



FEB 17 2001

Golden Gate Audubon Society Newsletter

Volume 85 No. 2 February 2001

## Oakland Christmas Bird Count (CBC)

By Joelle Buffa & John Poole

It was the best of times. It was the worst of times. Listening to the Area Reports at the Oakland CBC Countdown Dinner reminded me of Dickens' famous line... Some leaders reported fewer species, but higher numbers of individual birds, as compared to previous years, while others report-

ed just the opposite. There was one thing this year that just about every participant could agree on: the weather for the December 17th, 2000 count was magnificent, with clear skies, warm weather, and a calm Bay.

Our unofficial species total (the "Unusual Bird Review Committee" has yet to pass judgment on the rarer sightings) stands at 183 species tallied by just about that many participants. We will probably set an all-time Oakland CBC record for numbers of bird species and numbers of human participants. Only the final number crunching, however, will confirm this total and give us a true picture of how total bird numbers stack up to previous years. Since the task won't be completed until the next issue of the Gull, this article will focus more on the "human side" of the Oakland CBC, and in particular our "young birders."

For the past several years, GGAS member John Poole has mustered the Jefferson Elementary School's Chickadee Club members for the Oakland CBC. This year's 101st annual CBC was no exception.

Fifteen Chickadee Club members arrived at the Little Farm parking lot in the Tilden North Area at 6:00 am to listen for owls. The sky was crystal clear, and everyone got to see the International Space Station as it cruised overhead around 6:15. Owls also began calling just after 6:00. The children quickly learned to separate the lower voiced males from the females as they walked up past Little Farm. A saw whet owl had been heard

### Here's a Chance to Do Some Hands-On Endangered Species Restoration Work

The California Least Terns return to Alameda in April for their yearly nesting season. Nesting success is critical for the survival of this endangered species. But success is far from assured. Each year their nesting site and surrounding lands need to be cleared of weeds.

Least Terns traditionally nested on wide-open non-vegetated sandy beaches that allowed the Terns to see approaching predators. The Alameda Naval Air Station's runways and taxiways provided just such a wide-open unobstructed expanse and the Least Terns made it their home. But now, as the site is in limbo between being a Naval Station and becoming a National Wildlife Refuge, the runways are cracking and weeds are sprouting with abandon all around the Least Tern nesting site. This could prove disastrous for the Terns, but neither the Navy nor the Refuge system has money allocated for weed control (after all, it is not yet a Refuge).

We at GGAS, thanks to the City of Alameda, have a chance to fix this dire situation. On Sunday, February 25, we will hold

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**Get Your Hands Dirty While  
Helping the Endangered  
Least Terns at Alameda**

**Join our Big Day Weeding  
Party Sunday, February 25.**

**T-shirts, Breakfast and  
Lunch are your Rewards for  
Your Hard Work on Behalf of  
the Endangered California  
Least Tern**

**(Not to Mention that  
Incredibly Good Feeling of  
Having Done a GOOD Thing)**

**RSVP by Friday, February 16  
to the GGAS Office at  
510-843-2222**

**Here's a Chance...**

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an all-day weeding party at the Alameda Refuge- to-be. We'll start at 9:30 AM with coffee and pastries and work until 3 PM with lunch provided. If you can only work half a day, that's fine, too.

What is the job? Pulling and cutting weeds and putting them in debris boxes. We'll provide the tools. We urge you to bring gloves. It sounds easy but it is fairly hard work so please make sure you are in reasonably good health. We do have about ten to twenty acres of weeds to eliminate so we need lots of people to make this all happen (they're in cracks in the runways, not solid fields of weeds so it's not as much as it sounds).

It's work, but it's rewarding. Thanks to our efforts the Least Terns will have a safe haven in which to raise their young.

So please come out and help the Least Terns on February 25.

Please RSVP by February 16 to let us know you are coming. The Refuge is not yet open to the public so we have to arrange to let you into the Refuge and provide enough food and T-shirts for all.

The breakfast, lunch and tools are made possible by the City of Alameda. Fined by the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board for a small pollution spill, the City has graciously agreed to pay that fine by helping the Least Tern. And by removing the weeds by hand we eliminate the need for the use of pesticides that might poison the Bay.

Finally, rain postpones the event. If it is raining on Feb. 25th the event will be postponed to Sunday, March 4.

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**Oakland Christmas Bird Count ...**

*Continued from page 1*

near Little Farm within the last few weeks, and everyone was hoping to hear it call. After repeated whistles from Mr. Poole the group was rewarded with a rather strange rasping call from high in the Monterey pines. Continued whistling was in vain; the call was never repeated.

The club identified a total of eight great horned owls and later on added about thirty more species to their total. While the children didn't add any rarities to the Oakland CBC total, they did get good looks at displaying kinglets, Townsend's warblers and courting hummingbirds. More important than discovering rarities, children are excitedly learning about and valuing the natural world around them. They will become, in time, a force that despoilers of nature will have to deal with.

If a record is set for this year's CBC, Rachel Spradley,

another young birder, will be one of the "heros" that made it so. At the countdown dinner Sunday night, we thought we had "missed" a Barn Owl. Relatively rare, with only 1 or 2 usually seen on count day, not one Barn Owl had shown itself to any of the birding parties. We thought we were skunked.

Then, several days later Rachel (who lives on Calle la Mesa in Moraga) reported that she had seen the Barn Owl that regularly roosts in her yard on the day of the count. Rachel had been writing a report on birds for school, and had been observing the owl for some time. Rachel, a high school student, found the only Barn Owl of the Oakland CBC, right in her own back yard. Which brings to mind another famous line... "There's no place like home."





