

# BAY BIRD REVIEW

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



SAN FRANCISCO BAY  
BIRD OBSERVATORY

## Director's Message

From field work to writing reports and analyzing data, our San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory biologists spend 12 months of the year working to make our science programs a success. But for one special month each year, we pull out all the stops for an event we call the California Fall Challenge.

During this month, our goal is to help our members celebrate the Bird Observatory's mission to conserve birds by getting outside and enjoying birds in their habitats. There are many ways to participate! Learn first hand about Bay Area birds from our guided trip leaders, participate in the Mewaldt Cup Bird-a-Thon or the fundraising competition, or just make a donation.

As a supporter of the Bird Observatory, you make our research possible and we are grateful. Now come and celebrate all that you have helped us accomplish at one of our extraordinary California Fall Challenge events. I hope to see you there!

By Jill Bluso Demers, SFBBO Executive Director

The California Fall  
Challenge is on!  
Look inside for more  
information.



WESTERN MEADOWLARK.

PHOTO BY MIKE MAMMOSER

## Science Report

### Bird Response to Grassland Fire

California grasslands are crucial for maintaining biodiversity. Once covering 8 million hectares, it is estimated that only 36% of California grasslands remain today. Cultivation, overgrazing, urban development, water diversion, fire suppression and introduction of nonnative grasses and forbs have contributed to the loss and degradation of California grasslands. Today, California grasslands, and the species they support, are under continued pressure from human population growth, land development and climate change. As such, there is considerable interest in exploring management strategies that most effectively preserve grassland biodiversity in the face of these pressures.

Prescribed burning is one such management action. Burning may help to remove nonnative species, reduce thatch, and improve conditions for native plants. However, the impact of prescribed burns on wildlife such as birds is highly variable. Thus, monitoring bird response to prescribed burns in California grasslands is critical to

understanding the impact of such management actions on wildlife.

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District has a long-term plan to manage grassland vegetation by burning in conjunction with other methods such as mowing, hand weeding, selective spraying, grazing, and seeding of native grasses. In particular, the District is using prescribed burning in combination with targeted spraying to control invasive Harding grass (*Phalaris aquatica*). Formerly planted as a pasture grass for grazing, Harding grass forms dense patches that exclude native plants. The District partnered with the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory to study how prescribed burns affect the breeding grassland bird community at Russian Ridge and Monte Bello Open Space Preserves, located in the Santa Cruz Mountains. In July 2007 and 2009, approximately 100 and 144 acres, respectively, of Russian Ridge grassland habitat were consumed in two separate prescribed burns. Thus, the grassland

SCIENCE REPORT *continued on page 2*

area is now composed of three distinct treatments: (1) the 2007 burn area, (2) the 2009 burn area, and (3) a control area not burned in either year. This arrangement allows for the study of bird abundance and community composition in burned versus unburned grassland.

In 2010, we began the first of five years of avian point count surveys in these grassland habitats and observed 539 individuals of 49 species. Fourteen species were only found in either the 2007 or 2009 burn areas, including Grasshopper Sparrows, Savannah Sparrows, and Western Meadowlarks—species that prefer open to moderately open grasslands. In contrast, the species present only in the control area were species that generally depend on dense shrubs and/or woodland habitats.

Our preliminary results indicate that prescribed burning likely resulted in grassland characteristics that support grassland-obligate birds. For example, Grasshopper Sparrows prefer moderately open grasslands with patchy, bare ground. In California, it is likely that Grasshopper Sparrows cannot utilize the densely vegetated control grasslands, especially those where the invasive Harding grass is present. In contrast, Savannah Sparrow and Western Meadowlark both inhabit a wider ecological breeding habitat range than the Grasshopper Sparrow, but nevertheless, were not present in the control grasslands.

To effectively assess the long-term impact of prescribed burning on grassland birds at Russian Ridge, we will continue to survey at Russian Ridge and Monte Bello until 2014. These data will enable us to investigate the effect of vegetative and habitat alterations associated with the prescribed burns in comparison to a fire-suppressed (control) habitat. This information will help guide effective grassland management strategies for birds in the future.

We thank the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District and SFBBO's donors for their financial support.

