

BAY BIRD REVIEW

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



SAN FRANCISCO BAY
BIRD OBSERVATORY

Director's Message

A Farewell from our Interim Executive Director

I'll admit that when I came to SFBBO in late April to serve as Interim Executive Director and assist with the search for a new Executive Director, I knew very little about birds. Now, three months later, I still know very little, but have been introduced to the fascinating world of birds. People here can identify birds by their song! I now have several lifebirds on my list (my favorite is the Indigo Bunting).

My time here has also been about change and transition. William Bridges says that change is inevitable, but transition is not. Transition is the process of coming to terms with a new situation. So while the process can be hard, the outcome is worth the effort.

In my time here, we've reorganized and made significant hiring decisions that will shape the future of SFBBO. I am pleased to announce that Scott Smithson is our new Executive Director, bringing many years of experience running an outdoor

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE *continued on page 2*

The California Fall Challenge is here! details on page 3



BIOLOGIST CAITLIN ROBINSON holds a 3-hour old Snowy Plover chick.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL KERN

Waterbird Science Report

Snowy Plover Survival in the South Bay

The Western Snowy Plover is a small shorebird that nests on the dry salt evaporation ponds of the south bay. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the Western Snowy Plover as threatened in 1993, in response to their declining population. The recovery goal for the bay is set at 500 breeding birds. The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge, have been monitoring Snowy Plovers in the Bay since 2003 as part of the Snowy Plover Recovery Program.

Over the past five years, the Bird Observatory has gained valuable information on nest success by monitoring plover nests weekly throughout the breeding season. We found that nest success has been declining over the past four years, due to the increase in nest depredation. Nest success declined from 83.6% in 2004 and 85% in 2005 to 58% in 2006 and 49% in 2007.

Although nest success is very useful information for land and wildlife managers, there is still much that is unknown about Snowy Plover use of

salt ponds. We do not know how many of our chicks fledge each year. Fledging information is crucial for determining if we are on the way to reaching our recovery goal. Plover movement within the salt pond systems is also not fully understood.

SCIENCE REPORT *continued on page 3*



A PAIR OF Snowy Plovers guard their nest.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL KERN

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE *continued from cover*
environmental education program for youth as well a background in ornithology and a lifelong love of birds and birding. Jill Demers is our new Science Programs Director. She comes to us from the USGS and has her Masters Degree in Ornithology. Both bring a wealth of knowledge, experience and commitment to the Bird Observatory. Read more about Scott and Jill in this newsletter.

In the coming months, you'll have the opportunity to meet and get to know Scott and Jill. It's a time of new beginnings.

On the Board of Directors, there has been a key leadership change as well. Jennifer Krauel has stepped down from her role as President after serving in the position for several years. On behalf of everyone here, thank you Jennifer for your service and hard work. Pati Rouzer is the new Board President. Many of you know Pati and have seen her commitment and love for the Bird Observatory. Her enthusiasm and smarts will be invaluable to the organization moving forward.

As I get ready to move on, I want to thank and acknowledge all the people at SFBBO who are so committed to its mission: the staff, the board and the outstanding volunteers who give so generously of their time and talents. You know who you are. What you do makes a significant contribution to this organization!

.....
By Debbie Wu, Interim Executive Director



SCIENCE PROGRAMS DIRECTOR *Jill Demers.*

Migrations



The Bird Observatory welcomes a new Executive Director!

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE Scott Smithson as the Executive Director for the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory. Scott brings a rich mix of talents to the position. He received a Master's in Biology from California State University Long Beach, documenting the breeding biology of the Orange Bishop and Nutmeg Mannikin in southern California. He recently served for 6 years as director of a residential environmental education program in the Santa Cruz Mountains.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR *Scott Smithson.*

Since 2000, Scott has also been coordinating the environmental science concentration for an undergraduate semester abroad program based in Costa Rica.

"Since the age of 5, my life has been characterized by a keen interest in ornithology and a desire to teach others about birds and conservation. My Kindergarten teacher gave me a little blue Golden Guide, and that was the spark that got it going. Although my parents and teachers were very supportive of my interest in birds, I credit the late Gil West of Sequoia Audubon for mentoring me during those early formative years, not to mention inviting me to chase legendary rarities like the Brown Shrike and Terek Sandpiper. This kind man in his 70s took me under his wing when I was a kid, and as a result, I have a passion for mentorship, teaching, and research in ornithology. I consider it a great privilege to be asked to lead the SFBBO family into the future, and I hope to meet many of you in the months to come. I look forward to working with a great team of committed staff, volunteers, and board members to explore creative ways to continue conserving our Bay Area birds through sound science and effective outreach and education.