## Field Trips Calendar

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### **Sunday, February 4, STRYBING ARBORETUM.**

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the front gate of the Arboretum (9th Ave. and Lincoln Way) for this regular first Sunday of the month half-day trip. The Strybing Arboretum is a delightful section of Golden Gate Park, with several "micro-habitats" attracting a varied array of resident, migrant and vagrant birds. Beginners and all others welcome. Leaders: Allan Ridley and Helen McKenna (415) 566-3241.

### **Sunday, February 4, PANOCHÉ VALLEY.**

See January Gull for details. Leader: Chris Carpenter (510) 569-9281 day, (510) 547-2201 eve.

### **Sunday, February 11, MOUNTAIN VIEW CEMETARY, Oakland.**

See January Gull for details. Leader: Anthony Fisher (510) 658-8769. Loveisant@aol.com.

### **Wednesday, February 14, MINI-TRIP TO COYOTE HILLS REGIONAL PARK**

See January Gull for details. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (510) 351-9301 & Jean-Marie Spoelman.

### **Saturday, February 17, ARROWHEAD MARSH, Alameda County.**

See January Gull for details. Leader: Courtenay Peddle (510) 532-8911 (do not call after 8 p.m.) capeddle@there.net.

### **Saturday, February 24, COYOTE HILLS, Fremont.**

Meet at the Visitor Center (last parking lot) at 8:30 a.m. From I-880 in Fremont, take the Hwy.84 / Dumbarton Bridge exit. Go west and exit at Paseo Padre Pkwy. Turn right and continue north (about 1 mile) and turn left on Patterson Ranch Rd. We will search for wintering waterfowl, raptors and songbirds. Be prepared for muddy trails. Heavy rain cancels. Trip ends around noon. Leader: Rusty Scalf (510) 666-9936. rscalf@jps.net

### **Saturday, February 24, GRIZZLY AND JOICE ISLANDS, Solano County.**

We will meet at 8:30 a.m. in the parking lot near the McDonald's Restaurant at Sunset and Hwy 12, North of the turnoff to Grizzly Island Road. There we will consolidate cars. Our plans are to bird Hill Slough, Rush Ranch, Grizzly and Joice Islands.

Since permission depends on the weather, your leader can not promise exactly where we will bird. Please bring binoculars, scopes, layered clothing, a lunch and sweets to share (if you want to see some interesting views of wild life in the afternoon). If we are lucky, we will see most of the marsh birds, waterfowl and raptors. There may be a chance to see Tule Elk, River Otters, hear Black Rails, see Suisun Song Sparrow, Rough-Legged Hawk and 4 species of owls. Trip will end by mid-afternoon. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Robin Leong (707) 643-1287

### **Sunday, February 25, LAS GALLINAS SEWER PONDS, Marin County.**

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the parking lot. Take 101 north and exit at the Lucas Valley Drive/Smith Ranch Road off ramp. Go east on Smith Ranch Road to the end. Take a sharp left to the sewage treatment ponds, just before the county park. Drive past the headquarters to the parking lot on the left. We will see wintering ducks and shorebirds, keeping in mind that anything can show up. Trip will end at noon. Beginners welcome. Leader: Mark Eaton (415) 566-6767. Email mweaton@pacbell.net!

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## **GGAS Wins Court Victory For Endangered Species**

### **Audubon Suit Allows Federal Government to Control Introduced Predators at Endangered Species Nesting Sites in California**

A final ruling has been issued by the United States District Court, Northern District of California announcing an important victory in the fight to preserve endangered species. This ruling preserves the Federal Government's ability to control introduced predators in California when necessary for the preservation of endangered species.

Many of our local endangered salt marsh species, such as the California

Clapper Rail and the Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse, were facing extinction due to the incredible predatory effectiveness of the introduced (non-native) red fox. Our colonies of egrets and herons and all our other ground nesting birds, such as the Snowy Plover, were also in jeopardy. As the number of red foxes increased the numbers of many of these bird species declined precipitously. Trapping the red fox was proved to be an effective tool in averting these population crashes. For example, as red foxes were removed from the wild in the South Bay, Clapper Rail populations rapidly rebounded.

Proposition 4, passed several years ago, forbid the use of padded leg hold traps which are the only effective tool for trapping red foxes. These traps are padded and are pretty painless (animals are often found asleep in the traps). This prohibition meant that there was no effective way to control the red fox and our endangered birds faced a dire situation.

Golden Gate Audubon took a lead role in this effort to defend the ability of resource agencies to protect endangered species. GGAS executive director Arthur Feinstein appeared on

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## Donations

### Golden Eagle (\$1,000 or more)

Thomas E. Bowman  
I. Von Der Hude  
The students of Piedmont High School  
Edgar M. Buttner, the Edgar M. Buttner  
Fund

### Peregrine Falcon (\$500 or more)

Mrs. Afton E. Crooks  
Janice and Frank Delfino  
Jack K. Stewart  
Alan Harper

### Least Tern (\$200 or more)

David E. Quady  
John Hess  
Jane and Michael Larkin  
Elizabeth and Franklin Silver

### Clapper Rail (\$100 or more)

Mary L. Turner, Carla Soracco, Amy  
Geoffroy, William D. Grasse, Charlotte  
Nolan, Susan and Michael Meadows,  
Elouise and John Sutter, Renee and  
Steve Margolian, Margaret Deane, Drs.  
Barbara Bessey and Kevin Gilmartin.

