

The Stilt

Vol. 19 No. 2

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The Newsletter of the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory

International Migratory Bird Day May 13, 2000

Most of us struggle with some sort of commuting problem. Getting around the Bay Area is not an easy task! But consider for a moment the World's Champion Commuters: **Birds!** Here in the Bay Area, we are blessed with a beautiful environment that we need to protect, not just for ourselves but also for the millions of migratory birds that depend on it. San Francisco Bay and its surrounding uplands are a major stopover point on the Pacific Flyway. This spring, millions of shorebirds, waterbirds, landbirds and raptors will pass through the Bay Area on their way to their nesting grounds. The amazing strength and persistence of these travelers is a never-ending source of wonder.

What is IMBD, Anyway?

International Migratory Bird Day is an annual event created by Partners in Flight. PIF is a coalition of federal and state agencies, non-governmental organizations (including SFBBO), corporations and individuals whose mission is to conserve migratory birds. One way to achieve this is to increase public awareness of the factors that may contribute to declines in bird populations, and IMBD helps to do just that.

This year, SFBBO participated in two separate IMBD venues. A morning event was held at Inner Bair Island in cooperation with Sequoia Audubon Society. The trail at Inner Bair is a popular recreation area especially on weekend mornings. Then our display and outreach effort moved back to Alviso to the Environmental Education Center. SFBBO Biologist Cheryl Millett presented a talk on migratory bird conservation and what we all can do to help, including topics like window strikes and cat predation. Doug Bell and his Peregrine Falcon, Grommet, were kind enough to put in appearances at both venues, most appropriate given this year's focus species.

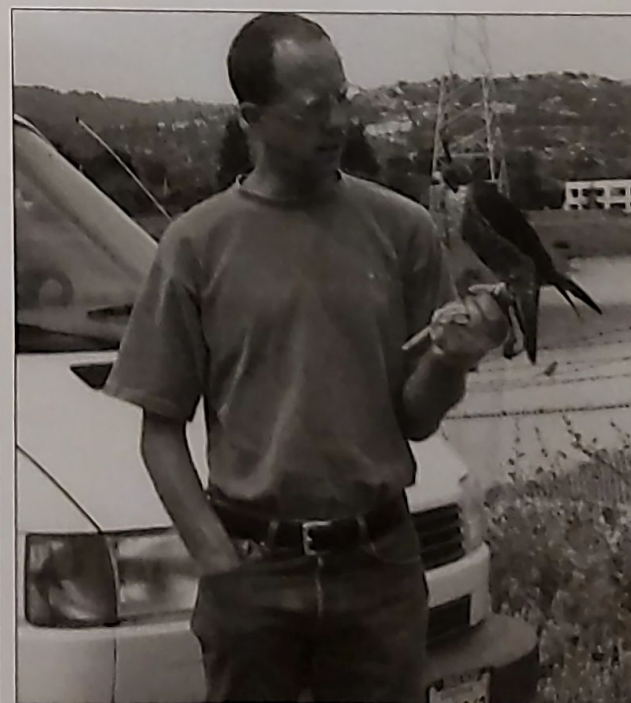
SFBBO is dedicated to the conservation of these very special commuters and the habitats they use. They deserve a safe

stopover point on their long journeys. SFBBO's biologists and trained volunteers work year round to increase our understanding of our birds and their needs. It is only through credible science that we can generate the knowledge capable of changing the way our environment is utilized, especially important in such a rapidly growing area.

SFBBO's Birds of the Baylands Program tracks the nesting success of waterbirds arriving from great distances to nest on islands in the salt ponds. The Coyote Creek Field Station is the home of our bird banding program. Trained volunteers deploy mistnets to capture our small migrants. They gather information about what routes our birds are migrating along and how different populations are faring.

IMBD Local Sponsors

San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory
Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge
Sequoia Audubon Society
Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society
City of San Jose Environmental Services
Santa Clara Valley Urban Run-off Pollution Prevention Program
San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society



Doug Bell and a hooded Grommet gave IMBD visitors a close up view of a Peregrine Falcon.



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SFBBO 

San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory

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Winter 1999-2000 Off the Wall

(Editor's Note: "Off the Wall" was a popular feature in CCRS's RipariaNews. It was produced through much hard work by Bill Bousman, who has understandably declined to shoulder that again. We hereby reinstate a similar feature, making use of that catchy title and with great respect to Bill's earlier effort.)

News From CCFS

- Danielle LeFer, Biologist

This winter CCFS banders showed up in full force and extremely well trained, prepared to do their best to age and sex all of those Audubon's and Myrtle Warblers.

