

BAY BIRD REVIEW

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



SAN FRANCISCO BAY
BIRD OBSERVATORY

Director's Message

Sometime this spring, I will step down as Executive Director of the Bird Observatory. Personal and family obligations call. This is a good time because we have a small but strong Board who will work hard to find the next Executive Director. Our mutual goal is for Bird Observatory to have a smooth transition and that the Observatory will be stronger as a result. I have greatly enjoyed my 16 years here, and thank you all for the tremendous support you have given.

I became involved with the Bird Observatory because of a strong desire to find out **why birds disappear**, and then to do something about it. There have been many wonderful experiences: the thrill of winning grants, the deep pride in recognition for important contributions, the intellectual challenge and fulfillment of projects like the Bayland Goals, the exultation felt upon the preservation of Bair Island and the salt ponds as restored homes for our native birds.

One of the best parts of this job has been the warm pleasure I've felt in the company of staff and volunteers, in the field but also indoors, poring over proposals, plans, databases, newsletter copy and the like.

Peg Woodin introduced me to the true beauty of the south bay, on an autumn afternoon in 1989 at the mouth of Guadalupe Slough, a wide glistening bronze tidal flat bordered by cordgrass marsh, with thousands of shorebirds flying in from neigh-
DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE *continued on page 2*



A MALE COMMON *Yellowthroat*.

PHOTO BY WILL SIGNAL

Landbird Science Report

Mist Netting is For the Birds

Mist netting is a tool we use to study birds at the Bird Observatory's Coyote Creek Field Station (CCFS). By capturing, banding, releasing, and recapturing birds, we can study things such as songbird demographics, longevity, habitat use, and movement/dispersal. Bird capture numbers can vary among seasons and through the years. For example, this past year (2007) we captured relatively low numbers of birds in our mist nets during all seasons at CCFS compared to numbers captured in 2000-2006. In the spirit of the Santa Clara Valley Breeding Bird Atlas, I analyzed our summer mist net data from 1988-2006 to examine the reproductive success of Common Yellowthroats and Song Sparrows.

Measuring Breeding Success

I calculated the reproductive index for both Common Yellowthroats and Song Sparrows, by dividing the number of young captured by the number of adults captured from May 11 to August 8. During this time period we capture adults that primarily nest at the field station and their young, thereby giving us an estimate of their productivity (number

of young produced per adult bird). By looking at data between these dates, we minimize the influence of post-breeding dispersal and migration captures on these calculations. Both Common Yellowthroats and Song Sparrows generally follow a similar pattern from 1995 to 2006 (Fig 1), which fluctuates roughly between 1 and 3 young produced per adult. Previous to 1995, the reproductive indices frequently fluctuate compared
SCIENCE REPORT *continued on page 3*



A SONG SPARROW *in the hand*.

boring ponds, the salt in the wind, and the blue bay beyond.

I've walked through rising clouds of gulls and terns and birded extraordinary places with stellar biologists: Howard Cogswell, Valerie Layne, Tom Ryan, Cheryl Millett, Doug Bell, Adrian Del Nevo, Cheryl Strong, Danielle LeFer, Caitlin Robinson, Sue Macias, Cynthia Padula, Alvaro Jaramillo, Sherry Hudson, Gina Barton, Roy Churchwell.

We have all had the pleasure of watching the evolution of our outreach activities grow in size and sophistication, under the caring and knowledgeable guidance of Anna Clarke, Sharon Miyako, Juliana Chow and now Stephanie Ellis.

The California Fall Challenge continues to be the annual peak of excitement. The generosity of members and strangers alike is very gratifying but then there is the birding! I recall owling at 4 in the morning and seeing a Northern Pygmy Owl zoom out the woods to smack Grant Hoyt on his ever-present baseball cap. How delightful that was! Or finding a Little Blue Heron in the center of the old Artesian Slough egret colony, lit up by the sunset, glowing like a violet mylar balloon.

Of course there have been moments of adversity too. I became expert at towing vehicles stuck off salt pond levees, without getting stuck myself. The avian botulism outbreak in 1999 took us a month and all our resources to overcome. And there is still a pressing need for a permanent new home for the Bird Observatory.

