FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Members, Supporters, and Friends,

I am deeply honored to work with the amazing staff and volunteers of Golden Gate Audubon. With over a hundred years of history, we can look back with pride on all we have done to make California a better place for birds and people alike. From Crissy Field Lagoon in San Francisco, to Berkeley's Aquatic Park, to Alameda's Elsie Roemer Sanctuary, you have created a lasting legacy of preservation.

Our work is not done. With San Francisco’s Pier 94 as a pilot, we must expand our efforts to enact nature-based solutions to the climate and biodiversity crises. Restoring and protecting ecosystem services around the Bay will sequester carbon, reduce future emissions, stabilize shorelines, and conserve biodiversity.

We must continue to educate the next generation of environmental stewards, fuel the passion of our current leaders, and honor the contributions of the past. We must build coalitions with Indigenous communities and communities of color and work to redress wrongs toward those communities whose environment has been degraded or neglected because of socioeconomic status. In the coming crises, every place, every voice matters.

Whether you attend a hearing, wrench out weeds in a habitat restoration project, lead tours, or provide critical financial support, you make Golden Gate Audubon sing.

Sincerely,

Glenn Phillips

FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Golden Gate Audubon Family,

What a difference a year makes! When I wrote this letter a year ago, things looked dark. But I compared us to a shearwater, gliding over the wave crests, focused on the horizon. Today, the outlook is much better. I’m not quite ready to say that we are soaring again like our beloved local Ospreys, Rosie and Richmond, but we’re definitely airborne.

Our new Executive Director Glenn Phillips assumed his position in March. We have continued to add new board members. And we continued to adjust to the changing faces of the pandemic. Our classes offered on Zoom allowed us to reach new audiences. Zoom also allowed us to get back into the classroom with our Eco-Ed program.

Slowly, we’ve opened back up to live programming. In fact, our conservation program never quit (except for two brief stoppages) and even added two new habitat restoration sites. This spring we were able to once again offer field trips for our classes, and a near full opening of our regular field trips was scheduled for summer.

And, as a final sign that things are indeed returning to a state resembling normal, this annual report is on time!

With gratitude,

Eric Schroeder
**Adult Education**

To support our members as lifelong learners, Adult Education classes and the monthly Speaker Series shifted to Zoom presentations this past year. A poll of members revealed a preference for keeping the Speaker Series online. However, class field trips were sorely missed by both instructors and students. To compensate, instructors provided suggested places and instructions for independent birding. Several new adult education instructors are alumni of the Master Birder Program, which has been jointly offered by GGAS and the California Academy of Sciences since 2013. New introductory courses included: Bird City, focused on San Francisco, and Birding for Fledglings. Other new offerings covered: nest identification and monitoring, writing about birds, using eBird, and avian anatomy and physiology. Returning identification classes ranged from Advanced Beginning Birdwatching and Birding by Ear to more focused surveys of diving birds, shorebirds, and raptors. These virtual classes had more than 400 registered participants.

The Master Birder course, co-taught by Eddie Bartley, Jack Dumbacher, and Bruce Mast, continued with the 2020 cohort of 20 students, extending into a second year to enable field trips postponed by the pandemic. Close to 100 people to date have completed the rigorous requirements of this course.

**Youth Eco-Education**

Despite the impact of Covid-19, the GGAS Eco-Ed program persevered. The program that typically served over 400 students at seven schools went silent in March 2020. In response we created a new inquiry-based learning curriculum for students to drive their own eco-education while at home. By the fall, we were able to reconnect with four elementary schools via Zoom and guide 180 students through their self-generated nature research projects. One standout project came from Ocean View Elementary School fourth grader Elsie, who wondered when and why California Poppies open and close within the time span of a day. Making a beautifully illustrated chart with her hand-drawn poppy observations, Elsie, along with other students, reported project results at the end of the year.

(Left to right) Eco-Ed program at Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline, 2019; Eco-Ed Director Clay Anderson working with youth.

Katherine Briccetti

(Top) Tree Swallow fledglings. (Above, left to right) Master Birder Program at Middle Harbor, 2020; Point Molate Osprey nest; Birds of the Sierras, 2019.
Pamela Lewellyn; Ilana DeBare; Alan Krakauer
Volunteer Program and Habitat Restoration

GGAS maintained an active habitat restoration program with 49 events in FY 2021, and even added two important new sites: North Lake in San Francisco’s Golden Gate Park and Literacy for Environmental Justice’s Native Plant Nursery on Treasure Island.

