

# BAY BIRD REVIEW

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



SAN FRANCISCO BAY  
BIRD OBSERVATORY

## Director's Message

I am delighted to be moving into the role of Executive Director at the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory. I believe passionately in the Bird Observatory and all we do, and I am honored to be leading the organization forward in such a critical time for birds and their habitats.

Before I arrived at this organization, I considered science the most powerful conservation tool available, especially when used to inform land management decisions. This conviction is why I started working here, and why I believe wholeheartedly in the Bird Observatory's mission *to conserve birds and their habitats through science and outreach, and to contribute to informed resource management decisions.*

I am particularly attracted to the positive context of our mission and the sense of empowerment inherent in its message. Often, it is easy to frame conservation as what we should not do, rather than what we have the knowledge to do. I am proud to be with an organization that works towards the positive. This belief in constructive and informed conservation is echoed by

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE *continued on page 2*

The California Fall Challenge is here! Get all the details on page 5.



THE COYOTE CREEK FIELD STATION *is a great educational tool for programs like Steamside Songbirds.*

## Waterbird Science Report

### Streamside Songbirds: An Education Program Linking Watershed and Avian Health

An important component of environmental education programs is promoting an understanding about the importance of water quality and a healthy watershed in providing vital habitat for wildlife. These educational goals are especially important in California, where over 95% of riparian habitat has been destroyed. The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory's Coyote Creek Field Station, where songbirds have been monitored since 1982, provides an ideal educational tool to promote the link between watershed conservation and songbird populations. The station is located on the lower Coyote Creek in Alviso, Santa Clara County, in what is considered to be the highest quality riparian corridor remaining in the South Bay. The Santa Clara Valley Water District manages this riparian habitat and restored portions of the site with riparian vegetation.

In 2008, the Bird Observatory collaborated with The Boys & Girls Clubs of Silicon Valley, a nonprofit organization

serving needy children of all ages and nationalities in Silicon Valley, to develop an education program called Streamside Songbirds. The goal of the Streamside Songbirds project was to empower the students with the realization that their actions can create a positive impact on songbird populations and watershed conservation.

The Streamside Songbirds program consisted of classroom visits and hands-on field trips to the Coyote Creek Field Station. During classroom visits, Bird Observatory staff focused on illustrating the importance of watersheds and riparian habitats. The students were also introduced to songbirds and bird banding, and learned how watershed conservation is crucial for birds and other wildlife through hands-on activities. Overall, students learned how they can create healthier habitats for plants, animals, and people.

During the field trips to the Coyote Creek Field Station, the children visited

STREAMSIDE SONGBIRDS *continued on page 4*

the great American conservationist Aldo Leopold: "Conservation... is a positive exercise of skill and insight, not merely a negative exercise of abstinence and caution..." By applying science to the challenge of avian conservation and management, I believe we are embracing Leopold's legacy, and for this, I am honored to lead the Bird Observatory.

The Bird Observatory has an impressive record of contributing to conservation science and resource management, spanning back to its initial creation as the South Bay Institute for Avian Studies in 1981. It is not only its mission, but all of the people involved in achieving it, that makes leading this organization so rewarding.

A large part of the passion I have for this organization is harnessed from the dedication of the Staff, Board of Directors, and Volunteers—the people who are integral to the Bird Observatory meeting its mission. You all are the heart and soul of our organization, and I would like to thank each of you for inspiring me.

I look forward to serving as Executive Director at San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, and I invite you to celebrate and support conservation science and our organization at one of our California Fall Challenge fundraiser events.

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*By Jill Bluso Demers, Executive Director*



STELLER'S JAY.

## Staff Migrations



### Farewell Gina Barton

We say farewell to Gina Barton, the Bird Observatory's Landbird Program Supervisor, who will start her graduate research this fall at Kansas State University. Gina has been a Bird Observatory staff member since 2001, and has contributed greatly to our Landbird Program. One of her many duties included managing of the Coyote Creek Field Station (CCFS), a long-term banding station monitoring the effects of riparian restoration on bird populations. As the manager of CCFS, Gina shared her interest of migration, molt limits, and molt patterns in passerines with hundreds of volunteers and educational groups. Bird Observatory staff and volunteers will miss her quirky sense of humor, extensive bird banding knowledge, and above all, her dedication to conservation science and the Bird Observatory. Although Gina is moving to Kansas, she will maintain her connection to the Bird Observatory—Gina plans on analyzing CCFS banding data for her thesis research. Gina will use mark-recapture analyses to determine migratory stopover durations for species captured at CCFS. Good luck Gina, you will be missed!



### Announcing our new Executive Director, Jill Bluso Demers

We would like to announce Jill Bluso Demers as the Bird Observatory's new Executive Director. Jill brings a deep love and commitment to avian conservation science, as well as the strong belief that the Bird Observatory's work positively contributes to Bay Area conservation. Jill has served as the Science Programs Director at the Bird Observatory since August 2008, and has contributed to broadening the scope of the Bird Observatory's Science Programs by initiating advanced research, such as nest camera (Snowy Plover) and radio-telemetry (California Gulls) studies. Jill received a Master's in Natural Resources with a Wildlife Concentration from Humboldt State University. Her Master's research focused on the spatial ecology of breeding Forster's Terns in San Francisco Bay (see this issue's Science Feature). In addition, Jill's prior experience includes her work as a biologist for the U.S. Geological Survey, where she researched migratory, breeding, and wintering ecology; natural resource selection; and containment uptake in waterbirds.