But the pleasures predominate. I have made wonderful life-long friends, all of us bound together in the desire to know why birds disappear and to reverse those declines wherever and whenever we can.

I could go on for pages. I can only say thank you, that I hope to have continued involvement with the Bird Observatory and I look forward, with you, to its brilliant future.

.....
Janet Tashjian Hanson
Executive Director

Migrations



Staff Migration

In December, the Bird Observatory said goodbye to Field Assistant **Todd Eggert**. Todd came to the Bird Observatory in April to assist with the Colonial Waterbird Program and the Northern Harrier Project (see page 5 for more about this project). From mid-summer through winter, Todd spent much of his time conducting Avian Disease Prevention surveys throughout several sloughs in the south bay.

Todd came to us with a vast amount of experience in avian field biology. His previous work experience includes banding and tracking Least Bell's Vireos with the USGS Western Ecological Research Center in San Diego, CA, and South-Western Willow Flycatcher nest-monitoring for SWCA Environmental Consultants. Todd previously completed an internship with the Point Reyes Bird Observatory assisting with banding research and an internship with the California Waterfowl Association that involved nest box monitoring and Wood Duck banding. Todd has worked as a Park Ranger Assistant with the City of Fremont since 2000.

"My involvement with the Colonial Waterbird, Northern Harrier and Avian Disease Prevention Projects at the Bird Observatory were all great experiences. I enjoyed working with the staff, and plan to continue pursuing a career in field biology."

Todd, on behalf of the staff and volunteers at the Bird Observatory, we wish you success in your next adventure!

.....

Board Migration *as told by Joelle Buffa*

I saw my first Golden-crowned Sparrow on sunny January 26, 1984 day in the south bay. It was my first trip to California – Clyde and I had escaped a frigid, cloudy Salt Lake City to visit his family, and we had come to the Refuge to do some birding. I thought to myself, "I wouldn't mind living here some day." The image was in my mind two years later when the Army Corps of Engineers offered me a job as a Wetland Biologist in San Francisco.

I left the Corps in the late 80s and worked for the Forest Service for seven years. One of my job duties was running the (then) fledgling Partner's in Flight program, which put me at the same meetings as former Coyote Creek Field Station manager Mike Rigney. I decided to become a bird bander in order to get some hands-on experience in the landbird monitoring techniques I was encouraging Forest Service field biologists to undertake. I couldn't believe how beautiful the Golden-crowned Sparrows were "in the hand." I was hooked.



PHOTO BY PATTY MCGANN

BOARD PRESIDENT Jennifer Krauel (left) awards Joelle Buffa a certificate of appreciation at the 2007 Fall Challenge Ceremony.

In the mid-90s I landed my "dream job" at the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex (Refuge). I soon began working closely with Janet Hanson and others at the Observatory, and it wasn't long before I entered the Bird Observatory's phone number on my "speed dial". Whenever I needed to know the latest scoop on where the Caspian Terns were nesting this year, or when the egrets and herons in Alviso would be fledged, they were who I was gonna' call! Cheryl Strong, the Colonial Waterbird Program Leader quickly became an essential Refuge partner as we started planning how to restore the

BOARD MIGRATIONS *continued on page 6*

to later years. What may be causing this? Notice the drop in the index for yellowthroats in 1990 followed by a large spike in 1991-1992. Between September 1989 and May 1990 the overflow channel was under construction, eliminating the habitat that they prefer to nest in. The subsequent peaks in 1991-1992 could be a result of the changes in proportion of habitat cover and the average height of the vegetation in the overflow channel and the adjacent riparian habitat, both of which increased between 1989 and 1991. Once the construction was complete, it appears that the yellowthroats repopulated the area and were very successful at breeding, and over the years, the population stabilized as the habitat stabilized. For Song Sparrows there is also a small peak occurring in 1992-1994. The Song Sparrows may also have responded positively to the habitat change in the overflow channel and adjacent riparian habitat; they tend to nest in both areas and this reaction could have been delayed until the vegetation was tall enough or dense enough for them to nest in. Another factor that may have influenced either the sparrows or yellowthroats during peak years could have been an increase in food abundance, which may be independent of or



PHOTO BY WILL SIGNAL

A COMMON YELLOWTHROAT captured in a mist net at the Coyote Creek Field Station.