### Gifts (to \$99)

Doris L. Thiessen, Catherine and John  
Patterson, Mary Margaret Scribner,  
Robert M. Meyers, Linda and Robert  
Fries, Margaret Redeker Filby, Janet  
Bertram, Tony Arjo, Katherine A.  
Hughes, Ph.D., Jessie and Robert  
Neptune, John Bruni Sr., Robert  
Freidenberg, Rose M. Gieg, Bonnie J.  
Michalek, Richard A. Gale, Richard  
Bradus, M.D., Raymond J. Bruijnes,  
Karen Stern, John Thomas Condit,  
Collen Vetter, Helen and Paul Green,  
Joan R. Keller, Elizabeth and Clifford  
Sojourner, Katherine and Stephen  
Roper, Barbara and Thomas Job,  
Mauricia Price, L. L. Watts, Virginia and  
George Bing, Eileen C. Odegaard, T. J.  
Cleere, Elena R. Merrick, Mary and  
Raymond Forth, Ruth K. Wetherford,

Sharon M. Wheeler, Donna Jean Webb,  
Eleanor and J. Hugh Visser, Loretta and  
Hendrik Bakker, M. Natica and Richard  
Agilly, Peter Seubert, Diane Carter with  
match from the Bank of America,  
Charlotte Oppenheim, H. M. and R. S.  
Cameron, Leonard Horwitz, Dorothy  
Frantz, Palma Risler, Shirley H. Gordon,  
Glenn Finch, Doris Beatty, Carol Oda  
and Jan Hintemeister, Pamela L.  
Shandrick, Janet Barber, Diane E.  
Wilson, Ellen and Gunther Barth, Penn  
Hughes, Rita Brenner and Leonard  
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Alland, Donald A. Reinberg, Marion  
and Robert Blumberg, Majorie Roth,  
Elizabeth Allen and Robert Mullaney,  
Barbara Anderson, Carol Inberg,  
Robert Hall, Amy McClure, Juliette and  
William Wheeler, Helene and George  
Ttee, Johanna and Michael Wald,  
Naomi and Michael Burkart, Janet  
Harison, Mary Belshe and Thomas  
Ttee, Aileen Pierson, Louise and  
William Lidicker, Jr., Leslie Dinkin, Ruth  
and John Anderson, Roy C. Leggitt,  
Courtney Clarkson, William Stanley,  
Denise and Noel Turner, Nina Steidl,  
Hilary and Donald Lim, Toni and  
William Link, Janet Beeler, Marie and  
Alexander Karp, Thomas Ainsworth,  
Phebe Black, Kathryn Blake,

### Other Donations

The Frank A. Campini Foundation gra-  
ciously granted \$2,500 to assist in the  
development of the San Francisco  
Natural History Observational  
Database.

A bequest to the Golden Gate Audubon Society  
helps make it possible for us to continue the good  
work we do in helping to preserve our natural  
world for future generations. If you are interested  
in setting up a bequest we have a team of experts  
who will be glad to help you. Please call Arthur  
Feinstein at our GGAS Office for more informa-  
tion. Our phone number is 510-845-2222. Thanks.

## News From ACR

*from Betsy Stafford*

**H**ow lucky we are to have  
spring come so soon to our  
Bay Area! Long before the  
equinox, February brings  
bright green to our hills, white  
milkmaids to our trails, and mat-  
ing plumage to our avian friends.  
No doubt we'll have another win-  
try storm or two, but fresh spring  
mornings come more and more  
frequently, and yellow pollen gath-  
ers at a feverish rate.

At ACR it's time to think about  
spring-cleaning. We invite you to  
join us on a Workday at Bolinas  
Lagoon Preserve, on Sunday,  
March 4, to help us spruce up our  
Picher Canyon before the public  
season opens March 17. We can  
promise you wildflowers, good fel-  
lowship, an inside look at the ear-  
liest arrivals at our heronry, and a  
free lunch. Please give us a call at  
415/868-9244, so that we can plan  
on enough lunch for all.

### Weekend Hosts – Come One, Come All

We rely on you, our special  
Audubon friends, to help us  
through our public season each  
spring. Every weekend from March  
17 through July 15 we are most  
fortunate to have volunteer hosts  
welcome the thousands of visitors  
who come to our Bolinas Lagoon  
Preserve. Please contact your  
Audubon chapter representative.

We really need volunteers to  
help with this important program.  
If you have done it in the past  
please do it again, you know how  
rewarding it is. And, if you have  
not volunteered before, now is the  
time. GGAS members who want to  
participate should contact Bill  
Hering, almost Heron, at  
415-863-3625.





## Here's a Great Opportunity to Indulge Your Curiosity!

**G**olden Gate Audubon is presently in great need of a person to help organize the eight nature programs we hold each year. These programs are usually slide or video presentation made by birders, travel/nature guides, academics, etc. The task of a GGAS program organizer is to call a potential speaker and inquire if they are willing and if so, to set a date for the show and that's about it.

Have you always wanted to see the rare birds of New Caledonia or of India? Here's your chance to make it happen.

Have you always wanted to learn more about bats or find out more about our own local birds? You can make that happen, too!

A GGAS Program Chairperson has a wonderful life, talking to interesting people and bringing pleasure and knowledge to many GGAS other members.

Please think about volunteering for this position. All it takes is an interest in birds and natural history and some time for telephone calling or emailing to the presenters (well we do like to put a little blurb in our newsletter, the

Gull, to let the public know about the show, but the blurb is only three or four paragraphs and often the speakers will write it for you).