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*By Jill Bluso Demers, SFBBO Executive Director*

*Follow the Leader*

## A Chat with Jan Hintermeister

*The following article is part of a series that will feature the people who support the avian conservation efforts of SFBBO. We hope you recognize yourself in these stories.*

Imagine a bird flying thousands of miles to a place it's never been! The amazing fact of bird migration and my love of science led me to SFBBO. I was introduced to birdwatching when I was in my twenties, and I joined SFBBO more years ago than I can remember. It was impossible to resist the infectious enthusiasm of Janet Hanson and Lou Young, who recruited me to become a Board Member in 1997. I stayed on the Board of Directors until 2004, and was the Board President much of that time. I've always found SFBBO events to be highly invigorating because the scientists and the volunteers are so passionate and well-spoken. Volunteer leaders and teachers, like Gerry Ellis and Rita Colwell, have been huge sources of inspiration for me.



JAN HINTERMEISTER

We are blessed here in the San Francisco Bay Area because of the foresight and intense efforts of previous generations to protect open spaces. To preserve our animal and plant populations, our open land must be properly managed based on the best scientific data. What SFBBO does is provide impartial data about fragile bird populations that live among an enormous thriving human population. We depend on what those earlier generations provided. Our responsibility is to pass on that legacy so that future generations can thrive.

What is truly unique about SFBBO is our long-term research projects, like the Colonial Waterbird Monitoring and Coyote Creek Field Station bird banding programs. These long-term datasets are essential to providing baseline data on our birds and to assess long-term changes in the environment. Our biggest challenge is to maintain and expand our long-term monitoring and to provide that data in a usable form to wildlife managers and the public.

In addition to my own personal contributions to SFBBO as a volunteer and donor, I support SFBBO through fundraising and encouraging others to give. I urge SFBBO members to consider monthly giving because it's convenient and painless and provides a reliable source of income to SFBBO. Motorola, my employer, matches my donations, doubling every dollar I give. I leverage this during the California Fall Challenge. I ask people at work to sponsor me in the CFC and their donations are matched by Motorola, too! Hint: This could be a strategy to help win the birding trip to Puerto Rico.

If I could tell SFBBO supporters one thing it would be: THANK YOU! We would not be here today without our volunteers, members, and supporters. You get up before dawn to open the mist nets, you sit for hours and count the birds in your scopes, you donate and you read our reports. Thank you for sharing your energy with us.

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## Does Your Company Have a Matching Gift Program?



Matching gifts are a great, easy way to double or even triple your donation to SFBBO. Many companies support employee philanthropy by offering matching gift programs. By taking advantage of your corporate matching gift program, you can maximize the value of your gift at no additional cost. Please check with your HR department to see if your employer will match your gift to SFBBO.



NORTHERN FLICKER

PHOTO BY BRUCE FINOCCHIO

# CALIFORNIA FALL CHALLENGE

Supporting Avian Conservation Science

## Accept the Challenge – Join the Fun

The 15th Annual California Fall Challenge is the time to celebrate your passion for Bay Area birds and their habitats. The work of the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory is scientific monitoring and research that conserve birds and their habitats. It is performed by professional biologists and volunteer citizen scientists. The funds raised during this month-long series of events help us support this important work. Our goal this year is to raise \$35,000. Please help us reach this goal!

### Here Are a Few Ways You Can Participate

#### **SIGN UP FOR AN EXCITING GUIDED TRIP**

If you are a birder, a nature lover, a photographer, or someone interested in conservation science, there is a California Fall Challenge Guided Trip for you! Join us for a Guided Trip with some of the best birders and conservation leaders in the Bay Area. They are ready to lead you to some special places! Experienced birders are certain to add to their list. Beginning birders couldn't ask for better guides to follow. See pages 4 and 5 for all the trips and the bios of our outstanding leaders.

#### **JOIN A BIRD-A-THON**

If you love a competition, sign up for our Mewaldt Cup Bird-a-Thon, the signature Fall Challenge contest! This year it's the all-state Bird-a-Thon again, as teams may bird anywhere in the state of California during their Big Day from September 10th to October 9th. The team that records the most birds wins the Cup. We have other cool prizes, too!

#### **FUNDRAISE FOR VALUABLE PRIZES**

Everyone is encouraged to enter our Fundraising Competition. Ask your friends and colleagues to sponsor your participation in the California

Fall Challenge, and you could win an adventure for two on Wildside Nature Tour's Endemic Dash in Puerto Rico, a fantastic Binocular Package, or a fabulous 2-night stay in the romantic Inverness Valley Inn in Marin County. Share our story with your friends and colleagues, tell them why you support this mission, and ask them to do the same. The greatest reward you'll receive is that you've done everything you can to support avian science and conservation.