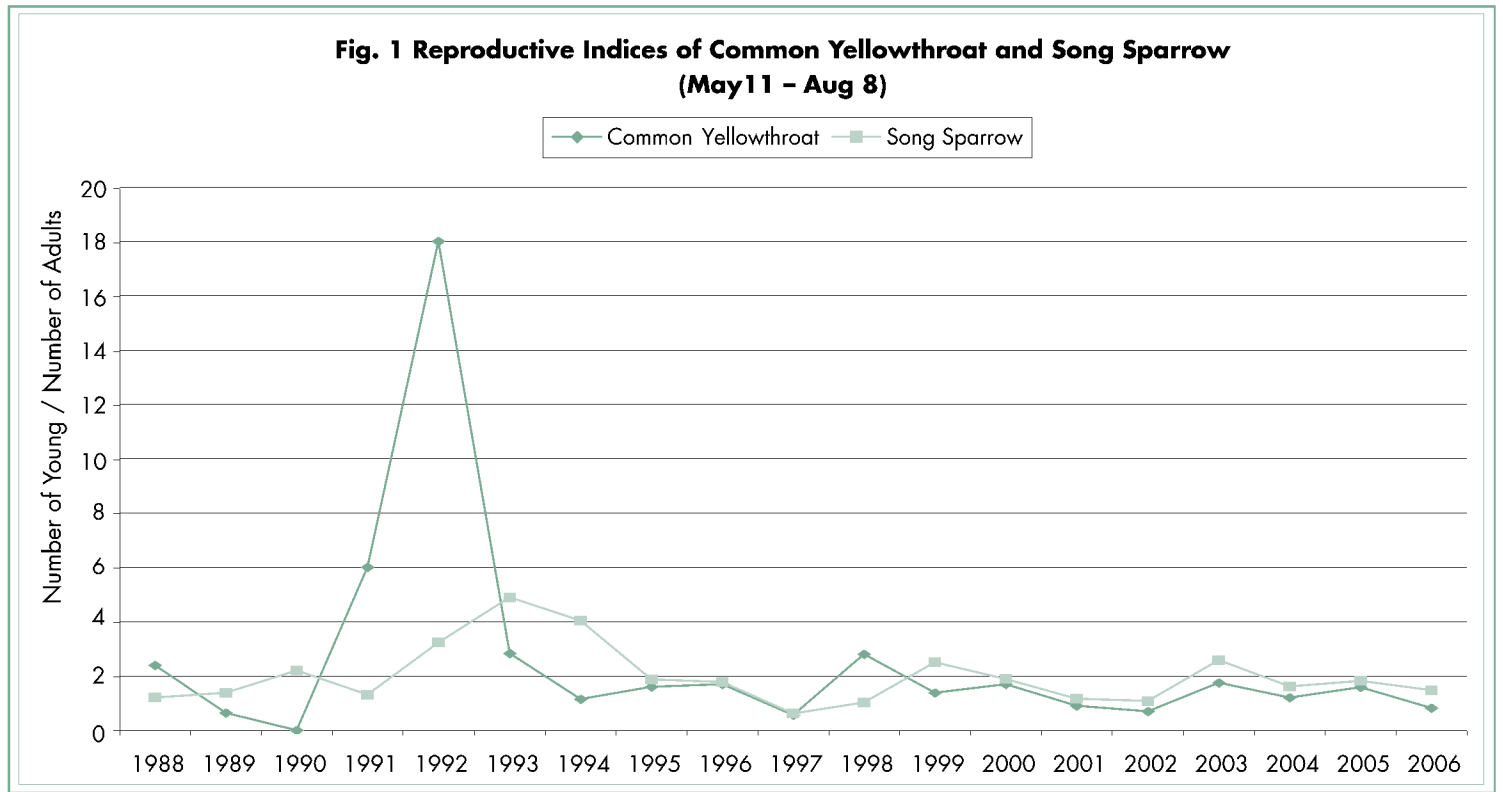
in addition to the habitat changes at the field station.