During the winter season, December through February, we banded a total of 32 days. We had 389 new captures and 459 recaptures, with a total of 848 birds processed, and 31 species. Our five most common birds this winter were the Audubon's Warbler, Hermit Thrush, Golden-crowned Sparrow and Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow. By far the greatest number of individuals caught were Audubon's Warblers. This winter we captured a higher number of recaptured birds than new birds! A lot of the same birds keep returning, which is a great indication of the quality of the habitat. We've also been netting quite a few snag-loving birds: Red-shafted Flickers, Downy Woodpeckers (3 new, 4 recaptures), and Nuttall's Woodpeckers (2 new).

The latest assortment of unusual birds included: Two Northern Saw-whet owls (December 11, 15), two Sharp-shinned Hawks (April 9, March 15), and a Palm Warbler (western) (March 4). You just never know who'll stop in for a visit. Since September, we have color-banded over 250 sparrows at CCFS. Our preliminary data indicates that there is very little movement taking place to other parts of Coyote Creek or to other nearby creeks.

10 Years of Landbird Banding

- Alvaro Jaramillo, Senior Biologist

It's an exciting time in the Silicon Valley. Rumors of an impending IPO? No. Or perhaps a new technology that will radically improve our lives? Well, no. How about answers to the question, do birds profit from riparian restoration schemes? The answers are coming, and yes it is very exciting.

Started by the Coyote Creek Riparian Station and continued as part of the Landbird Program at SFBBO, long term monitoring of the restored riparian forests of lower Coyote Creek is yielding new results. The impetus was the recent completion of a draft report to the Santa Clara Valley Water District, who funded the majority of the work, summarizing the results for the first ten years of habitat and bird monitoring at Coyote Creek. The "Ten Year Report" as it has come to be known offers a wide variety of details on how birds have reacted to the habitat changes. The data is looked at from all angles, by species, by migratory behavior, by foraging group, by habitats, area-wide, you name it. Given the large number of comparisons and results which are in the report it is impossible to write a quick summary here. So, during the next few issues different aspects of our findings will be described.

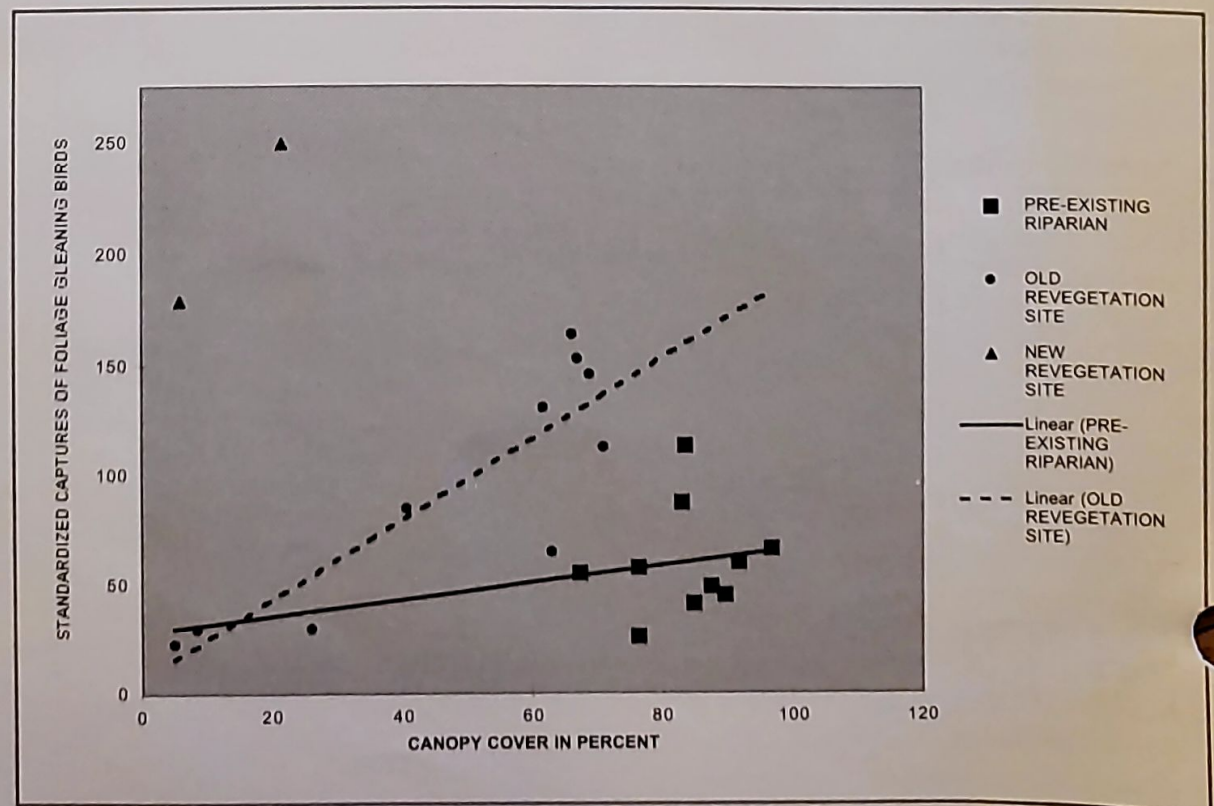
First of all, this work would not have been possible with the work of an army of volunteers. I only wish I had the space here to name all of them individually. Thank you very much for giving us, and the birds, this valuable data set. The restoration monitoring at Coyote Creek is unique in that it has been intensive, with mist nets opened every week for over 10 years, long-term, and largely manned by volunteers. These three elements are rare,



Anna's Hummingbird

and add to the singular nature of the data. Without the incredible work and commitment of our volunteer banders, a project of this magnitude would have been impossible. It would have been too expensive and it would have never occurred. So the data is in, and now we have to put it to use.

