

BAY BIRD REVIEW

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



SAN FRANCISCO BAY
BIRD OBSERVATORY

A Message from our Board of Directors

This is a time of change and transition for the Observatory. At the end of March we said farewell to Janet Hanson, our Executive Director for the past 16 years, and wish her well in her new adventures. Janet cared deeply about the Observatory, about birders, and above all about the birds. Her strength and quiet perseverance saw us through many challenges, and we appreciate her hard work and commitment.

While the staff stays focused on their important land and waterbird research projects, we on the Board are currently searching for our next Executive Director. Perhaps you can help us find him or her – a leader who will be able to shape the future of the Observatory, and bring in the resources and partnerships to take us there. If you know someone who might be a good match, please let me or any other board member know.

I'm also pleased to announce that during this transition time we have retained the services of an **Interim Executive Director, Debbie Wu**, who will also be helping us with the search for our future Executive Director. Debbie has excellent experience both in helping non-profits through this transition period as well as in grant writing and fundraising. Debbie has done previous work for us in the area of board development. We are excited to have the opportunity to work with her and look forward to what she can bring

BOARD MESSAGE *continued on page 2*



A CALIFORNIA GULL *on the wing.*

PHOTO BY ED NGUYEN

Waterbird Science Report

Tracking California Gulls at Bay Area Landfills

The California gull population has increased dramatically in the South Bay from <200 breeding birds in 1982 to over 36,762 in 2007. This increase in gulls may have negative effects on other ground nesting birds through harassment, encroachment on nesting sites, and through predation on eggs and chicks. The exponential increase in California gull populations may be related to use of landfills and other human sources of food. However, we do not have much information on how much feeding time the gulls spend on landfills, and if trash actually plays an important role in their ability to successfully reproduce.

The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory has been conducting a study to identify gull use of the local landfills. Three landfills were chosen for this study: the Newby Island landfill in Milpitas, the Tri-Cities landfill in Fremont, and the Palo Alto landfill.

We counted gulls in three parts of the landfills: exposed refuse, partially exposed refuse, and non-refuse areas. Gulls were identified to species, if possible, and age (adult or immature). We

also recorded gull behavior in each of the three areas. We recorded behavior as 'foraging', 'maintenance', 'loafing/alert', 'aggressive', and 'other'.

The greatest number of gulls was counted at the Tri-Cities and Newby Island landfills, with monthly counts ranging between 590 (Newby Island, May) to approximately 3500 (Newby Island, February). Monthly counts at the Palo Alto Landfill were consistently low, ranging from one gull in July to a high of 171 in March.

SCIENCE REPORT *continued on page 3*



A LANDFILL *landscape.*

PHOTO BY SHERRY HUDSON

to the Observatory. Debbie is working on a part-time basis for the next few months and will usually be in the office on Mondays. Please say hello if you see her in the office.

.....
Jennifer Krauel, President, Board of Directors, jkrael@sfbbo.org



DEBBIE WU *Interim Executive Director.*

.....
Make Way for the 12th Annual California Fall Challenge!

We wanted to take a moment to remind our members that the 12th annual California Fall Challenge is just around the corner! The California Fall Challenge is the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory's only fundraiser and that is why it is very important to the organization and the birds. The money brought in by participating birders helps to fund the Observatory's work. The Fall Challenge supports the programs that apply science to the mission of saving birds and their habitats. It is a classic "birdathon" where participants gather pledges from friends, family and co-workers and then count the number of bird species they hear or see in a 24-hour period, within one California County any time between September 13 and October 12. We will update you further on all the activities surrounding this year's event and the prizes you can win by just getting involved and going birding.

Migrations



Staff Migrations as told by Cynthia Padula

In April, we said farewell to Cynthia Padula. Cynthia has been the volunteer coordinator for the Colonial Waterbird Program and a field biologist in the Waterbird Program since 2007.

"Working for the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory has been a life altering experience for me, or a reassuring experience I might say... After being a stay-at-home mom, my work at the Bird Observatory gave me the opportunity to be in touch with my passion and to reassure myself that working in the field of conservation is what I want to do for the rest of my life.

As a field biologist I had the opportunity to be out on the salt ponds, getting to know a diverse group of bird species that use the salt ponds for roosting and feeding. I also learned a tremendous amount about the cycles of bird migration.