#### **RECEIVE A T-SHIRT**

Everyone who participates at a level of \$50 or more receives an SFBBO T-shirt. Wear your support!

Visit [www.sfbbo.org](http://www.sfbbo.org) for all the details!

# California Fall Challenge Guided Trips

*Social: Wednesday, September 7, 2011*

*6:30 pm – 9:00 pm*

*Saturday, September 10, 2011*

*7:00 am – 4:00 pm;*

## **PELAGIC PIRATES LED BY AL JARAMILLO & CHRIS BENESH**

**COST: \$175**

Our 3rd Pelagic Pirates trip leaves out of Pillar Point Harbor, north of Half Moon Bay. See whales and local seabirds, and learn about the behaviors and lifestyles of these species from your expert birder and naturalist guides, Alvaro Jaramillo and Chris Benesh. Alvaro is a biologist and teacher at SFBBO. He travels widely as a birding guide for Field Guides, Inc. and his own company Alvaro's Adventures. The author of two books, Alvaro's expertise is in bird behavior and ecology in addition to identification. Chris has traveled the world as a Field Guides, Inc. guide, and currently serves on the Arizona Bird Committee. Chris's ongoing work includes a photo guide to North American flycatchers. This pelagic trip is complemented by the Social before the trip; Alvaro Jaramillo will give a presentation on the identification and ecology of the seabirds and whales we may see. Sign up soon as this trip fills fast!

*Sunday, September 11, 2011*

*7:00 am – Noon*

## **SNOWY PLOVER CONSERVATION LED BY CAITLIN ROBINSON-NILSEN**

**COST: \$100**

Join Snowy Plover expert Caitlin Robinson-Nilsen for a unique field trip and educational experience focused on the federally threatened Western Snowy Plover and the ongoing conservation efforts in San Francisco Bay. Caitlin is the Waterbird Program Director at San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory and an authority on the Western Snowy Plover in San Francisco Bay. Participants will spend the morning in the field observing plovers at the Bird Observatory's study sites, followed by a short workshop highlighting Caitlin's six years of plover research and how it informs management and conservation of this species.

*Friday, September 16, 2011*

*8:00 am – Noon*

## **AVOSETS LED BY BOB POWER**

**COST: \$50**

Join Bob on his four-hour-and-not-a-minute-more creek-to-Alviso shoreline blitz, searching for Burrowing Owls to Peregrine Falcons. You'll start at the

Coyote Creek Field Station and end up at the Don Edwards Environmental Education Center. Expect a fast pace to find 80 species, birding 8 am to noon, and then relax while the score is tallied. This team is for birders of all levels. Bob is the Executive Director at Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and leads trips for a variety of organizations around the Bay.

*Saturday, September 17, 2011*

*7:30 am – 1:00 pm*

## **VARIED TWITCHERS LED BY MIKE ROGERS**

**COST: \$50**

Mike is an expert birder and knows all of the great birding spots of Santa Clara County. This team will hit many of the best Alviso birding locations and then travel to the Shoreline Lake area. Mike's goal is to see and hear 100 species while birding some of the most fantastic locations around the Bay. Mike is a former member of the California Bird Records Committee and is currently a Northern California regional editor for the Journal of North American Birds. Expect an exciting day full of great Santa Clara County birds!

*Sunday, September 18, 2011*

*7:30 am – 6:00 pm*

## **GALLINAGO GO GO'S LED BY LISA MYERS**

**COST: \$100**

Join Lisa for the Gallinago Go Go's 8th year in the California Fall Challenge. This year the Gallinago Go Go's will bird Santa Cruz County to get our minimum 100 species! Santa Cruz County is a small county, but includes many different habitats. All levels are welcome! Lisa has birded since her teens and teaches and leads birding trips throughout Central California and Costa Rica. Through her own business, Let's Go Birding, Lisa's goal is to get more people into birding by focusing on beginner and intermediate birders. Lisa is also a member of Nikon Birding ProStaff and a former member of the SFBBO Board of Directors. If you have never participated in a Bird-a-Thon before—join the Go Go's!