Net Value

As you can see, mist net captures provide us information about the birds, and bird populations may naturally go through large fluctuations from year to year; therefore long-term data sets are critical in identifying significant increases or decreases in population trends. Next, when looking at long-term trends we can start teasing out what may cause these trends by looking at habitat

and food resources, long-term weather patterns, migratory survivorship, or the changes of surrounding urbanization. Ultimately, the recommendations we make on habitat or land management practices can help us conserve bird populations in our area.

.....
Gina Barton manages the Coyote Creek Field Station (CCFS), a long-term banding station monitoring the effects of revegetation on bird populations. The CCFS received partial support from PG & E.



The California Burrowing Owl Consortium

Burrowing Owls (*Athene cunicularia*) are a charismatic grassland species that many people are familiar with because they historically occurred in grassland and open areas throughout most of California. However, this owl is unique in that it nests and roosts in burrows underground created by small mammal species like the California ground squirrel (*Spermophilus beecheyi*). As a result, Burrowing Owls have been rapidly disappearing in many portions of their range as grassland and open habitats are converted for development and small mammal eradication efforts eliminate the burrows they depend on. If you receive *Bay Nature*, the current issue (January – March 2008) describes these important ecosystem engineers as “Lords of the Burrow” for the critical role they play in grassland ecosystems.

Conservation efforts to monitor and stabilize Burrowing Owl populations in California have been steadily increasing since the 1980’s. Around 1990, declining populations of Burrowing Owls led Dr. Jack Barclay, a raptor biologist, to start the California Burrowing Owl Consortium (CBOC). The CBOC is a loosely organized group of professionals interested in the conservation and management of owls and their habitats. The following year in 1991, the Institute for Bird Populations (IBP) began the



PHOTO BY SCOTT NORTON

BURROWING OWLETS peer from the safety of their burrow.

first state-wide census of Burrowing Owls throughout California. At the end of the study in 1993, IBP estimated that there were approximately 9,266 pairs of Burrowing Owls in the state, but the majority of birds were located in the Imperial Valley (71%) and the Central Valley (24%; DeSante et al. 2007). Burrowing Owls appeared to have been extirpated throughout several Bay Area counties and the IBP survey showed population declines of 51% to 66% in the Bay Area Interior. In 2006, IBP began repeating the census of the state-wide survey they conducted between 1991 and 1993. Surveys of Santa Clara and Alameda Counties in the Bay Area Interior detected only 58 pairs of owls so far. IBP is scheduled to complete the second, statewide survey in 2007 and will presenting preliminary results at the upcoming meeting of the CBOC in the Imperial Valley in February of 2008.

As a member of the CBOC and a board member of the San Francisco Bird Observatory, I am excited to share the news with our members that the CDFG has initiated the process of developing a statewide conservation strategy to conserve Burrowing Owls and their habitats. During the September 2007 CBOC meeting in Davis, our members worked jointly with CDFG representatives including Esther Burkett and Brenda

Johnson to develop and prioritize actions for the statewide conservation strategy. On December 12, 2007 a letter was transmitted to the CDFG summarizing our meeting. Our members felt the top four priorities should be 1) the development of an implementation plan to begin conservation and management, 2) evaluate current strategies used to relocate owls away from areas scheduled for development safely and effectively, 3) develop guidelines to assess cumulative habitat impacts to Burrowing Owls during the environmental permitting process under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and 4) gain additional information on the seasonal movements and survival of owls.

DeSante, D. F., E. D. Ruhlen, and R. Scalf. 2007. *The distribution and relative abundance of Burrowing Owls in California during 1991-1993: evidence for a declining population and thoughts on its conservation.* Bird Populations Monograph No. 1.

“Lords of the Burrows. The Incredible, Edible Ground Squirrel.” 2007. *Bay Nature Magazine*. January – March 2008 issue. www.baynature.com/v08n01/v08n01_squirrels.html

.....
 Kim Wells, Ph.D., is a Project Manager and Wildlife Ecologist at H.T. Harvey & Associates in Los Gatos and specializes in grassland birds. If you are interested in CBOC activities, feel free to contact Kim at kwells@harveyecology.com.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL KERN

A BANDED BURROWING OWL stands tall at Shoreline Park in Mountain View.

