; limited to 10. For workshop information and registration, go to www.sfbbo.org/ccfs/LandbirdWorkshop.htm.



**SAN FRANCISCO BAY
BIRD OBSERVATORY**

524 Valley Way
Milpitas, CA 95035

www.sfbbo.org

Return service requested

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ALVISO, CA
PERMIT #9