A total of 385 volunteers contributed 2,229 hours restoring eight sites: in San Francisco, Crissy Field, Pier 94, Heron’s Head Park, the Bison Paddock and North Lake; LEJ Native Plant Nursery on Treasure Island; Arrowhead Marsh at Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline in Oakland, and Alameda Wildlife Reserve. Our habitat improvement partners were San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, San Francisco Parks Alliance, Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, Treasure Island Development Authority, Port of San Francisco, East Bay Regional Parks District, The City of Alameda, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

RESTORATION HIGHLIGHTS
• Removed 4,855 pounds of weeds and invasive plants
• Collected 1,489 pounds of trash, 63 pounds of recyclables, 19 pounds of used fishing line

During a Zoom celebration of GGAS volunteers, four special volunteers received the Elsie Roemer Conservation Award and Paul Covel Education Award. A slideshow of volunteer activities during the year was posted to the GGAS website.

VOLUNTEER ACHIEVEMENTS
• 10 volunteers monitored Caspian Terns, Western Bluebirds, Tree Swallows, and Burrowing Owls
• 8 regular volunteers cleaned habitat monthly and monitored for Snowy Plovers at Crissy Field
• 3 volunteers spent 2,511 hours watching the Richmond Osprey mated pair and their nestlings, counting fish brought to the nest, monitoring the webcam chat and social media, producing highlight video clips, and tending to the nest and cameras as needed
• 2 lead volunteers with Alameda Wildlife Reserve published monthly bird articles in the Alameda Sun and compiled information for the Alameda City Council
• Birdathon 2021: 16 volunteers donated 365 hours planning and executing the online auction, fundraiser, and celebration; 14 volunteer guides led 10 virtual trips for hundreds of birders; 7 individual organizers, 4 count compilers, and 126 counters conducted a “Christmas” Bird Count in May
• Several volunteers spent 584 hours developing and teaching adult education classes
• 2 Volunteers represented GGAS at the Wildlife Conservation Network online exposition
• 2 GGAS office volunteers contributed 286 hours of data entry and other computer work

(Clockwise from above) Volunteers clean up shoreline at Pier 94; Western Bluebird; Bird article in the Alameda Sun.

Janet Carpinelli; Bob Gunderson; Website screenshot
Virtual Birdathon

Birdathon, the premier GGAS fundraiser, took flight virtually in 2021 after being canceled in 2020. Typically featuring special birding trips and “behind the scenes” learning opportunities, the 2021 program offered 10 Zoom webinars, eight virtual birding tours, skill-building workshops on finding rarities, and solving “puzzling pairs” of bird identification (such as Cooper’s and Sharp-shinned Hawks).

Participants visited nesting seabird colonies on the Farallon Islands (without getting seasick) and the winter raptors at Skaggs Island, among other Bay Area hotspots. More than 400 people attended at least one Birdathon webinar.

An online auction offered an array of bird-themed artworks and “bird experience” prizes, including vacation getaways and guided tours. Over the course of the fundraiser, GGAS raised $21,872 in donations and $16,600 in auction sales.

Birdathon 2021 also included an in-person “Christmas in May” Bird Count that drew over 100 participants. Organized by Dawn Lemoine and Viviana Wolinsky in the East Bay and Siobhan Ruck and David Assmann in San Francisco, teams competed to see the most birds—and raise the most money.

Osprey Cam Turns Five

The San Francisco Bay Osprey cameras (sfbayospreys.org) celebrated its fifth nesting season. Rosie and Richmond, the bonded pair of Ospreys, have now successfully raised 13 fledglings, including three this year at their nest beside San Francisco Bay. Two banded juveniles have returned as adults to the area.

The highly engaging Fish Counting Matrix counted a record 764 fish brought to the nest this season, providing unique data for STEM educational programs, and revealing that both adults continue to access fish from San Pablo Reservoir, over six miles away.

The Osprey cams were the perfect solace for viewers home-bound by the pandemic. By introducing birding novices from around the world firsthand to the dangers of trash and monofilaments to birds nesting along the bay, the cameras helped raise awareness around the importance of environmental conservation and stewardship.

The website tracked over 53,000 unique viewers, and Rosie and Richmond have over 4,600 Facebook friends.