Tracking Northern Harriers in Salt Pond Habitats

This project was funded by the U.S.F.W.S. Coastal Program of San Francisco Bay

PHOTO BY PETER LATOURRETTE



If you have ever spent a few hours birding along the salt marsh or sloughs near the bay, you've most likely seen a Northern Harrier. These amazing birds are often seen hunting low over the marsh, looking for prey. However, harriers have learned that the salt ponds also provide an abundant food source: shorebirds! In the spring and summer, that food source may include Snowy Plovers! This year the Bird Observatory surveyed the salt ponds and adjacent marshes for northern harriers to determine how they utilize different habitats. Harriers are known predators of Snowy Plovers, a threatened species, and this additional knowledge will help with plover management decisions in the future.

We conducted our study at three salt pond complexes in the south bay that have nesting Snowy Plovers; the Alviso and Warm Springs sections of the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge and at California Department of Fish and Game's Eden Landing Ecological Reserve in Hayward. The other field assistants and I surveyed harriers along defined survey routes at three different time periods each week. We looked at the use of habitat types that were classified as tidal marsh, salt ponds, upland habitat and levees.

In April and May, our days were spent locating harrier nests. We watched the harriers for hours, looking for courtship

displays, adults carrying nesting material, food drops or any other behaviors that might indicate that the harriers had a nest. We located seven nests during the season. Six of the nests were in bulrush in the slough channels adjacent to the salt ponds. We located one nest in a pickleweed marsh, hidden in a patch of tall vegetation.

TAG TEAM

Our goal was to band adult harriers and put numbered patagial tags (wing tags) on them to follow individuals' movement in the salt pond system. To do this we had to trap the harriers, which turned out to be a little more difficult than we anticipated. Harriers are extremely territorial near their nests. We borrowed a mechanical Great-horned Owl and set up a dho-gaza breakaway net between the owl and the nest. The mechanical owl's head moved side to side and when we played recordings of harrier calls, the harriers seemed convinced their nest was in danger. The harriers stooped the owl but quickly figured out that there was a net between their nest and the owl. We managed to catch two adult male harriers and put blue patagial tags on them, numbered "1" and "2".

Six of the seven nests that we found were depredated. This may be due to the high number of predators in the south bay, or to the fact that harriers nest in

linear slough channels, which may make it easier for predators to find the nests. The one successful nest was found when the fledglings had left the nest, so we were unable to band them.

Our study found that harriers used the marsh habitat more than the salt ponds. However, harriers did use the levees and the salt ponds for hunting, and were often seen perched in salt ponds. The harriers may use the salt ponds for hunting because of the close proximity to their nesting habitat. If we limit their ability to perch in the ponds, we may be able to reduce the amount of Snowy Plover depredation within the salt ponds.

HAVE YOU SEEN THESE HARRIERS?

We have received reports that male #1 is being seen in Alviso. Male #2 was recently seen near the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin. If anyone sees these tagged harriers please email Caitlin Robinson, at crobinson@sfbbo.org with the date and location in which the birds were seen. Please record what type of habitat the birds are in (marsh, slough, salt pond, upland).

.....
By Caitlin Robinson. Caitlin is a Biologist with the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory's Waterbird Program. She is currently in the master's program in Environmental Studies at San Jose State University. Her master's thesis focus is on Western Snowy Plover use of salt ponds in the south bay.



NORTHERN HARRIER #1 receives his wing tag.

PHOTO BY CAITLIN ROBINSON

BOARD MIGRATIONS *continued from page 2*
former Cargill salt ponds to tidal wetlands.

A few years ago Janet invited me to join the Bird Observatory's Board of Directors. In all the years that I had asked Janet and other Bird Observatory staff for help protecting our Refuge critters, this was the first time she'd ever asked me to do something. The Bird Observatory's assimilation of the former Coyote Creek Riparian Station had also allowed my passion for bird banding to continue uninterrupted. How could I refuse?

