



WESTERN BURROWING OWL

SUE PETERSON

CALIFORNIA FALL CHALLENGE

Supporting Avian Conservation Science and Outreach

Accept the Challenge – Join the Fun

The 19th Annual California Fall Challenge is the time to celebrate your passion for Bay Area birds and help meet our mission to conserve birds and their habitats through science and outreach. Please help us reach our goal of raising \$30,000 during this month-long series of events and support the important work of our science and outreach staff and volunteers! To participate, visit www.sfbocfc.weebly.com, write to cfc@sfbbo.org, or call 408.946.6548. Participants who give at a level of \$50 or more will receive the new 2015 CFC T-Shirt!

Six Ways to Support SFBBO

SIGN UP FOR A GUIDED TRIP

Whether you are a birder, nature lover, photographer, or are interested in conservation science, there is a CFC Guided Trip for you! See pages 2 and 3 for a listing of trips.

JOIN THE BIRD-A-THON

If you love a competition, sign up for our Mewaldt Cup Bird-a-Thon, the signature Fall Challenge contest, join a team, and do a Big Day anywhere in the state of California. See page 4.

BAND-A-THON CONTEST

Help fundraise for SFBBO's Coyote Creek Field Station banding program by donating a set dollar amount per bird captured at CCFS or a lump sum from September 12th – October 11th. See page 4.

COMPETE IN THE CLICK OFF PHOTO CONTEST

Share your best bird photos, support our mission, win great prizes, and tell the story of Bay Area birds by competing in our Click Off photo contest. See page 4.

FUNDRAISE FOR PRIZES

Share SFBBO's story with your friends and colleagues and ask them to sponsor you. You could win a birding trip to Ecuador with Tropical Birding, a Big Year North American birding trip with Wildside Nature Tours, and other great prizes! See page 4.

BUY A CFC OWL BRACELET

ArtHouseUnited will donate 50% of the proceeds from sales of their specially designed CFC owl bracelets. See page 4.

Visit www.sfbocfc.weebly.com for all the details!

California Fall Challenge Guided Trips

Saturday, September 12th, 2015

8:30 am-11:30 am

BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY AT SHADOW CLIFFS, LED BY BILL ROSE

COST: \$50

Join Bill Rose for a walk focused on the art of bird photography at Shadow Cliffs Regional Park in Pleasanton and enjoy Nuttall's Woodpeckers, Red-shouldered Hawks, Common Gallinules and others. Bill is a citizen science volunteer for SFBBO's Colonial Waterbird Program and leads bird walks for the Ohlone Audubon Society. Those interested in exploring digiscoping can bring a lunch and stay longer (an adapter will be available that will fit most cameras, please indicate interest when you register). Hopefully participants will consider competing in SFBBO's Click Off photo contest, too. Adults and children 12 years and older.

Saturday, September 19th, 2015

7:00 am-4:00 pm

WANDERING VAGRANTS, LED BY SCOTT AND LINDA TERRILL

COST: \$100

During migration, birds can deviate from their normal migratory routes. In California, most "vagrants" are birds that typically occur in eastern North America, but a few Asian vagrants show up now and then as well. The trip location will be determined prior to the day of the trip. Scott is a specialist in avian ecology, having written over 30 scientific papers, primarily on bird migration. He has served as a member of the California Bird Records Committee, Regional Editor for North American Birds, the past Board President of SFBBO, Science Advisor to SFBBO, and is the primary author of Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding.

Saturday, September 19th, 2015

8:00 am-11:00 am

SARATOGA SIT!, LED BY STEPHANIE ELLIS

COST: \$50

Join former SFBBO Interim Executive Director Stephanie Ellis for a morning of "patio style" birding in her backyard in

Saratoga, nestled along a riparian corridor on Saratoga Creek. Participants will enjoy mimosas, snacks, and great company in this beautiful "birdy" backyard location. We expect 25+ species and maybe some migrant surprises!

Sunday, September 20th, 2015

10 am-Noon

GEOCACHING SCAVENGER HUNT FOR FAMILIES, LED CAROLE HUTCHINSON

COST: \$25 PER FAMILY

Geocaching is "the world's largest scavenger hunt." Similar to the old time "letterboxing" game enjoyed by people more than 150 years ago, geocaching started to become popular in 2000 when the accuracy of GPS units improved. There are now over 2 million geocaches throughout the world! At this fun-filled event for the whole family, participants will use kid-friendly GPS units (provided by SFBBO) to search for hidden, bird-oriented "caches" at the Palo Alto Baylands Nature Preserve in Palo Alto. They will also get to visit the Environmental Volunteers EcoCenter and explore more about the world of birds. Carole Hutchinson is a citizen scientist and Family Science Night outreach volunteer with SFBBO and an avid geocacher who has taken part in geocache events all over the world.