Jill looks forward to continuing to lead the Bird Observatory's Science, Outreach, and Education Programs in new directions to help fulfill our mission of using science to conserve birds and aid in land management decisions in the San Francisco Bay Area—and beyond!



### Welcome Alex Hartman, Ph.D.

We welcome Alex Hartman as the new Landbird Program Supervisor. Alex has a Master's degree in Natural Resources and Environmental Science and a Ph.D. in Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology from the University of Nevada, Reno. His dissertation research focused on the population biology and behavioral ecology of Long-billed Curlews breeding within an agricultural landscape in northern Nevada. Specifically Alex examined how land use and management impact Long-billed Curlew habitat use, reproductive success and survival. Alex has broad interests in ecology and avian biology and has participated in studies of bird community ecology, population biology, parental care behavior, and movement and migration.

## Space-use of Breeding Forster's Terns in the South Bay

When studying avian breeding ecology, biologists often separate the breeding season into stages that are defined by breeding behaviors. These can include pre-breeding, incubation, chick-rearing, and post-breeding stages, as well as the non-breeding stages (i.e., migration and wintering). During these breeding stages, males and females often differ in parental care behaviors, even among socially monogamous species. In terns, for example, males feed females during pre-breeding courtship and contribute more than females toward chick feeding, whereas females incubate eggs and brood chicks more than males. Breeding stage and sex-specific differences in parental care behaviors can influence space-use (the area used by individuals for foraging, roosting, and breeding activities).

To examine the influence of breeding stage and gender on the space-use of a tern species, I used radio-telemetry to investigate space-use by male and female Forster's Terns (*Sterna forsteri*) breeding at several colonies in South San Francisco Bay, California. I examined several space-use measurements, including mean distance from nest, foraging range, and home-range size. I hypothesized that both the sex of an individual tern and the breeding stage the tern is in influences space-use in Forster's Terns. I predicted that males would use more space than female terns and that space-use would be greatest pre- and post-breeding and most concentrated during incubation and chick-rearing.



PHOTO BY SCOTT DEMERS

FIGURE 1. Radio-marked Forster's Tern captured at Eden Landing Ecological Reserve, April 2005.

I captured 39 and 46 Forster's Terns in 2005 and 2006, respectively, at several colonies throughout the South San Francisco Bay. I captured terns prior to nest initiation and during incubation. I collected blood to determine sex via DNA genotyping. Terns were marked with radio-transmitters (Fig. 1), which emit an ultra high frequency pulse on individual frequencies. Therefore, we could track terns by listening for individual frequencies using receivers attached to vehicle-mounted antenna systems.

When we detected an individual tern, we would determine the location of the tern by triangulating on the signal. I tracked terns daily and confirmed the breeding stage of each tern through visual observations of radio-marked individuals.

I found that space-use did not differ between male and female Forster's Terns during any of the breeding stages. I did find that for all Forster's Terns, regardless of gender, space-use varied by breeding stage. Distance from nest and foraging range of Forster's Terns was farthest from the nest during pre-breeding and post-breeding time periods, and closest to the nest during incubation and chick-rearing. Home-range

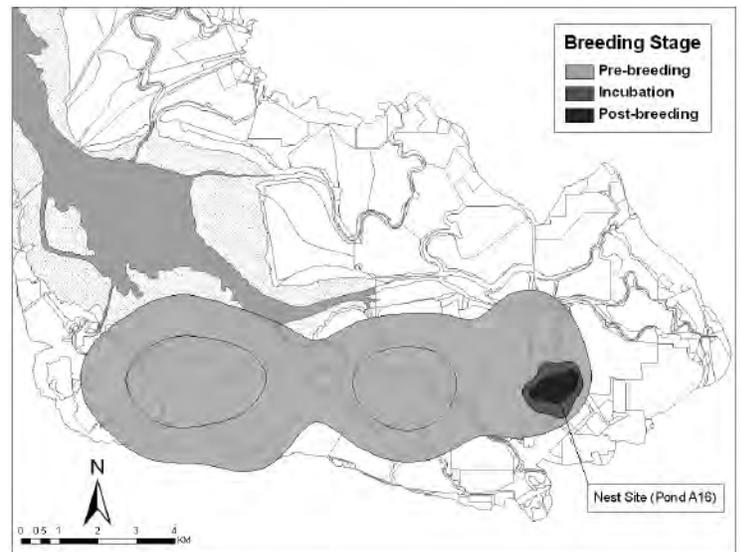


FIGURE 2. Pre-breeding, incubation, and post-breeding home ranges of radio-marked Forster's Tern in South San Francisco Bay, CA, 2006.

size decreased as the breeding season progressed and was most concentrated in the post-breeding stage (Fig. 2). This variation is likely due to changes in parental behaviors and duties during the breeding season. Forster's Terns prospect for colony sites and mates during the pre-breeding stage, attend the nest site during incubation and chick-rearing stages, and then are emancipated from the nest during the post-breeding stage. I originally predicted that all space-use measurements of Forster's Terns would be larger in the post-breeding stage than in incubation or chick-rearing stages. However, home-range size was the smaller in post-breeding than in any other breeding stage (Fig. 2). Although factors affecting post-breeding movements away from colony sites are poorly understood, these movements may reflect attempts by individuals to restore body condition after a breeding attempt. Since terns lose significant mass during incubation and chick rearing, it is possible that the need to increase body condition by gaining mass and nutrients drives the post-breeding movements of Forster's Terns. These data suggest that post-breeding Forster's Terns concentrate their use of locations to those with both profitable foraging and safe roosting habitat, likely in an attempt to increase their body condition.

