

# BAY BIRD REVIEW

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



SAN FRANCISCO BAY  
BIRD OBSERVATORY

## Director's Message

In the next few months, you will be hearing a lot about the Bird Observatory's annual bird-a-thon, the California Fall Challenge. The Fall Challenge Committee, led by Lisa Myers, has lined up lots of great trips and events for you to choose from. All of them have been created to entice friends of the Bird Observatory to join in the fun, to go birding with some of the area's finest leaders, enjoy events designed to both entertain and inform you, all beginning on page 8 of this newsletter.

Behind all the effort that Lisa and her team have expended, is their single-minded goal: to raise \$50,000 to support the Bird Observatory. For the past 26 years, the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory's bird science, outreach activities, and citizen science projects have been conserving native birds all over the San Francisco Bay area and beyond.

Now in its 11th year, the California Fall Challenge is the Bird Observatory's largest fundraiser. This bird-a-thon has raised more than \$250,000 to help fund the Bird Observatory's science and outreach programs. Your support of the 2007 California Fall Challenge helps ensure that the Bird Observatory continues to conserve our native birds for years to come.

The Bird Observatory is supported by individuals like you, who recognize the vital role that science must play in ecosystem conservation and the protection of our native birds. We run a tight ship with no deficits

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE *continued on page 2*



A MIXED FLOCK of shorebirds.

PHOTO BY LES CHIBANA

## Waterbird Science Report

### Bird Use of Salt Ponds in the South Bay

In 2002, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and California's Department of Fish and Game entered a historic agreement with Cargill Salt to purchase 15,100 acres of salt evaporator ponds in the South San Francisco Bay, and 1,400 acres of salt ponds along the Napa River in the North Bay. These ponds are part of an area of 26,000 acres of salt ponds which have been constructed by diking off sections of salt marsh, over the last hundred and fifty years. Because of concerns regarding the conservation of tidal-marsh dependent wildlife species, and because of strong public support for restoration, a massive effort has begun to restore some or all of these salt ponds to tidal marsh.

The salt pond complexes of the south Bay have significant wildlife value as ponds, even without restoration. As a major migratory and wintering location along the Pacific Flyway, the San Francisco Bay supports a large number of birds year-round. As wetlands have been destroyed elsewhere, the salt ponds have become an important foraging and roosting site for many species.

The Observatory obtained funding from the San Francisco Foundation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 22 active salt ponds in the Coyote Hills, Dumbarton and Mowry salt ponds complexes on the east side of the south Bay (View maps at [www.southbayrestoration.org](http://www.southbayrestoration.org)).



PHOTO BY BRYNA GRIFFIN

SNOWY PLOVER

Although the ponds are owned by the Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge, Cargill retains mineral rights and regulates water flow for salt production.

SALT PONDS *continued on page 3*

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE *continued from cover*  
or red ink. Our wonderful volunteer field assistants help us make a dollar go further. We are diligent but we are stretched.

*Your Fall Challenge dollars go to support work like:*

- Meeting with excited residents of Bay Farm Island in Alameda, to tell them about how to protect their new Snowy Egret colony from disturbance.
- Working with colleagues at Jasper Ridge to develop a bird study program on San Francisquito Creek.
- Analyzing and presenting the results of our salt pond bird studies at both local and international conferences, and helping design the south bay restoration which will affect millions of migratory waterbirds.
- Participation in Bay Area Open Space Council's Upland Goals Project, to ensure bird conservation is part of the open space preservation ethic of the future.

Birds have extremely specific needs – they are highly limited to special habitats, diets and time-frames. Ironically, people are just the opposite: we have unlimited flexibility. We humans can easily change the way we conduct our lives, if only we are motivated to do so.

Fortunately, people care deeply about their environment and the birds that fill it with song and beauty, and want to know what they can do to help them. The Bird Observatory science staff works hard to precisely identify the obstacles to survival that we humans place squarely in the road of our native birds every single day, often unknowingly. Our outreach and education folks then strive to communicate those needs as actions we can take to keep our common birds common and pull our threatened species back from the brink of extinction.

Please join me and all of us here, by pledging your support of the California Fall Challenge. The Bird Observatory will keep on working to keep birds and their songs aloft in our skies.

## Migrations



JOHN MCLEMORE

We're saying goodbye to one of our outstanding Board members, John McLemore. John has served on the board since 2003 and led our Facilities committee on important short and long-term requirements development projects. His extensive community involvement, ranging from Santa Clara City Council to various regional transit boards to senior housing boards, brought a wealth of experience to our organization. We wish him well in his consulting practice and look forward to his ongoing contributions as an enthusiastic volunteer.

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*By Jennifer Krauel, President, Board of Directors*

## Staff Migrations

The Bird Observatory trains new biologists from all over the U.S. and beyond our own borders, to become skilled in field techniques they will carry with them throughout their careers. At one point earlier this year, our staff hailed from 10 different states and two foreign countries. Our Powerline Bird Strike Study employed field crews for behavioral observations and ground searching. Several members of those crews have recently migrated to new projects. Evan Childress, a recent graduate of Oberlin in Ohio, is now doing fieldwork in Yellowstone National Park. A native of Illinois, Leslie Nicholson has returned to her home state to participate in a study of Prothonotary Warblers. East Bay native Brittany Stieg, continues to work on the Bay's birds as a biologist with the U. S. Geological Survey. And Leila Harris is now helping with Marbled Murrelet surveys along the San Mateo Coast.

Through our internships and seasonal fieldwork, the Bird Observatory helps create the next generation of ornithologists and field biologists. We wish them all success!

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## Come and Join Our Board!

The Bird Observatory is on the brink of unprecedented growth and expansion. It's fun and exhilarating but we need good folks on our Board to push us over the top. We are looking for board members who love the Bird Observatory, its mission of science, outreach and the conservation of birds, who will give it their all, come to meetings, be financially supportive and who will open doors for us. A new board member may be someone newly retired who would love a stimulating challenge; someone who craves more contact with something other than work; someone who could grow and blossom with Board service for an organization that really makes a difference; or someone new to the Bay Area who wants to give of themselves and meet like-minded people.