So what does it tell us you may wonder? A lot, but first we need to describe a couple of aspects of the Coyote Creek Field Station's general habitat. The area was once a pear orchard and became a restoration site in 1987 through the work



of the Santa Clara Valley Water District. There was always a pre-existing ribbon of riparian (streamside) habitat along the creek. A patch of riparian vegetation was planted in 1987 adjacent to the pre-existing riparian habitat. In 1989-1990 the overflow channel was created. This is an artificial secondary channel which aids in flood control, and only carries water during the rainiest of winter storms. The channel is not concrete, but an open field habitat which is not allowed to grow to the woody stage due to flood control needs. In 1994 a second riparian forest revegetation plot was planted adjacent to the overflow channel. Throughout this entire time we have been both monitoring the birds and the habitat out there. The birds we have counted through point counts, this is when an observer sits at a spot for a predetermined amount of time and counts birds seen and heard from that spot, breeding bird counts, as well as through mist-net captures and bird banding. The latter is our most important data base, due to its constant and standardized nature and the large samples of birds we have been able to process through the years.

Back to the question, what does it tell us. One thing we have learned is that the primary habitat variable that best describes habitat choice in the bird community is canopy cover. This is a measure of how shady it is on the forest floor. So some species like deep, dark shady forest, others open forest, and others open scrub or even field habitats. Well, that is not rocket science - many birders could have told you that is the case. However, for us this clearly identifies one habitat variable we can concentrate on in understanding any trends in the bird numbers using the revegetated sites. As you can imagine as these restoration sites have grown, their "shadyness" has increased. And as shade levels (canopy cover) increase different species of birds consider that appropriate habitat. As expected the bird community has reacted in both predictable and unpredictable ways.

Sometimes it is useful to clump groups of species that forage on similar foods in similar ways into what we call foraging "guilds". One guild is that of the "Foliage Gleaners", these are birds which feed largely on insects which they glean from leaves and twigs of trees. As you can imagine, this foraging guild would be expected to show an increase due to riparian forest restoration as trees function as their primary "restaurants".

Well, reality fit our expectations Foliage Gleaning birds have increased substantially over the ten years. Maybe the increase hasn't been to the level of your favorite high tech stock in the last ten years (if they have been around that long!) but in the bird world its been a dramatic change.

The numbers of foliage gleaning birds netted at a site correlates well with the canopy cover as predicted. But, things get very interesting when we look at the individual restoration plots and pre-

Continued on page 5

Learn To Band Birds

A new training course in banding is being offered by SFBBO, the first since the reorganization and since the development of the new banding guidelines by the North American Banding Council. We are very excited about this new training!

Bird banding at CCFS is a tool to determine trends in abundance over time and to study migratory patterns in the San Francisco Bay area's varied avifauna. The overall goal is to obtain information useful for the conservation and management of bird populations in the region.

Banding involves opening mist-nets before sunrise, then checking the nets every half an hour for captured birds. Birds are removed from the nets, placed in bags and brought in the banding trailer for processing. Birds are identified, fitted with an individual identification band and measured: birds are aged and sexed using species-specific knowledge. Birds are then released. The nets are open for five hours.

Do you qualify?

CCFS banders are a skilled and dedicated crew. To qualify for the training, you must be able to:

1. Identify local birds
2. Commit to the full training period as well as a minimum of one year post-training of banding twice a month at CCFS (Wednesday, Saturday or Sunday).
3. Be in the field before sunrise.
4. Be physically fit. There is quite a bit of walking involved in net runs.
5. Handle birds safely. This requires manual dexterity, good close vision, attention to detail, patience and an acquirable comfort level with manipulating birds.
6. Participate in continuing bander education classes, three per year.

SFBBO is participating in a nation-wide effort by the North American Banding Council to standardize and improve the quality of bird banding in the U.S. Our beginning training course is under the guidance of Rita Colwell, Master Bander and Western Bird Banding representative to the Council. This training will include a series of classroom and field sessions followed by field workshop sessions and a five-month period in the field as "assistant" banders. This is an intensive training and it is important that volunteers commit to all the training steps.