I conducted this research in collaboration with Dr. Mark Colwell of Humboldt State University and Dr. John Takekawa and Dr. Joshua Ackerman of the U.S. Geological Survey. This research could not have been completed without the support of many field assistants and biologists. This research was funded under the CalFed Bay-Delta Program's Ecosystem Restoration Program (grant number ERP-02D-C12) with additional support from the USGS Western Ecological Research Center (WERC).

Jill Bluso Demers is the Executive Director of the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory.

## Visit Our Library

During our Open House in 2007, we were pleased to introduce our members and friends to the wonderful resources available in our library.

One of the goals of the founders of the Bird Observatory was to provide a science resource center. As a result, the Bird Observatory's library today is a robust collection, much of which from member donations of books and journals. Much of the quality of our collection is due to the bequests of Dr. Richard Mewaldt and Dr. Howard Cogswell, both keystone players in the formation and growth of the Bird Observatory.

We have divided the collection into two parts: a research library and a lending library. The research collection contains complete runs of many of the world's most distinguished ornithological and conservation journals, such as *The Auk*, *The Journal of Field Ornithology* and *Conservation Biology*. We also have serials of more local interest, like *Western Birds* and *North American Birds*. Some of our journals are fairly unusual and of a more narrow focus, such as the *Wader Study Group Bulletin*. The monograph section contains general books on ornithology as well as identification guides, botany, and ecology. We are thrilled to have a complete set of the *Handbook of the Birds of the World*, and *The Birds of North American*.

We also have newsletter exchanges with all the major conservation groups around the region, and maintain subscriptions to more popular publications such as *Conservation Biology in Practice* and *Birding from the American Birding Association*.

Members are welcome to use our research library resources with an appointment. Members may also borrow any of the field guides from around the world or ornithological books in our lending library. If you would like an orientation to the library or would like to schedule a visit, call or email outreach@sfbbo.org. Our volunteer librarian, Va Landschoot, will be pleased to help you.

By Stephanie Ellis

## Board Migrations

### Welcome Leonie Batkin

Leonie Batkin is the Real Estate Director at Stanford University. She grew up in Redwood City, California and has always lived in the San Francisco Bay Area. Leonie received her B.S. from the College of Notre Dame in 1982 and an M.S. from the University of San Francisco in 1986. This education has served her well during 27 years managing real estate assets on the 8,100 acre Stanford University campus. Leonie is a docent and leader in the bird monitoring program at Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve at Stanford University. Leonie spends her spare time out in nature, specifically enjoying the birds in San Mateo County where she lives.

STREAMSIDE SONGBIRDS *continued from cover*

the creek on its last reach to the bay and hiked through the riparian forest it supports. They observed conservation science in action, as biologists used mist nets and bird-banding techniques to analyze migratory bird use of this important riparian habitat.

In total, 66 children ages 6-12 participated in the Streamside Songbirds program. Our evaluation methods included written questions and review along with small group discussions. From these evaluations, 93% of students showed an increase in the awareness of the threats to watersheds and improved their knowledge about conservation and maintaining a healthy watershed. The participants retained the idea that a clean watershed is in their own and their



PHOTO BY ANN HEPENSTAL

community's best interest, and we anticipate that after the program they will promote the idea to their peers and families. Another additional benefit was the kindling of a participant's interest in environmental, conservation, or biological science.

The Streamside Songbirds education program was funded by a generous grant from the City of San Jose Environmental Services Department.

The Bird Observatory is now implementing the curriculum developed for the Streamside Songbird program for education programs at the Coyote Creek Field Station. Private and Academic Banding Demonstrations are now available. Mist-nests open at sunrise and close 5 hours after sunrise. A minimum of a month's notice is suggested for requests. Please visit [www.sfbbo.org/activities/ccsftour.php](http://www.sfbbo.org/activities/ccsftour.php) for more information on Coyote Creek Field Station demonstrations, including the program fees.

By Lindy Nice, Outreach and Education Director

COYOTE CREEK Field Station Volunteer Nelle Lyons assists Andrew Tey with the release of an Anna's Hummingbird.

### Welcome Emily Brand, J.D.



Emily Brand is a lawyer dedicated to environmental law. In 2009, Emily earned her J. D. from the King Hall School of Law at the University of California, Davis, with a certificate in Environmental Law. During law school, Emily worked for several environmental non-profit organizations and was the Editor-in-Chief of *Environs Law and Policy Journal*. Emily received her B. S. in Environmental Studies from Tufts University in Boston, Massachusetts and worked for several years as a biologist studying marine and fresh water ecosystems. She enjoys spending her time outside.



A BLACK-NECKED STILT

PHOTO BY KEN PHENICIE

# CALIFORNIA FALL CHALLENGE

Supporting Avian Conservation Science

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

This is our 13th annual California Fall Challenge, the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory's most important fundraising event. The funds raised help us to continue to apply science and outreach to the conservation of birds and their habitats. Our goal this year is to raise \$35,000. Your support is vital to helping the Bird Observatory reach this goal. Join us at the Kick Off Party on Thursday, September 10th, to celebrate the beginning of the Fall Challenge, which runs from September 11th through October 11th. Fundraising prizes will be awarded at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 25th. We welcome you to explore the many new, fun, and exciting ways you can participate and show your support.