Perhaps you know someone eager to dive in to our Board. If so, will you make the introduction? Or perhaps it is even you. Give us a call and let's talk. It may be the most rewarding leap of faith for birds that you will ever take. Contact: Janet Hanson, Executive Director at 408-946-6548 ext. 18 or [jthanson@sfbbo.org](mailto:jthanson@sfbbo.org)

The salinity and depth of these ponds varies over the course of the year, according to Cargill management activities. The habitat value of these ponds for waterbirds, whether high or low, has important implications for the restoration project's task of understanding and predicting how waterbird populations will respond to changes in habitat over the course of the restoration. This report presents the preliminary results of the Observatory's first 15 months of monitoring the Cargill-managed ponds, from September 2005 through November 2006.

**RESULTS** The Cargill-managed salt ponds varied widely in their habitat value for waterbirds. Birds utilized ponds year-round for foraging and roosting, and in the spring and summer for breeding. The best habitat for waterbirds (not including gulls) was provided by the Dumbarton complex and some ponds in the North Coyote Hills complex. Small shorebirds were by far the most numerous foraging guild observed in the entire survey area, followed by gulls and medium shorebirds. Dabbling ducks had relatively low numbers but concentrated in certain ponds in winter (Coyote Hills), as did eared grebes in winter and spring (Dumbarton ponds). Diving ducks and phalaropes each were a very low proportion of the overall count, but utilized ponds in the Coyote Hills more heavily during migration, in winter/spring for diving ducks and summer/fall for phalaropes. Fish eaters also were a low proportion of the overall count, but peaked in summer in the Coyote Hills ponds, due in part to a Forster's tern breeding colony that was established there.

**BIRD USE AND WATER LEVEL CHANGES** Ponds were used by different bird guilds as water levels fluctuated. At one Coyote Hills salt pond complex in November-December 2005, dabbling ducks virtually disappeared as the ponds began to dry out. Ducks were replaced



PHOTO BY ALVARO JARAMILLO

A JUVENILE Red-necked Phalarope.

by a high number of medium and small shorebirds. High water levels at another Coyote Hills pond in the fall attracted much higher numbers of fish eaters, herons, gulls and medium shorebirds than the previous or following months. From June -- October 2006, low water levels on some Dumbarton ponds provided roosting habitat for small and medium shorebirds.

**PONDS USED FOR FORAGING** The fact that Coyote Hills, the set of ponds with the lowest salinity levels, had the highest species richness, indicates that a greater variety of birds use these lower salinity ponds. However, eared grebes foraged in the higher salinity ponds, and phalaropes foraged at ponds with low to medium salinities. Medium shorebirds and small shorebirds foraged at ponds with varying salinities, ranging from 18 to 245 ppt. This indicates that medium and small shorebirds can feed in a range of salinities. Plant eating birds like dabblers tend to concentrate at lower salinity ponds (Accurso 1992). Fish eaters tend to be concentrated in ponds with salinities below 100 ppt, since the maximum fish tolerance is 80 ppt, with most tolerances at 20-40 ppt (Carpelan 1957; Anderson 1970; Swarth et. al. 1982). These guilds also require higher water levels in some ponds.

**PONDS USED FOR RESTING** The Cargill salt ponds play an important role in supplying resting habitat for many birds. On average, birds spent 71% of their time resting in the pond complexes (Dumbarton: 63%; Mowry 88%; N. Coyote Hills 71%, S. Coyote Hills 60%).

Small and medium shorebirds used many ponds for roosting, including ponds not used for foraging and higher salinity ponds. Dabbling ducks, eared grebes, fish eaters and phalaropes rested mostly in the same ponds that they foraged in. Islands and levees or man-made structures were important for resting birds in most ponds, although in a few ponds, birds spent a large proportion of resting time in the pond itself.

**MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS** The salt ponds are a dynamic, changing system, which can support birds with various feeding behaviors, water height requirements and salinity tolerances. Seasonal variation in water height and salinity as well as water flow related to salt production lead to variation in pond characteristics. Maintaining a variety of water heights and salinities for varying guilds will require regular monitoring and the ability to respond quickly to seasonal or other environmental changes. In particular, managers will need to adjust for many habitat requirements: low water levels for medium and small shorebirds during migration and winter; and high water levels at lower salinity ranges for dabbling ducks, diving ducks and fish eaters. In addition, providing roosting habitat in the form of levees or islands, but also dry or shallow ponds for roosting shorebirds at high tide is extremely important.

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Danielle Le Fer, Ph.D., is the Waterbird Director for the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory

## West Nile Virus Sampling: From Sentinel Chickens to Passerines

West Nile Virus (WNV) is a serious disease affecting populations across the country, namely populations of people and birds. What started as a novel detection in a flamingo at the Bronx Zoo in 1999, has become a predominant "arbovirus" (i.e., arthropod-borne virus) potentially affecting a great variety of host species – as well as a major preoccupation for vector control districts nationwide. Since 2004, the Santa Clara County Vector Control District has consistently detected WNV within its jurisdiction, relying on traditional and new surveillance systems. The District's West Nile Virus surveillance system now consists of several programs including The "Sentinel Chickens Program" and the "Mosquito Program" The most recent "Passerine Bird (Songbird)" Surveillance Program is in collaboration with the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory.

Prior to the arrival of West Nile Virus (WNV) to Santa Clara County in 2004, the District had focused on various endemic vector-borne diseases, such as Lyme disease, plague and hantavirus. At that time, the primary mosquito-borne disease in the county was dog heartworm. The cool temperatures of Santa Clara County precluded the establishment of California's notable arboviruses, Saint Louis Encephalitis, and Western Equine Encephalitis that periodically plagued the Central Valley and Southern California. Much earlier in the history of the region, malaria was known to be transmitted by the mosquito, *Anopheles punctipennis* inhabiting the plentiful creeks flowing across the county. Now we still have active malaria cases in the county, but only in people who acquired the disease while visiting a tropical homeland or as a tourist or "eco-tourist". In addition to malaria, it is believed local Native Americans adapted to the severe mosquito emergencies in the South San Francisco Bay area by seasonal emigrations to outlying areas, where the Winter Salt Marsh Mosquito, *Aedes squamiger*,

was less of a biting nuisance. Swarms of these aggressive, day-biting mosquito species still develop in pickleweed habitats around the Bay.