You get to see the shows you have always wanted to see, since you get to choose them. If you don't have any immediate ideas for a program we have many Board members and other GGAS members who will be glad to give you suggestions. Then you choose the topic and make the arrangements for the eight nature programs we present each year (the third Thursday of the month for the months of September through November and January through May).

It's easy, it's fun and it doesn't take a lot of time. All the chair has to do is arrange for a speaker set the date with the speaker, make sure the room has the proper equipment and arrange for the honorarium. These programs provide a real service to our membership and your efforts are very much appreciated by all. Please consider becoming the GGAS Program Chairperson.

If you are interested, give us a call at the GGAS office, 510-843-2222. Thanks



## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I am a graduate student studying avian conservation at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia. I am conducting a research project on the winter ecology and demography of Surf Scoters and have become interested in whether or not they exhibit age and gender biased migration patterns along the Pacific Coast.

I have developed a volunteer Mid-Winter survey to investigate whether or not female Surf Scoters show differential winter migration (something that has never been studied before). The survey I have developed requires a spotting scope and previous birding experience, but minimal time investment.

I am writing to you because I am advocate of long term monitoring programs like the CBC and would love to benefit from the expertise of CBC birders for answering some specific research questions. I am hopeful that you might now know birders in your communities who (or you yourselves) might be interested in participating in a survey this

January/February.

I have a webpage that gives more detailed information about the Mid-Winter Surf Scoter survey:  
<http://www.sfu.ca/~sai/SUSCvolunteerSurvey.htm>

Thank you very much for your assistance and your time,

Samuel A. Iverson  
Department of Biological Sciences

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fax: (604) 291-3496



## The Brown Creeper

The annual Audubon Christmas Count is over for another year and per usual, our area garnered around 64 species. The actual birds remain much the same, however, over the years we have counted 95 cumulative species. This year we added a new one, our first Northern Harrier. Every year we miss some of the usual suspects or we spot new ones, depending upon cold, drought, rain (fortunately not often) and plain old luck. It's always a treasure hunt full of corny jokes, birding tall tales, and camaraderie.

The Brown Creeper is a somewhat elusive bird on count day. Creepers' calls and song are extremely high-pitched sibilant sounds not heard by many. So only the keen-hearing members of a group can alert you to their proximity. The birds are hard to spot because of their cryptic coloration of brown, buff and black. They truly resemble the tree bark on which they creep and are virtually undetectable until they fly. Then you will notice the whitish breast and buff-colored wing patches. With long, decurved bill, the creeper works its way in a spiral up a tree trunk, prying insects and their eggs from the bark. Using sharp, long-nailed claws and balanced by a stiff-feathered tail, the bird silently works its way to the tree top before fluttering down to the base of a nearby tree to begin the hunt for food anew.

There are six members of the creeper family world-wide and only the Brown Creeper occurs in N. America. Its nearest relatives are nuthatches and titmice. If both nuthatches and creepers are foraging the same tree's bark, not many insects will survive. The creeper will find food while going up a tree using its bill as a probe; while the nuthatch scours the bark while circling downward using its bill as a mini-hammer. They aren't really competitors since each feeds in a specialized manner. In winter there are often mixed flocks

of these cousins along with chickadees, bushtits and kinglets. This merry band of small birds is a formidable bug-devouring crew.

A Brown Creeper's diet consists of all sorts of invertebrates: weevils, beetles, aphids, leaf hoppers, scale insects, katydid eggs, and spiders and their cocoons. They will also take some vegetable food such as nuts and seeds. They have been known to enjoy chopped peanuts and peanut-suet mixes at feeders.

My first sightings of creepers were in redwood forests but they also like densely wooded swampy areas where there are dead trees and hanging pieces of loose bark. On the Christmas count one was high in the oak tree tops lisp-ing quietly before dropping down to feed on tree trunks near a lake. The warm sun must have fooled it into thinking it was springtime because we enjoyed hearing snatches of its sweet song.

As you might suspect, a creeper builds its nest under a strip of loose bark. It is a crescent-shaped hammock of mosses, twigs, shredded bark, spiders' cocoons and is lined with feathers. There the female lays 4-8 white eggs lightly spotted with brown. The male feeds the incubating female and after about 14 days the young hatch. As soon as they leave the nest, about 2 weeks later, they can climb up the bark looking for food.

I love to talk as much as the next person, but when bird watching it's good to not only look but to listen. Loud noises obviously scare away birds and animals, as do arm-waving and sudden movements. Human voices may not be heard by birds because birds' hearing is usually in a range limited to their particular song. However, humans can hear a wide range of sounds, high and low and we may miss hearing birds' sounds. So crank up your hearing and listen for those elusive birds, including the Brown Creeper.

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## February Meeting...

*Continued from page 12*

Francisco. A lengthy redevelopment process is currently underway.

Momentum is building for including wetlands creation in the Treasure Island Redevelopment Plan. A freshwater component, similar to the Arcata Marsh, would treat stormwater runoff while an adjacent salt marsh would provide tidal habitat. The San Francisco Board of Supervisors has passed a supporting resolution acknowledging that the creation of marsh habitat on TI will draw visitors, improve water quality, increase ecological diversity, help compen-

sate for the historic losses of Bay Area wetlands, provide valuable stop-over habitat on the Pacific Flyway, and provide environmental education opportunities.

A credentialed teacher and long-time environmental activist, Ruth has recently worked for Save San Francisco Bay Association and the Campaign to Save California Wetlands. In September she received one of the GGAS "Elsie Roemer Conservation Awards." Don't miss this timely talk on a potential birding boon for GGAS members on both sides of the Bay.