### Here Are a Few Ways You Can Get Involved

#### JOIN AN EXCITING GUIDED TRIP

Regardless if you are a birder, a photographer, or someone interested in bird science, there is a California Fall Challenge Guided Trip for you! Experienced leaders are ready to take you out to see interesting places and incredible species.

Everyone who participates in a guided trip worth \$50 or more receives a special California Fall Challenge T-shirt designed by John Muir Laws just for the fundraiser. Sign up before spaces fill and bring a friend. There is a minimum tax deductible donation required to join a team.

#### GO BIRDING WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Get your fellow birders or friends together to go birding for bird science! Spend a relaxing morning birding locally or plan a big day competing for the Mewaldt Cup. Encourage your friends, family, or fellow birders to fundraise, donate, or become members of the Bird Observatory. Just let us know that you are planning your own trip, if you plan to compete for the Mewaldt Cup, and if you plan on fundraising. Please note, your birding trip must be held within the Fall Challenge period between September 11th and October 11th. To receive a T-shirt, your team needs to donate \$50/person, which can be paid through your pledges.

#### BE A FUNDRAISER

The Bird Observatory depends on its supporters to be fundraisers for its cause. Being a fundraiser is fun and easy: ask your friends and family to help you support the Bird Observatory by giving them a call, sending our fundraising letters, or inviting them to attend a Guided Trip (or your own personal trip). Fundraisers can compete for great fundraising prizes to be awarded at our 27th Annual Meeting.

#### NOT A BIRDER?

If going out and birding doesn't work for you, please consider supporting the Bird Observatory by donating money or a prize. See our website or contact us at [outreach@sfbbo.org](mailto:outreach@sfbbo.org) or 408-946-6548.

## 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 while supporting the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory. There is a minimal donation required to join a team and this can be paid by you or through your fundraising efforts. All participants who attend a guided trip worth \$50 or more will receive a complimentary California Fall Challenge T-shirt. Please use the enclosed envelope to sign-up or call the office.

*Sat. Sept. 12 / 7:30 am-12 pm*

### PHOTO-A-THON: WATERBIRDS LED BY PATI ROUZER

HALF DAY: \$50 PER PERSON—LIMIT 10 PEOPLE  
COUNTY: SANTA CLARA

The focus of this guided trip will be on bird photography and capturing beautiful images of the many avian species at the Baylands. We will visit waterbird hot spots, take time to set up shots, and discuss field techniques. More time will be spent on bird photography than seeking a large number of species. All levels welcome from beginners to advanced photographers who want to know where to go to get great shots. Bring your digital SLR with telephoto lens and tripod or field scope with a point-and-shoot camera for digiscoping. This trip is planned early in the California Fall Challenge so that some shots may be entered into the Click Off photo contest.

**PATI ROUZER**—Pati currently serves as Board President for the Bird Observatory. When not working in her chiropractic clinic she can be seen hiking, biking, or otherwise chasing birds around the Bay Area and beyond. Her current interests are avian conservation and photography.

*Sun. Sept. 13 / 8 am-11:30 am*

### CASA DOS RIOS LED JEAN MYERS

HALF DAY: \$50 PER PERSON—LIMIT 20 PEOPLE  
COUNTY: SANTA CLARA

Enjoy a rare chance to bird and explore the Casa Dos Rios property. Casa Dos Rios has been undergoing restoration

efforts to improve native bird habitat, and this is a wonderful opportunity to tour the property for its cultural and natural resources. Casa Dos Rios is located on the site of a former Ohlone Indian village and grinding mortars are still in evidence in the creekbeds. Roughly half of the property is composed of creeks and their associated riparian habitat, including the rare sycamores alluvial habitats. The upper half of the property hosts several native plant gardens.

**JEAN MYERS**—Jean and her husband have been restoring the Casa Dos Rios property since 2007, with the goal to provide native bird and wildlife habitat. Jean has been birding since 2000 and also provides educational tours on the Casa Dos Rios property for restoration and native garden groups and enthusiasts. Visit her website at [www.casadosrios.org](http://www.casadosrios.org).

*Sat. Sept. 19 / 7:30 am-12 pm*

### PHOTO-A-THON: WOODLAND BIRDS LED BY PATI ROUZER

HALF DAY: \$50 PER PERSON—LIMIT 10 PEOPLE  
COUNTY: SANTA CLARA

Woodland species and raptors are the targets for birding photography at the diverse habitats of the Arastradero Open Space Preserve. This trip will focus on getting as many photo opportunities as possible. We will take time to set up shots and discuss field techniques. All levels welcome from beginners to advanced photographers who want to know where to go to get great shots. Bring your digital SLR with telephoto lens, tripod or field scope with point and shoot for digiscoping. This trip is planned early in the California Fall Challenge so that some shots may be entered into the Click Off photo contest.

**PATI ROUZER**—Pati currently serves as Board President for the Bird Observatory. When not working in her chiropractic clinic she can be seen hiking, biking, or otherwise chasing birds around the Bay Area and beyond. Her current interests are avian conservation and photography.