## Guided Trip – How Do I Sign Up?

1. Use the enclosed envelope, register online at [www.sfbbo.org](http://www.sfbbo.org), or call SFBBO at 408.946.6548.
2. Register for as many Guided Trips as you want.
3. The Guided Trip fees range in price from \$40 to \$175 per person. Pay at the time of registration. You will receive the commemorative SFBBO T-shirt if you participate in a guided trip at the \$50 and above level.
4. Receive—by email—each of your trip confirmations. You will receive all details to prepare you for a great day of birding, including where to meet and park, what to bring, and what to expect.
5. Also, consider participating in the Mewaldt Cup and/or the Fundraising Competition.
6. Some trips fill very quickly, so please don't wait to sign up!
7. Invite your friends. Tell everyone you know about the mission of the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory—the conservation of birds and their habitats through science and outreach.

Thursday, September 22, 2011

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

**INTREPID A TO ZER'S LED BY KAY PARTELOW & KAREN DEMELLO**

COST: \$40

Celebrate the autumn equinox on this leisurely "after work" evening bird walk. From Avocets to Zonotrichia, our goal will be 26 species (from A to Z) over 1-1/2 miles at Charleston Slough and Shoreline Lake. This is the perfect opportunity for beginning birders or those with limited time to support SFBBO's California Fall Challenge. Karen and Kay make a fantastic birding team and are excited to show you one of their favorite birding spots. Kay has been birding ever since she was a youngster and is skilled at identifying birds by ear, and Karen has an enthusiastic approach great for beginning birders. Among their many varied interests, both Kay and Karen are docents for the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. Don't miss this wonderful evening walk!

Saturday, September 24, 2011

8:00 am – Noon

**SILLY SANDPIPERS LED BY RICH CIMINO**

COST: \$50

Join Rich Cimino on a field trip to the East Bay Regional Park Hayward Shoreline, an excellent location to bird during fall migration. The shoreline, expansive mudflats and marshlands provide a vast array of bird species. Expect to see waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors and grassland passerines during this outing. The upland habitat is home to sparrows and, if we're lucky, we may find a longspur individual. Rich is the Eastern Alameda County Audubon Conservation Chair, a trip leader for Ohlone Audubon Society, and serves on the Alameda Creek Alliance Board of Directors. Rich also owns Yellowbilled Tours, a birding tour and conservation outreach group. Rich has been birding in California for 44 years.

Saturday, October 1, 2011/8:00 am – noon

**TEAM DEDUCKTIONS LED BY MATTHEW DODDER**

COST: \$50

Join Matthew on a South Bay birding adventure to some of our lovely local wetlands. Attention will be given to gull and shorebird identification with a constant

Saturday, September 17, 2011/3 pm – 7 pm

**THE BIG SIP AT FOOTHILLS PARK, PALO ALTO**

COST: \$100 CAPACITY 40

BY INVITATION ONLY

What could be more wonderful than sitting in the park as sunset approaches on a warm fall day, sipping some marvelous wine and watching the birds? Enjoy this exclusive opportunity to catch up with SFBBO leadership and socialize with bird conservationists. This event is for our SFBBO members at the annual Sustainer (\$100) level and higher. Please contact Melanie Kimbel, Development Director at 408.946.6548 or [mkimbel@sfbbo.org](mailto:mkimbel@sfbbo.org) if you are interested in upgrading your membership and attending this event.

Hosted by the SFBBO Board of Directors. Troy Rahmig is the SFBBO Board Chair. He is a conservation planner at ICF International, and has been sipping wine and studying birds since college.

eye out for possible rarities. Matthew began birding in the mid-70s. After converting all his friends to birdwatchers, he began teaching bird classes at the Palo Alto Adult School in 1999. He continues to challenge students with various bird ID mysteries. Visit his website at [www.birdguy.net](http://www.birdguy.net).

Sunday, Oct 2, 2011/7:00 am – 4:00 pm

**WANDERING VAGRANTS LED BY SCOTT TERRILL**

COST: \$100

This birding day is what fall birding is all about! During migration, rare birds can make their way off course on their migration south. To maximize the rare birds seen, the location for this trip will be determined by Scott one week prior and will be dependent on where the rare species are being reported. Scott is a specialist in avian ecology, having written over 30 scientific papers primarily on bird migration. Scott has served as a member of the California Bird Records Committee, Regional Editor for North American Birds, the Board President of SFBBO and Coyote Creek Riparian Station, Science Advisor to SFBBO, and is the primary author of the Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding. Take advantage of this opportunity to bird with a migration pro!

