

# THE GULL

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY



FOUNDED 1917



Tom Grey/www.tgreybirds.com

*Black-headed Grosbeak, one of many species that migrates through the Bay Area at night and risks colliding with illuminated skyscrapers and other structures.*

## Lights Out Programs Protect Nighttime Migrants

For bird species that migrate at night, tall well-lit structures such as skyscrapers and communication towers pose real risks of death and injury because many species rely on the stars and the moon to navigate and can be lured off course by bright, artificial lights. Storms, high winds, and fogs can push migrating birds to lower altitudes, where the lights of the city are even more attractive and dangerous. Throughout the United States, observers have recorded hundreds of birds dying as a result of collisions with lighthouses, communication towers, skyscrapers, and other tall, artificial structures in a single night.

In an effort to reduce nighttime collisions in San Francisco, Golden Gate Audubon has partnered with the City of San Francisco and the Pacific Gas and Electric Company to promote the Lights Out San Francisco program. Participants in the program turn off unnecessary interior lights and draw blinds on windows in rooms where lights are necessary. While energy conservation is always a good idea, the Lights Out program focuses on the spring and autumn bird migration seasons, from February 15 to May 1 and August 15 to November 30 of each year.

More than 250 species of birds migrate through San Francisco each year, many at night. Although it is easy for some to dismiss a collision here and there as hav-

**LIGHTS OUT** continued on page 4

## Birding Adventures with GGAS

When Golden Gate Audubon launched a travel program in 2006, the Big Trips, as they were then called, started out big, with three offerings—to Panama, to the Dominican Republic, and to Manitoba, Canada. In the five years since, birders have enjoyed opportunities to explore Honduras, Ecuador, Belize, and Botswana, as well as top birding hotspots in the United States.

Many respected companies organize trips to the same destinations. So why consider a Golden Gate Audubon trip? Travel with Golden Gate Audubon, as the program is now called, makes a special effort to seek out seasoned guides with in-depth knowledge of each area's birdlife and natural history. Itineraries are chosen not only to maximize the number and diversity of species seen and to introduce birders to prime habitats but often to include cultural features such as archaeological sites. Each trip limits the number of participants, to guarantee a quality experience. A modest percentage of the fee for every trip is a tax-deductible contribution to Golden Gate Audubon. These contributions add up to provide valuable support for our conservation and education programs.

As Chris Bard, GGAS Travel Coordinator, notes, "Destinations, guides, and companies are selected from recommendations by Golden Gate Audubon members. Our 2012 trips offer wonderful birding experiences in very desir-

**BIRDING ADVENTURES** continued on page 12



**INSIDE**

- 3** Orange County Hotspots
- 8** Birding SF Bay by Boat
- 8** Fall Classes

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The Golden Gate Audubon Society was founded January 25, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948. Golden Gate Audubon Supporting Membership is \$35 per year. Renewals should be sent to the Golden Gate Audubon office. The board of directors meets six times per year (schedule can be obtained from the main office).

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For Nature Store hours, please call or check the website.

Design and layout: e.g. communications

# Hybrid Before Hybrid Was Cool

I was reminded at the recent dedication of the art installation in Berkeley's Cesar Chavez Park that Golden Gate Audubon is unique among Audubon chapters. We are powered by human "hybrid energy."

Not only are we the largest of California's 49 Audubon chapters, but we are one of only two Bay Area chapters (out of nine) that has professional staff. I believe that Golden Gate Audubon's power and effectiveness come from the hybrid of staff and volunteers—currently eight staff members and about 1,500 volunteers—working independently and together.

Golden Gate Audubon was founded in 1917 by a small group of passionate birders, and for most of our history, we were like many other chapters, largely volunteer run. Around the early 1990s, as our programs and mission grew along with our membership, we relied increasingly on a few highly skilled professionals who took the lead on large-scale, sustained campaigns. These included establishing our successful Eco-Education Program and taking legal action to modify Orinda's Gateway development, to increase protected habitat at Arrowhead Marsh, and to hold wind-generating companies and government accountable for bird deaths at Altamont Pass.

At this point, some might incorrectly assume that, as our staff has grown, our need for volunteers has declined. Nothing could be further from the truth. Eight staff cannot begin to do what 1,500 volunteers can. We are an integrated team, with volunteers working side by side with staff on many projects and taking the lead on others. Joint projects include:

- Volunteer Della Dash found out about a 2009 plan to build a sculpture on the site where Western Burrowing Owls winter at Cesar Chavez Park in Berkeley. She and former GGAS Chief Operating Officer Kevin Consey took the initiative to contact the funder and the city to educate them about the importance of this habitat, and then sat on the committee that chose the eventual design. The result is the integrated artwork and fence that now defines and protects the owl habitat. Della and the East Bay Conservation Committee, with the support of GGAS Conservation Director Mike Lynes and Volunteer Coordinator Jennifer Robinson, also created the Burrowing Owl Docent Program beginning in late 2008, one of our most successful volunteer programs (see page 4).
- In San Francisco, volunteers, led by Matt Zlatunich, began monitoring Western Snowy Plover populations at the Crissy Field Wildlife Protection Area in 2005, and in 2010, Matt drafted a very detailed report that will help Golden Gate Recreation Area managers develop plans for protecting the plovers. Conservation Director Mike Lynes, who is a bird biologist and attorney, worked closely with Matt on this important report.
- In May, Golden Gate Audubon completed a promotional video for our award-winning Eco-Education Program, funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. In it, you will see volunteers Audre Newman and LaKisha Mitchell-Mellor working alongside GGAS Education Director Anthony DeCicco, teaching environmental stewardship principles to young students. You can watch this inspiring video at [www.goldengateaudubon.org/education/eco-education-programs](http://www.goldengateaudubon.org/education/eco-education-programs).

As is our tradition, volunteers have also continued to lead their own projects with support from staff: serving on the board of directors, teaching in classrooms, leading field trips, performing bird census counts, participating in the Christmas Bird Count and Winter Bird Count for Kids, and working on our conservation committees.

Here's my call to action: as a volunteer or member, you are the foundation of Golden Gate Audubon. Our staff is here to help you and also needs your help—and so do the birds. Whether you are a long-time volunteer or you have just joined, please contribute today in whatever way you can. Golden Gate Audubon's hybrid power, and success, comes from volunteers and staff working together as a team.



—Mark Welther, Executive Director

# GGAS Birders Head to Orange County Hotspots

We hatched this June 4–5 expedition to Orange County with twin goals: to introduce Bay Area birders to productive locales in Orange County and to find species difficult or impossible to come by in Northern California. The multiple locations we visited were scouted in mid-May with the invaluable help of John Heussentamann—a devoted birder and local guitar legend.

## SATURDAY, JUNE 4

San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary, managed by Sea and Sage Audubon, is a 300-acre wetland and riparian gem surrounded by Irvine's urban high rises. This natural wetland is greatly enhanced by outflow from a wastewater treatment plant and an army of volunteers who maintain an almost alien-free plant community. We walked level gravel paths around numerous reed beds, ponds with baby American Avocets and Pied-billed Grebes, and riparian groves of willow and cottonwood. A pair of Ospreys was easily visible, and their chicks peeked over the nesting platform. We were surrounded by calling Yellow-breasted Chats and Least Bell's Vireos, and—perhaps just as impressive—singing Yellow Warblers. This is one of two destinations that proved conclusively that Brown-headed Cowbird trapping can result in chat, Bell's vireo, and Yellow Warbler colonization in the lowlands of California—something many California naturalists thought would never happen. Midway through the walk, our group was treated to a Yellow-breasted Chat “butterfly flight” courtship display. Although we covered much of the marsh, several paths were unavailable because a local bobcat had produced her fourth annual litter in the reserve.