*Sat. Sept. 19 / 8 am-6 pm—100 species*

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

FULL DAY: \$100 PER PERSON—LIMIT 20 PEOPLE  
COUNTY: ALAMEDA

This year the Gallinago Go Go's will bird the hot spots of Alameda County. Birding this county will be a California Fall Challenge first for the Go Go's. Located just above Santa Clara County, we'll bird the habitats along the east edge of the Bay, including the Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge, along with inland habitats found around Mines Road. As time permits we'll hit Oakland's Lake Merritt and Arrowhead Marsh plus other active areas. Please plan to join in the adventure; I guarantee a day filled with good people, fun times, outdoor beauty, outstanding birds, AND you'll be doing something great for yourself and the bird world!

**LISA MYERS**—Lisa has birded since her teens. Today she teaches and 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. She focuses on the beginning to intermediate birder, although all levels are welcome. She is also a member of the Nikon Birding ProStaff. Lisa is on the Board of Directors at the Bird Observatory and is a very active part of this year's California Fall Challenge.

*Sun. Sept. 20 / 9 am-1 pm*

### KAYAKING KINGFISHERS LED BY JILL DEMERS AND KATHI KENDRICK

HALF DAY: \$90 PER PERSON—LIMIT 15 PEOPLE  
COUNTY: MONTEREY

Join us for a sea kayaking birding adventure in Elkhorn Slough Estuarine Reserve. Fall migration is an excellent time to bird this expansive tidal wetland, and we expect to see an abundance of shorebirds, raptors, and waterfowl. Birding by kayak is remarkably fun and easy, and you can usually get exceptionally close to the birds for terrific views. No kayaking experience needed, and all kayaking supplies will be provided through Monterey Bay Kayaks ([www.montereybaykayaks.com](http://www.montereybaykayaks.com)).

**JILL BLUSO DEMERS**—Jill is the Executive Director of the Bird Observatory. Jill is a mediocre kayaker, but an expert on waterbird ecology. Her extensive research has taken her from Mexico to Alaska to study migratory, wintering, and breeding ecology of shorebirds, waterfowl, and terns.

**KATHI KENDRICK**—Kathi is the Bird Observatory's Administrative Assistant and has recently become hooked on birdwatching. Kathi's enthusiasm for birds and nature is contagious—you will share her excitement over every Least Sandpiper we see during this fun-filled kayak trip!

*Sat. Sept. 26 / 7:30 am - 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 knows all of 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, Coyote Creek Field Station, followed by Mountain View Forebay, Shoreline Lake, and 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.

*Wed. Sept. 30 / 5:45-7:26 pm*

**THE INTREPID A TO ZERS LED BY KAREN DEMELLO AND KAY PARTELOW**

LESS THAN HALF DAY: \$26 PER PERSON—LIMIT 20 PEOPLE  
COUNTY: SANTA CLARA

Experience the birds after work as the sun goes down. From Avocets to Zonotrichia (crowned sparrows), our goal

will be 26 species (from A to Z) during a moderately paced 2 mile walk by Shoreline Lake and the Bay. 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 for Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. She enjoys the outdoors and has an enthusiastic approach to birding.

*Sat. October 3 / 8:00am-12:00pm*

**TEAM DEDUCKTIONS LED BY MATTHEW DODDER**

HALF DAY: \$50 PER PERSON—LIMIT 15 PEOPLE  
COUNTY: SANTA CLARA

Join Matthew on a visit to the famous Alviso salt ponds. Beginning at the Environmental Education Center, we will scan Pond A16 with scopes and circle New Chicago Marsh. If time allows we will visit the neighboring Alviso Marina County Park for additional birds. Special attention will be given to gull and shorebird identification with a constant eye out for possible rarities.

**MATTHEW DODDER**—Matthew began birding in the mid-70s and still hasn't gotten bored. After converting all his friends to birdwatchers, he sought a larger audience and began teaching bird classes at the Palo Alto Adult School in 1999. He continues to challenge students year after year with various bird ID mysteries. He sits on the board of directors at Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and is especially fond of Spizellas. Visit his website: [www.birdguy.net](http://www.birdguy.net).

*Sun. Oct. 4 / 8 am-5 pm*

**THE REGAL EAGLES LED BY RYAN PHILLIPS**

FULL DAY: \$100 PER PERSON—LIMIT 15 PEOPLE  
COUNTY: YOLO

Yolo County is the heart of the Pacific Flyway, making it one of the best counties for fall migration. We will begin the day by birding the Putah Creek riparian corridor in search of fall passerine migrants and vagrant warblers. We will then proceed to shorebird and waterfowl hot spots, where we will spend the majority of the day. Vagrants are possible at any location. If you have not birded Yolo County in the fall, this is a great opportunity to experience this special area.

**RYAN PHILLIPS**—Ryan has been birding since the age of twelve. After living in Belize for three years studying the majestic Harpy Eagle, Ryan now teaches at De Anza College in the Environmental Studies Department. Ryan resides in Belize part of the year, where he has started a non-profit organization, the Belize Raptor Research Institute.

*Sun. Oct. 4 / 8 am-12 pm*

**AVOSETS LED BY BOB POWER**

HALF DAY: \$50 PER PERSON  
COUNTY: SANTA CLARA

Join Bob Power and the newly formed SCVAS AvoSets on a fast-paced, fun-filled Alviso-blitze to top the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory's Datasets spring total of 78 species. Ideal for those with a competitive spirit but limited time.