Being a volunteer coordinator for the Colonial Waterbird program provided me with the opportunity to delve deep into the breeding biology and behavior of the egrets and herons that nest around the bay. I am also grateful to have been given the chance to work with the incredible group of dedicated volunteers that the Bird Observatory is privileged to have.

I made the difficult decision to leave the Observatory to pursue my dream of going back to graduate school. My plan is to get a degree in Conservation Biology. I am taking my time to carefully plan my degree – as this will shape my future career and life. I will also be spending the summer with my two daughters while they are out of school."

Cynthia, you will be greatly missed at the Observatory. On behalf of the Bird Observatory Board and Staff, we wish you success on your next adventure!



PHOTO BY MICHAEL KERN

CYNTHIA PADULA holds a California Gull for the Gull Banding Project.

.....

Double Your Money with Matching Funds!

Public radio and TV, and many other nonprofits have used the promise of matching funds for many years to lure their members and subscribers to part with their hard-earned cash. You may have your own untapped source of matching funds for the Bird Observatory in your very own workplace.

A couple years ago, my place of employment began matching employee contributions to qualified non-profits. I checked it out and found a surprisingly easy to use website that allowed me to electronically enter all my charitable contributions. The addresses of almost every non-profit known to man were stored away in a database, so all I needed was my checkbook and a printer to print a form to send to the Bird Observatory. Then the Bird Observatory confirmed my donations electronically and got the match. The process was completely painless, so painless that I encouraged my co-workers to apply for matching funds as well.

So, contact your local HR, and find out what matching program your company has!! It can be very easy and very rewarding. It's like found money, money you didn't even know you had! And all for a good cause.

.....
By Jan Hintermeister. Jan is a Staff Engineer for the Motorola Foundation. Through Jan and his co-workers' generous donations, the Bird Observatory has received several thousand dollars from the Motorola Foundation since 2004.

The majority of gulls counted during landfill surveys in April through August were California gulls. In February and March large numbers of herring and glaucous-winged gulls were also present. Throughout the surveys we counted relatively small numbers of western, glaucous, and ring-billed gulls, and these mostly occurred in February, March, and August. Numbers of all non-California gulls dropped to near zero during the breeding season months (May–July) with a small increase in Western gulls in August (Fig. 1).

We saw different patterns for peaks of gull numbers at each of the three landfills this year. At Newby Island, California gull numbers were low in February and March, peaked in April, then declined in May and gradually increased through August (Fig. 3). The peak in April may coincide with the arrival of California gulls from elsewhere, with a decline in May when birds are spending more time on the nest, and the gradual increase through August may reflect the dispersal of immature birds. However, we observed a different pattern at the Tri-Cities landfill. At Tri-Cities we counted low numbers of California gulls in February and March, with a great increase in April and numbers staying high in May and June (surveys were not conducted there in July), then a decline in August (Fig. 3). We counted very few California gulls at the Palo Alto landfill, with the greatest numbers occurring in March, low numbers in April and May, an increase in June, and low numbers again in July (Fig. 3).

In most months we counted more adult than immature gulls, although the number of immature gulls approached or exceeded the number of adults in June at Newby Island and Tri-Cities, presumably when immature gulls were starting to fledge.

In the exposed refuse area of the landfill, over 75% of California gulls surveyed were foraging, while in the non-refuse areas over 75% were loafing/alert (Fig. 2). In partially exposed refuse, over 65% of surveyed California gulls, both adult and immature, were also loafing/alert.

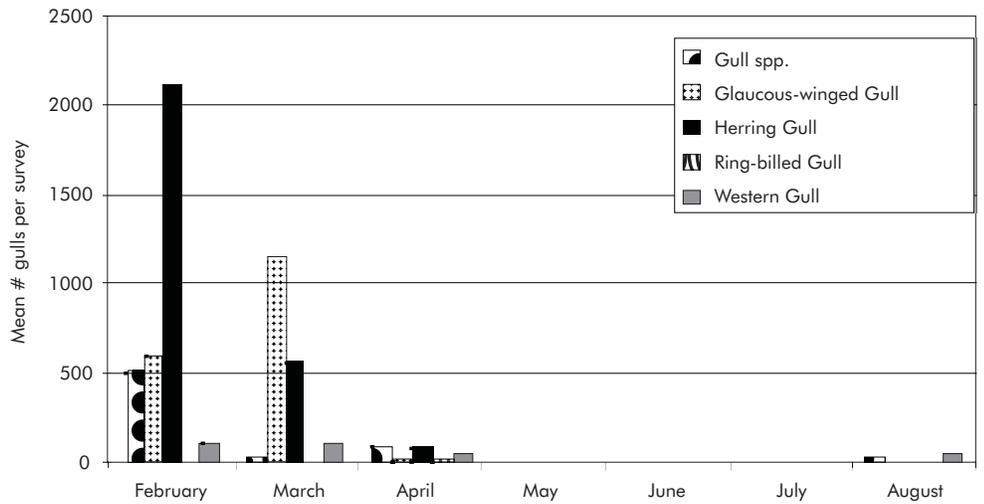


Figure 1. Count of non-California gulls at all landfills combined, February — August 2007.

