Over the past 150 years, urban development has significantly impacted natural resources in the Bay Area. Over 7 million people live here, an estimated 90% of historic tidal marsh has been eliminated, and upland habitat has been similarly degraded. In addition, the climate is changing rapidly. Despite these impacts, the San Francisco Bay is recognized as a site of hemispheric importance for migratory songbirds, shorebirds, and wintering waterfowl.

The goal at SFBBO is to conserve birds and their habitats within this rapidly changing landscape, and we believe one of the most effective ways to do this is to base resource management decisions on sound science. For more than 30 years, we’ve conducted scientific research on birds and their habitats and have shared our data with land managers, planners, and others. We’ve also worked to engage the public to build support for bird conservation. We describe our approach in our “Theory of Change” on page 5 of this report.

SFBBO had an exciting, productive 2013. We concluded several multi-year projects in our science and habitats programs that significantly informed management of bird populations and restoration of bird habitats, including habitat restoration work at Warm Springs in Fremont and Pond A6 near Alviso and grassland bird studies at Russian Ridge Preserve. As these finished, new restoration projects and research on plovers, waterbirds and landbirds took their place.

Our community outreach efforts also grew to include three new initiatives: a Colonial Waterbird Ambassador Program, a Family Program, and a Corporate Program. Each of these has continued to gain momentum, bringing to new audiences the mission of our organization. The time volunteers donated to SFBBO also grew, up by nearly 10% compared with 2012, enabling us to expand our scientific and outreach work beyond the limits of our traditional funding sources.

Finally, we saw similar increases in the financial support we received from individual and corporate donors, up by 14% from 2012. These added donations provided critical support to our Colonial Waterbird Program and to our Coyote Creek Field Station, both of which are 30+ year initiatives funded solely by private donations. SFBBO’s work in 2013, and the benefits it produced for bird and habitat conservation, relied heavily on strong partnerships, increased donor and volunteer support, and the commitment of our staff and Board of Directors. Thanks to you all for helping to make 2013 a great year at SFBBO.

Catherine E. Burns, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Landbird Program
For more than 30 years, SFBBO staff and volunteers have banded birds at our Coyote Creek Field Station (CCFS), located on a restored riparian habitat on Santa Clara Valley Water District property in Milpitas. SFBBO and academic partners use this information to track avian responses to climate change, restoration and urbanization, and to document long-term demographic trends. In 2013, we captured 3,952 birds of 61 species.

In addition, in 2013 SFBBO wrapped up research begun in 2009 to study birds at Russian Ridge and Monte Bello Open Space Preserves in the Santa Cruz Mountains to identify the response of grassland bird species to prescribed burning. Our research confirmed the presence of several grassland-obligate species, including Grasshopper Sparrows, Savannah Sparrows, and Western Meadowlarks, and enabled SFBBO to make recommendations for the sites’ future management that will benefit grassland birds.

Impacts:
• 38 citizen science volunteers spent nearly 3,690 hours to collect our CCFS data, which was shared with researchers from several universities and other organizations.
• A 2012 climate change paper published in the journal Global Change Biology by researchers from San Francisco State University and featuring CCFS long-term data was one of the journal’s top downloaded papers in 2012, and was cited in several very high impact, international scientific journals in 2013, including Ecology Letters and Evolutionary Applications.

Habitats Program
SFBBO carried out habitat restoration at five sites in 2013. Staff and volunteers associated with this program continued to contribute thousands of hours toward developing methods and materials for creating tidal marsh-upland transitional plant communities, and toward restoring habitat for Western Burrowing Owls. In 2013, we wrapped up a study to define and map the extent of tidal marsh-upland transitional habitat in the Bay Area, an increasingly rare habitat type that will play an important role in marsh adaptation to sea level rise associated with climate change.

Impacts:
• Worked to restore more than 75 acres of bird habitat.
• Identified restoration methods to improve habitat for the Western Burrowing Owl.
• Developed a technical tool to help map and prioritize areas along the South Bay’s margin for restoration.

Snowy Plover Program
The number of Western Snowy Plovers in the San Francisco Bay was notably low in 2012, but bounced back in 2013. Apparent nest success (i.e. the percentage of nests that successfully hatched at least one egg) also increased compared to 2012 rates to just over 60%, with the majority of nest failures attributed to predation events. SFBBO staff worked hard in 2013 to ensure that construction activities associated with tidal marsh restoration in the South Bay took place without negative impacts to nesting plovers and young plover chicks. The majority (59%) of
Bay Area plover nests in 2013 were located within these construction areas.

**Impacts**
- Monitored and worked with partners to protect 202 plover nests in 2013.
- Informed pond management and restoration planning across the Bay Area.
- Partnered with the Institute for Wildlife Studies and several other groups to produce a range-wide plover Population Viability Analysis, which will inform recovery efforts for this species across its Pacific coast range.