Plants for Birds Bloom

GGAS’ partnership with California Native Plant Society Yerba Buena chapter expanded the Plants for Birds program to include the East Bay. Now, 10 nurseries provide local native plant species that birds depend upon. Volunteers provided materials to the nurseries and promoted the program at plant sales and other events. A logo was designed to enhance awareness, and program materials were translated into Spanish.

Plants for Birds key species now include: Beach Strawberry (*Fragaria chiloensis*), California Coffeeberry (*Frangula californica*), California Honeysuckle (*Lonicera hispida*), and Coast Red-flowering Currant (*Ribes sanguineum var. glutinosum*). *New species this year*
Pier 94 Restoration

Most of the native plants planted last winter at Pier 94 survived thanks to GGAS volunteer tending. This work, along with an ongoing native Olympia oyster and eelgrass study, are funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF).

The Port of San Francisco renewed the 10-year license agreement for GGAS to continue managing this bayshore site. GGAS and the Port secured a San Francisco Conservation Corps grant for 2,000 hours of work. GGAS staff will provide training in plant identification, seed collection, planting native species, and removing invasive weeds.

The Smithsonian Environmental Research Center evaluated Pier 94 as a potential oyster restoration site and recommended it as “likely to be successful.” GGAS is seeking funding to address already apparent impacts of sea level rise and storm surge erosion with a solution to cleanse the water that flows into San Francisco Bay and improve shoreline and subtidal biodiversity.

Conservation Program

Throughout FY 2021, we worked with government agencies and alliances with Bay Area organizations, delivering over 19 comment letters and speaking at more than 21 hearings to preserve open space, increase and improve parklands, and promote native plants.

In the East Bay, the Conservation Committee focused on securing Point Molate as open space (422 acres in Richmond) and advocated for a community plan to keep this unique coastal watershed intact and public. Committee members also urged the Governor to save Tesla Park (3,100 acres in eastern Alameda County) from off-road vehicles. In September 2021, lawmakers agreed to turn the area into a state park.

In San Francisco, the Conservation Committee advocated for bird-safe buildings and Lights Out initiatives to reduce bird-building collisions by engaging local government agencies and providing architect education for upcoming development projects. Committee members also engaged at the state level on issues affecting our local birds, such as the proposed mouse eradication effort on the Farallon Islands and the California rodenticide ban bill, AB 1788.

In the City of Alameda, our Friends of the Alameda Wildlife Reserve Committee continues its work to convert concrete runway at the decommissioned Naval Air Station into an ecological park, now dubbed De-Pave Park, which will increase bayfront habitat for wetland wildlife and provide a peaceful retreat for nature education and enjoyment.
$10,000 AND ABOVE
Anonymous; Chancellor’s Office, University of California, Berkeley; National Fish & Wildlife Foundation; National Audubon Society; Karen & Bob Rosenbaum; Eric Schroeder & Susan Palo; Salesforce.com Foundation; University of California, San Francisco

$5,000 – $9,999
Carol Baird & Alan Harper; Mary Betlach; East Bay Community Foundation (Ageter Judd Fund); Flora Family Foundation; Kathryn Jordan; Ardeen Russell-Quinn

$1,000 – $4,999
Anonymous; Chris & Gary Bard; Johanna K. Baruch; Andrea Burhoo; Linda & Bob Carloni; Chevron Humankind Matching Gifts Program; Conservation Society of California; Phil Cotty; East Bay Community Foundation (Buehler Fund); Marjorie Fletcher; March Conservation Fund; Meriama Fund; The San Francisco Foundation: The Andrew & Teresa Burns Family Fund; The San Francisco Foundation: The Simpson Booth Fund; Patricia Greene; Bob Hallet; Leigh Hans; Josh Jensen; Dwight L. Johnson; Gerald & Patricia Johnson; Barbara Keck; Marilyn Keco; Nancy Kenyon; Philip & Sally Kipper; Mary Kleinhenz; Liz & Larry Kuo; Dawn Lemoine; Jenny Linton; Yvette Macdonald; Bruce Mast; Miles & Mel McKay; Mara K. Melandy; John Nelson; Roger & Audre Newman; Regina Phelps; Marjorie Powell; Pepi Ross; Jacqueline Smalley; Elizabeth Sojourner; Jill Spangenberg; Morgan Stanley; Rigel Stuhmiller; Helen & Thomas Merigan Charitable Trust; Yulli Tsai; Sandra Tsui; Pat Kirkpatrick & Sid Wollinsky; Geraldine Young; Mitchell Youngman; Worldwide Small Change Foundation