Thursday, September 24, 2015

7:30 am-3:30 pm

COASTAL MAVERICKS, LED BY ALVARO JARAMILLO

COST: \$100

The San Mateo coast offers a wide variety of birding, from shorebirds and raptors to vagrants at migratory stopover sites. This trip will help you find some of the goodies, specialties and diversity the coast has to offer! Alvaro is a senior biologist at SFBBO known for his popular bird identification workshops. He leads international birding trips and pelagic outings through his company, Alvaro's Adventures and recently published the book, "American Birding Association Field Guide to Birds of California." Adults and children 12 years and older.

Saturday, September 26th, 2015

7:30 am-1:00 pm

THE VARIED TWITCHERS, LED BY MIKE ROGERS

COST: \$50

Mike is an expert birder and knows all the great birding spots of Santa Clara County. This fast-paced walk will take avid birders to the best Alviso and Shoreline Lake birding locations, with the goal to see and hear 100 species. Mike is a former member of the California Bird Records Committee and is currently a Northern California regional editor for the journal North American Birds.

Saturday, September 26th, 2015

8:30 am-10:30 am

BIRD BANDING DEMO, LED BY TOM STEWART AND MARTHA CASTILLO

\$10 PER PERSON, PLUS FUNDRAISING PLEDGES

Join SFBBO citizen scientists Tom Stewart and Martha Castillo for a fascinating bird banding demonstration at SFBBO's Coyote Creek Field Station in Milpitas. Adults and families with kids ages 7 and up can tour mist nets, explore riparian habitat and get a close-up look at birds. In addition to the \$10 registration fee, we encourage participants to help raise money for SFBBO's banding station, which is funded by donations. See our website for details. SFBBO can provide a pledge sheet so participants can ask their friends and families to donate to SFBBO, either through a single donation or by participate in SFBBO's Band-a-Thon and pledging a certain amount per bird caught at CCFS during the 2015 CFC. Participants who donate \$50 or more, or who collect \$50 or more for SFBBO, can receive the 2015 CFC T-Shirt!

Sunday, September 27th, 2015

7:00 am-5:30 pm

THE GALLINAGO GO GOS, LED BY LISA MYERS

COST: \$100

Join Lisa for the Gallinago Go Go's 11th year in the Fall Challenge! No matter if

you are an experienced birder, or if this is your first bird-a-thon, the Go Gos welcome all birding levels. The goal is to get out and have a great time while learning about the birds that can be found throughout Santa Clara County in the fall. Lisa leads tours and teaches classes that provide a fun, easy-going environment to learn, ask questions, and increase skill level. Lisa has birded since her teens and leads tours throughout Central California and Central America. Lisa is a former member of the SFBBO Board and will soon be taking ownership of the Los Gatos Birdwatcher, a strong business supporter of SFBBO.

Sunday, September 27th, 2015
10:00 am-2:00 pm

RAPTORS AND MORE AT HAWK HILL, LED BY BOB POWER

COST:\$50

Join Bob at the premier hawk migration site in western North America: Hawk Hill in Marin County. The end of September is the peak of the fall accipiter migration and often produces 12 species of raptors or more. Raptor ID will be a non-stop field experience as hawks, falcons, accipiters, kites, and more move through this natural migration funnel. Early arrivals get mimosas and coffee cake! Bob is the former Executive Director for the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and has led a Hawkwatch team at Hawk Hill for 11 years.

Lecture: Thursday, October 1, 2015
7:00 pm-8:30 pm

Trip: Friday, October 2, 2015
5:00 pm-Midnight

BAT BANDING WORKSHOP AND DEMO, LED BY DAVID JOHNSTON

COST:\$75

A very special trip led by bat biologist Dr. David Johnston. This guided team will go out after dark to mist net bats at the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory's Coyote Creek Field Station. Expect to see Yuma Myotis and possibly Hoary Bats, as well as learn a lot about bat ecology in the South Bay and beyond! Dr. Dave

Johnston is a vertebrate ecologist who specializes in the study of bats. A well-known authority on bats of the west coast, David also has a vast knowledge of the natural history of vertebrates in California. He currently works as a Senior Wildlife Ecologist at H.T. Harvey & Associates.