A short drive down Highway 73 brought us to Aliso and Wood Canyons Park, a 3,900-acre open space in the Laguna Hills. We walked a paved path along the dense creekside riparian woods, which stayed remarkably birdy given the time of day. Everyone got good looks at—and heard the loud singing of—Least Bell's Vireo, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Yellow Warbler. We found Western and Cassin's Kingbirds,

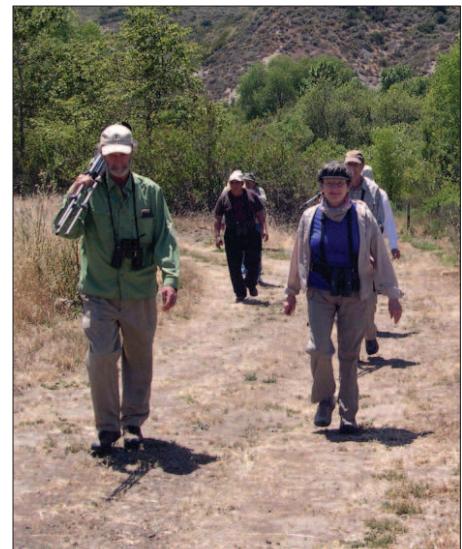
Black-headed and Blue Grosbeaks, and a Barn Owl plus owlets in an owl box. On our way to view the local cowbird trap (a significant contributor to the nesting success of Bell's vireo), we watched a stalking Greater Roadrunner and located an active Blue Grosbeak nest. Vivid ctenuchid moths—with electric blue abdomens and bright red thoraxes—fed on small blossoms. And we kept a respectful distance from the three-foot Western Rattlesnake that decided to cross our path. Steep chaparral-covered hillsides were patched orange with monkey flower.

Our last, short stop was James Dilley Preserve, part of the 7,000-acre Laguna Coast Wilderness. We did just 20 minutes of what could have been a day's hike, but were rewarded with fine studies of Phainopepla and Cassin's Kingbird.

## SUNDAY, JUNE 5

Crystal Cove State Park extends a wonderful three miles along sea cliffs north of Laguna Beach and is covered by the increasingly scarce coastal sage scrub plant community—a habitat that hosts California Gnatcatcher. June is a quiet time for these birds, and it took two stops, but eventually everyone had great looks at male and female gnatcatchers. Alert California Quail escorted eight chicks around the parking lot perimeter, a pair of Wrentits patrolled the shrubs, and Say's Phoebe fledglings had left their restroom-ledge nest to forage nearby. A California Thrasher dashed past our feet.

A few miles north along Highway 1 brought us to Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, a place that every California birder should experience, especially during June-July tern and skimmer nesting season. Bolsa Chica has by far the largest and most diverse tern colony in California. Pairs of Elegant



Steve Lombardi

Rusty Scalf and other GGAS birders at Aliso and Wood Canyons Park.

Terns number in the high hundreds. Caspian, Forster's, Least, and a few Royal Terns nest here as well. We were lucky enough to see all five species. Peak activity is probably later in June and early July, when hundreds of baby terns are screaming for meals. As it was, the tern island was a roiling mass of white birds feeding hatched young, with birds too numerous to count apparently incubating. Least Terns and Snowy Plovers nest together in a sandy expanse, easily viewed from the trail (through a fence). On the bridge, foraging Forster's Terns fly by at literally hat level while Black Skimmers periodically glide over the lagoon.

Bolsa Chica has been saved much as Mono Lake was saved, after a 20-year battle by committed local conservationists. Now we should all enjoy their hard-won victory. And add Orange County to our list of birding hotspots.

—Rusty Scalf, Carol Lombardi,  
and Steve Lombardi

GGAS field trip leaders like Rusty, Carol, and Steve regularly plan and lead multiday trips outside the immediate Bay Area. Destinations include Yosemite National Park, Mono Lake and the eastern Sierra, Lassen Volcanic National Park, and Sacramento Valley (see page 8), as well as the American River Trail by bike. Because the leaders generously volunteer their time and the participants make their own travel arrangements, the costs are reasonable. And thanks to the knowledge and expertise of GGAS leaders, participants are guaranteed a top-notch experience.



# CONSERVATION CORNER

## INSTALLATION FINISHED IN TIME FOR OWLS' ARRIVAL

Completion of the Burrowing Owl art installation at the Berkeley Marina was celebrated with a dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony on July 14. Honors were done by Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates and Open Circle Foundation donor Dorothy Weicker.

For the past two years, Golden Gate Audubon has worked diligently to ensure that the installation will not disturb the small population of Western Burrowing Owls that arrive each September and depart the following April. Throughout this process, GGAS collaborated closely with the Berkeley Waterfront Commission and staff and the Berkeley Civic Arts Commission. For each of the past two years, a dedicated group of GGAS docents put in approximately 150 hours of observation and public education, speaking to more than a thousand visitors. The number of overwintering owls each year remains between four and six birds, with additional owls possibly using the Berkeley Meadow. We hope to survey the meadow this winter.

The next Burrowing Owl docent training

will be held on September 10, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Preregistration is required. To sign up for the training, e-mail [volunteer@goldengateaudubon.org](mailto:volunteer@goldengateaudubon.org).

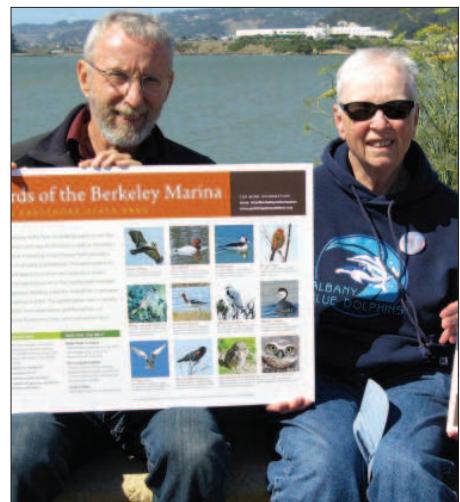
## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE SF AND OAKLAND CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

You don't want to miss participating in the upcoming Christmas Bird Counts, so note these dates in your calendar! The Oakland Christmas Bird Count will be held on Sunday, December 18. The San Francisco count is scheduled for Tuesday, December 27. Details about the counts and how to sign up for both the counts and the celebratory dinners will appear in the November/December *Gull*.

## HELP RESTORE BIRD HABITAT

We invite you to join workdays at our restoration sites. For site details and directions, please go to [www.goldengateaudubon.org/volunteer](http://www.goldengateaudubon.org/volunteer). Two workdays take place on Coastal Cleanup Day, September 17.

- Alameda Wildlife Refuge, Alameda: September 11, October 9, 9 a.m. – noon.