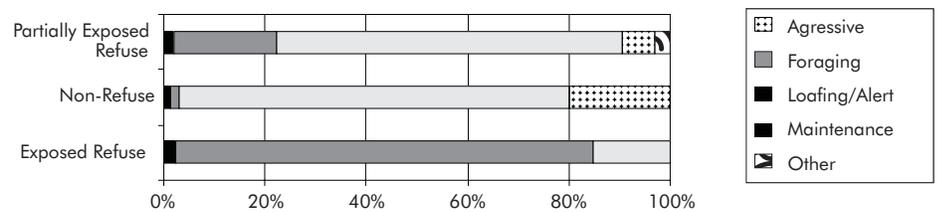


Figure 2. Behavior in immature California Gulls, February — August 2007.

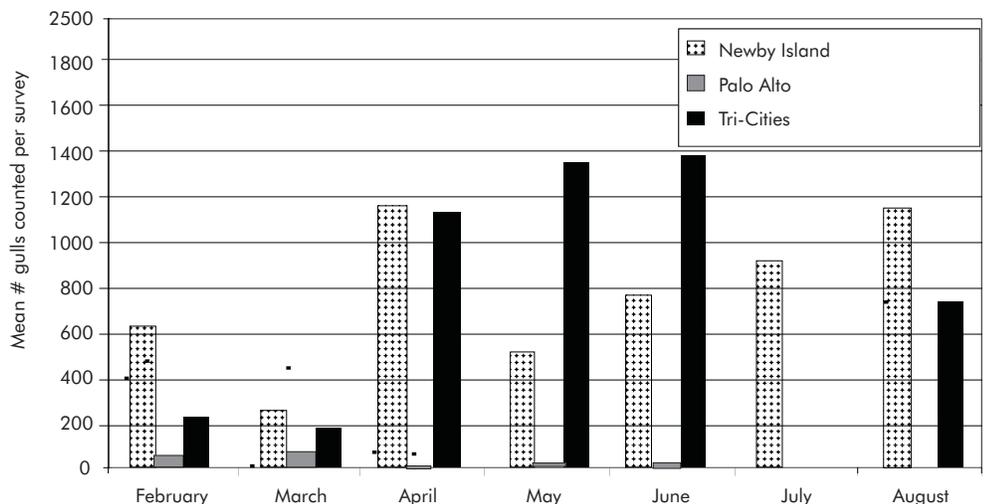


Figure 3. Counts of California gulls by month and landfill, 2007.

Our study indicates that the gull species using the landfills varies at different times of the year. Gulls use the landfills for loafing as well as foraging. Since gulls are present in large numbers at several landfills in the south San Francisco Bay, a region-wide and coordinated management approach would be required to ensure overall reduction in gull numbers in the area.

By Sherry Hudson. Sherry is the Interim Landbird Program Director for the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory.

The Gulls and Landfills Project is funded by the Peninsula Open Space Trust, USGS Science Support Funds, the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge and International Disposal.

Reach 3: The Importance of Riparian Habitats to Songbirds

Riparian (creekside) habitat is one of the most important habitats to landbird species in California. However, riparian ecosystems are being degraded largely due to human activities. Reach 3 is a riparian area located between Highway 237 and Montague Expressway in San Jose. In 1996, the Santa Clara Valley Water District replanted sections of Reach 3 with 16.5 acres of native riparian vegetation in areas adjacent to pre-existing riparian forest. In 2002-2003 the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory compared bird distribution and abundance between the revegetated and pre-existing riparian vegetation there. Survey methods included mist netting, point-count surveys, vegetation and breeding bird censuses. Our goal was to evaluate whether the revegetation effort was successful in creating suitable habitat for landbirds potentially using the area.