### SENTINEL CHICKEN PROGRAM

This program utilizes white or Red Leghorn chickens that are not susceptible to WNV, but instead develop antibodies that can be serologically checked for on a routine basis. This program is well suited for rural areas where fewer dead birds are reported and a stationary coop site can be maintained during the warmer months of the year. The District samples each flock (located in Gilroy and Alviso) twice monthly.



*The Bird Observatory's Landbird Director Roy Churchwell takes a blood sample from a Swainson's Thrush.*

### MOSQUITO SURVEILLANCE

**FOR WNV** Trapping and testing of mosquitoes has become an operational procedure at the District, since recovering positive mosquito samples is a trigger for community-wide mosquito awareness and suppression activities. Our protocol dictates trapping of *Culex pipiens quinquefasciatus*, our local hybrid form of the house mosquito and *Culex tarsalis* a wider-dispersing species, following the detection of WNV positive birds and squirrels. Carbon dioxide-baited traps are hung on trees, bushes and other features in the landscape proximal to recently detected positives to collect mosquitoes and to assess their abundance and test for WNV infection.

### PASSERINE BIRD SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM

This is our most recent surveillance program. This program is in collaboration with the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory. Staff and volunteers of the Observatory capture and band birds year round at their Coyote Creek Banding Field Station located in Milpitas. Roy Churchwell, Landbird Director at the Observatory has recently begun collecting blood samples from birds that are captured and weigh greater than 10 grams. It is believed that sampling passerine birds may be the earliest detection method for arboviruses, since passerines are probably involved in the mosquito-bird amplification cycle for WNV. Certain birds such as finches are known to maintain a longer infection period with WNV (7-10 days) and thus infecting many mosquitoes feeding on them during that time. Other birds, like crows and raptors quickly succumb to the infection (4-5 days) and may not infect many new mosquitoes. Sampling of passerine birds may also provide information on the role of migratory species in WNV ecology. Species such as the Swainson's Thrush are known to migrate from Mexico in the spring. On their northward journey, Swainson's thrushes stop over in Santa Clara County to rest and feed. At this time the following species have been sampled and released as part of this program: 23 Song Sparrows, 14 Swainson's Thrushes, 2 House Finches, 1 American Goldfinch, 1 Common Yellowthroat, 1 Brown-headed Cowbird and 1 Downy Woodpecker. Thus far all samples have tested negative for WNV and other arboviruses.

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*By Noor S. Tietze, Ph.D., Santa Clara County Vector Control District*

## Blues at BIG BLUE: Bluebird Banding at IBM

Working for IBM has always been a pleasure and when the software group moved from the main plant site in San Jose down to the IBM Silicon Valley Laboratory (SVL), it was almost perfect. Here one is working for the best company in the world, in a very relaxing and peaceful environment. For most of my years here, I took the opportunity to just walk the grounds and see some of the wildlife. Then a couple years ago, after having replaced my redwood fence at home, I figured that the mile long perimeter fence that circumnavigated the frontage road would be perfect for mounting nesting boxes made from my scrap redwood. Since I like to do wood working and hate to see anything go to waste, it seemed like a worthwhile project.

**GETTING STARTED** Setting about designing a couple of different mounting styles, I quickly made my first 16 houses, installing them along the fence at IBM SVL and also where I might see any activity from my ground level office. At the same time, I noticed there were a few other houses hanging in the nut orchard that is off to one end, but thought no more about it until I found notes pinned to some of my houses. The notes were from the ecology club asking if my boxes could become part of an SVL BLUE BIRD restoration trail registered with the National Audubon society. Suddenly, I was part of something that has progressed from my desire to not waste scrap redwood fencing, to helping the Western Bluebird population recover in our area. That first year was a phenomenal success with over 80% of the 30 some houses occupied with either bluebirds or Tree Swallows. I along with a half dozen other volunteers monitored the two trails most of the summer, charting the outcome of each house, sometimes for multiple clutches.

Winter 2006, I made another 30+ houses and in the early spring 2007, we mounted those around the lab, hoping for an even better occupancy rate. We

were almost into the nesting season, when Clint Snyder, a retired IBMer, thought it would be interesting to get a banding project going as well as the National Audubon Restoration trails. We contacted the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory. They were happy to participate since they had not done bluebird trail banding. With many houses in close proximity, this was an opportunity not to pass up.



PHOTO BY RICK MANDEL

WESTERN BLUEBIRD nestlings

### FROM FLUFF TO FEATHERS

Because of their size, Western Bluebird chicks are not banded until they are at least 12 days old. Eventually, the first brood of chicks was old enough to be banded. Roy Churchwell, the Landbird Director for the Observatory, and Gina Barton, Banding Station Manager for the Observatory's Coyote Creek Banding Field Station showed up with their equipment. After introductions, a small group of IBM trail monitors and the two biologists walked to the first house. As they were setting up their small scale, bands and record sheets, Gina and Roy explained their methodology and provided some facts concerning the Western Bluebird. We watched as they gently removed each chick from the box and placed it into a small sack. Holding each small chick, with its neck between two fingers and body cradled in the palm, we watched as they took the very tiny aluminum band, recorded its number on their log and carefully applied it to the right leg. Then slipping the tiny chick head first into a drug store pill bottle, they took the weight. We were surprised to learn these little guys



PHOTO BY STEPHANIE ELLIS

weighed more than the parents. Roy and Gina described how the young bird's feathers actually grow out from the pin. We were able to see the various stages of feather development according to the ages of chicks. Since the boxes along the two trails cover quite a distance, we also benefited from our guest scientists both observing and identifying various birds, such as White-tailed Kites or Red-tailed Hawks, as we walked from one occupied house to the next.

**DON'T BE BLUE...** In the weeks following, we were able to band some Tree Swallow chicks and a couple of broods of Ash-throated Flycatchers. We also had some success capturing and banding adult Tree Swallow and Western Bluebirds. As the season draws to a close with just one box of Western Bluebirds and one box of Tree Swallows left occupied, we proudly look at the results: 26 clutches of chicks and 9 adults were banded. Also, we talk of what we might expect next season. Will some of the chicks that we banded return to lay clutches of their own? Will it be just the males, returning to build nests in the area they were born or will some of the females also find mates in the area? Will we find banded pairs? We hope this partnering with the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory will produce some interesting and informative results as we try to replace the lost habitat for our cavity-nesting friends. We already know it has fostered a friendship with some of the people who are looking out for them.