Della Dash

GGAS docents Doug Donaldson and Catherine Syversen at the dedication of the artwork at the Berkeley Marina, holding new signage for the park.

- Pier 94, San Francisco: September 3 and 17, October 1, 9 a.m. – noon.
- Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline, Oakland: September 17, October 15, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Golden Gate Park Bison Paddock, San Francisco: September 17, October 15, 9 a.m. – noon (with SF Recreation and Parks).

## LIGHTS OUT from page 1

ing a minimal impact on these populations, there's no denying that in the aggregate these collisions pose significant risks to birds. Overall, collisions kill more than 1 billion birds in North America each year. Given other pressures on birds—including loss of habitat and outdoor cats (which also kill more than 1 billion birds each year)—collisions are just another threat to maintaining viable bird populations.

We already know that turning off lights saves birds. In Chicago, once lights were extinguished at a single building, nighttime mortality from collisions at the site dropped more than 80 percent, from approximately 1,300 to fewer than 200 birds. A study of a wind farm in West Virginia found that 23 birds were killed in a single night by a substation. After lights were extinguished on

the turbines, no further nighttime fatalities were recorded at the substation.

Lights Out San Francisco is modeled on other successful programs in Toronto and Chicago, where nighttime collisions can kill hundreds of birds in a single night. In those cities, building owners and operators have participated in large numbers. Participants also see financial benefits, with at least one building owner in Toronto reporting that turning off unnecessary lights saved approximately \$200,000 in a single year. Moreover, energy conservation reduces demand for electricity and energy production that produces greenhouse gases, which contribute to air pollution and climate change.

Lights Out is a part of Golden Gate Audubon's larger effort to reduce the risks of collisions to birds in the Bay Area. The

program has been included in the proposed "Bird Safe Building Standards for San Francisco," which aim to reduce risks of collisions from plate glass windows, especially near sensitive wildlife areas. In 2010, we initiated the program in Oakland and are working to expand it throughout the Bay Area.

Golden Gate Audubon encourages all members and supporters to educate the business owners and managers in their places of work about the Lights Out program. Homeowners and apartment dwellers can do their part by turning off unnecessary lights and drawing their shades. For more information, please visit our Lights Out for Birds page at [www.goldengateaudubon.org/conservation/make-the-city-safe-for-wildlife/learn-about-lights-out-san-francisco](http://www.goldengateaudubon.org/conservation/make-the-city-safe-for-wildlife/learn-about-lights-out-san-francisco).

—Mike Lynes, Conservation Director



# SPEAKER SERIES

## The Mystery of Birdsong

David Lukas

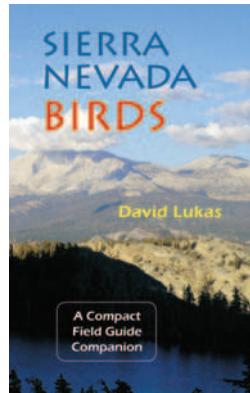
Berkeley: Thursday, September 15—7 p.m. refreshments, 7:30 program (free for GGAS members, \$5 nonmembers)

Have you ever wondered how birds learn to sing such beautiful songs? And why they produce so many different types of vocalizations? David Lukas will help answer some of these questions and share his insights into the magical world of birdsong. We'll learn about how birds produce sounds and the ways that scientists study the vocalizations of birds as diverse as Marsh Wrens and thrushes. Then, with these tools, we can explore the variety of social behaviors that explain common bird vocalizations, including how adult birds teach their chicks to sing and how birds divide up their territories with different kinds of songs. This program will forever change the way you think about birdsong.

David Lukas is a freelance naturalist and the author of five books, including *Sierra Nevada Natural History* and *Wild Birds of California*. Born in Oregon, he has been living in the Sierra Nevada and leading bird programs in California for nearly 20 years. His newest book, *Sierra Nevada Birds*, is the first comprehensive guide to the status, life history, and distribution of all the birds that occur in the Sierra Nevada ([www.lukasguides.com](http://www.lukasguides.com)).

**Berkeley Speaker Series:** Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda (between Solano and Marin).

Directions: [www.northbrae.org/directions.htm](http://www.northbrae.org/directions.htm).



## The Private Lives of Sandhill Cranes

Paul Tebbel

San Francisco: Thursday, October 20—7 p.m. refreshments, 7:30 program (free for GGAS members, \$5 nonmembers)

Every winter, these large, long-legged birds occupy the fields and marshes south of Sacramento, providing great opportunities for nature enthusiasts to view them. But what do you watch for? Join crane biologist Paul Tebbel as he tells you all about these fascinating birds and describes how to identify and appreciate the verbal and body signals cranes send to one another. You'll learn to recognize juveniles, tell subspecies apart, and distinguish between dancing and aggression. The presentation features a video of cranes showing the behaviors up close, with Paul acting as narrator.

Paul Tebbel, executive director of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center on the Lower American River in Sacramento, did his first research on Sandhill Cranes in 1976 in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. From 1995 to 2006, he was the manager of National Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary on the Platte River in southern Nebraska. Nearly 750,000 cranes use the Platte every spring, and Rowe Sanctuary often contains more than 65,000 birds every night. In 2000, Paul and another "craniac" started giving crane behavior seminars at the Festival of the Cranes at the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge in New Mexico. November 2011 will be the 12th year of this workshop, and Paul is bringing a similar seminar to the Sandhill Crane Festival in Lodi in early November.

**San Francisco Speaker Series:** First Unitarian Universalist Church and Center, 1187 Franklin Street at Geary. Visit [www.uusf.org/visitors\\_faq.html](http://www.uusf.org/visitors_faq.html), and use the Map It! link on the left for directions. Public transit, street parking, and parking in a lot for a fee are available.



Paul Tebbel.

## A Big Thank-You to Guido Berguido

Golden Gate Audubon is grateful to Guido Berguido and his company, Advantage Tours Panama, for their sponsorship of Birdathon 2011. Because of Guido's generosity, at the Birdathon dinner we were able to auction a spot on the GGAS/Latin America Committee birding trip to Panama in June, resulting in a significant donation to Golden Gate Audubon. Advantage Tours Panama offers a variety of birding, tropical nature, and Panamanian cultural tours led by expert bilingual guides. More information can be found at [www.advantagepanama.com](http://www.advantagepanama.com).

## Golden Gate Audubon's Wish List

We are seeking generous donations of the following items for the office and for our restoration workdays. Contact Stephanie Strait, Office Manager, 510.843.2222.

- Business teleconferencing unit
- LCD projector with or without bulb
- Twine to bundle weeds
- Kid-size garden gloves
- Folding card table

## Choose the Gull Online

Join other Golden Gate Audubon members who are downloading our newsletter from our website rather than receiving it in the mail. You will help save paper and reduce our expenses for printing and mailing. Best of all, the photographs in the online version of the *Gull* are in color. As each issue is published, we will e-mail you a link. To choose the *Gull* online, e-mail [ggas@goldengateaudubon.org](mailto:ggas@goldengateaudubon.org) or call 510.843.2222.



# FIELD TRIPS

\$	Entrance fee
	Biking trip

Field trips are open to birders of all ages and levels of experience. To ensure the safety and enjoyment of participants, dogs are not allowed on trips. There are no exceptions to this policy unless expressly stated in the field trip announcement. For questions about individual field trips, contact the leaders. For updates to the trips, go to [www.golden-gateaudubon.org](http://www.golden-gateaudubon.org).