A dry December period was a relatively slow one for rarities, with only four CBRC review species being reported. Some reports may have been overlooked due to an unfortunate failure of the Birdbox (Northern California Rare Bird Alert) that began in mid-December and continued for the rest of the month, but faithful birders kept at least the highlights available to many through several e-mail networks.

## Loons to Ducks.

A **Yellow-billed Loon** (*Gavia adamsii*) made an appearance off Otter Point, Monterey Bay, MTY, Dec. 18–29, staying around for the Monterey CBC (MPRBA). This young bird was apparently different from the one found there in recent winters. The wintering Pt. Arena, MEN, Laysan Albatross was present Nov. 26 (EW), and 35 of the species were sighted on a Dec. 3 PT off Ft. Bragg, MEN (DLSH, ASH). Another Laysan Albatross was found on a Dec. 2 PT trip off Bodega Bay, SON (DLSH). Many Black-footed Albatross were spotted on the aforementioned Dec. 3 PT off Ft. Bragg, MEN (DLSH, ASH), others were seen on Dec. 2 PT trip off Bodega Bay, SON (DLSH), and a Dec. 18 MTY PT reported 22 of them (MPRBA). The Dec. 3 Ft. Bragg PT found a Pink-footed Shearwater (DLSH), and a Flesh-footed Shearwater was seen on a PT for the Monterey CBC, Dec. 29 (fide SR). The Ft. Bragg, MEN, PT also had a Short-tailed Shearwater (DLSH).

Greater White-fronted Geese were seen on the coast in several locations: One continued at L. Merced, SF, Nov. 29–Dec. 23 (KM, RF), another was at Manila, HUM, Dec. 4 (EE), and a third was at Mendoza Pond, MRN, Dec. 5 (LLi). Two each of that species were found at Wilder, SCZ, Dec. 15 (RW), at the Carmel R. mouth, MTY, Dec. 23 (MPRBA), and at Carmel Valley, MTY, Dec. 29 (fide SR). Twelve coastal Snow Geese were reported over ALA, CC,

HUM, MTY, SM, and SCL counties, with a highlight being the 3rd county record of a Blue Morph Snow Goose at Holland Tract, CC, Dec. 11 (SG). Highest count ever for Snow Geese for the Santa Cruz CBC was a flock of 281 flying over New Brighton Campground, SCZ, Dec. 16 (DSu). At least 23 coastal Ross's Geese were found over ALA, HUM, MTY, SCL, and SCZ counties with a high count of 8 at Crespi Pond, MTY, Dec. 2 (MPRBA). A juvenile Tundra Swan continued at Laguna, SCZ, Dec. 4–16 (RW, MF). At least 7 reports of Eurasian Wigeons were received over ALA, BUT, CC, HUM, and MRN counties. A female Tufted Duck was at Lake Merritt, ALA, Nov. 25–Dec. 17, for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row (KS, ME), and another was at Redwood Shores, SM, Dec. 6 (KN).

Probably the most unusual report of the period was an immature male **King Eider** (*Somateria spectabilis*) identified at the Fish Docks, PRNS, MRN, Dec. 23–28 (SK, JM, CL, MOB). This Arctic breeder is a very rare and irregular winter visitor to our state, with most records in Northern CA (Small, 1994). A Harlequin Duck was near the Coast Guard Pier, PRNS, MRN, Dec. 3–28 (LLi, SA), another was seen at Trinidad, HUM, Dec. 5 (ABB), some continued at Glass Beach, MEN, Dec. 9 (SD), and yet another returned to MTY Harbor, MTY, Dec. 16 (MPRBA). The period was good for Long-tailed Ducks (aka Oldsquaws). Up to 5 (2 males and 3 females) were at Moss Landing Harbor, MTY, Dec. 1–17 (JD, RL, CL, LH). Another Long-tailed Duck was at the Fish Docks, PRNS, MRN, Dec. 3–28 (LLi, SA), two were at the Modesto Sewage Ponds, STA, Dec. 2 (JG), one was seen at Tomales Bay, MRN, Dec. 18 (DM), and two more were found near the Berkeley Marina, ALA, Dec. 17–18 (DL, BB). A county record high number of 135 Barrow's Goldeneyes was found close to shore between Martinez and Crockett, CC, Dec. 11 (KS). At least 58

Hooded Mergansers were seen over ALA, CC, HUM, MTY, SF, SCL, SCZ, and SOL counties, with high counts of 19 at Putah Creek & Lake Solano, SOL, Dec. 10 (JW, NW), and up to 24 at Merck Pond, Corralitos, SCZ, Dec. 28 (RW, CK).

## Hawks to Wood Warblers.

A Broad-winged Hawk visited Bodega Bay, SON, Nov. 26 (RLe). A Swainson's Hawk was reported over Hawk Hill, MRN, Nov. 26 (TB), and another near the intersection of Highways 1 and 156, MTY, Nov. 16, was a first recorded winter sighting for the county (MPRBA). Davenport, SCZ, had a Rough-legged Hawk Dec. 9–26 (BL, GS, MOB), 2 were at at Beatrice, HUM, Dec. 13 (ABB), and 5 were seen at Arcata, HUM, Dec. 15 (EE). Three groups of Mountain Plovers were seen south of Dixon, SOL, Nov. 26 (LW) and 53 were counted there Dec. 9 (LLi), while 270 or more were found on Robinson Rd., SE of Hwy. 113, YOL/SOL, Dec. 10 (JW, NW). Two Rock Sandpipers were seen during the period: one at Laguna Point, MacKerricher SP, MEN, Dec. 9 (SD), and the other at Duncan's Landing, SON, Dec. 5 (JR). There were 4 reports of single Glaucous Gulls: at Waddell Creek, SCZ, Dec. 4 (RW), at Capitola Beach, SCZ, Dec. 4 (DSu), at L. Merced, SF, Dec. 17 (DS, JMo), and at the Emeryville Crescent, ALA, Dec. 17 (Oakland CBC).