Phase 1:

Three classroom sessions and three field sessions

Classes: Thursday evenings, September 14, 21 and 28; 7 PM - 9 PM

Field Sessions: Saturdays, September 16, 23, and 30; 6 AM to 11 AM

Phase 2

Four field sessions over the course of two months. Trainees will be evaluated at the end of Phase 2 before proceeding to Phase 3.

Phase 3

A five-month period (twice a month) as Assistant Bander, during regular banding sessions. Working under the guidance of a mentor bander, assistants will conduct net checks, record data and begin processing birds. Gaining competence in processing is the goal of this phase.

Cost: \$100, includes CCFS Banding Manual and one year of SFBBO membership

If you are interested, please send a letter or email describing your birding experience, any previous banding experience and your days of availability. Class size is limited.

Contact: Danielle LeFer
dlefer@sfbbo.org
408-946-6548

South Bay's Rails

- Danielle LeFer, Biologist

Knowledge of the natural history and habitat requirements of the Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*) and the Sora (*Porzana carolina*) is limited. In Santa Clara County in particular, very little information is available on Virginia Rail seasonal movements and breeding ecology. National trends based on Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) data show declines in population number for both Sora and Virginia Rail (Conway 1995, Melvin and Gibbs 1996). Our study addressed timing of Virginia Rail and Sora presence in the South Bay sloughs and looked at whether they breed in the South San Francisco Bay marshes. We conducted call counts from July 1998 to July 1999 and tracked some birds on which we placed transmitters, in order to determine home ranges for these secretive marsh birds.

The number of calls fluctuated seasonally throughout the year for both Sora and Virginia Rail (Figure 1). Virginia Rail calls increased between July and October, with the greatest increase between August and September. The number of Virginia Rail calls peaked in October (31.75/site). Virginia Rail calls then decreased from November through June. By April, the beginning of the breeding season, the number of Virginia Rail calls was low (0.60/site); no calls were recorded in May and June. The number of Sora calls increased between July and November, with a peak of 5.6 per site (Figure 1). Numbers then decreased through June. The last Soras were recorded in April (1.6 /site). Soras were not recorded from May through July. Virginia Rail population densities varied from 0.1 per hectare during the breeding season to 9.9 per hectare overwintering. Sora densities at the South Bay sites range from 0 during the breeding season to 1.6 per hectare overwintering.

The home range for a transmittered Sora which we followed from March 24, 1999 until its signal was lost on April 29, 1999 was 1.2 hectares. The home range for a Virginia Rail tracked from March 19 to April 29, 1999 was 0.37 hectares. This home range represents the core use area encompassed by 95% of the observation points.

Our data helps answer some questions regarding Virginia Rail and Sora migration times in the South San Francisco Bay: We have found that the South San Francisco Bay marshes are important migration stop-over points and wintering grounds for both Soras and Virginia Rails, but that they don't breed in the south bay marshes.



California FALL CHALLENGE

SEPTEMBER 16 - OCTOBER 14, 2000

The California Fall Challenge is a state-wide birding event that:

- Explores the abundant natural diversity of California's 58 counties
- Celebrates the spectacular fall migration of 400 or more species down the Pacific Flyway
- Improves our knowledge of state-wide distribution of fall migrants
- Provides a competition for birders covering the entire Golden State and a fun way to support SFBBO and your favorite bird-related non-profit

Grand Prize and trophy awarded to the team spotting the highest percentage of a county's list. All you have to do to participate is pick your favorite county in California and form a dream team with your best birding friends. Return the enclosed registration form, pick your Big Day date and start planning your winning strategy.

Prizes include:

- Leica Trinovid 10x42 Binoculars, courtesy of Wild Bird Center, Los Gatos (thanks Freddy!)
- Alaskan Cruise for two, courtesy of Discovery Voyages (thanks Francis and Captain Rand!)
- And more to be announced!

Every county in California is geographically and hence ornithologically unique, and you local birders know your counties like no one else. Other prizes go to most species in one county and for most species period (i.e., with no county limits), so consider your county and then give it some careful thought. A smaller list may mean that a high percentage of the total is the thing to shoot for. Or it may be better to bird a diverse county with a high total to get the most species. Or maybe a mountain-to-coast transect for a highest possible species total is more fun. It's your choice. And this could be your chance to hit a record California Big Day for September or October.

Your support of CFC helps fund the backbone of SFBBO - our monitoring and research projects that keep a close eye on the health of the Bay.

Visit our California Fall Challenge homepage at
www.sfbbo.org

Right time, right place

SFBBO joins the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture

The term "joint venture" has joined the lexicon of the new millenium as a phrase describing any consortium of interested parties coming together to work on a common problem. In the world of conservation, habitat joint ventures are the new forum for partnerships and cooperation.