In 2007, the Santa Clara Valley Water District provided funding to the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory to continue field research at Reach 3 through July of 2008. Since August 2007, staff biologists have conducted point counts, vegetation surveys, mist netting and breeding bird censuses on site.



A SONG Sparrow.

REACH 3 HISTORY

Our research study in 2002-2003 confirmed that pre-existing and revegetated riparian habitat at Reach 3 was important to a variety of bird species during all seasons of the year. We counted over 65 species from our various surveys

during the year-long study. During the summer months of 2003, we counted more breeding pairs of Song Sparrow than any other species, and these occurred primarily in the pre-existing riparian vegetation. Results from our vegetation surveys showed that Song Sparrow numbers during the summer increased with increasing height of understory plants. Other breeding species included California Towhee and Chestnut-backed Chickadee.

During the winter months some of the common species detected and captured in mist nets included Hermit Thrush, Fox Sparrow, and Ruby-crowned Kinglet. When looking at the number of birds captured in mist nets, we did not see a difference between pre-existing and revegetated riparian vegetation during any season, although we captured more species of birds in the revegetated area. The exception was for Ruby-crowned Kinglet, which we captured in greater numbers in the pre-existing riparian vegetation. Ruby-crowned Kinglets spend the winter at Reach 3 and other riparian areas along Coyote Creek, and migrate north to breed mainly in areas of the northwestern U.S., Canada and Alaska.

Although many species reside along Coyote Creek's Reach 3 area year-round, and others spend only the summer or winter there, the riparian vegetation also acts as an important stopover habitat for spring and fall migrant species. Both the pre-existing and revegetated riparian vegetation drew in migrants such as Wilson's Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Warbling Vireo, and Swainson's Thrush.

In short, our study showed that the revegetation and preservation of ripar-



RUBY-CROWNED Kinglet.

PHOTO BY RITA COLWELL

ian habitat at Coyote Creek's Reach 3 supported a rich variety of bird species during all seasons of the year. Indeed, in the context of urban expansion in the Santa Clara Valley, relatively undisturbed riparian areas and replanted riparian habitat may be crucial to the maintenance of diverse bird communities during all seasons. At the end of this study in July, we will compare results with our research findings from the 2002-2003 study. This information is crucial to informing the management of riparian habitats in a way that benefits a maximum range of species.

Note: The levees on the east and west sides of Coyote Creek's Reach 3 are open to the public. Although parking may be challenging, there are public access points (open to pedestrians and bicycles) to these levees at the Tasman Way (north) and Montague Expressway (south) ends of the area.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are grateful to the Santa Clara Valley Water District for providing funding for this project, and to the City of San Jose for cooperation in our study. We thank and acknowledge the dedicated volunteers who help collect bird and vegetation data.

.....
By Sherry Hudson. Sherry is the Interim Landbird Program Director for the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory.

Meet the Falconer

by Stephanie Ellis (SE)



PHOTO BY MICHAEL KERN

GULL ABATEMENT SPECIALIST Steve Vasconcellos holds one of his prized Saker Falcons.

For the past year, biologists from the Bird Observatory have been conducting gull surveys for the Gull and Landfill Project. (Please see the Waterbird Science Report on Page 1 for details about this project). Surveys are conducted at several local landfills including the Ox Mountain Sanitary Landfill in Half Moon Bay. Ox Mountain is one of the largest Bay Area landfills, encompassing over 2,700 acres. During the past year, several local landfills independently began abatement programs to deter gulls from using landfills to roost and feed. Abatement techniques include the use of falconry, pyrotechnics, ATVs and dogs.

The Bird Observatory does not take an official position on gull abatement, however, gull dispersal after abatement is important information that should be utilized in the process of tracking gulls.

Please note that gulls are not harmed in any way during this abatement process. Gulls are displaced and discouraged from landing at the landfills.

Off to the Landfill

I recently interviewed Steve Vasconcellos (SV), the Gull Abatement Specialist at Ox Mountain. Steve is a trained falconer who also uses dogs and an ATV as part of his abatement method.

Steve began the interview by introducing me to two 20-day old falcons

named "Mozart" and "Annabelle". Both falcons began immediately feasting on ground quail "tartare". Steve's abatement team also includes several German Wirehaired Pointers. One of Steve's dogs named "Trés Bon" greeted us as we watched the falcons devour their meal.

SE: How did you develop an interest in falconry?

SV: I have been interested in falconry since high school. I have also trained dogs professionally, both sporting breeds and obedience training for all breeds.