**Waterbird Program**
SFBBO conducted several research projects on waterbirds and their habitats in 2013.

**Historical Waterbird Study**
SFBBO led research to evaluate changes in waterbird communities over a 30-year period across the South Bay. This project, conducted in partnership with the Fish & Wildlife Service, USGS and UC Davis, concluded in 2013 and is now being used by agencies and conservation organizations in the Bay Area to inform future management activities to promote bird diversity and abundance.

**Salt Pond Surveys**
We continued in 2013 to conduct bird surveys and water quality monitoring at 22 salt evaporation ponds owned by the Refuge and managed for salt production by Cargill Salt, and shared these data with the Refuge, Cargill Salt, USGS, and the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project to aid in pond management, restoration, and bird conservation.

**Colonial Waterbird Program**
A dedicated team of citizen-scientists and SFBBO staff biologists has been monitoring nesting herons, egrets, terns, gulls and cormorants for 32 years through our Colonial Waterbird Program, and bring information on conservation threats, such as human disturbance, to the attention of resource managers. This program documented over 52,000 nesting California Gulls in the Bay Area in 2013. The ongoing, rapid increase of California Gulls in the area is a significant conservation threat to other birds, as earlier research by SFBBO and others showed that these gulls can impact breeding waterbirds through habitat encroachment and nest and chick predation. SFBBO also participated in the annual Pacific Flyway Shorebird Survey.

**Avian Disease Prevention Program**
In 1982, SFBBO also started surveying several South Bay sloughs in an effort to prevent outbreaks of avian botulism and we continued this important work in 2013. Fortunately, we did not find any evidence of an avian botulism outbreak in these areas.

**Impacts**
- Fifty SFBBO volunteers contributed 539 hours of work to monitor 62 waterbird colonies; 11 volunteers donated 186 hours of their time to carry out the 2013 avian botulism surveys, and 20 volunteers dedicated 58 hours to the 2013 Pacific Flyway Shorebird Survey.
- Our Pacific Flyway Shorebird Survey data, combined with data from many others across the Flyway, provided a coast-wide assessment of shorebird communities that are being used to identify conservation needs along the Pacific coast.
- SFBBO’s 30+ years of information on California Gull populations was used by our partners, the media, and others to better understand gull population changes, and to identify plans for gull management.
- Our surveys at a local landfill helped to identify effective abatement measures to reduce gull use of these areas, an important step toward improving avian reproductive success in the South Bay.
- SFBBO’s Historical Waterbirds study provided information on how bird communities in the Bay estuary have changed since the 1980s – this information helped to establish baseline numbers for Bay Area birds, and to evaluate recent and future changes.

“The data collected by SFBBO helps the Refuge decide the optimal balance between tidal marsh and managed pond acreage such that endangered species and migratory bird trust species are all supported.”
—Cheryl Strong, Wildlife Biologist, Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge

“SFBBO’s monitoring helped us protect the rookery by giving us credible scientific data to back up our position in working with the City of Redwood City to find a mutual workable solution to habitat protection.”
—Sue Cossins, Administrative Assistant, Sequoia Audubon Society

WESTERN SNOWY PLOVER.
Outreach Program

Our Outreach Program—designed to increase public awareness and appreciation about birds and avian science—grew substantially in 2013, and our efforts continued to be powered by the work of almost 150 volunteers.

We offered six bird identification workshops and field trips with Senior Biologist Alvaro Jaramillo; three public bird banding demonstrations at our Coyote Creek Field Station; and five bird walks in Pleasanton (twice), Sunol, Cupertino, and Saratoga. We celebrated our accomplishments at our Volunteer Appreciation Party in May and our Annual Membership Meeting in October. In April, Executive Director Cat Burns gave major donors an inside look at SFBBO’s impact and future plans at a special event where Alvaro Jaramillo also shared stories about his work with a team of scientists who recently discovered a new bird species in Chili, the Pincoya Storm-petrel.

We participated in many community events, continued to communicate about our work in the Bay Bird Review, gave our Wingbeat e-newsletter a new look, wrote regular articles for popular publications, and were interviewed for stories on KEAR Radio and in the San Jose Mercury News.

California Fall Challenge
We also offered 20 events and bird trips (up from 12 in 2012) during our California Fall Challenge (CFC) fundraising campaign, including new ones such as a kayak tour, photography bird walk, and trip on the Stanford Campus. In addition to our bird-a-thon, band-a-thon, and fundraising contest, we brought back the popular Click Off photo contest. Thanks to a $2,000 matching donation from an anonymous donor, we surpassed our overall campaign fundraising goal.

New Initiatives
In addition, we piloted three new programs—a Corporate Program, Ambassador Program, and Family Program. We shared information with customers at Patagonia, gave a Lunch ‘N Learn presentation at Codexis, and employees from Citrix participated in three SFBBO habitat restoration and vegetation survey activities. Serving as our first Ambassadors, several volunteers in our Colonial Waterbird program led bird viewings in Alameda and Livermore to teach the public about the nesting waterbirds they monitor in those communities. The programs were so popular we had to add extra viewings, and the Ambassador’s efforts helped to double the number of volunteer hours contributed to our Colonial Waterbird Program compared to 2012. We also started a new Family Membership, and created a Family Bird Adventure event, gave a banding demonstration to families in the Young Audubon program, organized a youth team (“The Fledglings”) in our CFC bird-a-thon, and added a new column in Wingbeat with children’s bird book recommendations.