Two Northern Pygmy-Owls found on the Oakland, ALA, CBC, had not been seen there since the mid-1980's (fide JB, CM). The first SCZ county CBC record of a Common Poorwill occurred north of Soquel, SCZ, Dec. 16 (DSu). The Williamson's Sapsucker first reported Nov. 18 continued in Strybing Arboretum, GGP, SF, Nov. 29–Dec. 17 (HC, ASH, MOB). A Red-naped Sapsucker was seen north of Soquel, SCZ, ~Dec. 10–16 (DSu). The Pileated Woodpecker continued in Redwood Regional Park, ALA, the

week of Dec. 4 (fide LT), and two others were reported near Nisene Marks SP, SCZ, Dec. 29, in an area where nesting had been recorded in 1997, but where the species had been seen little since (DSu).

An Eastern Phoebe was found at AMSP, Big Sur, MTY, Nov. 30–Dec. 23 (MPRBA, RL), and a second individual came to the same location on Dec. 8 (MPRBA). A Tropical Kingbird was discovered in Palo Alto on the SCL/SM county line, ~Nov. 30 (AE, MD). Another Tropical Kingbird was in Golden Gate Park, SF, Dec. 2–23 (RF, MH, SD, MOB) and another continued from Nov. 17 at Ft. Mason, SF, until at least Dec. 29 (DA). Yet one more Tropical Kingbird was seen at Big Sur, MTY, Dec. 17 (MPRBA). A **Thick-billed Kingbird** (*Tyrannus crassirostris*) returned for its third winter to Half Moon Bay, SM, Dec. 10 (GD). In 1999, it arrived on Dec. 19. This species is a tropical breeder, found commonly in the U.S. only in SE Arizona and an extremely rare visitor to CA, with only one or two Northern CA records. Those Corvids continue on the upswing, with a flock of 185 Common Ravens seen over Scotts Valley, SCZ, Dec. 2 (DSu). On the Raven front, Harry Fuller informs us that a recent DNA analysis of Common Raven populations by the USGS indicates that the CA and southwestern US birds were separated from all the other populations in the N. Hemisphere during the Ice Age. An American Dipper was found at an unusually low elevation in Stevens Creek County Park, SM, Dec. 29 (DG).

Most unusual was an adult male **Black-backed Wagtail** (*Motacilla lugens*) on the Cargill Ponds, Alviso, SCL, Dec. 18 (DMc, PS). This species is native to the coast of Asia, and is a regular migrant to the Aleutians, where it has bred. It is extremely rare in CA, and the species status of some Black-backed vs. White Wagtail sightings has not always been clear (Small, 1994), although Mike Rogers pointed out that a recent paper by Sibley and Howell (*Western Birds* 29:180–198, 1998) facilitated the species status of many of these controversial records. There are currently 9 state records of this

species, 7 of them from Northern CA. Uncommon Wood Warbler sightings were even fewer than last month, with perhaps the nicest find an American Redstart in exactly the same location as last year (perhaps the same individual, since last year the bird was immature and now it has mature male plumage), and found by the same observer (see Chart).

### Sparrows to Finches.

Five single American Tree Sparrows were seen: at Arcata, HUM, Nov. 29 (ABB), on State Ranger Rd., SM, Dec. 3 (RSTh), at Cesar Chavez Park, ALA, Nov. 29 (fide GG), near McClure's Beach, PRNS, MRN, Dec. 16–17 (PRNS CBC, LLi, CLi), and at Bayside, HUM, Dec. 20 (ABB). A Clay-colored Sparrow was at Arcata, HUM, Dec. 4 (EE); another, first reported in late November, returned to a feeder in Capitola, SCZ, Dec. 26–27 (fide DSu). A Vesper Sparrow was at the O'Neill Forebay, MER, Dec. 3 (PJM). Individual Swamp Sparrows came to Moon Glow Dairy, MTY, Nov. 28–Dec. 16 (MPRBA), Merced NWR, MER, Dec. 3 (PJM), and Antonelli Pond, SCZ, Dec. 16 (DSu). Three White-throated Sparrows were at Bayside, HUM, Dec. 2 (ABB), 2 were at Arcata, HUM, Dec. 4–10 (ABB), and single birds were reported at McKinleyville, HUM, Dec. 10 (ABB), and at Big Sur Headlands, MTY, Dec. 17 (MPRBA). A Harris's Sparrow came to a private feeder in Cotati, SON, Dec. 26 (RM).

The McCown's Longspur at Gloria/Camphora–Gloria Rds., MTY, Dec. 3–4, set a first MTY county record (TE, MOB). A single Lapland Longspur was at Arcata, HUM, Dec. 4 (EE), but 15 birds were present there Dec. 15 (ABB), whereas up to 60 individuals were at Mad River Slough Wildlife Area, HUM, Dec. 15 (ABB). Two Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found: one at Garberville, HUM, Dec. 11–12 (ABB), and the second at a feeder near UCSC, SCZ, Dec. 25 (fide DSu). A 2<sup>nd</sup> SCZ county CBC record for the Indigo Bunting was set by an individual spotted at Rodeo Gulch, Dec. 16–20 (CK, DSu). Unusual for the coast was a Cassin's Finch at Ft. Miley, SF, Dec. 1 (BF).