A few years ago I noticed that falconry was being utilized as an abatement technique for agriculture, landfills and airports.

SE: How does one get involved in falconry?

SV: You must go through the state and feds and serve a 2-year apprenticeship. Falconry is truly a hunting sport. History will show that falcons accompanied all the good horses and good sporting dogs. My dogs are really the most important aspect of the abatement business.

SE: Is gull abatement a challenge for you?

SV: Gull abatement is a full time job. I work seven days a week from daylight to dusk.

Ox Mountain has been the biggest

challenge that I have ever stepped into. There are large tribes of gulls visiting the landfill at all different hours of the day. In the winter, it is even more of a challenge because you have several species of gulls that also winter here. We have a good abatement crew here at Ox Mountain. It takes a minimum of 3 people to cover the whole area. Abatement will always be a challenge here.

SE: How many falcons do you have and where do you house them?

SV: I have 8 adult Saker and Lanner Falcons (both European species) and 2 Saker Falcon chicks. I have 12 baby Saker Falcons coming soon to start their abatement training. The law states that you need to use non-indigenous birds for falconry.

My aviary is at home and consists of 16 stalls that are individually and double-stacked with air conditioning. The stalls are predator proof and there is a large weathering area. The weathering area is a place where the birds can sit in the sun, bathe and get some exercise. When my birds are in the weathering area, they have their own personal "valet" who watches over and cares for them.

SE: Do you feel that gull abatement is necessary?

SV: Gulls create air hazards. I conduct abatement at the Redwood Landfill in Novato, CA, the Oakland Transfer Station and the Richmond Transfer Station. Both of these transfer stations are airport sensitive areas. At these transfer

FIELD LOG continued on page 6



PHOTO BY MICHAEL KERN

A SAKER falcon chick.

Attention all Photographers: Would you like to see your images here?



The Bird Observatory is looking to update its photo library. Do you have quality images of birds in the bay area that you would like to contribute for use on our website or our quarterly newsletter the "Bay Bird Review"? We are currently seeking bird portraits and images that portray bird behavior. We are also looking for photographs that depict the many habitats in which you can find both landbirds and waterbirds in the bay area. Photographers interested in submitting images or learning more about this opportunity should contact Stephanie Ellis at outreach@sfbbo.org for details.

Please note: By submitting photos, you have granted permission to the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory to use the photographs for use or distribution on the Bird Observatory's website or other electronic form, printed materials, and other media for purpose of outreach and promotion of the Bird Observatory.

PHOTO BY KEN PHENICIE

FIELD LOG *continued from page 5*

stations, I use my falcons to discourage gulls from forming kettles which can be hazardous to air traffic. Kettles refer to birds circling in the air while rising on thermals.

SE: How do you train your abatement falcons?

SV: The falcons feather out within 4-5 weeks and they begin flying around that time. To train them, I use a "hacking" method. I let the young falcons sit out on the top of my truck. Soon they start flapping their wings and I begin throwing pieces of food to them. Eventually, they start to take short flights and establish the area as part of their territory.

Abatement falcons are trained to disperse their prey. They are trained to expect a lure as food and therefore do not kill their prey. All of my birds are banded and are trained for abatement in different areas.

SE: Have your abatement methods been successful? Should abatement continue long-term?

SV: Before this abatement program began in December of 2007, I estimate that between 8,000 -10,000 gulls were visiting Ox Mountain to feed and roost. I would say that less than 1,000 gulls are currently visiting the landfill. Certain species have dispersed to breed on the coastally so the numbers of gulls will fluctuate between seasons. Overall, there has been a large decrease in gulls visiting the landfill since abatement began.

Recycling stations are increasing. Recycling will continue

and there will be less landfill. Waste management is evolving well. Abatement is a method of operant conditioning (the use of consequences to modify the occurrence and form of behavior). Gulls are true survivors. They are incredibly adaptive. With the continuation of abatement in the same areas over time, each generation of gulls that visit the landfill will decrease. By using this predator-prey instinctual resolve, we create a buffer zone.

Interview by Stephanie Ellis, the Outreach and Programs Coordinator for the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory.



STEVE VASCONCELLOS (left) with the Ox Mountain abatement crew.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL KERN

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



We thank the new and returning Members of the Bird Observatory, January 2007 — March 2008.