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*By Jerry Kenyon, Jerry is a DB2 for z/OS Senior Software Developer at IBM*

*Saturday, September 29, 7:30. – 11:30 a.m.*  
RSVP

**SIERRA ROAD SPECIALTIES**

SITE: SANTA CLARA COUNTY OPEN SPACE PRESERVE, SAN JOSE

Join the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory's Landbird Program Director Roy Churchwell and Santa Clara Valley Manager Patrick Congdon for an in-depth look at one of the South Bay's well-known birding areas – Sierra Road. Roy will describe point count and area search methods used for assessing bird communities, while walking through some of the birdiest areas of the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Property.

September is a great time of year for searching out fall migrants, while catching some breathtaking views of Santa Clara Valley. Trip could include a 2-mile hike depending on interest. Expected species include Horned Lark, Western Meadowlark, Rock Wren, Wrentit, Spotted Towhee, Golden Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk and numerous fall migrants.



*Saturday, October 27, 2007, 8:00 a.m. - noon*  
RSVP

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

SITE: COYOTE HILLS REGIONAL PARK, FREMONT

Flamingos in the South Bay? You bet! Join water bird biologists Cynthia Padula and Sherry Hudson 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. We will 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; please bring your own if you are prepared to bike with it! Bring a brown bag lunch. There is an additional \$6 parking fee at the park. Max. 12 participants. Come exercise your body, your soul and your senses!



*Saturday, November 10, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.*  
RSVP

**BOATS, BIRDS AND BOTULISM:**

SITE: ARTESIAN SLOUGH, ALVISO

Join us for a boating adventure on San Jose's Artesian Slough!

For years the Bird Observatory has been monitoring South Bay sloughs for avian botulism outbreaks. Avian botulism is a disease caused by the ingestion of toxins produced by bacteria during periods of warm weather. The disease causes paralysis and death if not detected. While it is not contagious to humans, it can spread easily to other birds. It most commonly affects waterfowl, but can also sicken gulls and shorebirds.

Learn how the Bird Observatory does its part to help prevent the spread of this deadly avian disease and get a rare chance to see one of the South Bay's beautiful sloughs by boat. Maximum participants: 6. A portion of the trip will have a walking component. Life jackets provided. Bring a brown bag lunch.



*Sunday, October 28, 2007*

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

SITE: JASPER RIDGE BIOLOGICAL PRESERVE, STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Please plan to come to the Bird Observatory's annual meeting. All members are welcome and we look forward to meeting you. It is during the annual meeting that the California Fall Challenge 2007 prizes will be awarded to the many fundraisers that helped in this year's event. This event also includes a morning of birding the private grounds of Jasper Ridge.

Morning bird walks will be conducted by Jasper Ridge Docents and Bird Observatory staff. Birding walks begin at 8:00 a.m. After the walks a general meeting with the presentation of Fall Challenge awards will take place between 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. There will also be a Silent Auction open to all members between 8 a.m. - noon. After a delicious picnic lunch the silent auction high bids will be awarded.

Please RSVP by October 5 to outreach@sfbbo.org

*There is limited parking at Jasper Ridge and carpooling is mandatory. To arrange a carpool to the meeting, visit*

<https://groups.yahoo.com/group/BirdObsCarpool/>



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



We thank these donors for their contributions during the first quarter of 2007.

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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 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.

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## Our Thanks to Corporate Funders

Several Silicon Valley corporations are supporting the Bird Observatory's science programs here on the Bay, by matching funds or contributions made in honor of time spent on citizen science projects by their employees.

During the last quarter, **Adobe Systems, Inc.** and **IBM** both have made generous matching donations. **Motorola Foundation** and **Microsoft** have made wonderful gifts to match the strong volunteer efforts made by Bird Observatory members **Jan Hintermeister** and **Kris Olson** respectively.

We thank those members who not only gave of their time and expertise but who also facilitated these matches, and to the corporations who, through their gifts, encourage their employees to take action to protect our birds and environment.



COMMON Goldeneye.

PHOTO BY MIKE DANZENBAKER

# CALIFORNIA FALL CHALLENGE 2007

## SAN FRANCISCO BAY BIRD OBSERVATORY

### All Are Welcome to be a Part of the California Fall Challenge

The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory has had so many fantastic events happen over the last year with their new location new logo and new personnel that this year's 2007 California Fall Challenge just adds to the excitement! As committee chair I have had the pleasure to work with a team of dedicated volunteers who wanted to keep this momentum going and make this year's event more successful than ever. We are proud to bring to our members many educational and

fun ways you can be a part of this years event and help us raise \$50,000. The fall challenge is a win-win for members as you get to learn about the world in which you clearly have a passion while also providing support to the Bird Observatory. I encourage you to take a moment and read further about all the activities planned for you and learn about the prizes available to all that fundraise. No matter how you decide to get involved, all levels are welcome for all activities

and provide a wonderful opportunity for you to add to your love for the avian world. The fall challenge committee worked hard and I wish to thank all for their time: Board Secretary Joelle Buffa, Gerry Ellis, Jane Jordan, Cheryl Adams, Bonnie Bedford-White, Jan Hintermeister and Cindy Ralston. We look forward to seeing you at one of the upcoming fall challenge events.

.....  
*By Lisa Myers Committee Chair*



# The California Fall Challenge is Here!

This is our 11th annual California Fall Challenge! It is a classic "birdathon" event, much like a walk-a-thon. Participants gather pledges from friends, family and co-workers and then count the number of bird species they hear or see in a 24-hour period, within one California county any time between September 15 and October 14.

The California Fall Challenge is the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory's only fundraiser and that is why it is very important to the organization and the birds. The money raised helps to fund the Bird Observatory's work to save our native birds species. The Observatory's science programs discover why birds are in decline. Our outreach program helps people understand the science behind the problems. The Fall Challenge supports the Bird Observatory's programs that apply science to the mission of saving birds and their habitats. It is almost entirely run by a team of dedicated volunteers, led this year by Board Member Lisa Myers. Our goal this year is to raise

\$50,000. Your support is vital to helping the Bird Observatory reach this goal.

