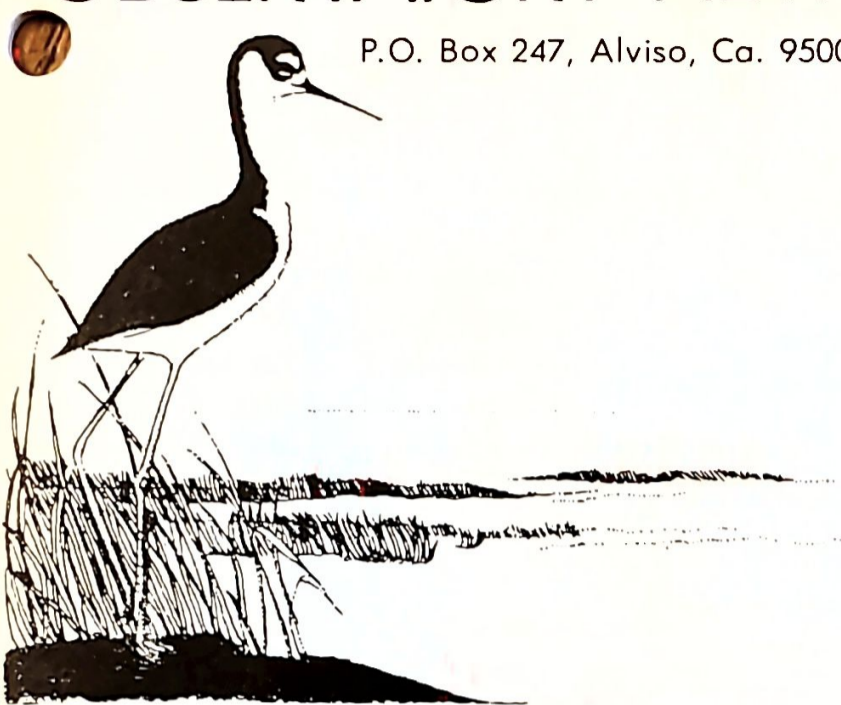


# SAN FRANCISCO BAY BIRD OBSERVATORY NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 247, Alviso, Ca. 95002 • (408) 946-6548

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MAY 1985

## RAPTOR BANDING PROGRAM

A group of volunteers and staff from SFBBO participated in the 1984 Raptor Banding Program in the Marin Islands of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. We were taught, encouraged and coordinated by Judd Howell, Natural Resources Specialist with the National Park Service. (Judd will be the main speaker at the SFBBO General Membership meeting on May 2.)

Over one hundred people applied for the fifty volunteer positions. Judd, Will Shor, and John Aiken taught five well-organized and informative classes once a week at the offices of the San Francisco Zoological Society. Classes covered raptor identification, use of traps, banding procedures, and program protocol. At the last class there was a twelve page written exam and a quiz with sixteen raptor identification slides, which had to be passed before being qualified to continue with field work.

Field work began on Slacker Hill in Marin just across Golden Gate Bridge in August and extended until the end of 1984. In the first fourteen days of operation 69 individuals of three raptorial species were processed and banded. Each person signed up for one day every two weeks.

Each banding group met in the morning at East Ft. Baker gather equipment and begin banding at about ten o'clock. Field work consisted of keeping a record of all raptors flying by, controlling one Dho-gaza net and two bow net traps, and then actually banding the birds and

recording standard banding data when the birds were caught.

In the 1985 hawk banding season there will be three working stations in the Headlands from August-December. More volunteers are needed. Introductory meetings were held in March and April of this year. For more information call (415) 556-7733 or (415) 556-9506.

Allen Royer



## REFUGE OPEN HOUSE

The San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Environmental Education Center in Alviso will hold an Open House on Saturday, April 20, from 9am-4pm. It will be an entire day of indoor and outdoor activities for all ages: Nature walks, Bird Banding demonstrations in the morning, samples of curriculum, lesson plans, and games that teach about the outdoors. Tour the center and view the Bay from the observation tower. Take a closer look at microscopic animal life. There will be movies and film strips about the Bay and our environment. Bring your friends and families and explore the marsh, mudflats, sloughs, and salt evaporation ponds. For more information call (408) 262-5513. For directions see the map on the back page of this newsletter.