PARTNER

Barry and Virginia Langdon-Lassagne

\$500-\$999

Donald Lewis

SPONSOR

Bob and Irene Brown

\$250-\$499

Liz and Bob Bathgate, Lee Harnett, James Heckenbach, Shirley Wodtke

SUSTAINER

Charles and Joan Coston, Carl and Shirley Larson, Peter and Sue LaTourrette, Sandy and Steve Moore, Monet Thomson

\$100-\$249

Marilynn Gallaway, Mary Ellen White

CONTRIBUTOR

Sabine Axt, Laurie Bechtler, Eleanor Briccetti, Deborah Brusco, Steve and Natalie Chapman, Doug and Gail Cheeseman, William Danielson, William Espey, Andrea Eyring, Richard and Terry Horrigan, Steve Huckabone, Peter Humphrey, Dorothy Irving, Gerald and Rosette Koch, Susan Kritzik, Michael and Carolyn Kulakofsky, Bill Lafayette, Larry and Judie Manning, Robert May, Mark Miller, John Moore, Dolores Morrison, Whitney Mortimer, Helen Sowers, Thomas Olson, Bob Richmond, Marguerite Ryan, David Sexton, Elinor Spellman, Richard Stovel, Bill Walker, Anna Wilcox, Virginia and Riley Willcox, Julie Winter, Nick and Kathleen Yatsko

FRIEND

Douglas and Maren Bell, William Bilobran, Edith Black, David Burnham, Luke Cole, Theodore and Catherine Dolton, Peggy Don, Alan Eisner, Arleen Feng, Bingham Gibbs, John Harris, Roger Harris, Gail and Ivar Highberg, Lee Hung, Deborah Jamison, Kathryn Kersey, Helena

Kirkwood, Sheila Leach, Robin Leong, William Lidicker, Jr., Ronald and Barbara McDow, Dena Mossar, Vicki Ortiz, Diane Piagneri, Edy and Bill Pounders, David Quady, Corina and Troy Rahmig, Michael and Alma Kali Rogers, Barbara Sickinger, Kendric and Marion Smith, Gayle and Scott Spencer, Don Starks, Madeleine Stovel, Helen Tashjian, Martha Toppin, Ann Verdi, Meg Withgott, Sherri and Jack Wood, Lou and Jean Young

BASIC

Kendra Armer, Michael Armer, Nancy Atkinson, Randy Arnold, Stella Batha, Robert and Marion Blau, William Bousman, Karin Bredfeldt, David Brown, Eugenia and Peter Caldwell, Andrew Campbell, Art Carey, Brian Carr, Richard Casserley, Peter Cocotas, Irene Contreras, Judy Davis, Tom Driscoll, John P. Eells, Gerry Ellis, Lorrie and Ron Emery, Francis Estrand, Jean D. Fiske, Ronald Fredrick, Jeanne Gary, Mary Gerber, Nancy and Herbert Greenfield, Theresa Grieve, Janet and Jay Hanson, Anne Harrington, Hugh and Rosita Harvey, Grace Hattori, Ann Hepenstal, Caralisa Hughes, Amy Hutzell, Andrea Juth, Denise Kato, Katie Kirchner Henry, Jack and Jan Knecht, Martha Kudlacik, Linda Landucci, David Lewis, Donald Lorenzen, Patricia Lynch, James Martin, Kristy McCumby, Barbara McLaughlin, Ferne Merrill, Thomas Moutoux, Dan and Joan Murphy, Bess Nericcio, Julie and Dora O'Brien, Peter Ohara, Richard Pavek, Jeffrey and Anne Pearl, Patricia Polentz, Mary Lou Ramsey, D.D.S., Gayle Reynolds, Donna Riley, Claire Rittenhouse, Cindy Roessler, Annamarie Rosengreen, Janice Ross, Jennifer Rycenga, Mary Schaefer, Jack Shoemaker, David Shuford, Sheila Sousa, Geetha Srikantan, Donald Steffen, Karlene and Terry Stoker, Emilie Strauss, Theresa Sweeney, Nancy Teater, Bracey and Richard Tiede, Sara Timby, Ruth and Gene Troetschler, Mario Veltri, Dale Wannan, Wendy Weikel

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jennifer Krauel, *President*
Lisa Myers, *Vice President*
Kim Wells, Ph.D., *Secretary*
Patricia Rouzer, *Treasurer*
Dave Johnston Ph.D.
James Norman, Ph.D.

INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Debbie Wu

OUTREACH AND PROGRAMS COORDINATOR

Stephanie Ellis

WATERBIRD PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Danielle Le Fer, Ph.D.