To contact Scott Smithson, please email ssmithson@sfbbo.org or call 408-349-6548 x 18.

Please welcome our new Science Programs Director Jill Demers

Jill recently worked as a biologist for the U.S. Geological Survey, where she researched the effects of landfills on California Gull reproductive and foraging ecology and other aspects of avian biology related to the South Bay Salt Ponds Restoration. She received a Master's of Science in Natural Resources/Wildlife from Humboldt State University. Her master's research focused on the spatial ecology of breeding Forster's Terns (radio-telemetry). Additionally Jill has studied mercury accumulation and effects in shorebirds and terns in the San Francisco Bay. She has also counted waterbirds on salt ponds in SFB and have "migrated" with Western Sandpipers, traveling from Mexico to the Copper River Delta in Alaska during that species' spring migration.

"I think I bring with me a deep passion for Bay Area birds and conservation. I look forward to sharing that passion with the Bird Observatory family and continuing SFBBO's legacy of scientific research in the San Francisco Bay. I believe this is an especially exciting time for avian research in San Francisco Bay, and SFBBO has a remarkable opportunity to ask research questions that will directly impact the conservation and management of avian species in the Bay Area for decades, if not centuries!"

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To contact Jill Demers email jdemers@sfbbo.org or call 408-946-6548 x 11.

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

Here are a few simple tips to participate:

The California Fall Challenge is the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory's only fundraiser – that is why it is so important to the organization and the birds. The money raised by you helps to fund the Observatory's work. The Fall Challenge supports the programs that apply science to the mission of saving birds and their habitats. Here are a few easy ways that you can get involved...

1. Join one of the many exciting guided trips already designed for you. 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. Form your own team. Pick a county 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. 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. 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 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, it's 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



A BLACK-NECKED Stilt pauses for a photo.

PHOTO BY ED NGUYEN

that their donation is in support of your efforts. Money needs to be into the office by Oct. 17.

6. Receive Prizes. San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory supporters have donated many fantastic prizes. During the October 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.

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.

SCIENCE REPORT *continued from cover*

In April 2008, the Bird Observatory and biologists from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service started banding Snowy Plover chicks to aid in answering these important questions. Snowy Plover chicks are precocial. This means they leave the nest soon after they hatch. Biologists arrive at the nest just after chicks have hatched in order to band them before they start running around. Each chick gets two bands on each of its legs, giving it a unique four color combination. Three of the bands are plastic color bands. The fourth band is a silver U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service band that we wrap with colored tape to make up the fourth color in the combination.

We survey all of the ponds with banded chicks every two to three days, in order to keep track of where the chicks are,

and their survival rate. As of July 2008, the Bird Observatory has banded over 50 plover chicks in five locations around the south bay. We will continue to follow these chicks through September, when the breeding season is over. This data will play a crucial role in making management recommendations that will influence the long-term survival of the species.

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By Caitlin Robinson. Caitlin is the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory Waterbird Program Supervisor. This Snowy Plover banding project is funded by the USFWS and the Coastal Program. To report banded Snowy Plovers please record the location, date, and the four-color band combination and email your sightings to Caitlin at crobinson@sfbbo.org.



CAITLIN CHECKS a Snowy Plover nest for newly hatched chicks at a salt pond in the South Bay.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL KERN

California Fall Challenge guided trips!

Guided trips are a fantastic way for you to be a part of this year's California Fall Challenge. No matter what your birding level, these trips are all designed to allow you to be a part of our important fundraiser.

Simply call the office 408.946.6548 or email outreach@sfbbo.org to sign-up for a team & additional details will be provided to you. 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 fundraisers and persons participating in a guided trip and will receive a San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory T-shirt. Shirts are available in sizes S, M, L & XL. Please include your T-shirt size in your RSVP.

Sat. Sept. 13 / 7:30 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.

CLIFFSWEEPERS

LED BY PHIL GORDON

HALF DAY \$50 - LIMIT 12 PEOPLE

COUNTY: ALAMEDA

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!