**BOB POWER**—Bob is currently the Executive Director at Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society. Bob is a day leader for the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory's hawkwatch program, and has been a field trip leader for Golden Gate Audubon, SFBBO, The Wild Bird Center, and trip co-leader for Paradise Birding and Elder Hostel, International.

*Sun. Oct. 4 / 7 am-4 pm*

**WARBLING WINOS LED BY TROY RAHMIG**

FULL DAY: \$100 PER PERSON—RSVP  
DEADLINE SEPT. 25TH  
COUNTY: SANTA CLARA

This trip is geared toward the wine taster who wants to dabble in a little birdwatching or vice versa. The trip will feature birding at some of the best

wineries in the Santa Clara Valley as well as some local hotspots in between. The trip will consist of a few hours of birding in the morning as we make our way south out of San Jose into the Valley of Hearts Delight. The trip will be very relaxed and will likely shift focus from birdwatching towards wine tasting as the day progresses (just a guess). We will visit at least one winery before lunch and probably two after lunch, depending on the group's preference. The wineries will be determined prior to trip departure, though suggestions are welcome. Lunch will be coordinated among group members during the week prior.

**TROY RAHMIG**—Troy is a conservation biologist for ICF Jones & Stokes. Troy's interest in nesting behavior and nest success among songbirds has taken him around the country and beyond, including research stints in Alaska and the Bahamas. For the last several years Troy has worked on regional conservation plans throughout California. Troy has been a member of the Bird Observatory's Board of Directors since Fall 2008.

Sat. October 10/ 8:00am-12:00pm

**BIG SIT AT CHARLESTON SLOUGH LED BY PATI ROUZER AND JILL DEMERS**

HALF DAY: \$50 PER PERSON  
COUNTY: SANTA CLARA

Charleston Slough is an excellent place to bird, especially during fall migration. The proximity of several different habitats and expansive mudflats will make this an enjoyable and casual Big Sit. Expect to see South Bay shorebirds, waterfowl, passerines, and raptors during this relaxing event. This is one of the last opportunities to participate in the Fall Challenge Bird-a-thon. Come out and support the Bird Observatory!

**PATI ROUZER**—Pati currently serves as Board President for the Bird Observatory. When not working in her chiropractic clinic she can be seen hiking, biking, or otherwise chasing birds. Her current interests are avian conservation and photography.

**JILL BLUSO DEMERS**—Jill is the Executive Director of the Bird Observatory. Jill is a waterbird ecologist by training. Her extensive research has taken her from Mexico to Alaska to study migra-

tory, wintering, and breeding ecology of shorebirds, waterfowl, and terns.

Social: Thurs. Oct. 8/ 6:30 pm-9 pm;

Trip: Sun. Oct. 11/ 7 am-4 pm

**PELAGIC PIRATES LED BY ALVARO JARAMILLO AND SCOTT TERRILL**

FULL DAY: \$175 PER PERSON—LIMIT 38 PEOPLE  
COUNTY: SAN MATEO

Don't miss this rare opportunity to join us on a special, expert-led Pelagic trip leaving out of Pillar Point Harbor, near Half Moon Bay. We plan to head out to deep water for the best seabird and whale viewing opportunities, with the exact location to be determined according to recent sightings. Expect to not only see the local seabirds, but learn about the behaviors and lifestyles of these species from expert birder, naturalist, and educator Alvaro Jaramillo and distinguished avian ecologist Dr. Scott Terrill. This learning experience will be complemented by the Pelagic Pirates Social Event, to be held the Thursday prior, at the Sobrato Center for Nonprofits, in Milpitas. Apart from getting to know each other, Alvaro will give a presentation on the seabirds and whales in our backyard ocean with refreshments and appetizers.

**ALVARO (AL) JARAMILLO**—Al 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.

**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* and Board Member and Science Advisor for SFBBO. Scott is Vice President of H. T. Harvey and Associates and the primary author of the Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding.

Date and time TBA

**BATS AND OWLS WITH DAVE JOHNSTON**

HALF DAY: \$75 PER PERSON—LIMIT 15 PEOPLE  
COUNTY: SANTA CLARA

Special guided trip by Bird Observatory Board Member and bat biologist Dr. Dave Johnston. This guided team will go out after dark to find the animals and birds that come out after the sun goes down. By special permission, you will explore the open spaces of Santa Clara County in search of owl and bat species. More details to be announced.

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

.....  
**Compete In Our Bird-a-thon**

The California Fall Challenge offers a unique twist for competitive birders. For 12 years, 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 between September 11th and October 11th, 2009. 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. Please see the complete Mewaldt Cup Competition Guidelines on our website for competition instructions and rules.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL KERN  
WESTERN SCRUB-JAY.

# California Fall Challenge Prizes



## Grand Prize: Two-Week Trip to Costa Rica

Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris and Cotinga Tours are proud to offer this year's California Fall Challenge Grand Prize: two weeks exploring the wonderful wildlife of Costa Rica!

This amazing trip, scheduled for January 3–18, 2010, will take the California Fall Challenge Grand Prize Winner birding through the superb wildlife areas of Costa Rica. A highlight includes a visit to the best cloud forests in Costa Rica for Resplendent Quetzal and other wonderful wildlife. At this time of year resident birds are in their most vibrant plumage and migrants are present in large numbers. Costa Rica is known for its extremely varied habitats and its amazing species diversity. Guided by the exceptional Paco Madrigal, this trip will maximize opportunities to observe birds and mammals when they are most active. Paco has been guiding wildlife tours for Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris since the early 1990's.