INTERIM LANDBIRD PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Sherry Hudson

COYOTE CREEK FIELD STATION MANAGER

Gina Barton

BIOLOGISTS

Alvaro Jaramillo, Caitlin Robinson,
Carley Schacter, Sam Scott

FIELD ASSISTANTS

Sidra Aslanian, Jocelyn Davidson,
Michael Mammoser

FINANCE ASSISTANT

Gail Richardson

MEMBERSHIP MANAGER

Sandy Moore (volunteer)

LIBRARIAN

Va Landschoot (volunteer)

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

Design by Alterpop, San Francisco.

Layout by e.g. communications.

Printed on recycled paper by Alonzo Printing.

Copyright 2008

San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory

We Have a New Truck!



We have some exciting news to share! We have just received a slightly used truck donated by PG&E. Upon delivery we were excited to learn the truck runs on either gasoline and natural gas. In fact, PG&E was very eager to provide the Bird Observatory with one of their used Ford F150 trucks. This truck no longer needed by PG&E arrives at a very important time for the observatory as the truck currently being used by the staff has been having mechanical difficulties. The biologists warmly welcome this gift as reliable transportation is vital in order to get out to the various remote habitats where bird populations are studied on a daily basis. The next time you are out birding keep an eye out for one of our biologists driving around in this newly gifted truck and take a moment to thank PG&E for their generous contribution to the avian world.

.....
by Lisa Myers, Vice President, Board of Directors

Calendar

Sat. June 14, 8:30-10:30 a.m.

Sat. July 12, 8:30-10:30 a.m.

RSVP 

A BIRD IN THE HAND

SITE: COYOTE CREEK FIELD STATION, MILPITAS

Visit the Bird Observatory's field station and experience conservation science in action. Attendees will learn about our bird banding research and have the opportunity to see several different species up close and personal! We will tour mist nets, watch a bird banding demonstration and explore a restored riparian habitat. Join us and learn how bird banding is important for protecting birds and their habitats. We will meet at the Borders bookstore parking lot in McCarthy Ranch, Milpitas. In the event of rain, the tour is cancelled. To view our monthly bird banding report please visit www.sfbbo.org/science/update.php



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



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



SPECIAL EVENT



VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY

Sat. July 19, 8:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

RSVP 

BIRDING BEAR CREEK REDWOODS

SITE: BEAR CREEK REDWOODS OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

Avoid the "summer doldrums" in this permit-only preserve less than 15 minutes from downtown Los Gatos.

Bear Creek Redwoods is a gem in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Join Mid-Pen Regional Open Space District docents Jan Hintermeister and Kay Partelow and Big Basin Redwoods State Park docent Karen DeMello for an exploration of this beautiful site. This 2-1/2 mile walk begins with history as we pass by the remnants of Alma College, a former Jesuit Seminary. We'll then look for butterflies in the meadows, dragonflies at the ponds, and (of course) birds along the way. RSVP for meeting location and directions. Maximum participants 15.

Sat. August 23, 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

RSVP 

THE SNOWY PLOVERS OF THE EAST BAY

SITE: EDEN LANDING ECOLOGICAL PRESERVE, HAYWARD

Eden Landing is a complex of salt pond habitat that is part of the Salt Pond Restoration Project. Over 600 acres of wetland will be restored as part of this project. Explore the reserve with Bird Observatory biologist Caitlin Robinson who has been studying Snowy Plovers that nest on the dry salt ponds at the preserve. Caitlin will discuss land management techniques that can enhance salt pond habitat for plovers. Learn about our new Snowy Plover banding project while you search for other birds and animals that share this incredible salt pond habitat. Maximum participants 10.

WORKSHOPS FOR THE BIRDER AND NATURALIST

with Alvaro Jaramillo

SITE: SOBRATO CENTER FOR NONPROFITS, MILPITAS

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

Sign up for our upcoming **Shorebirds & Migration Workshop**. Classroom dates are August 6 and 8 from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. Field trip is tentatively scheduled for August 9.

Cost per workshop is \$150 and space is limited. For course description and registration, call 408.946.6548 ext. 12 or go to www.sfbbo.org/activities/workshops.php



SAN FRANCISCO BAY
BIRD OBSERVATORY

524 Valley Way
Milpitas, CA 95035

www.sfbbo.org

Return service requested

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ALVISO, CA
PERMIT #9