Sunday, October 4th, 2015
7:30 am-11:30 am

VIVACIOUS VIREOS, LED BY GINA BARTON

COST:\$50

Join us for a laid back morning at Shoreline Park playing bird bingo. As we identify birds and bird behavior, we'll mark them off our cards to see who wins! This is a Big Sit, but we'll also stroll surrounding areas depending on the concentration and variety of birds. If you'd like to learn bird behaviors and basic identification by either sight or sound among a fun group of folks, sign up! Exact location will be decided closer to the trip. Gina is a former SFBBO biologist who is now with Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris.

Saturday, October 10th, 2015
9:00 am-Noon

REGAL EAGLES, LED BY RYAN PHILLIPS

COST:\$50

Join Ryan Phillips for a morning of birding focused on raptors in Coyote Valley, one of the last linkages between the Santa Cruz Mountains and the Diablo Range, and a great spot for migrating, wintering and breeding raptors. There will be a good chance of observing 14 raptor species, including Prairie Falcon, Golden Eagle and Ferruginous Hawk. Ryan has been studying raptors for many years and is the founding Executive Director of the Belize Raptor Research Institute. He is an instructor in the Environmental Studies Department at De Anza College and the Wildlife Science Technician Program Coordinator, where he teaches conservation biology, biodiversity, connectivity and numerous field studies courses. Adults and children 12 years and older.

Guided Trips Registration

To register for a CFC Guided Trip, please fill out the enclosed reply envelope and send a check to SFBBO, or visit our website at www.sfbbofcf.weebly.com to register online. You can also call (408) 946-6548 ext. 10.

Fundraising Contest

Join the 2015 California Fall Challenge Fundraising Competition to raise money for bird conservation and win fantastic prizes! Prizes include an Andes Birding Tour in Ecuador with Tropical Birding; a Big Year North American Birding Tour with Wildside Nature Tours; a birding package from the Los Gatos Birdwatcher; a pelagic trip and signed book from Alvaro Jaramillo; and a Sierras visit to Soronson's Resort! Visit our website for more details. www.sfbbofcf.weebly.com.





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BIRD OBSERVATORY

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CFC Contests and Activities



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

Bird anywhere in California between September 12th and October 11th and record the most bird species in a 24-hour period to win the Cup, bragging rights, and a basket of goodies from our sponsors! \$50 registration/person.

Annual Kids' Bird Art Contest

SFBBO's Kids' Bird Art Contest is open to children ages 3–17. One entry per child, the deadline for submissions is October 11th, and winners will be announced at the annual membership meeting on October 25th. Free.

Get the CFC T-Shirt

The 2015 CFC T-Shirt, designed by artist Allison Connor and graphic designer Bob Nass, will feature a Western Burrowing Owl. CFC participants who donate \$50 or more through Guided Trip fees, the Mewaldt Cup Bird-a-Thon, Click Off, a Band-a-Thon pledge, a donation in support of a fundraiser, or as a straight donation to SFBBO will receive a T-Shirt.

4th Annual CFC Band-a-Thon

Raise money for SFBBO's banding station by pledging to donate a set dollar amount per bird captured at the Coyote Creek Field Station from September 12th – October 11th. Captures during this period range from 379 to 1026 birds, so a pledge of 25¢ per bird would equal \$94.75 to \$256.50. You can also pledge a lump sum. Donors who participate in the Band-a-Thon will qualify for fundraising prizes.

2015 CFC Click Off Photo Contest

SFBBO's 6th California Fall Challenge Click Off photo contest will focus on birds living in or migrating through California and will run from August 15th to October 11th, 2015. \$25 per 5 photos.

Owl Bracelet

ArtHouseUnited has designed a special bracelet featuring the Western Burrowing Owl for our 2015 CFC and will donate 50% of the proceeds from sales of the bracelets to SFBBO.

SFBBO's 34th Annual Membership Meeting

Saturday, October 25th, 2015

9:30 am – 12:30 pm

Site: South Bay Yacht Club, Alviso, CA

Join us for an optional morning bird walk (8:30 am) with Wes Homoya of Tropical Birding, followed by the SFBBO membership meeting. The meeting will feature updates about SFBBO's programs, a guest speaker, a silent auction, recognitions and CFC prizes, and more. Participants will also cast votes for the "People's Choice" of SFBBO's 2015 Click Off photo contest. To register for the meeting, please email cfc@sfbbo.org, or call us at 408.946.6548 by October 19th.