## Jewel Lake

Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley

Fridays, September 2, October 7,

8:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Phila Rogers, Coordinator, 510.848.9156,  
philajane6@yahoo.com

Monthly first Friday trips at Tilden continue. Meet at the parking lot at the north end of Central Park Dr. for a 1-mile stroll through this lush riparian area. In September, fall is coming, and we will look for migrants. In October, we'll welcome returning winter migrants. Heavy rain cancels.

## Butterfly Walk

UC Botanical Garden, Berkeley

Saturday, September 3, 3 p.m.

Sal Levinson, sal.levinson@gmail.com  
After meeting inside the garden entrance, we will walk through the garden in search of host plants to such butterflies as skippers, buckeyes, blues, pipevine swallowtail, and mylitta crescent. Bring binoculars (close focusing are best) and a field guide if you have one. Rain cancels. Carpooling recommended as parking is limited. The garden charges a fee to non-members. Please RSVP to the leader if you plan to attend. \$

## San Francisco Botanical Garden

Sundays, September 4, October 2,

8 – 10:30 a.m.

Ginny Marshall, ginnybirder@sbcglobal.net; Dominik Mosur, polskatata@yahoo.com; Alan Ridley, alanrid@pacbell.net; Helen McKenna, 415.566.3241 (Leaders vary by month.)

Meet at the front gate of the garden in Golden Gate Park, 9th Ave. at Lincoln Way. The garden has several micro-habitats that attract an array of resident, migrant, and vagrant birds. This monthly trip is oriented toward helping beginning

birders develop their skills in spotting and identifying birds. The garden charges \$7/person if you are not an SF resident or garden member. Bring identification for residency and membership status.

## Coastal San Francisco

Saturday, September 10

Dan Murphy, murphsf@yahoo.com

Meet at 8 a.m. in the parking lot between South Lake and Middle Lake in Golden Gate Park. The lot is just past the second stop sign on Chain-of-Lakes Dr. from the intersection of 41st and Lincoln. From Kennedy Dr., turn left at Chain-of-Lakes Dr., and drive just past the lake to the left. We will bird the Chain-of-Lakes, then drive to Lands End, Lake Merced, and other western San Francisco birding spots in a search for early fall migrants. In the past we have seen a large variety of migrating flycatchers, vireos, warblers, sparrows, and finches. We may see early hawk migration as well. We plan to end the day between 2 and 3 p.m. at Lake Merced. Wear layers for variable coastal weather. Bring lunch and liquids. We will not finish the trip where we start, so make carpool arrangements with that in mind.

## Birds of the Bay

San Francisco

Sundays, September 11, October 9,

October 30, 10 a.m.

Carol Kiser, carol\_kiser@nps.gov, 415.447.5000

This walk for children and beginners starts with a brief orientation in the use of binoculars and field guides. Then we will spend an hour or so looking for resident and migrating birds. Meet at entrance to Hyde Street Pier at Hyde and Jefferson on the western border of Fisherman's Wharf. Bring books and binoculars if you have

them. A hat and layers of clothing are recommended. Nearby parking is at the foot of Van Ness Ave. (free for 4 hours), Ghirardelli Square, and the Anchorage.

## Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline

Oakland

Wednesdays, September 14,

October 12, 9 – 11:30 a.m.

Gary and Chris Bard, chrisbard@earthlink.net, 510.301.2987

The shoreline offers excellent views of shorebirds, waders, and dabblers. The shoreline's Arrowhead Marsh is the home of numerous Clapper Rails. In winter, large rafts of scaup and goldeneye float offshore. Occasionally, raptors soar overhead. The walking is on flat ground. Please bring a scope if you have one. Dress in layers. Rain cancels. Restroom is available near parking lot.

From I-880 south in Oakland, exit at Hegenberger Rd. Turn right onto Hegenberger, continue .7 mile across a small bridge over a channel, and turn right on Pardee Dr. Continue to Swan Way and turn left, then turn right into the park. Meet at parking lot at end of road.

## Corona Heights

San Francisco

Fridays, September 16, October 21,

8 – 10 a.m.

Charles Hibbard; Brian Fitch; Dominik Mosur, polskatata@yahoo.com (Leaders vary by month.)

Meet in front of the Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way, at the end of Museum Way off Roosevelt. We will enjoy views of the city and bay as we circle Corona Heights, checking the east canyon woodland and north forest for residents and migrants, as well as monitoring the hilltop scrub and south cliff.

## Las Gallinas and McNear Brickyard

Marin County

Sunday, September 18, 4 p.m. – dark

Rusty Scalf, rscalf@sonic.net,

510.666.9936; Steve and Carol Lombardi,

hot-rock@sbcglobal.net, 925.785.0130

First stop: Las Gallinas wastewater plant, an excellent place for close observation of shorebirds, ducks, and land birds of open fields. The occasional Green Heron or Burrowing Owl has made an appearance. Second stop: McNear Brickyard on Point San Pedro Rd. Last fall McNear was the sight of a large staging of migratory Vaux's Swifts. Leaders will undertake a swift count as part of a three-state Vaux's Swift census project. Sign up to carpool for this field trip from San Francisco and the East Bay.

## Millbrae–Foster City

San Mateo County

Sunday, September 25

Kathy Jarrett, 510.547.1233,  
kathy\_jarrett@yahoo.com

Meet at the Millbrae BART station at 9:15 a.m. East Bay BART riders passing through MacArthur BART at 8:15 will take the train for SFO/Millbrae. The trip will follow the SF Bay Trail from Millbrae to Foster City (about 7 miles) and continue around Foster City (about 6.5 miles). The generally flat route is mostly paved, on bike lanes and city streets. Return will be from the Belmont Caltrain station. Caltrain is on an hourly schedule on weekends; it departs Belmont at 1:48 p.m. and arrives in Millbrae at 2:08. Bring lunch and liquids. Bicycle helmet required. Reservations not necessary but an e-mail or phone call would be appreciated. Rain cancels.

To reach Millbrae BART by car, from San Francisco, follow US 101 south for about 12 miles. Take exit 420 for Millbrae Ave, turn right at E. Millbrae Ave., and then right at N. Rollins Rd. to parking lot.

## Lake Merritt and Lakeside Park

Oakland, Alameda County

Wednesdays, September 28,

October 26, 9:30 a.m. – noon

Hilary Powers, 510.834.1066,  
hilary@powersedit.com; Ruth Tobey,  
510.528.2093, ruthtobey@gmail.com

Meet at the large spherical cage near the Nature Center at Perkins and Bellevue. We will bird around there, then go up the garden path toward Children's Fairyland or walk down the lake toward Embarcadero, after which we will cover what we missed. With luck, the first of the fall

migrants will be here in September, and they'll certainly be out in force in October. Let's hope the Barrow's Goldeneyes are on time for their October arrival. Take the 12, N, or NL bus to Grand and Perkins, and walk into the park on Perkins. Best parking is at boathouse lot near spherical cage. Entry, via Bellevue near Children's Fairyland, is probably free on weekday mornings, but if the kiosk is occupied when you arrive, buy a \$2 (two-hour) ticket and park in the boathouse lot, where no one checks how long cars sit.