We welcome you to explore the many

new, fun and exciting ways you can participate and show your support.



PHOTO BY BRYNA GRIFFIN

FIELD BIOLOGIST *Caitlin Robinson*.

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## A few easy ways how you can get involved in the California Fall Challenge.

### 1. JOIN ONE OF THE MANY EXCITING GUIDED TRIPS ALREADY DESIGNED FOR YOU.

Trips are scheduled every weekend during the fundraiser to better fit with your busy schedules. All birding levels are welcome, from beginners to expert. Sign up before spaces fill and plan to bring a friend! Experienced leaders are ready to take you out to see interesting places and incredible species. There is a minimum tax deductible donation required to join a team.

### 2. OR FORM YOUR OWN TEAM.

Pick an area to focus on and go birding with a team you put together yourself. Get your fellow birders or friends together and see how many species you can find. It can also be an intensive Big Day, or a relaxing Big Sit with a cool drink in

your backyard. Let us know your team name and when you are planning to bird and we'll let others know that you welcome their support.

### 3. ASK SPONSORS.

Our goal and challenge is to raise \$50,000. This would beat all previous totals, and we are confident with your help we can make this happen. Ask people to sponsor you either with a flat fee donation or by a pledge of a certain amount per bird. Let us know you are fundraising for the fall challenge and we will provide you with some great fundraising tips.

### 4. GO BIRDING.

By forming your own team, or joining one of the many guided trips, its now time to go see some great birds. The

final total of species seen on your birding adventure will give you the information you need to report back to your sponsors.

### 5. COLLECT MONEY FROM SPONSORS.

After you have completed your day of birding let your sponsors know how many species you saw and collect the tax deductible donations from your sponsors. You can have them send the money directly to you or to the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory office. If they wish to mail directly to the bird observatory please have them mention that their donation is in support of your efforts. Please send donations to the office by Oct. 19.

*Continued on page 5*

**6. RECEIVE PRIZES.**

San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory supporters have donated many fantastic prizes. During the October 29 Annual Meeting prizes will be awarded to: those who raised the most money, the successful first time fundraiser, the most species seen, plus much more. Door prizes will also be presented throughout the event. Fundraisers have the opportunity to win two weeks of birding in Costa Rica with Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris, a trip around the Farallons, birding with a private guide in Arizona, a weekend on the coast or in the Central Valley.

**7. NOT A BIRDER?**

If going out and birding is not going to work for you, please consider sponsoring a birder or team. Or plan to join other like-minded friends in our special raptor day or movie night.

**Fall Challenge Silent Auction**

The generosity of local merchants and business owners has been so great that this year we want to share many of these items with as many Bird Observatory supporters as possible. We will be conducting a Silent Auction at the Annual Meeting on Sunday Oct. 29. Featured at the auction will be a fine array of birding paraphernalia, outings, artwork, and services. These special items will be displayed throughout the event giving you time to browse the auction area and write down your bid. The auction will be closed at a pre-announced time, and the highest monetary bid "wins". All monies received during the event will support the California Fall Challenge.

PHOTO BY TOM GREY

**A Special Day with Raptors**



NORTHERN HARRIER

*Sunday, Sept. 23 - 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. - Limit 15 people*

**\$200 PER PERSON, BOX LUNCH AND CALIFORNIA FALL CHALLENGE T-SHIRT INCLUDED**

**CONTACT THE BIRD OBSERVATORY OFFICE TO RESERVE YOUR SPACE.**

Raptors are an exciting target bird and this California Fall Challenge special event will take advantage of the peak of the fall raptor migration at Hawk Hill in the Marin Headlands. Participants will have an unforgettable day as you spend the morning with raptor specialist Karen Hoyt of Sky Hunters Environmental Education and then move up to the Marin Headlands where you will learn more from Allen Fish of the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory.

Karen will provide an introduction to live birds of prey as she takes you up close and personal to meet several of her non-releasable individual raptors (American Kestrel, Red-tailed Hawk, Barn Owl, and Great Horned Owl). She will review their natural history, behavioral traits, and the

field marks to look for once you get to Hawk Hill. Once up at Hawk Hill, Allen Fish, director of the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory (GGRO) will spend one-on-one time with the group sharing raptor stories, and reviewing the fantastic research being conducted by the GGRO's 300 volunteers. The GGRO is dedicated to the conservation of raptors and to community involvement in wildlife studies. Their research is vital to understanding environmental issues and raptor health. The group will also have the opportunity to watch a banding demonstration and raptor release.



**Think you can't raise funds for the Bird Observatory? Think again!**

Join Bonnie's free fundraising workshop on September 5 from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at the Milpitas office. Enjoy yummy snacks and learn the easy steps to becoming a fundraising pro. Receive

a fantastic notebook filled with tips, sample letters and irresistible pledge sheets. And hear of lessons learned from someone who has been able to raise over \$18,000 for The Bird Observatory.

You must reserve your place by August 31st by calling or emailing back your request.

## Fall Challenge Movie Night Sept. 26th

We have a special movie night planned for the California Fall Challenge. Members, friends and family are all invited to the CineLuz theatres in Campbell on Wednesday night, Sept. 26 where we will have a private showing of the movie, *March Of The Penguins*. In addition to showing this spectacular nature film on the big screen, Antarctic expedition leader Ted Cheeseman will give a 30-minute presentation on the 17 different species of penguins that can be found in the world. The theatre is supporting our Bird Observatory event and allowing all monies received this night to go directly toward the fall challenge. So come out and have some fun with the staff and other members, get yourself a hot dog, maybe win a door prize and help us meet our goal to raise \$50,000. Seats are \$10 per person and doors open at 6:30 p.m., Ted will give a presentation at 7 and the movie starts at 7:30 p.m. Reserve your seats ahead of time by using the envelope provided. The theater is located at 2501 So. Winchester Blvd. in Campbell.

PHOTO BY SPEAKER TED CHEESEMAN



EMPEROR PENGUINS *interacting on the ice.*

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## Support the Next Generation of Birders - Team Neotropic!



PHOTO PROVIDED BY PETER LATOURRETTE

SWAINSON'S THRUSH

Here is an exciting way you can support this year's California Fall Challenge. Team Neotropic was formed as a way to remind us all of the connection between the birds we study north of the equator with those found in the tropics. In fact many of the birds we find here during the spring, i.e. Swainson's Thrush, will be migrating to their southern wintering grounds during the birding activities of the Fall Challenge.