In 1986, the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) was created in response to a marked decline in waterfowl numbers. One of the Plan's goals is to "maintain and enhance the habitat values of areas identified as internationally significant to waterfowl". It became apparent that the only way to make progress on such goals was to form cooperative associations, or Joint Ventures, to bring all the relevant players and sources of funding to the same table.

The concept for a San Francisco Bay Joint Venture (SFBJV) hit the table in 1995. But with the publication of the Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals and the recent higher volume calling for change and restoration on the Bay, the timing is perfect for an increasingly active local Joint Venture.

SFBBO is pleased to announce its membership in the SFBJV. This is the 15th joint venture organized since NAWMP was implemented and reflects the broadening of the original concept into one which addresses all wildlife and wetland habitats, not just those for waterfowl. The SFBJV's primary goal is "to protect, restore, increase and enhance all types of wetlands, riparian habitat and associated uplands throughout the San Francisco Bay region for all types of wildlife." In doing so, the SFBJV has been very actively lobbying for fund allocation for restoration projects around the bay.

The Joint Venture also is supporting an increase in monitoring and evaluation of restoration projects and research to improve future projects. SFBBO researchers have long recognized the need for more monitoring of these areas, particularly here in the fragmented habitats of the south bay. Bird use in these newly created habitats should be recorded in order to evaluate how well the area

functions as viable habitat. In fact, birds are the ideal parameter to measure as they are easy to see and to correlate to vegetation changes. The lessons of past and ongoing projects could be informing new plans but post-restoration monitoring has not been included often enough. Here at SFBBO we welcome the opportunity to work within the Joint Venture to maintain currently viable wetland habitats around the Bay and to improve our knowledge of what our waterbirds need to thrive here.

Sex, Lies and Newsletters

There's been talk around the coffee pot that SFBBO's newsletter may be due for a name change. Nothing for certain yet, just a rumor. Now if someone just happened to suggest an absolutely brilliant new name, we would certainly slow down a moment to examine it, admire it, and maybe even see how it rolls off the tongue. Of course, with so many other bird-type newsletters afloat, we must all be very careful to go only where no other name has gone before. And if, just if, we did change to this terrific new title, we would reward the originator with something quite nice and of their own choosing, like a lovely lunch among the cymbidiums at Vahl's, an Alviso landmark, or a custom-planned kayaking trip on the Bay, or some other especially nice treat. But of course this is all just rumor and innuendo. Please send further hearsay to jthanson@sfbbo.org.

For Our Members: From time to time, SFBBO trades our mailing list with other similar local non-profit organizations under a one-time use agreement. This is a cost-effective way for SFBBO to gain new support for our efforts to conserve birds. If you do not want us to share your name, please contact us. Thank you.

Off the Wall *Cont. from page 3*

existing riparian site separately. There is not all that much change in bird numbers either, but if anything numbers have increased as cover increased. Yet for the earlier revegetation site, numbers of foliage gleaners captured on site correlates quite well with canopy cover. So as the plot's trees grew in size more birds used the site. But look at the lines which best fit the riparian and first revegetation site. In most cases, for any given value of canopy cover there are more foliage gleaners captured in the restored site than in the riparian site. Then look at those two triangles which belong to the newer restoration site (1994): they are way up there. The number of foliage gleaners using that young restoration site eclipses numbers in the other sites. Wow!

But what does this all mean? Well, you know when scientists say that fruitful research is that which provides as many questions as it answers. This is one of those new questions. The restored sites appear to hold a greater number of foliage gleaners than the pre-existing site. The implication is that more individuals can be packed into the restored sites, or that they are especially attractive habitats. Perhaps there is more food per tree in each restoration area? But, we can't just look at these plots as entirely independent, they are all part of the same general area and are adjoining to each other. Overall, the amount of riparian forest habitat available now versus 12 years ago at CCFS is much greater. As this forest patch becomes bigger, it may just be able to attract an ever increasing number of birds. This is implied by the fact that the new revegetation site shows much greater capture rates per unit of canopy cover than the older revegetation site. If one was to add a third revegetation site, our data would predict that it would even show higher capture rates - albeit there has to be a limit somewhere. So perhaps this is telling us that if one is going to restore a plot of riparian forest its best to do it near some pre-existing forest, and the bigger, the better. We have a hypothesis, and that is wonderful for it means that we are achieving scientific progress here. And this science can be applied to directly benefit the birds we care deeply about. What could be more exciting than that?



1999 Financial Report

Nothing is as constant as change. This truism seemed to be the recurring theme of 1999, and brought about some punctuated evolution here at the Observatory.

The major change was of course the "merger" of CCRS and SFBBO, which brought a single invaluable staff member in A. Jaramillo, increased membership, contract work, facilities, library holdings and other assets. SFBBO has benefited greatly from this friendly acquisition and we are grateful to the CCRS Board of Directors for their carefully planned exit strategy.