## Hayward Regional Shoreline

Alameda County

Saturday, October 15, 8:30 a.m.

Rusty Scalf, rscalf@sonic.net,  
510.666.9936; Steve and Carol Lombardi,  
hot-rock@sbcglobal.net, 925.785.0130

Meet at the East Bay Regional Park District parking lot at the end of Winton Ave. in Hayward, where we will leave some of our cars. Those who leave cars will ride with others to the end of Grant Ave. in San Leandro (a short, easy drive; maps will be provided). We will hike from the end of Grant to the end of Winton along the SF Bay Trail, a distance of about 2 miles, looking for shorebirds, waterfowl, raptors, and birds of the open water and open fields. No sign-up limit, but please e-mail Rusty if you plan to attend.

## Mines Road

Alameda and Santa Clara Counties

Saturday, October 22, 8:30 a.m.

Steve and Carol Lombardi,  
hot-rock@sbcglobal.net, 925.785.0130;  
Rich Cimino

Mines is an isolated road that runs through varied habitat from Livermore through the mountains of Alameda and Santa Clara. On this all-day trip, we might see Phainopepla, Greater Roadrunner, Lawrence's Goldfinch, and Lewis's Woodpecker, along with the usual oak woodland and scrub species. The road is narrow and turnouts are short, so the trip is limited to 20 participants. Carpooling will be mandatory. It will be dangerous if we caravan with more than five cars. Depending on timing, we may elect to continue down Del Puerto Canyon Rd. to its junction with I-5. We would then return to Livermore on the freeway. Contact the leaders to sign up. Details about the meeting place will be provided to confirmed participants.

Pack a lunch, water, and snacks. There are no services (including restrooms) on Mines Rd. unless the Junction Cafe is open, which is not dependable. Plan on being self-sufficient. A good resource for Mines Rd. is Art Edwards's annotated check list, available on Joe Morlan's website: <http://fog.ccsf.cc.ca.us/~jmoran/ala1.htm>.

## Richmond Landfill Loop

Contra Costa County

Sunday, October 23

Kathy Jarrett, 510.547.1233,  
kathy\_jarrett@yahoo.com

Meet at 8:35 a.m. at El Cerrito Del Norte BART station or at 9 on the SF Bay Trail near the end of S. 51st St. in Richmond or 10:30 at the parking for the Landfill Loop

**FIELD TRIPS** continued on page 8

## Carpooling and Other Field Trip Resources

If you are going on a field trip, would you welcome company? Do you have room in your car to take other birders? To help find a ride or offer a ride, sign up with GGA's carpool group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/GGACarPool>. When you sign up, you answer a few simple questions, then receive a confirming e-mail. Once you are a member, you post messages under "Need Ride" or "Offer Ride," along with the destination and date. The more birders who sign up, the more useful the group will be. Birders are encouraged to help the driver with expenses by contributing to the cost of fuel and bridge tolls.

East Bay Regional District: [www.ebparks.org/parks](http://www.ebparks.org/parks)

SF Bay Trail: <http://baytrail.abag.ca.gov>

Bay Area transit: [www.transitinfo.org](http://www.transitinfo.org)

California state parks: [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)

National parks: [www.nps.gov/findapark/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/findapark/index.htm)

National wildlife refuges: [www.fws.gov/refuges](http://www.fws.gov/refuges)



# CLASSES

## ALBANY ADULT SCHOOL

The following classes are held in the East Bay at the Albany High School. Go to [www.albanyadultschool.org](http://www.albanyadultschool.org) for information on fees, meeting times, and registration.

### Beginning Bird-watching

Anne Hoff, [anne2210b@sbcglobal.net](mailto:anne2210b@sbcglobal.net)

**Four Wednesday evenings, September 14 – October 5, plus four Sunday field trips, September 18 – October 9**

The class, loosely based on David Sibley's *Birding Basics*, will introduce students to the fun of bird-watching, while covering bird identification, use of binoculars and field guides, and some locations for good birding in the Bay Area.

### Shorebirds of the World

Rusty Scalf, [rscalf@sonic.net](mailto:rscalf@sonic.net); Bob Lewis, [bob@wingbeats.org](mailto:bob@wingbeats.org)

**Four Wednesday evenings, September 14 – October 5, plus four Saturday or Sunday field trips, September 17 – 18, 24 – 25, October 1 – 2, 8 – 9**

The class will focus on shorebird identification, migration, courtship and mating behaviors, and feeding methods. Field trips will go to shoreline habitats and emphasize bird behavior. Although we'll concentrate on sandpipers and plovers, we'll also pay attention to those birds that share habitat with shorebirds. You may go on the Saturday or Sunday field trip each weekend.

## FIELD TRIPS from page 7

Trail, 1 Parr Blvd., Richmond. The leaders plan to arrive by BART at El Cerrito Del Norte and may return to the Richmond BART station. We will bird along the SF Bay Trail in Richmond and end with the Landfill Loop. Bring lunch and liquids. Bicycle helmet required. Reservations not necessary but an e-mail or phone call would be appreciated. Rain cancels.

**Car:** To reach S. 51st St., take Bayview exit from I-580 north and turn left to cross west over the freeway. Go left on Seaport and left on S. 51st St. Go to end and park on street. Entrance to short spur to the trail starts here. If you are concerned about security, park at Point Isabel and ride north on trail about .75 mile to meet group. To reach Landfill Loop, take I-580 north. Exit at Canal Blvd., turn right, and go 3.2 miles. Canal becomes Garrard, then Richmond Parkway. Turn left onto Parr and follow road to parking area in .3 mile. **Transit/bike:** From Del Norte BART, take Ohlone Greenway Trail south to Potrero Ave., turn right toward the bay, cross San Pablo Ave., and go left onto S. 55th St. immediately after crossing under I-80. Turn right onto Gately, left onto Ells, then right onto Bayview. Cross Carlson, go over I-580, turn left onto Seaport and left onto S. 51st St., and proceed

to the trail. If you only want to do the Landfill Loop, you can ride to the trailhead from Richmond BART; contact Kathy for directions.

### San Francisco Bay with Dolphin Charters

**Sunday, November 20, 9:45 a.m. – 4 p.m.**  
Bob Lewis

Meet at the Berkeley Marina by 9:45 a.m. for departure at 10 a.m. to see the bay by boat. The largest and one of the most important estuaries along the Pacific Flyway is right in our own backyard. We will cruise San Francisco Bay and San Pablo Bay waters, home to thousands of wintering birds. Passing Alcatraz, we'll head toward Point Bonita, tour the southern edge of the Marin Headlands, and, weather permitting, travel under the Golden Gate Bridge to the point. Then we'll go to the shore of Angel Island, under the Richmond/San Rafael Bridge, past the Marin Islands and the Brothers and Sisters Islands, to Red

Rock, and back down along the Richmond shoreline. Many of these areas can be seen only by boat. In addition to wintering ducks, loons, grebes, and gulls, we expect to see resident cormorants, pelicans, and murres, as well as seals and sea lions feeding and basking and, with luck, an occasional porpoise. Dress in layers. Bring liquids and lunch. The trip is limited to 32 people. Cost is \$85 for GGAS members, \$95 for nonmembers. Reserve by contacting Stephanie Strait, GGAS Office Manager, 510.843.2222 or [ggas@goldengateaudubon.org](mailto:ggas@goldengateaudubon.org). Payment must be received by October 15.