The team's leader is college student Ryan Terrill. Ryan is the son of Oct. 13th trip leader Scott Terrill. Ryan is currently in Argentina in the midst of a 6 month avian study project. At the time of this publication deadline Ryan did not yet have his fall semester schedule so he could not provide the exact date of his Fall Challenge count, but check back with the Bird Observatory staff for updates.

Ryan and his team of exceptional birders will spend a morning ID'ing as many South American species as possible. We are asking if you would make a pledge to donate a specific amount per species in support of their Neotropical adventure. But remember, while birding the tropics he and his team may find several hundred of species. To support this next generation of avian researchers please use the enclosed envelope and

send in your pledge or email [fallchallenge@sfbbo.org](mailto:fallchallenge@sfbbo.org). You will be notified of their success just as soon as they complete their challenge.



JOYCE BARTLETT *bands a Golden-crowned Kinglet*

## California Fall Challenge guided trips!

Our leaders are ready to take you birding! No matter what your birding level, these trips are all designed to get you outside to see some fantastic birds. The opportunity for you to experience incredible moments in nature while helping the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory is all laid out for you! From the mountains to the coast and all over the bay area, please plan to join. There is a minimal donation required to join a team (\$100 for full day, \$50 for half day) and this can be paid by you or through your fundraising efforts. All guided trip participants will receive a complimentary Bird Observatory t-shirt. Simply call, email the office or use the enclosed envelope to sign up for a team and additional details will be provided to you.

*Sat. September 15 / 7:30 – 11:00 a.m.*

### THE A TO ZERS

**LED BY KAREN DEMELLO AND  
KAY PARTELOW**

HALF DAY \$50 - LIMIT 20 PEOPLE

COUNTY: SAN MATEO

Explore Windy Hill Open Space Preserve located in the Santa Cruz Mountains on the opening day for the California Fall Challenge! This morning will consist of a relaxed and entertaining birding experience and is the perfect opportunity for beginning birders, or birders with limited time to support the California Fall Challenge. From Accipiters to Zonotrichia, the goal will be to get 26 species (from A to Z) during a slow paced 3 mile walk. You'll both look and listen for birds in a variety of habitats: the Sausal Pond, the oak woodland, and chaparral. Karen and Kay make a fantastic birding team and are excited to show you one of the many open space preserves found right here in the bay area.

Kay Partelow - Kay has been birding ever since she was a youngster and is skilled at identifying birds by ear. She co-leads Sierra Club birding trips to Alaska, participates in local bird counts,

and is a docent and Nature Center host for the Mid-peninsula Regional Open Space District.

Karen DeMello is a docent at Big Basin Redwoods State Park and for Mid-peninsula Regional Open Space District. Windy Hill is her favorite Open Space Preserve and she has spent many hours leading trips throughout this beautiful habitat and she knows it well!

*Sat. Sept. 22 / 7:30 a.m. – 100 species*

### THE VARIED TWITCHERS

**LED BY MIKE ROGERS**

HALF DAY \$50 - LIMIT 15 PEOPLE

COUNTY: SANTA CLARA

Mike has been generous with his time for many years in support of the California Fall Challenge. He is an expert birder and is aware of all the great birding spots found in Santa Clara County. This team will hit Alviso followed by Shoreline Lake area (e.g. Alviso Marina area, New Chicago Marsh, Environmental Education Center (EEC) & Salt Pond A16, Arzino Ranch, CCFS, followed by Mountain View Forebay, Shoreline Lake, Charleston Slough). This day will be a wonderful opportunity for birders to gain new insight into birding Santa Clara County with the help of a master.

Mike started birding when he was 10 years old and has spent the intervening years birding all over the U.S. and abroad. He is a former member of the California Bird Records Committee and is currently a Northern California regional editor for the journal North American Birds. When not birding, he works at NASA and spends time raising five teenage boys.

*Sat. September 29 / 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon*

### THE GARBLED MODWITS

**LED BY DEBORAH BARTENS**

HALF DAY \$50 - LIMIT 20 PEOPLE

COUNTY: SANTA CLARA

Deborah just retired from the city of Palo Alto where she was their naturalist for many years. Deborah looks forward to leading you on a bird walk through one of her favorite places in the world,

the Palo Alto Baylands. Having had such a unique career that allowed her to work right in the middle of this incredible habitat, Deborah knows everything about it and the animals found here. You'll explore the mudflats at low tide, then, you'll go over to the duck pond and look for, what else, ducks! There is something extra special planned for this team. Anyone donating to or participating in Deborah's California Fall Challenge bird walk will automatically be entered into a raffle to win a Bayland's bird painting done by Deborah herself.

Although Deborah Bartens has "retired" from her position as a naturalist for the City of Palo Alto, she continues to pursue her passion for nature through birding, hiking and volunteering. She is in the process of becoming a docent at Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park. Deborah is now a full time artist drawing and painting wildlife and commissioned pet portraits.

*Sat. September 29 / 7:00 a.m. – after dark*

### THE DEDUCTIONS

**LED BY MATTHEW DODDER**

COUNTY: SANTA CLARA

FULL DAY \$100 - LIMIT 20 PEOPLE

Join Matthew for a full day birding experience in some of Santa Clara County's birdiest spots! You'll tour the eastern hills, bay front, and base of the Santa Cruz Mountains. You'll start at Alum Rock Park and make stops at Ed Levin Park, Alviso, Sunnyvale Control Ponds, Shoreline Park, and possibly round out the day with stops at Stevens Creek Park and McClellan Ranch. Matthew is a leader whose passion for finding birds is contagious. This will be one action packed day and an exciting way to support the California Fall Challenge. Afterwards, join in a team dinner where you'll do your final tally at a local restaurant.

Matthew has been birding since the 70's and his passion for birds now takes him to exotic places throughout the world. Matthew has also been teaching bird classes at the Palo Alto Adult School

since 1999. He is known for his exceptional lectures, adventurous field trips and his tenacity to get his target species.