Science Outreach
We were also very active in the scientific community. Our scientists gave talks about SFBBO’s research and restoration activities at the Society for Conservation Biology Annual Meeting, State of the Estuary Conference, Monterey Bay Bird Festival, Rangewide Snowy Plover Conference, U.C. Santa Cruz, and the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project Science Symposium. We also hosted a meeting of the south Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project researchers and managers, and organized the 5th Annual Meeting of Regional Vegetation Managers, hosted by US Army Corps of Engineers at Hamilton Wetlands.

Our Outreach Program reached thousands of people in 2013 to promote our mission to conserve birds and their habitats. We also instituted a monthly membership survey to get regular feedback from our supporters so we can continue to grow and improve our programs.

“"My restoration ecology class really appreciated the banding demo. The depth of knowledge exhibited by Josh Scullen and the visible contrast between the habitats really made for a rich and informative addition to my course.”
—Virginia Matzek, Professor, Santa Clara University.

“"The efforts of SFBBO volunteers have clearly inspired people in our area to care about our nesting herons and think about how the trees they may usually take for granted host fascinating species.”
—Amy Wolitzer, Ranger, Livermore Area Recreation and Park District

SFBBO LANDBIRD PROGRAM Director Josh Scullen gives a banding demo.
The Theory of Change

**OUR VISION**
We envision a San Francisco Bay Area of healthy wild bird populations and the ecosystems in which they live.

**OUR PHILOSOPHY**
We believe the best way to reach that vision is to base land and resource use decisions on sound science. We understand this can only happen with strong community support.

**WE AIM TO CREATE...**
Healthy San Francisco Bay Area land and waterbird populations and bird habitats.
A community that values birds and supports conservation of birds and the ecosystems that sustain them.
An appreciation for science and use of long-term data in policy and land use decision making.
A citizenry that embraces the ethic of “giving back” through volunteering, philanthropy, and community service.
A region connected by strong partnerships that augment and enhance one another’s efforts.
A model for urban conservation efforts around the globe.
A healthy economy bolstered by rich and plentiful ecological resources and an educated, informed public.

**PRIMARY STRATEGIES TO INFLUENCE CHANGE**
- We conduct research on bird populations and implement habitat restoration in the San Francisco Bay Area in order to conserve diverse bird communities and the habitats on which they depend in this dynamic, unique landscape.
- We carry out studies that identify bird and habitat responses to climate change and increasing urbanization.
- We share our research findings broadly, with both the scientific and public communities, to increase knowledge of avian and habitat status, threats and needs.
- We work closely with partners, including the US Fish & Wildlife Service, the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project, California Department of Fish & Wildlife, and others, to use our scientific data to inform land and water management in ways that promote bird diversity and health.
- We increase public awareness and appreciation of the environment by hosting field trips, classes and other events for adults, families, corporate groups, and others.

**SFBBO’s Core Values**

**EXCELLENCE**
We are committed to professionalism and excellence. We hold ourselves to the highest level of scientific standards. We are committed to quality applied research and monitoring to address land management challenges.

**RELATIONSHIPS**
We believe that science is only effective in conserving birds and their ecosystems when shared and communicated. We value building relationships with land managers, policy makers, other researchers, and the general public in order to effectively share our findings.

**COMMUNITY**
We strive to inspire, educate, and connect with the public to promote conservation through science. We believe that scientific understanding creates a stronger community where people know about their local wildlife and the ecosystems that they depend on, and how those species benefit from local conservation efforts.

**DIGNITY**
We are dedicated to fulfilling our mission with compassion, efficiency and accountability, while enjoying our work and valuing everyone that is associated with our organization.
Statement of Financial Position

SFBBO 2013 FINANCIALS, year ended Dec 31, 2013

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<th>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2012</th>
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<td>Government contracts</td>
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<td>Contributions</td>
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<td>Foundation and corporate support</td>
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<td>Membership dues</td>
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<td>In-kind contributions</td>
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<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
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<th>EXPENSES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Programs</td>
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<td>General and administrative</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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<th>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</th>
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<td>Net assets, beginning of year</td>
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<td>$174,561</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets, end of year</td>
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Revenue 2013

- Program Fees: 23.87%
- Other: 1.38%
- Government Contracts: 37.89%
- In-kind Contributions: 22.73%
- Contributions: 10.24%
- Administration: 9%
- Fundraising: 8.3%
- Outreach & Education: 8%
- Science: 56.5%
- Habitats: 18.3%

Expenses 2013

2013 Professional Reports


We would also like to thank the 360 people who gave up to $59.