### Sacramento Delta and Valley Refuges

**Saturday – Sunday, December 3 – 4**  
Steve and Carol Lombardi, hot-rock@[sbcglobal.net](mailto:sbcglobal.net), 925.785.0130; Rusty Scalf, [rscalf@sonic.net](mailto:rscalf@sonic.net), 510.666.9936

FIELD TRIPS continued on page 11

## GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON

The following class is held at the Golden Gate Audubon office, 2530 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley. The class size is limited to 20. The fee is \$95. To register, call 510.843.2222. or sign up online at [www.goldengateaudubon.org/education/classes](http://www.goldengateaudubon.org/education/classes).

### Fall Migrations

Eddie Bartley, [eddie@naturetrip.com](mailto:eddie@naturetrip.com)

**Four Wednesdays, September 28 – October 19, 7 – 9 p.m., plus three Sunday morning field trips, October 2, 9, and 16, 9 a.m. – noon, and one all-day field trip, October 23, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

Explore the phenomenon of fall bird migration in the San Francisco Bay Area and discover the local habitats where migrants are found. Presentations include information specific to area migrants using colorful bird imagery and range maps, ID techniques, and discussions of physiology and evolutionary adaptations. We'll have opportunities to view raptors, waterfowl, and songbirds as they pass through in migration or arrive to set up for the winter, as well as overwintering shorebirds and resident species. Destination of the October 2 field trip is Hawk Hill in Marin County. The all-day October 23 trip will go to Consumnes River Preserve in Sacramento County, about 1.5 hours from Berkeley. Destinations of the other field trips will be announced in class. Carpooling and ride sharing will be encouraged—if you don't drive or own a car, contact the instructor for information!



# OBSERVATIONS

BRUCE MAST

JUNE 1 – JULY 31, 2011

## LOONS TO DUCKS

A Jul. 17 pelagic trip to Cordell Bank, MRN, located a Laysan Albatross, which is rare but regular off our coast (RS; mob). A Jul. 31 pelagic trip out of Half Moon Bay turned up an unprecedented **Greater Shearwater** (*Puffinus gravis*) (JF, fide TMG; DSh, oob). If accepted, this sighting would constitute a 1st SM county record and just the 5th accepted CA record. The 4 previous records all originated from MTY Bay and SCZ waters between 1979 and 2001.

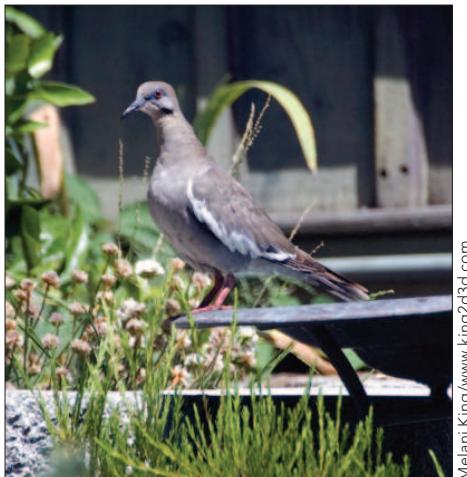
On Jun. 21, a Brown Booby circled a crab boat 4 miles offshore Half Moon Bay, SM (JC, fide DM). The next day, a *Sula* sp. spotted flying past Sutro Baths, SF, was almost certainly a Brown Booby (DM). On or about Jun. 5, the female **King Eider** (*Somateria spectabilis*) was refound with a flock of scoters below the PRNS Lighthouse, MRN, where it lingered through the 8th (DnW; mob). The bird was originally discovered on Tomales Bay on Jan. 22 during an Audubon Cyn. Ranch waterbird survey.

## RAPTORS TO ALCIDS

A Jun. 2 Prairie Falcon sighting at Black Diamond RP, CC, counted what appeared to be a male/female pair and a young male (DL). The beginning of fall shorebird migration brought the season's first Baird's Sandpiper on Jul. 21 at San Leandro Marina, ALA (BR; RC, BD). A Ruff was located Jul. 23 at SON-NAP Marsh, SOL, but could not be refound (RR).

A Laughing Gull was reported Jun. 24–Jul. 11 at Las Gallinas Sewer Ponds, MRN (LBL, DR; mob), and again Jul. 16–25 at SON-NAP Marsh (RM; mob). This is quite possibly the same bird that spent the spring at the MRN Civic Center. A Franklin's Gull appeared Jun. 7 at Coyote Cr. Lagoon in Fremont, ALA (CA). A Glaucous Gull lingered at the Gazos Cr. mouth, SM, Jun. 21–Jul. 7 (BMK, JMK; DSi).

From Jun. 21 to Jul. 3, a Black Tern foraged over Cogswell Marsh, Hayward Regional Shoreline, ALA (BR; mob). The Jul. 17 Cordell Bank pelagic trip located 4 Xantus's Murrelets (RS; mob). A Tufted



White-winged Dove, first observed in Pt. Richmond on June 26.

Puffin flew past Pigeon Pt., SM, on Jul. 17 (LBa, RT).

## DOVES TO THRASHERS

White-winged Dove reports ticked upward, with a Jun. 20 report from Bolinas, MRN (WK); a Jun. 26–30 feeder report from Pt. Richmond, CC (MKi; JL); and a Jul. 8 report from Sea Ranch, SON (DH). A Lesser Nighthawk over Sunnyvale, SCL, on Jul. 15 reminded birders to keep looking up (MR).

A Black-chinned Hummingbird wandered to Churchill Ave. in Palo Alto, SCL, on Jul. 27 (PM). A female Calliope Hummingbird was a late visitor to Hunter's Pt. Shipyard, SF, on Jun. 4 (AH). The same day, spring migration brought a Gray Flycatcher to Mt. Davidson, SF (PS). The Pt. Reyes Station Eastern Phoebe remained through

Jun. 8 (mob). A pair of Cassin's Kingbirds remained at Bedwell Bayfront Park, SM, through Jun. 4 (mob). An Eastern Kingbird gave a brief show on Jun. 22 at Drake's Beach, PRNS, MRN (RS). A Gray Catbird was a rare visitor to the PRNS Lighthouse on Jun. 22 (RS). A Sage Thrasher was photographed on Jun. 1 atop Mt. Davidson, SF (WD; mob).

## WOOD WARBLERS TO FINCHES

Notable warbler migrants included 4 Northern Parulas, an Ovenbird, a Palm Warbler, 2 Blackpoll Warblers, 2 Black-and-white Warblers, and 2 American Redstarts. Gazos Cr., SM, remained a Rose-breasted Grosbeak hot spot, with a singing male joining the recurring hybrid, starting Jun. 18 (GH, RT, LBa; mob). Female Rose-breasted Grosbeaks moved through Pomponio Cr. Rd., SM, on Jun. 4 (DSi) and Randall Museum in Corona Heights, SF, on the 14th (DM). Another male lingered Jul. 5–11 on San Bruno Mountain, SM (DP; mob).