*Sat. Oct. 6 / 7:00 a.m. to late afternoon*

### **THE GALLINAGO GO GO'S**

**LED BY LISA MYERS**

FULL DAY \$100 - LIMIT 20 PEOPLE

COUNTY: MONTEREY

This year the Gallinago Go Go's is heading off to Monterey County to get their minimum 100 species! You'll stop and scan the Pacific Ocean for pelagic species, you'll search through marshes to add rails and herons, you'll walk a few river beds to find a wayward migrating warbler, you'll search coastal peaks to add nuthatches and creepers and you'll take advantage of the many habitats around Moss Landing and Elkhorn Slough. The team won't stop until you add California Condors to the list.

Lisa has birded since her teens. Today she teaches & leads trips throughout Central California and Costa Rica. Her goal is to get more people into birding and she focuses on the beginning birder although all levels are welcome. Lisa has her own birding business called, Let's Go Birding. Lisa is on the Board of Directors for the Bird Observatory and is the Committee Chair for this year's California Fall Challenge. She is not stopping until we raise \$50,000 so please come help her make this happen. We can do it if everyone just goes birding!

*Sun. October 7 / 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.*

### **COFFEE BREWER'S BLACKBIRDS**

**LED BY ALVARO JARAMILLO**

HALF DAY \$50 - LIMIT 12 PEOPLE

COUNTY: SAN MATEO

Fall birding is incredibly exciting on the San Mateo Coast as you may encounter migratory landbirds and maybe even a vagrant, or two. And October is prime time for finding unusual species. You'll bird the San Mateo coast, Princeton Harbor, and woodland sites from Montara to Half Moon Bay looking for gulls, cormorants, alcids, shorebirds, hawks, sparrows, warblers and more. It is a time

of extreme diversity and you will hope to find a wide variety of birds during your half day of birding. Also, keep in mind that the coastal summer is in the fall - it might even be sunny!

Alvaro (Al) Jaramillo is a biologist and teacher at the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory. He also travels widely as a birding guide for Field Guides Inc. He has published two books, *The Birds of Chile*, and *New World Blackbirds*. He is very interested in bird behavior and ecology, as well as identification, and excels at sharing information and ID tips in the field.

*Sun. October 7 / 7:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.*

### **CLIFFSWEEPERS**

**LED BY PHIL GORDON**

HALF DAY \$50 - LIMIT 12 PEOPLE

COUNTY: ALAMEDA COUNTY

Phil has created a fantastic morning taking advantage of the virtues of the Alameda Creek Watershed and he knows this area well. You will spend your morning birding Alameda Creek from the Ohlone Wilderness Trail (Sunol Regional Park) down Niles Canyon through the Quarry Lakes Regional Park to Coyote Hills Regional Park. Plan to bring your lunch as you'll bird while you eat! And Phil is prepared to keep going as long as you are adding new species to your day. Take advantage of this opportunity to bird this area with an Alameda County master!

Although he spent 38 years as a junior high and high school (Biology, Physical Science and Mathematics) teacher by profession, Phil has dedicated his life to the world of nature. One of his first jobs was as the curator of San Jose's Youth Science Institute and from there he has been involved in the formation of several organizations including Ohlone Audubon. Early on he combined his desire to teach with his knowledge of the outdoors. From birding by kayak to once holding the position as a Yosemite Naturalist, to coordinating bay area festivals and editing newsletters, Phil has made a positive impact on the environment and those around him. With the

help of botanist wife Pat Gordon, today Phil continues to lecture, teach classes, conduct workshops and lead both international and California based tours.

*Sat. Oct. 13 / 7:00 a.m. - late afternoon*

### **WANDERING VAGRANTS**

**LED BY SCOTT TERRILL**

FULL DAY - \$100 LIMIT 12

COUNTY - WILL WAIT FOR RARE SPECIES REPORTS

This birding day is what fall birding is all about! The Bay Area location for this day's birding will be determined by Scott closer to Oct. 13th. Your activities will be set depending on what rare species are being reported. This means you may spend the day in one of the many counties found in the bay area. Every fall, birders find rare birds off course on their migration south. Such vagrants are exciting and give birders the rare opportunity to add a new life bird to their list. Scott's career has been all about avian migration so we encourage you to take advantage of this California Fall Challenge event and go bird with a migration pro.

Dr. Scott Terrill 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 (12 years), Regional Editor for *North American Birds*, Board Member and sometime Board President of SFBBO and CCRS (15 years), Science Advisor to SFBBO, Vice President of H. T. Harvey and Associates and primary author of the Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding. Scott is also Ryan Terrill's father, so if you cannot come out birding with Scott please consider making a pledge for college student Ryan and Team Neotropic!



## Fundraise and Compete for the Mewaldt Cup

The California Fall Challenge offers a unique twist for hard-core birders wishing to do a little more than fundraise. For a decade now birders have competed for the chance to win the coveted Mewaldt Cup. Teams select a California county in which to bird. The goal is to find as many species as possible during a 24 hour period during the Fall Challenge dates. Each county has a list of normally occurring species which is the 'par' for the county. You provide a team and a date and the Bird Observatory will provide you with this official species list. The highest percentage of your chosen county's par will win your team the trophy. Your team's name will be engraved on the trophy for 2007 and will be displayed in the main office of the Bird Observatory.



PAST WINNER Scott Terrill holds the prestigious Mewaldt Cup.



## California Fall Challenge T-Shirts

This year the California Fall Challenge committee wanted to offer something really special to the folks helping the Bird Observatory. We are excited to announce that all the people signed up for one of the special guided trips will receive a complimentary t-shirt. In partnership with talented California artist René C. Reyes, we have designed a very special t-shirt we know you will be proud to wear. Like other artists, René gets his inspiration from the natural world and from everyday life. René is a painter and a biologist, but is a father and a husband first. He lives in Northern California with his wife, Pamela, and two daughters, Maya and Mandela. He wanted to support our efforts and we thank him for his time and talent. You can see some of his other works at his Website: [www.Reyespaintings.com](http://www.Reyespaintings.com). If you are not going on a guided trip but would like a shirt mailed to you we can do so with a minimum donation of \$50. Shirts will also be available at our penguin Movie Night set for Sept. 26th.