PHIL GORDON—Although Phil spent 38 years as a junior high and high school 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 newsletter, today Phil continues to lecture, teach and lead both international and California-based tours.

Sat. Sept. 20 / 8:30 a.m. – Noon

THE INTREPID A TO ZERS

LED BY KAREN DEMELLO AND

KAY PARTELOW

HALF DAY \$50—LIMIT 15 PEOPLE

COUNTY: SANTA CLARA

Enjoy a relaxed morning experiencing the transition from summer to fall at the Palo Alto Baylands. From Avocets to Zonotrichia (crowned Sparrows), our goal will be 26 species (from A to Z) during a leisurely paced 2 mile walk by the bay. In addition to identifying birds, we will also study the seasonal plumage changes of ducks and shorebirds. This is the perfect opportunity for beginning birders, or birders with limited time to support the California Fall Challenge. Karen and Kay make a fantastic birding team and are excited to show you one of their favorite birding spots 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 has co-lead Sierra Club birding trips to Alaska, participates in local bird counts, and is a docent and Nature Center host for the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District.

KAREN DEMELLO — Karen is a docent at Big Basin Redwoods State Park and is instrumental in the annual Wings Over the Basin festival held here each year. Karen is also a docent for Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. She enjoys the outdoors and has an enthusiastic approach that makes birding with Karen fun and informational.

Sat. Sept. 20 / 7:30 a.m. – 100 species

THE VARIED TWITCHERS

LED BY MIKE RODGERS

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). Birders will gain new insight into birding Santa Clara County with the help of a master.

MIKE ROGERS — 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.

Sun. Sept. 21 / 7:00 a.m. – late afternoon

WANDERING VAGRANTS

LED BY SCOTT TERRILL

FULL DAY \$100 - LIMIT 12 PEOPLE

COUNTY: DETERMINED BY RARE SPECIES REPORT

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 Sept. 21st. 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 — 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 (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.

Sat. Sept. 27 / 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

THE SUPER S.M.E.W.S

LED BY MARY WISNEWSKI AND
STEPHANIE ELLIS

HALF DAY \$50 - LIMIT 15 PARTICIPANTS
COUNTY: ALAMEDA

The Super s.m.e.w.s will dive into fall migration with land and shorebird targets at the beautiful Hayward Regional Shoreline. We will start our day with a hunt for warblers and other dickey birds near Frank's Dump. Then we'll move on to search for waterfowl and phalaropes at Johnston's Landing. Join us while we scour one of the best shorebird haul-out spots in the east bay. Towards the end of the trip, we will drive over to check out the bird activity at the San Leandro Marina. Our trip is timed for high-tide to maximize species diversity. Expect 70 species.

MARY WISNEWSKI – Mary is a volunteer for the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society (SCVAS) and the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory.

STEPHANIE ELLIS – Stephanie is the Outreach and Programs Coordinator for the Bird Observatory. Together they were the super enthusiastic two-person team who won the Spring SCVAS Birdathon – finding 102 species of birds within a four hour period!

Sat. Oct. 4 / 8 a.m. – afternoon

ZUGUNRUHE LED BY SCOTT SMITHSON

FULL DAY - LIMIT 12 PARTICIPANTS
COUNTY: SAN MATEO

Named after migratory restlessness in birds, this group of adventurous birders will scour a 30 mile stretch of coastal San Mateo County between Pacifica and Pescadero. We will be searching for residents, migrants, and vagrants that lurk in riparian areas near Half Moon Bay, wetlands at Pescadero Marsh, and the coastal scrub and grasslands in between. There will be a one hour break for lunch at a local restaurant. This group is open to all skill levels, and we anticipate a day list of over 100 species. If you get a little restless the night before an all day birding adventure, then Zugunruhe is for you!

SCOTT SMITHSON - Scott is the Bird Observatory's new Executive Director!

Since the age of 5, Scott has had a keen interest in ornithology and a desire to teach others about birds and conservation. When he was 11, he led his first Sequoia Audubon Society field trip and published an article in their birding guide – San Francisco Peninsula Birdwatching. More recently, he has led birding trips for Santa Cruz Bird Club and the Monterey Bay Birding Festival.