## COLONIAL BIRD CENSUS

Spring is here once again (many of us had our doubts. . .) and so is the Colonial Bird Census. Spring is a time of wonder for all of us and helping out on this project is a wonderful way to fully appreciate the splendor of life. Last years Colonial Bird Census was a whopping success due to the many volunteers who spent much time out searching the levee's and marshes for nests, eggs and young birds.

This year the census will be a bit scaled down. The census will focus mainly on colonial nesting birds (Caspian Terns, Forester's Terns, California Gulls and Cliff Swallows) and some special attention birds (Northern Harriers, Common Moorhens, Snowy Plovers, Short-eared Owls and Burrowing Owls). We hope you will join us in the census again this year. It's a good way to see yearly changes in populations, changes in locations of colonies and a wonderful way to spend a day. If you have the interest and the time, please give a call and leave your name and phone number and we will get right back to you as soon as the dates and places are set for censusing. Listed below are the Colonial Bird Census volunteers for 1984. Bold indicates the hard working section leaders who through their efforts gave other volunteers a chance to see a different part of the South Bay and brought us valuable base line data on nesting birds. Thanks to all of you for your help.

Steve Allison, Ginny Becchine, Janis Bilan, Mark Bilan, Aileen Brodsky, Pat Bloise, Bill Bousman, Bill Clark, Jean Clark, **Barbara Cox**, Ken Cox, **Derek Currall**, Rigdon Currie, Bill Dyer, Jean Enochson, **Lorrie Emery**, Susie Formenti, Jason Formenti, **Marilyn Fowler**, **Russ Fowler**, **Lyman Fancher**, Tavia Fries, Molly Goetz, Peter Gottschling, Betty Groce, Barbara Hambelton, Roger Harris, **Terry Hart**, Michealle Havenhill, Leonard Helton, Tor Holmes, Jim Houghton, Neil Jackson, Dave Jensen, **Sandra Kinchen**, Bill Kirsher, Vickie Knirck, Karen Krieger, Valerie Layne, Jim Liskovic, Dave Lonzarich, Carol Martin, Armando Martinez, **Dick Mewaldt**, Fran Mewaldt, Bill Mewaldt, Jim Monahan, **Kevin Monahan**, Pat Monahan, Dave Nauer, Mary Nordstrom, **Nancy Norvell**, Karen Oakes, **Pat Page**, Kathy Parker, Lucia Perillo, **Peter Perrine**, Pam Price, Marie O'Connor, G. Regosire, J. Reynolds, Y. Reynolds, **Elsie Richey**, Ed Roberts, Tom Rountree, Mary Scholz, David Seals, Roberta Seals, Ed Sherry, Allan Sillett, Laurie Simpson, Judy Spitler, Jean-Marie Spoelman, Debbie Stamp, Don Starks, Diana Stillons, David Suddjian, Sundove, **Phyllis Swanson**, Paul Travis, **Linda Wills**, Anne Wilson, Chris Wolfe, Claire Wolfe, Peg Woodin and Susan Wright.

## CALIFORNIA GULL STUDY

The 1985 breeding season for the California Gull is underway with two census days already completed in March and April. So now begins the evening census and banding. Approximately every fifth day during May through July, volunteers clad with headlamps and waders meet at dusk for last minute instructions. Work within the colony will take place after dark to prevent predation of chicks and eggs by marauding gulls.