The Observatory's field of view now encompasses all the birds of the San Francisco Bay area. Our Landbird Program has its base in the Coyote Creek Field Station, but is expanding to address the conservation needs of riparian species in the entire Santa Clara Valley watershed, thanks to support from the City of San Jose and the Santa Clara Valley Water District. SFBBO's waterbird program, the Birds of the Baylands, entered its 18th year. This work has taken on a whole new meaning with the vast scale of restoration being proposed for the south bay. We continue to educate the public with our field trips, and our hands-on workshops that train the volunteer assistants that our biologists so depend upon in the midst of a busy field season.

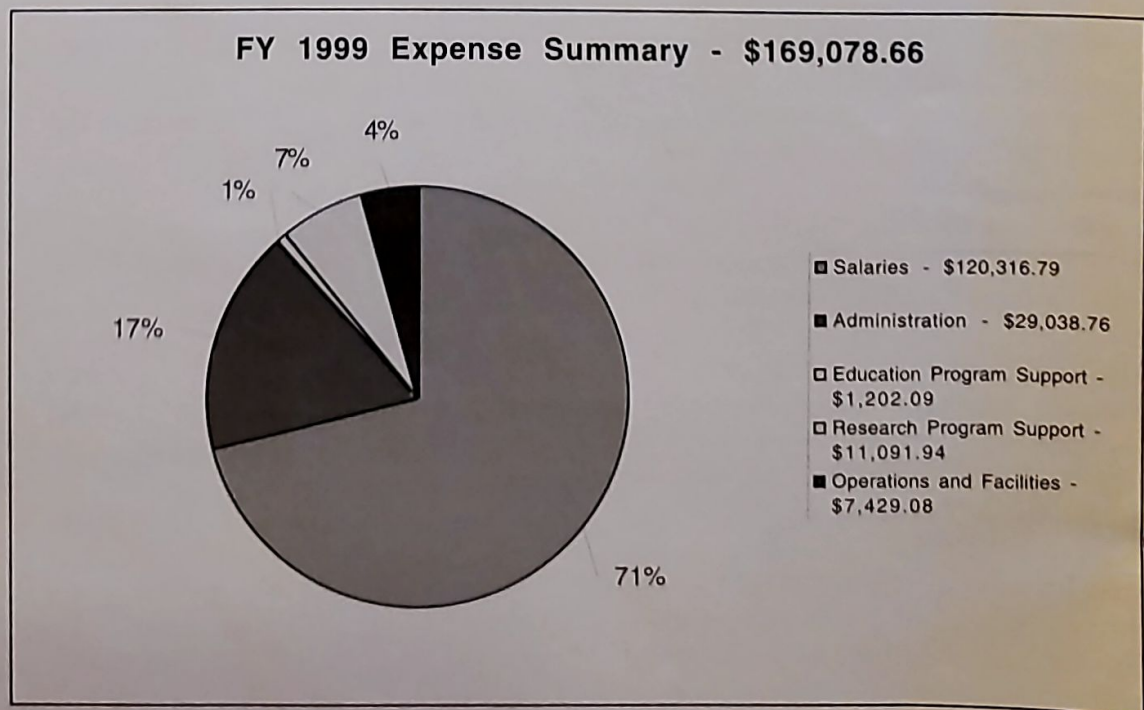
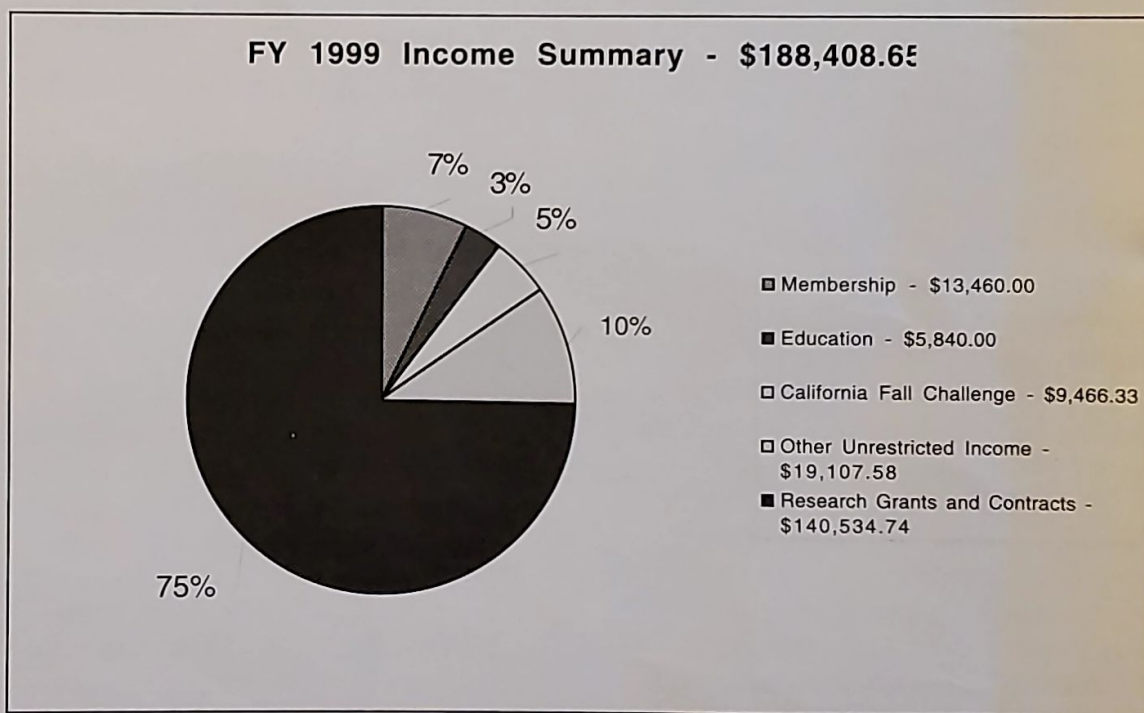
Thanks to our supporters, our graph is rising. SFBBO's Staff and Board keenly appreciate every extra donation that helps us do the science (and attend the meetings) that will ultimately conserve our landbirds and waterbirds. We especially value all contributions to our Endowment Fund, which represents the contributor's wish that SFBBO survive the financial twists and turns that all non-profits must weather periodically and especially that our very dedicated staff may someday work in comfort and security in this difficult local economy. We send our special thanks to John and Nena Padley; Robin Winslow Smith, Anne Moser and past Life Members for these special contributions.