## Wood Warbler Sightings

### Nashville Warbler

Dec. 16	New Brighton, SCZ	DSu
Dec. 17	Dunsmuir, ALA	Oakland CBC, fide JB, CM
Dec. 22	Bay Farm Island, ALA	CL
Dec. 28	New Brighton SB, SCZ	DSu

### Lucy's Warbler

Dec. 29	Monterey Peninsula College	Monterey CBC, fide SR
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### Palm Warbler

Dec. 1–8	Arcata, HUM	ABB
Dec. 12	Pacific Grove, MTY	MPRBA
Dec. 14	San Lorenzo Park, SCZ	

### Black-and-White Warbler

Dec. 11–16	Soquel Creek, SCZ	DSu
Dec. 17	Big Sur, MTY	MPRBA
Dec. 19	Jack's Peak, MTY	MPRBA
Dec. 29	Carmel R., MTY	Monterey CBC, fide SR

### American Redstart

Dec. 17–29	Bay Farm Island, ALA	RS
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**Abbreviations for Observers:** SA, Steve Abbott; ABB, Arcata Bird Box; DA, David Armstrong; TB, Tim Behr; BB, Bob Brandriff; JB, Joelle Buffa; HC, Hugh Cotter; SD, Stephen Davies; JD, Jeff Davis; GD, Gary Deghi; MD, Matthew Dodder; TE, Todd Easterla; AE, Al Eisner; EE, Elias Elias; ME, Mike Ezekiel; MF, Mike Feighner; RF, Rick Ferrick; BF, Brian Fitch; JG, Jim Gain; DG, Don Ganton; SG, Steve Glover; GG, George Griffith; MH, Merry Haveman; LH, Laird Henkel; ASH, Alan S. Hopkins; CK, Clay Kempf; SK, Sandy Koonce; BL, Brian Latta; RL, Rick Lebadour; DL, Don Lewis; CLi, Cindy Lieurance; LLi, Leslie Lieurance; RL, Randy Little; CL, Calvin Lou; MOB, Many Observers; DMc, David McIntyre; KM, Kevin McKereghan; RM, Richard Merriss; PJM, Peter J. Metropulos; JM, John Meyer; MPRBA, Monterey Peninsula Rare Bird Alert; JMo, Joe Morlan; CM, Clyde Morris; DM, Dan Murphy; KN, Kristi Nelson; JR, Jean Richmond; SR, Steve Rovell; PS, Paul Saraceni; RS, Rusty Scalf; DLSh, Debra Love Shearwater; DS, Dan Singer; GS, Glen Stewart; DSu, David Suddjian; KS, Kirk Swenson; RSTh, Ron S. Thorn; LT, Larry Tunstall; EW, Evelyn Warnsworth; LW, Lee Webster; JW, Jim White; NW, Natalie White; RW, Roger Wolfe.

**Abbreviations for Counties and Others:** ALA, Alameda; AMSP, Andrew Molera State Park; BUT, Butte; CBRC, California Bird Records Committee; CBC, Christmas Bird Count; CC, Contra Costa; HUM, Humboldt; MRN, Marin; MEN, Mendocino; MER, Merced; MTY, Monterey; NWR, National Wildlife Refuge; PT, Pelagic Trip; PRNS, Point Reyes National Seashore; SF, San Francisco; SM, San Mateo; SCL, Santa Clara; SCZ, Santa Cruz; SOL, Solano; SON, Sonoma; SB, State Beach; SP, State Park; YOL, Yolo.



# Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.

## Financial statements for the Year Ended May 31, 2000

WILLIAM J. KIRBY, C.P.A.

**KIRBY AND FORBES**  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS  
P.O. BOX 18186  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. 94118

JEFFREY D. FORBES, C.P.A.

KIRBY AND FORBES  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

**GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.**  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
MAY 31, 2000 AND 1999

TELEPHONE (415) 681-8675  
FACSIMILE (415) 681-8694  
August 18, 2000

Board of Directors  
Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.  
2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G  
Berkeley, CA 94702

We have reviewed the accompanying statement of financial position of Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. as of May 31, 2000 and 1999, and the related statements of activities, cash flows and functional expenses for the years then ended, in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. All of the information included in these financial statements is the representation of the management of Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.

A review consists principally of inquiries of organization personnel and analytical procedures applied to financial data. It is substantially less in scope than an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements taken as a whole. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Based on our review, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Our review was made for the purpose of expressing limited assurance that there are no material modifications that should be made to the financial statements in order for them to be in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. The information included in the accompanying schedule of changes in net assets is presented only for supplementary analysis purposes. Such information has been subjected to the inquiry and analytical procedures applied in the review of the basic financial statements and we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made thereto.