As an extra bonus for Bird Observatory fundraisers, Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris is also offering \$500 off their Antarctic trip scheduled for December 2009. For more information about Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris visit [www.cheesemans.com](http://www.cheesemans.com) and for information about Cotinga Tours Nature Expeditions visit [www.cotinga-tours.com](http://www.cotinga-tours.com).



## 2nd Place: A Week at the Beach: Capitola-by-the-Sea

The winner will receive a one week stay at the Park Avenue Condos across from New Brighton Beach in beautiful Capitola. The Condos are a 10 minute stroll to Capitola Village. Sleeps 4.



## 3rd Place: Body Works Personal Training

The winner is eligible for 10 free training sessions with Body Works Personal Training, a value of \$1,000. Visit <http://bodyworkspt.blogspot.com/> for more information.



Other fantastic prizes have been donated to encourage the fundraising efforts of California Fall Challenge participants. Thank you to the following business and individuals for their generous contributions. It isn't too late to donate prizes. Contact [outreach@sfbbo.org](mailto:outreach@sfbbo.org) if you would like to donate.

## Peregrine Level \$500 value and above

- Wild Bird Center, Los Gatos: 8.5 x 45 Nikon Monarch Binoculars with Strap, Lens Cleaner, and Cloth



- Sorensen's Resort: 1 Night Stay
- Mel Cotton's: Gear Vouchers

## Merlin Level \$25 - \$99

- Bay Nature Magazine: Subscriptions to Bay Nature
- Casa Nuestra Winery and Vineyard: Great Bottles of Wine
- Artist Martha Castillo: Prints and Note Cards
- University of California Press: California Field Guides
- Photographer Bill Walker: Bird Walker 2009 Wall Calendar
- Artist Allison Conner: Framed Print

## Other Great Prizes Include:

- A Spotting Scope with Tripod
- An ipod Classic
- Amazing Field Guides and Other Books
- Artwork
- Gift Certificates to Local Business

## Osprey Level \$100 - \$499

- Oceanic Society: Farallon Islands Nature Cruise for 2
- Eagle Optics: Vortex Lightning 10x32 Binoculars
- Monterey Seabirds: Monterey Bay 8 hr. Seabird Trip
- Cheesemans' Ecological Safaris: An 8 hr. Seabird and Whale Watching Trip for 2

The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory would also like to cordially thank the following individuals for their generous prize donations!

Leonie Batkin  
Pati Rouzer  
Caryl Carr and David Presotto  
Ken Peterson  
Lisa Myers  
Dale Wannan  
Deborah LeFalle

## California Fall Challenge T-shirts

Since our tradition of offering a T-shirt to guided trip attendees was so popular we decided to do it again this year, but with a new twist. In partnership with naturalist, educator and artist John (Jack) Muir Laws, we have a new design that we know you will be proud to wear.

Laws is well known for his recent *The Laws Guide to the Sierra Nevada*, a pocket-size field guide to over 1,700 species found in the Sierra Nevada, which includes 2,710 original watercolor paintings. Laws is also deeply committed to stewardship of nature and has worked as an environmental educator for over 25 years in California, Wyoming, and Alaska. He teaches classes on natural history, conservation biology, scientific illustration, and field sketching. He is also trained as a wildlife biologist and is an associate of the California Academy of Sciences. Visit his website at [www.johnmuirlaws.com](http://www.johnmuirlaws.com).

The California Fall Challenge logo created by Laws features Snowy Plovers banded by Waterbird Program Supervisor, Caitlin Robinson, as part the Bird Observatory's Snowy Plover Recovery



Program. Biologists band chicks to determine fledging rates for plovers breeding in the San Francisco Bay. Caitlin banded the adult male (Red/Black:Yellow/White) shown on the logo as a newly hatched chick on July 15, 2008 on pond E12 at Eden Landing Ecological Reserve. Bird Observatory biologists resighted him last fall and confirmed that he had fledged. This May, he nested in pond E16B, with an unbanded female. On June 19, 2009, Caitlin banded his three freshly-hatched chicks. His nest was located in an experimental plot "enhanced" with oyster shells as part of a Bird Observatory study to determine if oyster shells increase plover nest survival by providing camouflage from predators. Bird Observatory biologists continue to monitor the banded chicks, and the data collected will aid in conservation of this threatened species.

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 for donation at the Annual Meeting.

## 2009 Click Off!

The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory is delighted to announce its first annual Click Off, a photo contest highlighting the bird and habitat diversity found in the Bay Area and beyond. The Click Off is a great way for you to share your best photos and win valuable prizes while supporting the Bird Observatory.

Winners will be selected from six categories including: Bird Portraits, Endangered Species, Birds in their Habitat, Bird Behavior, Human Interaction, and Birds of the World. Also, a People's Choice Award will be selected from the category winners. The winners will be announced at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 25th.

### Submission

Participants can begin submitting images on July 27th, 2009. Submit photos via at [www.sfbbo.org/support/click-off/clickoff.php](http://www.sfbbo.org/support/click-off/clickoff.php). Submission must be received before October 9th, 2009.

### Entrance Fee/Donation

A \$25 donation is required to submit images into this competition. This donation entitles you to enter up to five

images into the competition. There is no limit to the number of donations/submissions. See contest rules, including usage rights at [www.sfbbo.org/support/clickoff/clickoff\\_rules.php](http://www.sfbbo.org/support/clickoff/clickoff_rules.php).