My last three years as a board member have allowed me to appreciate the work of the Bird Observatory even more, learn new things about what makes a non-profit tick, and meet some nice friends in the process. I also surprised myself by enjoying the fund-raising part and had fun participating in the California Fall Challenge (CFC) and being on the Committee. It's an experience I'd urge everyone not to pass up!

As I prepare to leave the bay area after being here for almost 22 years, I bounce between feelings of excitement about my new job as the Supervisory Wildlife Biologist at Chincoteague National Wildlife Biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, and sadness about missing the people, rituals, projects, and birding that have been part of my life here in the Bay Area. Sleeping in on Sunday mornings while fellow bird banders Gerry Ellis, Joyce Bartlett, Chris Garcia and Tom Stewart are out banding just won't feel right. How will I be able to find out about Tom Goodier's latest travel adventure? Will I be able to make it through the week without Gina's silly jokes? In fact, I'll miss you all so much that we plan on buying a house with extra bedrooms so we'll have room for ya'll to visit us in Virginia! We hope you do!

.....
By Joelle Buffa

Past Secretary, Board of Directors

Streamside Songbirds: A Partnership of The Bird Observatory and The Boys & Girls Club



PHOTO BY ANN HEPENSTAL

COYOTE CREEK Field Station Volunteer Nelle Lyons assists Andrew Tey with the release of an Anna's Hummingbird.

The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory is the proud recipient of a "Youth Watershed Education Grant" awarded by the City of San Jose Environmental Services Department. This funding will provide the opportunity for the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory to partner with the Boys & Girls Club of Silicon Valley and provide hands-on field trips at our Coyote Creek bird banding station in Alviso. This partnership project, titled "Streamside Songbirds" is designed to address the need for greater public appreciation of the importance of water quality and a healthy watershed in providing vital habitat for wildlife. There will be a particular focus on the migratory birds that utilize the Pacific Flyway and depend on dwindling habitat around the Bay as a staging area.

The Boys & Girls Club of Silicon Valley is a nonprofit organization serving children in need, representing all ages and nationalities in Silicon Valley. The Boys & Girls Club mission is to enable and inspire all young people to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring adults and to raise awareness and appreciation of the environment through exploration activities and introduction to environmental issues.

This fall, Bird Observatory and Girls

& Boys Club staff will take approximately 120 students between the ages of 6-15 years old to the Coyote Creek Field Station. These students will visit Coyote Creek on its last reach out to the bay and hike through the riparian forest it supports. They will also have the opportunity to observe conservation science in action as our biologists use mist-nets and bird banding techniques to analyze migratory bird use of this important last remnant of riparian habitat in Santa Clara County.

The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory began giving public bird-banding demonstrations at our Coyote Creek Field Station in 2002. The station is located on the lower Coyote Creek in Alviso in Santa Clara County. This habitat, managed by the Santa Clara Valley Water District is considered to be the highest quality riparian corridor remaining in the south bay. The Bird Observatory has monitored bird populations there since 1986. Public banding demos are held on the second Saturday of every other month year round. Please check our website calendar for details at <http://www.sfbbo.org/activities/index.php>.

.....
By Stephanie Ellis, Outreach Specialist

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



We thank the new and returning Members of the Bird Observatory, Oct.—Dec. 2007

SUSTAINER

Leonie Batkin
Linda Henry
John Johnson
Pattie Litton
Scott Terrill, Ph.D.

CONTRIBUTOR

Sylvia Alderman, Barbara Bekins, George Bing, Pete Bloom, Vern Bothwell, Bill and Jean Clark, Terry and Zeo Coddington, Cecilia Craig, Donald and Elaine Dvorak, Ernest Eastman, David Franc, Eddie Gilmartin, Joan and David Hadden, Christopher Hamilton, Rosemary and Robert Heil, Jan Hintermeister, Christie Hochschild, Nancy Issel-Mayes, Rebecca Jackrel, Marshall Marlowe, Shannon McMahon, T. Charles and Meredith Moore, Clyde Morris, Lisa Myers, Wayne Ott, Barney Quinn, Sarah Rivers, Byron and Elizabeth Ryono, James and Andrea Sandstrom, Jessie Schilling, Brenda Senturia, Bob Smith, Thomas Stewart, Paul Vlasveld, Bill Wagman, Joanne Sarg Wallin, Mary Ellen White, Tenise Young