$500 – $999
Jan Ambrosio; Barbara Anderson; Patricia Bacchetti; Ellen Barth; Carol Baxter; Diane & Tom Bennett; The Bluebird Fund; Robert & Barbara Brandiff; Thomas Brunfield & Carole Herman; Maryellen Buckley; Laura Buss; Amy Chong; Ruth Conroy; Robert Coon; Carson Cox; Laura Cremin; D. J. & Hogdson Family Foundation; Ilana DeBare; Sandra Donnell; East Bay Community Foundation (Anonymous Fund); Farallon Island Foundation; Pauline L. Fong; The Greenberg Family Trust; Lana Hameister; Anne Cahill Hansen; Dan Harris; Hewlett-Packard; Don & Ann Hughes; Diane Ichiyasu; Linda Jacobs; Margaret Janosch; Charles N. Keating; Vivian Kremer; Patricia Langenhahn; Diane Luders; John MacLennan; Jeffery R. Martin; Dorothy & Thomas Mayer; Sharon Morris; Thaddeus Mully; Dan & Joan Murphy; The Morrison & Foerster Foundation; Niebla Foundation; Sarah & Rodney Paul; George Peyton; Jay & Lisa Pierrepoint; Celie Placzek; Phil & Juliet Price; Madhav Puri; John Palo & Heidi Rackley; Kathleen Raffel; Maryann Rainey; Marjorie Randolph; Delanie Read; Dan Roth; Boyard & Anne B. Rowe; Donna De Santis; Eric Seidman; Francis Shaw; Nancy E. Smith; Aleksandra Smolyanskaya; Emilie Strauss; Carol Taggart; Cheryl Thompson; Jane Torbet; Priscilla Trauner; Margarete Untwauale; Carolyn Welty; Chris Yaros; Pam Young; Matt & Joann Zlatunich

$250 – $499
Melanie Adams; Sue Adler; Arguello Pet Hospital; Dianne Ayres; Bay Conservation & Development Commission; Marjorie Blackwell; Crystal Brunzell; Deborah Bullock; California Institute For Biodiversity; Barbara Caravano; Eunice Childs; Kathryn Spence Choudhury; City College of San Francisco; Julie Clark; Katie B Clevenger; Eve Conner; Jim Cunradi; Bena Curri; Linda D. Deaktor; Jennifer L. Dees; Jacqueline J. Desoer; Douglas Donaldson; Carolyn Dugger; Katherine Dunham; Blake Edgar; Linda Fraley; Lee Friedman; Jewish Federation of the East Bay; Angie Geiger; Valerie Glass; Christa Goldblatt; Clare Gordon; Dawn Graeff; Whitney Grover; Robert N Hall; Dolores M Hansen; Charlotte Harbeson; Michele & Jerry Harrison; Carol Henry; Richard Horrigan; William R. Hudson; Donna Jaffe; Karen Kenney; Jeffrey Kimball; Aniss Kukulan; James Kusz; Laney College; Maureen Lahiff; Robert Lawrence; John K Lee; Thomas Lee; Nancy Lomon; Michael Lewin; Barbara D Loomis; Gail MacDonald; Laura Mahanes; John & Valerie Matzger; Michael McCue; Marie McNulty; Russell & Karen Merritt; Michael Morrissey; Wendy Niles; Denny Parker; Jean Pfann; Susan Pohlmeyer; Corey Raffel; Edward Reyes; Bev Riemh; James Roethe; Russell Scalf; Verena Schelling; Alice Schofield; Deborah Senter; Pamela L Shandrick; Daniel Siegel; Doug In Sinn; Nancy Skinner; Frank R Smith; Andrea Soria; Gail Sorrough; Taylor Unity Foundation; Tazuko Coffee; Glen Tepke; Carol N. Valk; Linda Vallee; Joan C Vellutini; Joan & Jon Wactor; Wells Fargo Foundation; Stephen Waldman; Diane Winkler; Stephanie Woods