Indigo Buntings moved through SF starting Jun. 2 at Mt. Davidson (DT, fide BF; mob) and Glen Cyn. Park (DA, LK; AW). A Dickcissel paused to sample bird seed at the Wildlife Gallery in Bolinas, MRN, Jul. 11–12 (RDG, KH; mob). A male Yellow-headed Blackbird was photographed on Jul. 4 at Eden Landing Ecological Reserve in Hayward, ALA (GW). The last vestiges of the winter irruption, Evening Grosbeaks showed up Jun. 9 at PRNS Fish docks, MRN (KF), and Jun. 12 at Gualala Pt. RP, SON (EB).

See Birding Resources at [www.goldengateaudubon.org](http://www.goldengateaudubon.org), for complete sightings data.

**Abbreviations for Observers:** AH, Alan Hopkins; AW, Adam Winer; BB, Bob Battagin; BD, Bob Dunn; BF, Brian Fitch; BMK, Bert McKee; BR, Bob Richmond; CA, Charlotte Allen; DA, David Armstrong; DdW, David Wimpfheimer; DH, Diane Hichwa; DL, Don Lewis; DM, Dominik Mosur; DnW, Dan Williams; DP, Don Pendleton; DR, Don Reinberg; DSh, Debi Shearwater; DSi, Dan Singer; DT, David Tomb; EB, Ed Brady; GD, Gary Deghi; GH, Garth Harwood; GS, Gary Strachan; GW, Gail West; JC, Josiah Clark; JF, Jon Feenstra; JL, John Luther; JMK, Judy McKee; KF, Kathy Francone; KH, Keith Hansen; LBa, Leonie Bartkin; LBl, Len Blumin; LK, Logan Kahle; MKi, Melani King; MR, Mike Rogers; PM, Peter Metropulos; PS, Paul Saraceni; RC, Rich Cimino; RDG, Ryan DiGaudio; RM, Roger Muskat; ROD, Rob O'Donnell; RR, Ruth Rudesill; RS, Rich Stallcup; RT, Ron Thorn; SC, Scott Carey; TMG, Todd McGrath; WD, Will Duncan; WK, Walter Kitundu

Semicolons separate original observer(s) from subsequent observer(s). Abbreviation "mob" = many observers; "oob" = other observers. Information is compiled from BirdBox transcripts and regional listservs; the author apologizes for any errors or omissions.

**Abbreviations for Counties and Others:** ALA, Alameda; CC, Contra Costa; CP, County Park; Cr., Creek; Cyn., Canyon; L., Lake; MRN, Marin; Mt., Mount; N., North; NAP, Napa; OSP, Open Space Preserve; PRNS, Pt Reyes National Seashore; Pt., Point; Rd., Road; Res., Reservoir; RP, Regional Park; RS, Regional Shoreline; S., South; SB, State Beach; SCL, Santa Clara; SF, San Francisco; SM, San Mateo; SOL, Solano; SON, Sonoma; SP, State Park; SR, State Reserve

# Protect Bay Area Birds: Become a Wildlife Guardian

**F**all is a wonderful time for Bay Area birding. Waterfowl and shorebirds by the hundreds—scaups and scoters, sandpipers and dowitchers—are returning for the winter or stopping to rest and refuel on their journey farther south. This season reminds us of the diversity of Bay Area bird-life—and of the importance of protecting the remaining wild places and habitats.

You can play a significant role in protecting Bay Area birds and habitats by becoming a Wildlife Guardian. Wildlife Guardians contribute monthly to Golden

Gate Audubon, lending support to our work throughout the year. Your ongoing contributions ensure that our staff and volunteers can advocate for wildlife, carry out essential habitat restoration programs in our increasingly urbanized region, and connect people of all ages with local wildlife and wild places.

When you make a monthly contribution on your credit card, your dollars grow quickly and increase the impact of your gift. Just \$10 a month adds up to \$120 a year!

And it is easy to do. Watch for our Fall

Appeal letter in September, and sign up to become a Wildlife Guardian when you return the enclosed form. Or you can contact our office directly (at 510.843.2222 or [ggas@goldengateaudubon.org](mailto:ggas@goldengateaudubon.org)) to set up your monthly tax-deductible contribution.

Please join us today. By becoming a Wildlife Guardian, you will provide vital support to our conservation and education programs. And you'll be helping to secure a better future for birds and other wildlife in the Bay Area, as well as for the people who enjoy them.

## Donations

Many thanks to our generous donors! Donations from May 21 to July 20, 2011.

### PEREGRINE FALCON (\$500 TO \$999)

Chris and Gary Bard, Bodega Bay Institute (Robert Risebrough), Mary E. Martin, John and Lucretia Sias

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Anonymous, Barbara Anderson, Mary C. Betlach, Caroline Booth, John N. Brenneman and Karen O'Rourke, Lewis H. and Sheana W. Butler, Ralph Countryman, Lawrence E. Crooks, Lyn Diana and Martha H. Breed, Carol J. Donohoe, Christa and Andrew Goldblatt, Sandra M. La Framboise and Michael J. Marken, Patricia E. Langenhahn and Douglas L. Hendricks, Jon D. and Ina Lockwood, Steve and Carol Lombardi, Larry and Sheila Malone, Steven G. and Renee Margolin, Bruce Edward Mast and Juliet Cox, Ruth and Alan Tobey

### CLAPPER RAIL (\$100 TO \$199)

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### MEMORIAL GIFTS

In memory of Richard G. Allen: Jim Feroe and Pam Peck, Winifred Ghiglione, Forrest Ringdahl, Paulina and Ana Kirola  
In memory of Mary Jane Greene: Jane Dang

### GIFTS IN HONOR OF

Dave Quady's Yosemite field trip: Marsha Feinland, Anne K. Kelley, Susan Baake Kelly  
Dan and Joan Murphy's Lassen field trip: Jack F. and Birthe K. Kirsch

### IN-KIND GIFTS

Mark Eaton: spotting scope, tripod, and case  
Stephen J. and Catherine E. Ference: books  
Dave Quady: books  
Rusty Scalf: binoculars  
Ruth and Alan Tobey: binoculars

### GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

Tracy Gleason, for her mother, Jean Gleason

### EMPLOYEE GIFT MATCHES

NorCal Mutual Insurance Company, Pacific Gas & Electric

### GRANTS

Clorox Company Foundation; The Kimball Foundation; Pacific Gas & Electric; REI, Inc.; TogetherGreen (National Audubon Society/Toyota)

### BIRDATHON 2011

The following were inadvertently omitted from the July-August Birdathon Donors list:

Mark Eaton, Lisa W. Esherick, Linda Ferguson, Jonathan Franzen, Donald M. Gregory Jr., Roberta Guise, Beth Lamont, Susan Nishio, Mark J. Rauzon, Beth Robinson, Margaret Rust, Teresa Stamm Batsel, Kenneth Winston, Tim Wolff and Melissa Damon, Matt and JoAnn Zlatunich

## Ballot for Election of Golden Gate Audubon Board of Directors

Ballots received by the September 30, 2011, ballot election deadline will be counted in accordance with the choice specified for each candidate. **Please vote for up to five candidates.**

DIRECTOR NOMINEE	TERM ENDING	YES	NO
Carey Knecht	2014	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Phil Price	2014	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Linda Vallee	2014	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_



## 2011 GGAS Board Election — Don't Forget to Vote!

The 2011 election for Golden Gate Audubon members to select directors of the GGAS board of directors will take place by written ballot. The board's Development Committee, with the approval of the board, has nominated the three candidates listed above. A total of 35 ballots is needed to meet the quorum requirement of the Golden Gate Audubon bylaws.