FRIEND

Jocelyn Alau, Allison Angstadt, Bonnie Bedford-White, William Bigler, Tim Cleere, Jon d'Alessio Lisa Day, Edwin and Mary Jane Ehmke, Frances Escherich, Norma Foss, Martha and Robert Helseth, Andree Hest, Sarabelle Hitchner, Lisa Hocevar, Barbara Hurtig-Willis, Mallorie Jeong, Tim Kask, Charles Katz, Jerry Kenyon, Rosalie Lefkowitz, John Luther, Kris March, Peter Metropulos, Thomas and Lorraine Myers, Connie Nelson, Mike O'Brien, Martha O'Neal, Richard Poley, Fred Schulenburg, Paul and Robin Stevens, Karl Tashjian, Susan Thomas, Bert Tom, Bob and Carol Yutzky

BASIC

Nanci Adams, David Ainley, Mary Ann Allan, Paul Babwin, Lawrence Bain, Eisso Beck, Peg Bernucci, Dick Blaine, Barbara Borthwick, Elizabeth Boulton, Kristine Brenner, Mary Brezner, Karalee Brune, Juliette Bryson, Joelle Buffa, June Cancell, Rosalie Cape, Roy Carlson, Bliss Carnochan, Caryl Carr, Carollyn Carson, Valerie Carter, Paul and Marijane Chestnut, Carol Chetkovich, John Colwell, M.D., Rita Colwell,

Jennifer Daggy, Karen DeMello, Joseph DiAndrea, Al Dieckmann, Kris Diede, Thomas and Pauline Ferrito, Dennis Geiler, Deborah Gershman, Phil and Pat Gordon, Reid and Sharon Gustafson, John Halbert, Tony Hall, Eleanor Hansen, Marcella Hardy, Nancy Hay, Walter and Katharine Hays, Nick and Kathy Hendig, Grant Howe, Timothy Howe, Katherine Hughes, R. Kent Johnson, Carol Jordan, Tim Kask, Kay Klumb, David Lewis, Joan Mancini, Jerri Mariott, John McLemore, Brooke Miller, Mike Monroe, Patricia Moorhead, Pam and Harvey Moskovitz, Mary Lee Mueller, John Murphy, Jean Myers, Sarah Nathe, Leah Norwood, Carol Oda, Stephen and Laurie Pakula, Ken Phenicie, Jr., Michael Pollack, Sandra Premer, Richard Rairden, Kathryn Robertson, Anne Rosenthal, Patricia and Steven Roth, Leonard Rush, Nancie Sailor, Carolyn H. Serrao, Jean-Marie Spoelman, Peter Sullins, Linda Swanson, Kent Tool, Irene Watt, Mark Weinberger

We thank the following for their generous year-end gifts:

\$1000+

Yvette Leung and Liwen Mah

\$500-\$999

Patricia Aguayo, Jean Myers

\$250 - \$499

Caryl Carr and David Presotto, Jean Cohn, Peter Danzig, Dr. Christine Doyle, Jean Halford, Carl and Shirley Larson, Peter and Sue LaTourrette, Regina Phelps

\$100-\$249

Laurie Bonilla, Donna Lawrence, William Black, Karen Atkinson, Adu Bagley, Gordon Chamberlain, Jean Cohn, Janice and Frank Delfino, Linda Guitron, Margaret Gutowski, Dolores Hansen, Aiko and Kaz Hayashi, Jan Hintermeister, Wen Hsu, Dorothy Hunt, Kathleen Lee, Lisa Myers, Pamela Lewis, Ms. Kristine Long, T. Charles and Meredith Moore, Dolores Morrison, Kristen Olson, Ed and Kathleen Pandolfino, Susan Patrick, Harry Savage, Jessie Schilling, Kristin and Mark Shields, Dana Slauson, Ralph and Barbara Strong, Bracey and Richard Tiede, Ann Verdi, Virginia and Riley Willcox

OUR THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING DONORS

In response to the Bird Observatory office burglary in October of 2007, the following people have made in-kind donations to help the Bird Observatory staff continue their research.