Saturday, October 8, 2011

8:00 am – noon

**REGAL EAGLES LED BY RYAN PHILLIPS**

COST: \$50

Join Ryan Phillips for a morning of birding in the beautiful and ecologically

important Coyote Valley. Coyote Valley is one of the last linkages between the Santa Cruz Mountains and the Diablo Range and a great spot for wintering raptors. There will be a good chance of observing 14 raptor species, including Prairie Falcon, Golden Eagle and Ferruginous Hawk. Ryan has been birding since the age of 12. Ryan teaches at De Anza College's Environmental Studies Department, and resides in Belize part of the year, where he founded and directs a non-profit organization, the Belize Raptor Research Institute. Join the Regal Eagles and learn about the avian fauna of Coyote Valley and why it is such critical habitat in need of protection.

Saturday, October 9, 2011

8:00 am – 5:00 pm

**CONTRA COSTA MINI-BIG DAY! LED BY DENISE WIGHT**

COST: \$100

This abbreviated version of a Contra Costa County Big Day is a great way to discover the habitats and birds this East Bay county has to offer. Denise, a Contra Costa County native who has been teaching and leading birding classes since 1993, is the perfect guide! The trip will begin in Tilden Park, move down to Albany and the Richmond shoreline, and then head east to check out Martinez and Mitchell Canyon on the north side of Mount Diablo. The day will finish in East Contra Costa, where we will have a chance to see some Central Valley birds. This will be a day of great diversity in one of the most exciting counties to bird in our region. Visit Denise's website at [www.blkittiwake.com](http://www.blkittiwake.com).

## Fundraising Contest Guidelines – How Do I Win?

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

1. **Register for the Fundraising Contest.** Let us know you are competing so we can support you! Use the enclosed envelope or register online at [www.sfbbo.org](http://www.sfbbo.org).
2. **Attend the 2011 California Fall Challenge Kick-Off Party** on August 25! Get the latest news, become inspired, socialize, eat BBQ, and learn about the best new ways to raise money for Bay Area avian science.
3. **Tell everyone you know about the mission of the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory** – the conservation of birds and their habitats through science and outreach. Set up a FirstGiving or other social networking account. Spread the message of bird conservation to all your friends, family members, neighbors, and co-workers.
4. **Ask for their sponsorship** of SFBBO's California Fall Challenge. Ask them to donate \$500, \$200, \$50, \$25 or whatever they feel is the **largest gift they can give** to avian science.
5. As a special incentive, **everyone who donates \$50 or more receives a T-shirt!**
6. **Give people the opportunity to make a difference in their local community.** Make it easy for them. Collect their cash and checks. Direct them to your social networking giving page. Donations can also be made through our website at [www.sfbbo.org/support](http://www.sfbbo.org/support). Direct your sponsors to enter your name in the "dedication" window.
7. **Be sure to add your own donation.**
8. All donation forms can be downloaded from our website, or we'll send them to you by mail.
9. The people who raise the most funds during the Fall Challenge win the fantastic prizes!

## California Fall Challenge Prizes

### *Grand Prize: 5-Day Birding Trip for Two in Puerto Rico with Wildside Nature Tours*

Be the winner of the California Fall Challenge Fundraising contest and you'll join Wildside Nature Tours on the PUERTO RICO ENDEMIC DASH! This fun, fast-paced, yet easy exploration of Puerto Rico's prime birding locations will target the nation's endemics and specialties. You'll seek 17 endemics in five days of birding plus a whole list of Caribbean specialties! Go to [www.wildside-naturetours.com](http://www.wildside-naturetours.com) for all the details, including dates, itineraries, and bird lists.



### *Second Prize: Family Bird Watching Package from Los Gatos Birdwatcher*

This outstanding prize includes two pairs of Nikon binoculars, harnesses, cleaning kits, bird journals, field guides and accessories. We've tested these binoculars, and they are REALLY nice! Freddy and John Howell of Los Gatos Birdwatcher are loyal supporters of SFBBO, and we are thrilled with this prize donation. Go to [www.losgatosbirdwatcher.com](http://www.losgatosbirdwatcher.com) or visit their Los Gatos store for all your nature lover supplies.



### *Third Prize: Inverness Valley Inn*

Spend two nights at the lovely Inverness Valley Inn, located on 15 acres in the heart of the Point Reyes Seashore. View birds and wildlife, go kayaking, swimming, mountain biking, hiking, dining at popular Inverness and Point Reyes restaurants, and shopping and strolling along the picturesque beaches of Tomales Bay. Check them out at [www.invernessvalleyinn.com](http://www.invernessvalleyinn.com).



Go to [www.sfbbo.org](http://www.sfbbo.org) for all the details!

