



*inspiring people to protect
Bay Area birds since 1917*

For Immediate Release

Contact: Ilana DeBare, Communications Manager, idebare@goldengateaudubon.org

Golden Gate Audubon Hires Glenn Phillips as New Executive Director

Golden Gate Audubon Society is delighted to introduce our new Executive Director, Glenn Phillips.

Phillips, who grew up in the East Bay, brings a wealth of experience in bird conservation, urban nature education, and non-profit management. A lifelong birder, he was executive director of New York City Audubon for seven years. He is also the first openly gay executive director in GGAS's 105-year history.

"We are fortunate to have someone as experienced as Glenn assuming the role of our new Executive Director," said Eric Schroeder, President of the GGAS Board of Directors. "Glenn's leadership and vision will help guide us towards our goal of creating North America's most bird-friendly urban community.' "

Having recently moved back to the Bay Area with his husband and two children, Phillips said he can't imagine a better homecoming than his new role at GGAS.

"As a kid growing up in the East Bay, the forests, chaparral, grasslands, and wetlands around the bay were my playgrounds, looking for wildflowers, reptiles, and birds," he said. "When I moved to New York after college, my mother asked, 'Why is my nature boy moving to New York City?' After 30 years and stints at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Prospect Park, and New York City Audubon, the Golden Gate has called me home."

Over his seven years at New York City Audubon, Phillips grew its membership by 50 percent and increased its revenue from \$650,000 to \$1 million. Before working at Audubon, he served as vice president for education at the Prospect Park Alliance in Brooklyn and manager of programs at the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx. After his time at Audubon, he worked for the American Bird Conservancy, doing advocacy to prevent bird-building collisions.

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY

2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G, Berkeley, CA 94702

phone 510.843.2222

web www.goldengateaudubon.org

email ggas@goldengateaudubon.org

Now—as the country starts to emerge from a year of Covid-19 lockdowns—the time is ripe for new leadership and ambitious new initiatives at GGAS.

"The pandemic opened so many new eyes to the wonder of birds in our own backyards," Phillips said. "Now we have an opportunity to work together to make our neighborhoods better for both birds and people. We need to reduce our footprint on the planet, seek environmental justice for those who have borne the brunt of short-term thinking, and build a stronger, more diverse group of stakeholders committed to protecting birds and the remaining open spaces in our communities. In this era of #MeToo and #BlackLives Matter, we must also ensure that the birding community is safe and welcoming for all."

Phillips will succeed Pam Young, who has capably served as GGAS's interim director since mid-2019.

"We are so appreciative of Pam's hard work over the past year and a half, especially steering GGAS through the challenges of Covid-19," said Schroeder. "She leaves the organization well-positioned to thrive and grow under Glenn's leadership."

Golden Gate Audubon Society has been inspiring people to protect Bay Area birds since 1917. Its membership area covers San Francisco and East Bay cities including Oakland, Berkeley, Alameda, Piedmont, El Cerrito, Richmond, Orinda, Moraga, and Lafayette.

Glenn Phillips is available for media interviews. Contact Ilana DeBare, Communications Manager, at idebare@goldengateaudubon.org or (510) 301-5573.