$100 – $249
Abbvie Employee Engagement Fund; Anne Ackerman; Michael Adachi; Jon Adams; Adobe; Linda Agarter; Peter Albin; Manuela Albuquerqu; Barbara & Carlo Alesandrin; Sarah Alliday; Catherine L. Anderson; Eileen Arubies; Lori Arnold; Jane Aronowitz; William Atkins; Carrie Austin; David S. Ayres; John Bacon; Linda Bacon; Bobbi Bader; Maria Baird; Elizabeth R. Baker; Laura Baker; Beverly J. Barletta; William H. Barnaby; Yates Barreda; James Barse; Mitchell Beam; Beatrix Bunny Fund; Bonnie Bell; Bruce Bell; Judy Bendix; Charles R. Benedict; Mike Bennett; Scott Benson; Gail Berger; Barbara & Ken Berniker; Jack Bertges; Eric Biber; Annettes Billingsley; BioMarin; Bonnie Bishop; Elinor R. Blake; Berkeley Bob’s; John & Judy Boe; Janice J. Bohman; Jan Boicel; Marcia Du Bois; Judith Bojorquez; Hillary A. Bok; Nancy Bombardieri; Claire & Bill Bove; Barbara Boyer; Barbara Boyle; Marion Brackett; Richard Brandi; Jennifer Braun; John Brenneman; Russell & Ellen Breslauer; Robert Brokli; John & Brooks Brosten; Beth Brown; Emma C Brown; Barbara Brenner Buder; Alisa Golden Budiansky; Stephen Bull; James M. Bullock; Mary Burke; Lawrence Burwell; Michael Butler; Mary Butterwick; Lonna & Warren L. Byrne; Susan Caldwell; Virginia L. Carder; Sue Carlisle; Chris Carmichael; Caryl Carr; PG&E Your Cause; Joseph A Cercere; Aneta Chapman; Valerie Charleston Char; Mike Chase; Toni Childress; Catharina Chou; Mike Clark; Sonya Clark; Courtney Clarkson; Clorox Company Foundation; Orinda Garden Club; Catherine F. Coates; Suzanne K. Coberly; Inger M Coble; John Coblenz; Patricia Coffey; Susan Coffin; Paulette Collins; Sheila Collins; Thomas Colton; Pacific Gas & Electric Company; FTI Consulting; Rosemary Corbin; Don & Susan Couch; Susan Cox; Robert Craft; Jacqueline Craig; Kazumi & Kimball Cranney; Cira M. Curri; Christopher Curtis; Barbara G. Davis; Claire & James Davis; Barbara Dean; Darlene Del-Castello; Penelope Deleray; Carol Denney; Frank DeSteno; Virginia Descalzo; Nicole Devito; Juli Dicke; Sheila Dickie; Susan Diridoni; John Domzalski; Carol Donohoe; Michelle Douskey; Donald & Elaine Dvorak; David B. Edelson; Susan Egarter; Elise Eichhorn; Margaret Eldred; Richard Elefant; Catherine Elliott; Jan Elvee; Susan Elwell; Sandy Emerson; Bob Epstein; Trudy Ernst; Nancy Evans; Thomas & Nancy Ewing; Lyle & Dianne Eyre; The Fox Bach Family; Leora Feeney; James A. Ferry; Robin Flagg; Cheryl Flango; Becky Flanigan; Karen Forsgard; Cornelia Foster; Dorothy L. Frantz; Jon Fransen; Marjorie Friedricks; Dianne Frstrom; Sandy Gess; William J. Giddens; David Gilbert; Mary H. Gikerson; Janice Gonsalves; Margaret A Goodman; William B. Grant; Pauline Grant; Jeffrey Gray; Susan Grefe; Anne C. Gregan-Verg; Bob Gutleiz; Linda Gustafson; Mary C. Gutekanst; Kristi U. Haigh; Karen Elizabeth Hall; Marian Hall; Paula J. Hamilton; Jennifer Hanson; Grace E. Hardie; Jim W. Hargrove; Judy Harter; Sylvia Hawley; William F. Hein; Pam Hemphill; Bruce Herbold; James Herre; Terry Higgins; Sarah Wadhsworth Hinds; Jan Hintermeister; Lois Hirsch; Allan Hoben; John & Nancy Horner; Robert Hosemann; Nancy Van House; William L. Hudson; Matthew Hungerford; Maja Hunter; Kathleen Hurley; Dale Ikeda; Advanced Building Services Inc; Genentech, Inc.; Google Inc.;

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