Justin Kitzes: Minolta slide scanner
Byron Ryono and Hewlett-Packard: HP business laptop, 2007
Suzanne Keith and Shirley Wodtke: Canon color printer, copier and scanner

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jennifer Krauel, *President*
Lisa Myers, *Vice President*
Kim Wells, Ph.D., *Secretary*
Patricia Rouzer, *Treasurer*
Dave Johnston Ph.D.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Janet Tashjian Hanson

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION SPECIALIST

Stephanie Ellis

WATERBIRD PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Danielle Le Fer, Ph.D.

COYOTE GREEK FIELD STATION MANAGER

Gina Barton

BIOLOGISTS

Sherry Hudson, Alvaro Jaramillo,
Cynthia Padula, Caitlin Robinson

FIELD ASSISTANTS

Michael Mammoser, Carley Schacter, Sam Scott

FINANCE ASSISTANT

Gail Richardson

MEMBERSHIP MANAGER

Sandy Moore (volunteer)

LIBRARIAN

Va Landschoot (volunteer)

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 2008

San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory

Calendar

Interested in Carpooling? Join our e-mail list group to make carpooling to Bird Observatory events easier at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BirdObsCarpool>.

Sat. March 8, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Sat. May 10, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.

RSVP 

A BIRD IN THE HAND

SITE: COYOTE CREEK FIELD STATION, MILPITAS

Visit the Bird Observatory's field station and experience conservation science in action. Attendees will learn about our bird banding research and have the opportunity to see several different species up close and personal. We will tour mist nets, watch a bird banding demonstration, and explore a restored riparian habitat. In March we are likely to capture several winter residents including Common Yellowthroats, Song Sparrows, Bushtits and Bewick's Wrens. We will meet at the Borders bookstore parking lot in McCarthy Ranch, Milpitas. In the event of rain, the tour is cancelled. For recent bird captures please visit www.sfbbo.org/science/update.php.

Sat. April 3, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

RSVP 

BIRDING AND BIKING AT COYOTE HILLS: IN SEARCH OF THE LONG LOST FLAMINGO

SITE: COYOTE HILLS REGIONAL PARK, FREMONT

Flamingos in the South Bay? You bet! Join Colonial Waterbird Biologist Cynthia Padula and Outreach Specialist, Stephanie Ellis on a bird watching bike ride around Coyote Hills Regional Park. You will learn about the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project and see an amazing variety of bird species that use the salt pond to roost and feed. Expect to see up to 50 different species including a Chilean Flamingo that escaped from a zoo! Please bring your own bike, helmet and binoculars. One spotting scope will be provided. Come exercise your body, your soul and your senses! Maximum 12 participants.

Sat. May 5, 7:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

RSVP 

BIRDING REACH 3

SITE: COYOTE CREEK, SAN JOSE (NOTE: THIS IS NOT AT THE COYOTE CREEK FIELD STATION.)

Join Bird Observatory staff Sherry Hudson and Stephanie Ellis for a tour of one of our landbird study sites along Coyote Creek in San Jose. We will follow paths through revegetated and pre-existing riparian habitat where the Bird Observatory is conducting a year-long bird and habitat study for the Santa Clara Valley Water District. We will talk about the study as we look and listen for migrating warblers and thrushes. This will also be an opportunity to learn (or review) common bird songs and breeding bird behavior. In addition to seeing songbirds, we hope to see the resident flock of roosting Turkey Vultures and a Great Blue Heron nesting colony.



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

Sat. May 10, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

VASONA PARK SALUTE TO GREAT BLUE HERONS!

SITE: VASONA LAKE COUNTY PARK, LOS GATOS

Bask in the springtime sun with a Great Blue Heron colony and their chicks. There will be an informational display, and Bird Observatory volunteers will be on hand with their scopes so you can get a closer look at these beautiful birds. Meet at the parking lot just across Los Gatos Creek. Visit okaponds.com.



SAN FRANCISCO BAY
BIRD OBSERVATORY

524 Valley Way
Milpitas, CA 95035

www.sfbbo.org

Return service requested

PRESORTED
FIRST-CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
HAYWARD, CA
PERMIT NO. 796