Thank you to the following sponsors of the 2011 California Fall Challenge!

**patagonia**

The **Cornell** Lab  
of Ornithology



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

If you love a competition, sign up for our California Fall Challenge Mewaldt Cup Bird-a-Thon. Bird anywhere in California between September 10th to October 9th and record the most birds in a 24-hour period to win the Cup, bragging rights, and a basket of goodies from our sponsors! Registration for the Mewaldt Cup Competition requires a \$50 donation per person. Register for the Competition using the attached envelope, email [outreach@sfbbo.org](mailto:outreach@sfbbo.org) or call 408.946.6548. For complete Mewaldt Cup Competition Guidelines, prize information, and to support the Bird Observatory, go to our website at [www.sfbbo.org](http://www.sfbbo.org). Good luck and happy birding!

*Go to [www.sfbbo.org](http://www.sfbbo.org) for more California Fall Challenge details!*

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



*Thank you to new and returning members, and generous donors, April – June 2011*

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

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## The California Fall Challenge T-shirt

The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory is proud to present the 15th Annual California Fall Challenge T-shirt design: American Avocets "Dancing Beak to Beak." This design is based on a photograph taken by Donald Dvorak, and a winner in our 2010 Click Off Photo Contest "Behavior" category.

We offer the T-shirt to California Fall Challenge participants who donate \$50 or more to the Bird Observatory in participant fees for a Guided Trip or the Mewaldt Cup Competition, a donation in support of a fundraiser, or a straight donation to the Bird Observatory. We want to thank SFBBO supporter Bob Nass, graphic design artist, for volunteering on this project!





SAN FRANCISCO BAY  
BIRD OBSERVATORY

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www.sfbbo.org

Calendar

CALIFORNIA FALL CHALLENGE

We are proud to offer a month of expert guided trips, a Bird-a-Thon, a fundraising contest, and more—all in support of avian conservation science. Look inside for all the information or go online to [www.sfbbo.org](http://www.sfbbo.org).



JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL MEETING

The 30th Annual Membership Meeting of the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory will be held at South Bay Yacht Club in Alviso on Sunday, October 23rd. Join us at this historic Alviso location as we celebrate the close of our 30th year. Enjoy a morning of birding, the SFBBO membership meeting, science presentations, voting for the Click Off Photo Contest, and more. Email invitation to follow, RSVP required.



CALIFORNIA FALL CHALLENGE KICK-OFF

Thursday, August 25, 5:30-8:00 pm

SITE: A PRIVATE HOME, WILLOW GLEN - SAN JOSE (ADDRESS & DIRECTIONS UPON RSVP)  
Everyone is invited to the California Fall Challenge Kick-Off BBQ! Celebrate fall migration and learn about the outstanding Guided Trips we have planned for

you. Get excited about fantastic fundraising prizes, and learn the newest social networking techniques that will help you win a prize in the fundraising competition. Best of all, you'll learn WHY it's important to support the conservation of birds and their habitats in the San Francisco Bay Area. RSVP to 408.946.6548 or [kkendrick@sfbbo.org](mailto:kkendrick@sfbbo.org).



CLICK OFF 2011 — PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

The 2011 Click Off photography contest has begun! It's time to register and compete for outstanding prizes! Go to [www.sfbbo.org/clickoff](http://www.sfbbo.org/clickoff) to submit your photos by September 1st. Winners are selected from six categories: Bird Portraits, Endangered Species, Birds in their Habitat, Bird Behavior, Human Interaction, and Birds of the World. In addition, submitters 18 years or younger can compete for the Youth Award. Share your best photos and support the mission of the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory.



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



SPECIAL EVENT



VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY

Workshops for the Birder and Naturalist – 2011

WITH: *Alvaro Jaramillo,*

*SFBBO Senior Biologist*

SITE: *Sobrato Center for Nonprofits in Milpitas*

Monday, August 15th (instruction)

6:30 – 9:00 pm;

Wednesday, August 17th (instruction)

6:30 – 9:00 pm;

Saturday, August 20th (field trip) TBA

SHOREBIRDS IN FALL

The fall offers a fun shorebird challenge! Shorebirds can be difficult to identify in the fall as they return from their breeding grounds in juvenile and non-breeding plumages. We will dig into shorebird behavior, physiology, ecology, and everything else that is relevant to this season and your enjoyment of migrating shorebirds. This is an opportunity for you to create depth to your shorebird identification skills and view many shorebird species. Birding Level: Intermediate and up.