Sat. Oct. 11 / 6:30 a.m. – late afternoon

THE GALLINAGO GO GO'S LED BY LISA MYERS

FULL DAY \$100 - LIMIT 20 PEOPLE
COUNTY: SAN BENITO

This year the Gallinago Go Go's are heading off to San Benito County to get our minimum 100 species! We'll stop at the Paicines Reservoir to look for fall ducks and Bald Eagles and continue on down to the area around the Pinnacles National Monument. Working against time we'll head into the high desert of the Panoche Valley. October is a bit early for some of the wintering species but it's still a great place to find Greater Roadrunners, Golden Eagles, Prairie Falcons, wrens and sparrows.

LISA MYERS - Lisa has birded since her teens. Today she teaches & leads 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 and she focuses on the beginning birder to intermediate although all levels are welcome. Lisa is also on the Board of Directors for the Bird Observatory and is a very active part of this year's California Fall Challenge.

Sun. Oct. 12 / 7:30 a.m. – afternoon

THE JAY-WALKERS LED BY JILL DEMERS

FULL DAY \$100 - LIMIT 15 PEOPLE
COUNTY: SAN FRANCISCO

The Jay-Walkers will bird the wilds of San Francisco, which offers surprisingly rich birding habitats. We'll have a West-to-East birdathon through the city and only use public transportation and our own locomotion to get us around! To find as many birds as possible, we'll bird Lake Merced, Lands End and other coastal areas, Golden Gate Park, and the Presidio, plus search for rarities and San Francisco favorites.

JILL DEMERS - Jill is the Bird Observatory's new Science Programs Director! Jill has a deep passion for bay area birds and a commitment to their conservation. She comes to us with a tremendous amount of experience studying the biology and ecology of waterbirds of the bay. Jill's research has even taken her on "migration" with Western Sandpipers traveling from Mexico to the Copper River Delta in Alaska during spring migration. Share her expertise on this fun birding excursion through San Francisco.

Compete for the Mewaldt Cup!

The California Fall Challenge offers a unique twist for hard-core birders wishing to do a little more than fund-raise as birders compete for the chance to win the coveted Mewaldt Cup. Teams select a California county with a goal of finding as many species as possible during a 24 hour period during the Fall Challenge. 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 2008 and will be displayed in the main office of the Bird Observatory.



2007 FALL CHALLENGE Mewaldt cup winners
Mike Mammoser and Mike Rogers.

PHOTO BY PATTY MCGANN

California Fall Challenge Prizes

Fantastic prizes have been donated in support of your fundraising efforts. Here is a list of just some of the prizes participants will be able to win this year through their fundraising efforts. **Grand prize is a trip to South Africa!**

PEREGRINE LEVEL — DONATIONS OF \$500 AND ABOVE

- Rockjumpers Birding Tours — 14 day South East Africa Safari in Oct. 2009
- Body Works Personal Training with Art Gonzalez — 10 personal training sessions
- Aerial Bay Tour — Bird the bay by plane on a magnificent 2 hour flight from Palo Alto with Pilot David Presotto
- Nikon Spotting Scope

OSPREY LEVEL — \$100 — \$499

- Cheesemans' Ecology Safari — Whale Watching in Monterey Bay
- Wild Bird Center, Los Gatos
- Let's Go Birding, Campbell

MERLIN LEVEL \$25 — \$99

- Bird Books including *Songbird Journeys* by Miyoko Chu
- Museum of Modern Art — 4 tickets
- Thayer Birding Software
- Vortex Binoculars — 8x28 Hurricanes
- Trailslogger's Outdoor Gear, Campbell
- Notecards with artwork by Rene Reyes
- Notecards by EcoArtist Erica Fielder
- Camera Cinemas, Campbell — 4 tickets
- Framed print by Patty McGann
- Framed block print by Allison Connor



ROCKJUMPER BIRDING TOURS
14 day South East Africa Safari, a value of \$4,000!
 See back cover for trip details.



BODY WORKS PERSONAL TRAINING
 WITH ART GONZALEZ
 10 free training sessions, cardio and fitness testing, a value of \$1,000!



NIKON
 Nikon has generously donated a spotting scope.

A Special Day with Raptors

Sunday, Sept. 28 - 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

\$200 PER PERSON, BREAKFAST, BOX LUNCH AND T-SHIRT INCLUDED

Raptors are a favorite group for many and this California Fall Challenge special event will take advantage of the peak of fall raptor migration at Hawk Hill in the Marin Headlands. Participants will have an unforgettable day as you spend the morning with SFBBO board Vice-President and Let's Go Birding trip leader Lisa Myers as she reviews the raptor species we can encounter while birding in the west. You'll then move up to the Marin Headlands where you will meet with Golden Gate Raptor Observatory volunteer Bob Power who also happens to be the Executive Director for the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society.