Listed below is a schedule of the days for the census and banding trips to the colony. Many volunteers are needed who can give a few hours of time to help. In this study you are an active participant, not just a spectator. Volunteers are needed to work as a team with the bander doing jobs such as recording, spotting, herding chicks and holding them while being banded. If you are interested in volunteering for this project call the Bird Observatory office.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>TIME</u>
May 3	Friday	7:00 pm
May 8	Wednesday	7:00 pm
May 12	Sunday	7:00 pm
May 17	Friday	7:00 pm
May 22	Wednesday	7:30 pm
May 27	Monday	7:30 pm
June 1	Saturday	7:30 pm
June 5	Wednesday	7:30 pm
June 9	Sunday	7:30 pm
June 14	Friday	7:30 pm
June 19	Wednesday	7:30 pm
June 24	Monday	7:30 pm
June 29	Saturday	7:30 pm
July 5	Friday	7:30 pm
July 13 *	Saturday	7:30 pm

\* Cleanup and census

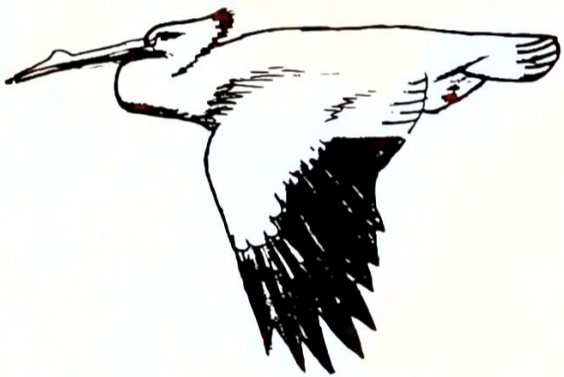




## DE ANZA DAY'S VOLUNTEERS

The Observatory needs some volunteers to help with the booth during De Anza Day's. For those not in the know, De Anza Day's is a community affair held on the De Anza College Campus each year. With a tradition of 10 years or so, this year's event will be held on **Sunday, June 2**, from 8am - 4 pm. Somewhere in the midst of all the crafts, recreational displays, petting zoo (for children!!), Civil War demonstrations, swimming, kayaking, and food places, SFBBO will have a table for literature, information, and prospective new members; this is why we need volunteers. Our modest display really needs just one person at a time, but with a small group on tap people can spell each other and enjoy the festivities. Besides the event is free! You won't be alone; some 45,000 people attend. If anyone would like to run and then work the booth, the 5k & 10k runs start about 8am. If you can find some time on that first Sunday in June, please call Peter Perrine at the Observatory (408) 946-6548.

Dave Nauer



## ECOLOGY SAFARIS FOR NON-SMOKERS

The Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris are offering nature tours for non-smokers to Kenya and Peru plus Australian Wildlife Tours. These trips are for avid birders, naturalists, and wildlife photographers who are in good physical condition, are non-smokers and enjoy being in the field all day.

The Kenya trip, June 15-July 8, costs \$2600 plus airfare and will cover over 1,000 miles. The Peru trip, July 17-August 6, costs \$2300 plus airfare, and includes coastal islands, the Amazon, and the Andes. The Australia and New Guinea trip with Doug and Gail Cheeseman is from July 20-August 24. The cost of this trip is \$4275 plus airfare. There are 8 other departure dates scheduled for Australia in 1985. The cost is \$3800 including all flights from San Francisco. For more information call the Cheesemans' at (408) 867-1371 or (408) 741-5330.

## SFBBO BIRDING TOURS

From June 21-24 you can tour the Kern River area with Don Starks and Dan Singer. This is a relatively unknown region of California. The South Fork of the Kern River which feeds Lake Isabella about 50 miles east of Bakersfield is one of the few spots in the state where you can expect breeding Yellow-billed Cuckoos along with Indigo Buntings and Summer Tanagers. The area is also very close to Joshua Tree forests and sage brush, so many desert birds are expected such as Cactus Wren, Gray Flycatcher, Black-chinned Sparrows, and Scott's Oriole. When not birding these areas we will be birding the coniferous forests of Sequoia National Forest. This area is beautiful and reminds me of Yosemite without the people. Most of the mountain birds common to the Southern Sierra Nevada are to be expected such as Blue Grouse, Vesper Sparrow, Hermit Warbler. With luck we may get some good owls, too.