Members in good standing are asked to vote by completing and signing the ballot form above and mailing it to the GGAS office, 2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G, Berkeley, CA 94705, or faxing it to 510.843.5351, on or before September 30, 2011.

### CAREY KNECHT

Carey, named a designated director in 2009, serves on the Finance, Development, and

Strategic Planning Committees. For the past decade, she has worked with nonprofit organizations to help them ensure that growth and development in California are wildlife friendly. She is currently associate director for ClimatePlan, a partnership of more than two dozen organizations committed to making land use and transportation planning in the state more sustainable and equitable.

### PHIL PRICE

Joining the board in 2007, Phil has served since then as chair of the East Bay Conservation Committee. As an environmental statistician at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, he works on projects related to commercial building energy efficiency and geologic carbon sequestration. In the

past, he has been a member of Berkeley's Parks and Recreation Commission and the Berkeley Creeks Task Force. Phil claims that, among all the enthusiastic birders in the world, he is the least competent.

### LINDA VALLEE

Named a designated director in 2008, Linda is GGAS board secretary and serves on the Finance and Conservation Committees. She is also cochair of the Friends of the Alameda Wildlife Refuge. Linda works for Fireman's Fund Insurance Company as an IT specialist and has a master's in basic medical research. She is an active volunteer at the Lindsay Wildlife Museum, the Ohlone Wildlife Hospital, the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory, and International Bird Rescue.

### FIELD TRIPS from page 8

Fall is a time of abundance in the Sacramento Valley, with waterfowl spectacles never to be forgotten. We meet at 8 a.m. at the Flying J Travel Plaza, Thornton Rd. and Hwy. 12, less than a quarter mile east of I-5, for a restroom, coffee, and get-acquainted stop before we proceed to the our first birding destination on nearby Woodbridge Rd. Those wanting a trucker's breakfast can come early.

This will be a busy two days. On Saturday we'll visit the delta's Sandhill Crane staging area, then head north to the lovely wetlands of the Cosumnes River Preserve and finally another 100 miles north to the

Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge, where we'll witness the evening flight of Snow, Ross's, and White-fronted Geese, a flight that can number in the hundreds of thousands. We'll spend Saturday night in Willows. On Sunday we'll start out at the Sacramento refuge, then cross the valley to the Gray Lodge Wildlife Area. Pending reports from local birders, our last stop might be just north of Marysville, where hundreds of Tundra Swans have gathered in recent years. The trip is limited to 30 participants. Please reserve a place by contacting both leaders. Confirmed participants will receive a list of motels so they can make their own reservations.

### North Richmond Shoreline Festival

Golden Gate Audubon volunteers will lead bird walks at the festival, held on Saturday, September 24, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., at Point Pinole Regional Park, Richmond. The event, sponsored by the North Richmond Shoreline Open Space Alliance, includes activities for all ages.

For more information, go to [www.northrichmondshoreline.org/festival.htm](http://www.northrichmondshoreline.org/festival.htm).

**GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY**

2530 SAN PABLO AVENUE, SUITE G  
BERKELEY, CA 94702

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**BIRDING ADVENTURES** from page 1

able locations. Still in the planning stage is a trip to Nome, Alaska, for June of 2012. Stay tuned for details!"

Take a look at the exciting trips below for 2012. If you'd like a full itinerary or have questions, contact Chris at chrisbard@earthlink.net or 510.522.5699.

**BELIZE—JEWEL OF THE CARIBBEAN**

Known for its tremendous diversity of flora and fauna and its outstanding birding, Belize is one of the world's finest natural destinations. Within the borders of this sparsely populated Central American country lies a great variety of habitats: mangroves and beaches, rivers and lagoons, coastal savanna, pine forest, and broadleaf tropical forest.

From the comfort of some of Belize's best nature lodges, this trip led by Mark Pretti of Mark Pretti Nature Tours will explore most of these habitats and their rich wildlife. We'll also visit Mayan ruins at Lamanai and Caracol, enjoy a night safari boat ride, and marvel at the wildlife just outside our doors. While seeing and learning about some of Belize's 570-plus species of birds—toucans, woodcreepers, tanagers, antbirds, hummingbirds, trogons, manakins, raptors, and waders—we'll likely encounter howler monkeys, iguanas, crocodiles, dazzling butterflies, and other tropical creatures.

Dates of the trip are February 3–13, 2012. Cost is \$3,200 per person, double occupancy, from Belize City and includes all lodging, meals, guides, and ground transportation, as well as a \$150 tax-deductible donation to GGAS. The trip is limited to 10. A second trip, February 13 to 23, 2012, will be added if the first one fills.

**FLORIDA'S EVERGLADES AND SANIBEL ISLAND**

The only subtropical wilderness in the continental United States, Florida is a naturalist's paradise. Join guides Ed and Sil Pembleton with Naturalist Journeys for a trip, April 16–23, 2012, to this rich area that supports both tropical and temperate species.

In the Everglades, we will travel by boat through mangroves to search for alligators, crocodiles, and wading birds. Walking through tropical hardwood hammocks, we will look for Pine Warblers, Barred Owls, and colorful endemic tree snails. The shoreline tidal habitats of Florida Bay and nearby Eco Pond host Roseate Spoonbills, Purple Gallinules, and Least and American Bitterns. The itinerary also includes Audubon of Florida's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary and sites where the endemic Florida Scrub-Jay can be found.

An optional extension, April 23–27, goes to the Florida Keys and Dry Tortugas National Park. A full-day boat tour to the

Dry Tortugas typically yields Brown and Masked Boobies, Magnificent Frigatebirds, Bridled and Sooty Terns, and Brown Noddy. Throughout our time in the keys, we'll enjoy local cuisine from simple crab shacks to elaborate seaside dining.

Cost is \$2,290 per person, double occupancy, from Ft. Lauderdale and includes lodging, most meals, guides, and ground transportation, as well as a \$150 tax-deductible donation to GGAS. Cost of the extension is \$985. The trip is limited to 10.

**KLAMATH BASIN WINTER BIRDS**

This area of southern Oregon is rich in raptors in winter. Dozens of Rough-legged Hawks and Bald Eagles join Prairie Falcons, Peregrine Falcons, Ferruginous Hawks, Golden Eagles, and numerous Northern Harriers. Additional birds we should find include Barrow's Goldeneyes, hundreds of Tundra Swans, and other wintering waterfowl; Horned Larks; Northern Shrikes; and Black-billed Magpies. We will check the nearby forest for White-headed Woodpeckers and Mountain Quail. The weather will be cold, but the birding will be hot.

The trip, led by Harry Fuller, is scheduled for February 23–25, 2012, and will be based in Klamath Falls. Cost for ground transportation and guide is \$250 to \$325 per person, including a \$50 tax-deductible donation to GGAS. The trip is limited to 10.



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