Our best wishes for the new millenium.

Janet Tashjian Hanson
Executive Director

Balance Summary 1999

Assets	
Current Assets	\$24,663.85
Fixed Assets	\$ 4,209.19
Endowment	\$14,705.94
Total Assets	\$43,578.98
Liabilities and Equities	
Liabilities	\$ 2,777.48
Equity	\$40,801.50
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$43,578.98



Memberships

We welcome the following new and returning members of the SFBBO (January, February, March):

Janice Andersen, David Anderson, John S. Arnold, John Bailey, Bruce Bajema, Robert Ball, Liz Bathgate, Laurie Bechtler, Ann Bender, Peg Bernucci, Bill and Rita Bevans, William Bilobran, Barbara Borthwick, William Bousman, Richard Brannon, Geoff & Shelley Brosseau, Ruth Buneman, Richard and Pat Carlson, Dudley Carlson, Paul & Marijane Chestnut, Ann Chiller, Richard Cimino, Rita Colwell, Irene Contreras, Kate Curry, Penelope Delevoryas, Penelope Delevoryas, Carol Dienger, Theodore & Catherine Dolton, Monica Donovan & James Kern, Cliff Drowley, Kathi Ellsworth, Don and Margaret Emery, Hans & Diane Ernst, Arthur Feinstein, Ruth S. Vose, Leslie Flint, Joan Frisoli, Don Ganton, Phil and Pat Gordon, Marie Gordon, Lorraine Grassano, Theresa Grieve, Marie Grubbe, Shannon Halgren, Madelon & Gerald Halpern, Ellen Hamingson, Hugh & Rosita Harvey, Grace Hattori, David and Merry Haveman, Gjon Hazard & Barbara Henry, Barbara & Robert Houghton, Frederica Howell, Amy Hutzler, June Hymas, Chris Illes, Jodi Isaacs, Carol

Jordan, Eileen Kay, Abe Klein, Steve and Lisa Kurasch, Edwin Laak, Elka Lange, Carl and Shirley Larson, David Lewis, Bob and Sharon Lutman, Neil & Ellen Macneale, Brian Malone, Honorable Margie Matthews, S.B. Meyer, Dayton Misfeldt, Thomas and Gail Moore, Roger & Ann Morrison, Bess Nericcio, Michio Ninokata, Ellen Noble, Kristina Novickis, Pam Ogasawara, Julie Oliver, Donna Olsen, Kathryn Parker, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Pendleton, Ben Pless, Lyn Pothier, David Quady, Peter Radcliff, Emily Renzel, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Cindy Roessler, Mildred Rose, Annemarie Rosengreen, Steve Rutledge & Julie Beer, Susan Sandstrom, Gregory Schrott, Maggie and Contee Seely, D. Peter Siminski, Sandra Skolnik, Kendric & Marion Smith, Philip and Sue Smith, Mike Spence, Kappy Sprenger & Frank Metzger, Jane Starbird, Beverley Strong, William Taylor, Scott Terrill, Charles & Jean Thompson, Bracey and Richard Tiede, George & Marilyn Trabert, Vivian & Richard van Dijk, Bill Walker, Mary Wisnewski, Don Weden, Kelly & Julie Wells, Anna Wilcox, Claire Wolfe, Ardyth Woodbury.