The cost of this trip is \$90/person and includes all camp site reservations and fees, museum entrance fees, and the guidance of tour leaders. Not included in the cost are meals, transportation, and sundry items such as beverages, etc. A preliminary meeting with tour participants and leaders is always held approximately two weeks in advance of the tour's starting date in order that car-pooling arrangements can be made as well as handing out bird lists, equipment lists, etc. If you are interested in this trip and would like more information call Don Starks (tour organizer) evenings at (408) 371-9720 or write him at 2076 Foxworthy Ave., San Jose, Ca. 95124.

## CCRS FISCAL REPORT

The short and long term survival of the Coyote Creek Riparian Station is dependent upon establishing a firm financial base. We are encouraged by the progress towards our initial goal of \$10,000 for the endowment fund. Interest earned on the endowment fund will be used to pay the monthly expenses of CCRS.

As of April 3, we have raised \$2875 for the endowment fund and another \$1175 for expenses. The cost of registering the trailer, and installing electricity and telephone service came to more than \$1000. We are grateful to three special donors who paid for these necessary one time expenses.



## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, May 2, 1985

Refuge Environmental Education Center  
in Alviso

7:30 pm

**FEATURED SPEAKER:** Judd Howell, Natural Resources Specialist for Golden Gate National Recreation Area will give a slide presentation on banding hawks in Marin County.

The Bird Observatory office is located at 1290 Hope St. in Alviso. The office is open from 1-5 pm weekdays and some weekends. But before stopping in, call (408) 946-6548 and check the schedule.

The General Membership meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm at the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Environmental Education Center in Alviso. (see map below). The Board meetings are open to the membership and are held monthly. Call the Observatory for dates and times.



The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory is a non-profit corporation under IRS statute 501(c)3. All memberships and contributions are tax deductible.

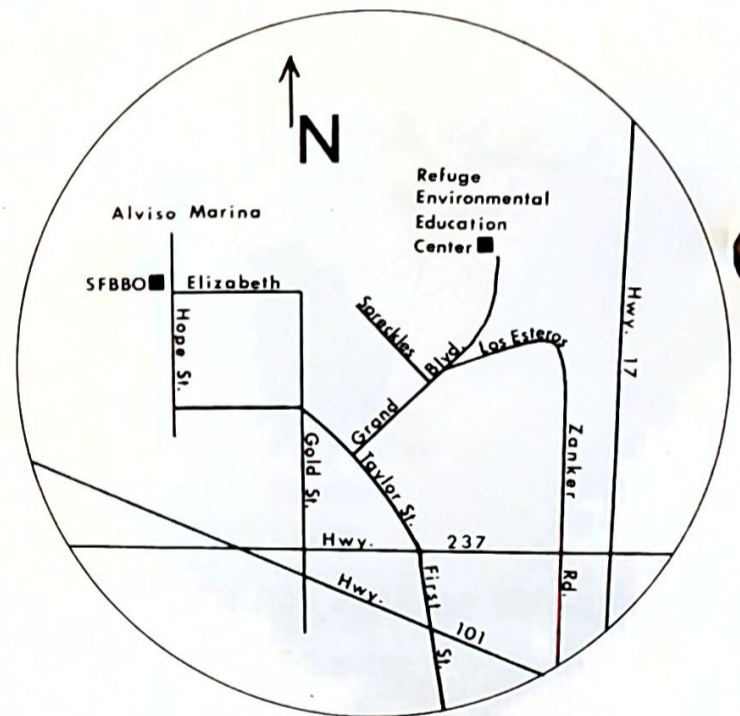
## DONATIONS

Thanks to Phyllis Swanson, Jean Young and Ann Campbell for the refreshments for the April General Membership meeting.

Editor Susie Formenti

Assistant Editor, Dave Nauer

The newsletter deadline is the first Monday of the month. Send contributions to the editor: Susie Formenti, 16675 Buckskin Ct., Morgan Hill, Ca. 95037.



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(408) 946-6548

I would like to join  Renew my membership  in the  
San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to SFBBO. Your gift membership is tax deductible.

Student/Senior	\$10
Regular	\$15
Family	\$20
Associate	\$50
Contributing	\$100
Sustaining	\$200
Life	\$400 *
Patron	\$2000 *
Corporation	\$500 +

\* Single payment becomes part of an endowment fund