### Prizes and Awards:

#### PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

At the conclusion of the Fall Challenge, prints of the Category Winners will be on display at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 25th, 2009. Members in attendance will vote for the People's Choice award—an Advanced Hummingbird Workshop with Oliver Klink worth \$599! Learn about the workshops at

<http://incredibletravelphotos.smugmug.com/Workshops>.

#### CATEGORY WINNERS

For each of the six categories, a single image will be selected by the panel of judges as the category winner.

Each Category Winner will receive a Bird Blind Shoot Workshop with Bruce Finocchio along with a weekend stay at the Ramrod Private Ranch in Monterey County worth \$475! To see Bruce's work, visit [www.dreamcatcherimages.net](http://www.dreamcatcherimages.net).

#### PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD AND CATEGORY WINNERS

Winning images will be displayed at the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Environmental Education Center, and displayed on the Bird Observatory's web site and eNews which reaches over 3,000 people!

#### AWARDS OF MERIT

Images in each category that the judges feel deserve special recognition will receive Awards of Merit.

Those recognized will receive a Borrow Lenses gift certificate.



PHOTO BY GARRETT LAU

OSPREY.

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



*Thank you new and returning members,  
April – June 2009.*

## SUSTAINER

Bill and Jean Clark, Freddy and John Howell with the Wild Bird Center, Peter and Sue LaTourrette, Brian O'Connor and Jennifer Dungan, Corina and Troy Rahmig, Maggie and Contee Seely, David Speer and Tiffany Choy

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*We thank the following for their generous gifts, April – June 2009.*

**\$500 - \$999**

David Presotto and Caryl Carr

**\$250 - \$499**

Google Matching Gifts Program, Jean Halford, Steelcase Foundaton, James Yurchenco and Amy Lauterbach

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Bob and Barbara Brandriff, Jan Hintermeister, Patricia Rouzer, D.C., Brenda Senturia, IBM Corporation

**\$60 - \$99**

Aiko and Kaz Hayashi, Hugh McDevitt, John Pierce, M.D.

**\$40-\$59**

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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.*

San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory  
524 Valley Way  
Milpitas, CA 95035

t 408.946.6548  
f 408.946.9279  
www.sfbbo.org

sfbbo@sfbbo.org

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PHOTO BY TOM GREY

CALIFORNIA THRASHER.



## SAN FRANCISCO BAY BIRD OBSERVATORY

524 Valley Way  
Milpitas, CA 95035

[www.sfbbo.org](http://www.sfbbo.org)

*Return service requested*



## Calendar

T. B. A.

★ ♿ RSVP

### CALIFORNIA FALL CHALLENGE KICK-OFF CELEBRATION

SITE: SOBRATO CENTER FOR NONPROFITS, MILPITAS

We are having a party and you are invited! We ask our members to please join us in celebration of the kick-off of our 13th annual California Fall Challenge on September 10th. Meet our staff, team leaders and fellow Bird Observatory supporters. There will be refreshments and appetizers. Don't miss the raffle! Please RSVP by September 8th to [outreach@sfbbo.org](mailto:outreach@sfbbo.org).

This year's Grand Prize for the top California Fall Challenge fundraiser is



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

two weeks in Costa Rica, generously donated by Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris and Cotinga Tours.

Friday, Sept. 11 - Sunday, Oct. 11, 2009

★ ♿ RSVP

### CALIFORNIA FALL CHALLENGE GUIDED TRIPS

*All are welcome!*

SITE: VARIOUS BAY AREA LOCATIONS

Regardless if you are a birder, a photographer, or someone interested in bird science, there is a California Fall Challenge Guided Trip for you. We have 14 trips designed to get you outside to see some fantastic birds while supporting the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory. Experienced leaders are ready to take you out to see interesting places and incredible species. Don't miss the Pelagic Pirates trip with Alvaro Jaramillo or the Kayaking Kingfishers with Executive Director Jill Demers. Everyone who participates in a guided trip worth \$50 or more receives a special California Fall Challenge T-Shirt

designed by John Muir Laws just for the fundraiser. Sign up before spaces fill and bring a friend. Please use the enclosed envelope, email [outreach@sfbbo.org](mailto:outreach@sfbbo.org) or call 408.946.6548 to sign up!

Sunday, Oct. 25, 2009

★ ♿ RSVP

### CALIFORNIA FALL CHALLENGE AWARDS CELEBRATION AND ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

*All are welcome!*

SITE: DON EDWARDS SAN FRANCISCO BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER (ALVISO)

Please plan to come to the Bird Observatory's Annual Meeting. All members are welcome and we look forward to meeting you. A highlight this year will be the Click Off, the Bird Observatory's first annual photo contest. Category winners will be announced, and their prints will be on display for members in attendance to vote for the People's Choice Award.

For more information about the Click Off visit [www.sfbbo.org/support/clickoff/clickoff.php](http://www.sfbbo.org/support/clickoff/clickoff.php). Other events include a general meeting and a science presentation, a Silent Auction, the presentation of the California Fall Challenge fundraising prize winners and the Mewaldt Cup winners, as well as a delicious picnic lunch with local wine. Parking is limited, please carpool when possible.



PHOTO BY GARRETT LAU

CHESTNUT-BACKED CHICKADEE.