Donations

We thank the following people for donations to the SFBBO (January, February, March):

Ronald Barklow & Viola Saima-Barklow, James Ernst, Dave & Susie Formenti, Marsha and Ralph Guggenheim, Elaine Harding, Jan Hintermeister & Carol Oda, Frederica Howell, Susan Hunt, Timothy Johnson & Carol Soderberg, Donald Reinberg, Robin Smith, Elinor Spellman, Richard Stovel, Scott Terrill.

Wish List

A new home:

We have several options but always interested to hear of other opportunities.

Computer monitor:

Preferably a 17", but a 15" capable of 800 by 600 display would be great.

Board of Directors

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George Oetzel, Vice President
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Anne Moser, Treasurer
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Senior Biologist
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W. David Shuford - *Point Reyes Bird Observatory*
Nils Warnock, Ph.D. - *Point Reyes Bird Observatory*

2000 Research Interns

Lori Chase
Michelle Melby

Research Associates

Janis Buchanan
Daniel Kluza
Sue Macias
Chris Otahal
Tom Ryan
Emilie Strauss
Peg Woodin

Newsletter Editor

Susie Formenti

The Bird Observatory is located at 1290 Hope St. in Alviso. The office is open weekdays and some weekends, but specific hours vary with our field schedule. Before stopping in, call 408/946-6548 and check when we will be available. The Board meetings are open to the membership. Call the Observatory office for dates and times.

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SFBBO

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Website: www.sfbbo.org

The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory is a non-profit (501-c-3) corporation. All memberships and contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Annual memberships are as follows:

Student/Senior	\$20
Basic	\$35
Associate	\$50
Contributing	\$100
Sustaining	\$250
Sponsor	\$500
Patron	\$1,000+

Fall Birding

Events for our Membership

June through November - South Bay Slough Surveys

When the weather begins to heat up, so do the shallow waters of south San Francisco Bay. The warm brackish marshes are inviting to fall-migration waterfowl, especially Northern Shovelers and Green-winged Teal. But these conditions can also encourage the growth of organisms that produce substances toxic to these birds and this combination of factors can set the scene for an outbreak of the disease known as avian botulism.

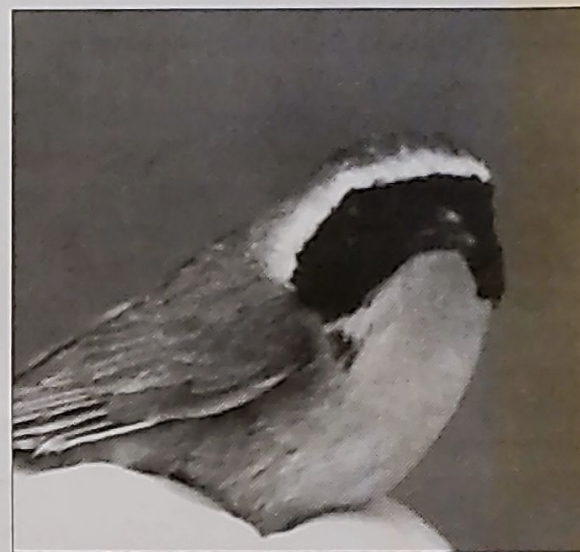
SFBBO's Avian Disease Prevention Program biologists patrol south bay sloughs for signs of avian botulism (and any other bird hazards) during morning high tides in early summer through fall. Our 13-foot inflatable boat and outboard make the outings (fairly) dry and enjoyable cruises of some of the less accessible wetland areas of the south bay. We welcome volunteers ready to work at such jobs as data recording, bird censusing or capture of impaired individual birds. Bring a snack, a hat, binoculars and shoes for muddy conditions. Contact: Cheryl Millett, ADPP Project Leader at 408-946-6548 or cheryl@sfbbo.org

October 21 - Cosumnes River Preserve

This is as close as you can come to stepping back in time to sense what the Central Valley Flyway must have been like prior to the arrival of Europeans.

Cosumnes River Preserve is managed by The Nature Conservancy and protects one of the last intact examples of Central Valley riparian/seasonal wetland habitats. The Cosumnes River (the LAST undammed river on the west slope of the Sierra!) runs through the preserve and is lined with large areas of Valley Oak, willow and cottonwood habitat attractive to many migrant as well as winter/year-round resident birds. Wood Ducks are abundant along the channels and the trees are often full of songbirds. The flooded fields/fresh water marshlands attract large numbers of waterfowl and shorebirds both as a migratory stop and as wintering grounds. This is one of the best places to see (and HEAR) large numbers of Sandhill Cranes from Fall through winter. Meet Ed Pandolfino, SFBBO Board Emeritus, at CRP

headquarters at 7:30 A.M. for a full day of fantastic fall birding. For more information, contact: 408/946-6548 or admin@sfbbo.org



Common Yellowthroat



Orange-crowned Warbler

SFBBO

San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory

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