# California Fall Challenge Prizes

## Peregrine Level - \$500 & up

Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris, 14-day  
Birding Trip to Costa Rica  
Leica Binoculars 8 x 42



*Leica*

## Osprey Level - \$100 - \$499

Emilio Guglielmo Winery, CA  
Oceanic Society  
Pro Image Studios, San Jose  
Classic Car Wash, Bay Area  
Sorensen's Resort, Hope Valley  
Mercy Hot Springs, Central Valley  
Stevinson Ranch, Central Valley  
Eagle Optics  
Wild Bird Center, Los Gatos

Let's Go Birding, Campbell  
Costanoa Lodge, Pescadero  
Matt Brown Bird Guide, AZ  
Borders Book Store  
Ventana Wilderness Society, Big Sur  
Wild Birds Unlimited, San Jose  
SETI Institute, Mountain View  
Sandy Nash Massage, Los Gatos  
Deb's Pet Portraits, Scott's Valley  
Richard Radigonda, Benicia  
Hans Peeters, Sunol  
Casa de San Pedro B & B, Arizona  
Spice Route Restaurant, Milpitas

## Merlin Level \$25 - \$99

Our Birds California DVD  
Thayer Birding Software  
Peregrine Fund, Boise Idaho  
Melody Reyna Pedicure, Los Gatos  
Los Gatos Skin and Body Works  
Almaden Nursery, San Jose  
Kayak Connection Santa Cruz

Los Pericos Restaurant, Campbell  
Traillogger's Outdoor Gear, Campbell  
Patagonia Store, Palo Alto  
Bay Nature Magazine, Berkeley  
American Birding Association,  
iFieldGuides (Birding Software)

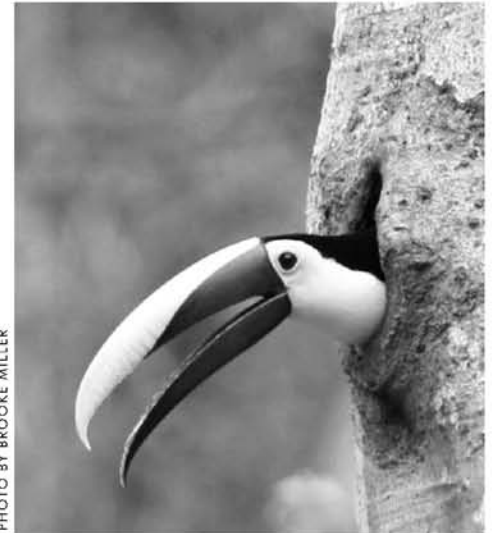


PHOTO BY BROOKE MILLER

NESTING CHESTNUT-mandibled Toucan on a  
Cheeseman's Costa Rica expedition

Sunday Morning, October 28, 2007.

## CALIFORNIA FALL CHALLENGE AWARDS CELEBRATION AND ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: ALL ARE WELCOME!

SITE: JASPER RIDGE BIOLOGICAL PRESERVE, STANFORD UNIVERSITY

California Fall Challenge Awards Celebration and Annual Membership Meeting:

Please plan to come to the Bird Observatory's annual meeting. All members are welcome and we look forward to meeting you. It is during the annual meeting that the California Fall Challenge 2007 prizes will be awarded to the many fundraisers that helped in this year's event.

This event also includes a morning of birding the private grounds of Jasper Ridge. Morning bird walks will be conducted by Jasper Ridge Docents and Bird Observatory staff. Birding walks begin at 8:00 AM. After the walks a general meeting with the presentation of Fall Challenge awards will take place between 10:00 - 11:30.

There will also be a Silent Auction open to all members between 8:00 AM - Noon. After a delicious picnic lunch

the silent auction high bids will be awarded.

Please RSVP by Oct. 5th to outreach@sfbbo.org.

There is limited parking at Jasper Ridge and carpooling is mandatory. To arrange a carpool visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BirdObsCarpool/>.



PHOTO BY BILL HEBURN

ALVARO JARAMILLO leads a bird walk at the 2006 Annual Membership Meeting.

# 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>.

Saturday, September 15, 7:00-9:00 a.m.  
RSVP

## SNOWY PLOVERS IN SAN FRANCISCO BAY

SITE: EDEN LANDING ECOLOGICAL RESERVE (HAYWARD)

Western Snowy Plovers are a threatened shorebird that nest in the dry salt ponds of the South Bay. The Bird Observatory has monitored the Bay's population of Western Snowy Plovers since 2003. Join Bird Observatory biologist Caitlin Robinson and learn plover monitoring techniques including surveillance methods and how to age eggs through floatation. Caitlin will discuss land management techniques and how they can enhance salt pond habitat for the plovers. Learn about other species of plants and animals that share the Snowy Plovers' salt pond habitat. Carpooling required at the reserve.



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.



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



SPECIAL EVENT



VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY

September 5, 6, or 7, 8:00 a.m. - noon  
RSVP

## COYOTE CREEK FIELD STATION WORK DAY

SITE: COYOTE CREEK FIELD STATION, (MILPITAS)

If you enjoy spending time outside with other people while observing wildlife, then come help out at the **Coyote Creek Field Station Work Day**- this is our long-term bird banding station. Activities include: clipping vegetation along mist-net paths, shifting orientation of nets, repairing and replacing nets, re-labeling clips and repairing pallets as used as boardwalks.



Saturday, September 15, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.  
Saturday, November 17, 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. Tour mist nets, watch a bird banding demonstration, and explore a restored riparian habitat. Meet at the Borders bookstore parking lot in McCarthy Ranch, Milpitas. Please include a contact phone number in your *RSVP*. In the event of rain, the tour is cancelled.



CALENDAR continued on page 6

## WORKSHOPS FOR THE BIRDER AND NATURALIST

With Alvaro Jaramillo

SITE: DON EDWARDS WILDLIFE REFUGE EEC, ALVISO

These workshops incorporate ecology, evolutionary biology, behavioral ecology and natural history to complement bird identification. Workshops consist of two days of classroom instruction and a weekend all-day field trip.

Sign up for our upcoming "Sparrows" workshop. Classroom dates are October 30 and November 2 from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. Field trip is tentatively scheduled for November 4.

Cost per workshop is \$150 and space is limited.

For course description and registration, call 408.946.6548 or go to <http://www.sfbbo.org/activities/workshop.php>



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BIRD OBSERVATORY

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