In the morning Lisa will review the key field marks to look for when identifying raptors. Genus, behavior, food preference, range will all be discussed. After the morning review you'll meet-up with Bob Power at Hawk Hill where he'll spend one-on-one time with the group on raptor identification and how



PHOTO BY MICHAEL KERN

LEARN ABOUT your favorite raptors from the experts. An American Kestrel, courtesy of Sky Hunters.

volunteers aid in raptor research. 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 participate in a discussion of the GGRO's banding program and witness a raptor release. Last year over 120 different raptors were observed during this event. Breakfast, lunch, the California Fall Challenge 2008 T-shirt and carpooling will all be provided. This is an exciting, hands-on way you can help support this year's fundraiser.



GOLDEN GATE
RAPTOR
 OBSERVATORY



Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society
 Founded in 1926

Let's go BIRDING



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



Thank you new & returning Members, April 2008 – June 2008.

PARTNER

Jennifer Krauel

SUSTAINER

Frederica and John Howell
Brian O'Connor

\$101—\$249

Robert and Susan Christiansen
Judy Klein
Maggie and Contee Seely

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\$41—\$99

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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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*Design by Alterpop, San Francisco.
Layout by e.g. communications.
Printed on recycled paper by Alonzo Printing.
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California Fall Challenge T-shirts

This year we will again have the California Fall Challenge T-shirts. Our California Fall Challenge watercolor design was created by René Reyes specifically for this event last year. The design was so popular that we have re-printed it on tan T-shirts for 2008. Shirts will be distributed on the day of your guided trip. Shirts are available in sizes S, M, L and XL.

How can you get a T-shirt? It's simple – join a guided trip or fundraise for the California Fall Challenge. Contact outreach@sfbbo.org for some creative fundraising tips or to sign-up for a guided trip. Please include your T-shirt size in your RSVP.



FALL CHALLENGE T-shirt design.

Calendar

Sunday Morning, October 26, 2008

CALIFORNIA FALL CHALLENGE AWARDS CELEBRATION AND ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

All Are Welcome!

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 2008 prizes will be awarded to the many fundraisers that helped in this year's event. Birding walks begin at 8:00 AM. Presentation of Fall Challenge awards and a science presentation will take place between 9:30 – 11:30 followed by a picnic lunch. Please RSVP by Oct. 20th. There is limited parking at Jasper Ridge and carpooling is mandatory.



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



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



SPECIAL EVENT



VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY

California Fall Challenge Prizes! See a list of just a few of the fantastic prizes you can win through your fundraising efforts on page 3. Check our website for prize updates at www.sfbbo.org

Grand Prize for the Fall Challenge Fundraiser!

The Bird Observatory is thrilled to announce the available prize for our top Fall Challenge fundraiser this year - a **14 day South East Africa Safari with Rockjumper Birding Tours!**

Eastern South Africa offers the classic African savanna of the world-renowned Kruger National Park, the teeming Zululand game parks, the endemic-rich mist-belt forests and grasslands of the Natal Midlands and the lofty peaks of the magnificent



A SOUTH EAST African Blue Crane.

PHOTO BY RICHARD WHITE

Drakensberg. This is an incredible exploration of the most scenic and diverse corner of this wonderful country and is the perfect introduction to the African continent. Target birds that we hope to see on this tour include Southern Bald Ibis, the majestic Bearded Vulture, the rare Taita Falcon, Blue and Wattled Crane, Barrow's and Blue Korhaan, Ground Woodpecker, endemic Rudd's and Botha's Larks, the endangered Blue Swallow, Drakensberg Rockjumper, Gurney's Sugarbird and the lovely Pink-throated Twinspot.

Our chances of achieving the classic 'Big Five' (Lion, Leopard, Elephant, Buffalo and Rhino) are good and less common mammals on the route that we may see include African Wild Dog, Cheetah, the endemic White-tailed Gnu and even Aardvark.

Rockjumper and their guides are all passionate birders and accomplished tour coordinators who just love sharing their birding experiences with others.

*Check out Rockjumper tours on the web at www.rockjumper.co.za/index.htm
Thank you Rockjumper!*



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