	ASSETS			COMBINED TOTAL	1999 COMBINED TOTAL
	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Cash And Cash Equivalents	\$ 50,837	\$ 1,826		\$ 52,663	\$ 148,790
Interest Receivable	-	-		-	4,173
Other Receivables	4,435	-		4,435	4,822
Inventory	2,622	-		2,622	3,656
Marketable Securities (At Fair Market Value)	680,900	152,062	\$ 85,795	918,757	780,763
Deposits	360	-	-	360	360
Prepaid Expenses	6,667	-	-	6,667	-
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>745,821</b>	<b>153,888</b>	<b>85,795</b>	<b>985,504</b>	<b>942,564</b>
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, NET (NOTE 5)	1,381	-	-	1,381	2,856
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 747,202</b>	<b>\$ 153,888</b>	<b>\$ 85,795</b>	<b>\$ 986,885</b>	<b>\$ 945,420</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>					
Accounts Payable	\$ 2,082			\$ 2,082	\$ 3,007
Payroll And Sales Taxes Payable	1,323			1,323	735
Deposits	-			-	114
Prepaid Grants (Note 6)	53,113			53,113	-
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>56,518</b>			<b>56,518</b>	<b>3,856</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>690,684</b>	<b>\$ 153,888</b>	<b>\$ 85,795</b>	<b>930,167</b>	<b>941,564</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 747,202</b>	<b>\$ 153,888</b>	<b>\$ 85,795</b>	<b>\$ 986,885</b>	<b>\$ 945,420</b>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement. See accountants' report dated August 18, 2000.

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KIRBY AND FORBES

KIRBY AND FORBES  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

**GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.**  
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED MAY 31, 2000 AND 1999

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	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED	COMBINED TOTAL	COMBINED TOTAL
<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>					
<b>PUBLIC SUPPORT</b>					
<b>DIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS</b>					
Gifts And Donations	\$ 13,989	\$ 24,835		\$ 38,824	\$ 195,650
Grants	-	48,850		48,850	297
<b>TOTAL DIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>13,989</b>	<b>73,685</b>		<b>87,639</b>	<b>195,947</b>
<b>INDIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS</b>					
Earth Share	5,341	-		5,341	5,355
<b>TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT</b>	<b>19,330</b>	<b>73,685</b>		<b>93,015</b>	<b>201,302</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>					
Investment Earnings, Net	80,130	16,038	\$ 9,132	105,300	62,091
Membership Dues	28,872	-	-	28,872	23,636
Newsletter Subscriptions	2,000	-	-	2,000	1,519
Program Service Fees	-	980	-	980	7,404
Merchandise Sales	2,572	-	-	2,572	3,332
(Net Of Direct Expenses of \$4,662)	565	-	-	565	(47)
Other	114,139	17,018	9,132	140,289	97,935
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>114,139</b>	<b>17,018</b>	<b>9,132</b>	<b>140,289</b>	<b>97,935</b>
<b>NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTION</b>	<b>84,928</b>	<b>(80,945)</b>	<b>(4,892)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>	<b>218,407</b>	<b>10,658</b>	<b>4,239</b>	<b>233,304</b>	<b>299,237</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
<b>Program Services:</b>					
Newsletter	32,133	-	-	32,133	31,252
Conservation	45,240	-	-	45,240	47,455
Educational Programs (Note 9)	140,756	-	-	140,756	69,165
Management And General	23,588	-	-	23,588	22,695
Fundraising	2,784	-	-	2,784	3,101
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>244,501</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>244,501</b>	<b>173,668</b>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>(26,094)</b>	<b>10,658</b>	<b>4,239</b>	<b>(11,197)</b>	<b>125,569</b>
<b>NET ASSETS AT MAY 31, 1999</b>	<b>716,778</b>	<b>143,230</b>	<b>81,556</b>	<b>941,564</b>	<b>815,995</b>
<b>NET ASSETS AT MAY 31, 2000</b>	<b>\$ 690,684</b>	<b>\$ 153,888</b>	<b>\$ 85,795</b>	<b>\$ 930,367</b>	<b>\$ 941,564</b>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement. See accountants' report dated August 18, 2000.

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	2000	1999
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Change In Net Assets	\$( 11,197)	\$ 125,569
<b>Adjustments To Reconcile Change In Net Assets To Cash Provided By Operating Activities:</b>		
Depreciation	1,473	1,918
Gain On Sale Of Securities	( 39,626)	( 43,617)
Unrealized Gains On Investments	( 62,175)	( 13,205)
(Increase) Decrease In:		
Interest Receivable	4,173	454
Other Receivables	387	( 3,594)
Inventory	1,034	( 218)
Prepaid Expenses	( 6,667)	-
Increase (Decrease) In:		
Accounts Payable	( 925)	( 5,539)
Payroll And Sales Taxes Payable	588	( 5)
Deposits	( 114)	114
Prepaid Grants	53,113	-
<b>NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>( 59,936)</b>	<b>61,877</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES</b>		
Purchase Of Marketable Securities	(337,894)	(232,059)
Proceeds From Sale Of Marketable Securities	301,703	250,321
<b>NET CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>( 36,191)</b>	<b>18,262</b>
<b>NET INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>( 96,127)</b>	<b>80,139</b>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, MAY 31, 1999</b>	<b>148,790</b>	<b>68,651</b>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, MAY 31, 2000</b>	<b>\$ 52,663</b>	<b>\$ 148,790</b>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement. See accountants' report dated August 18, 2000.

# Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.

## Financial statements for the Year Ended May 31, 2000

KIRBY AND FORBES  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

KIRBY AND FORBES  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.  
Notes To The Financial Statements  
Page Two

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.  
STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES  
MAY 31, 2000 AND 1999

**Permanently Restricted** - Permanently restricted net assets consist of assets whose use has been restricted for investment in perpetuity. The income from these assets is available for either general operations or specific programs as specified by the donor.

	PROGRAM SERVICES				SUPPORT		2000	1999
	NEWSLETTER	CONSERVATION	EDUCATIONAL	TOTAL	MANAGEMENT & GENERAL	FUNDRAISING	TOTAL FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES	TOTAL FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
Grants And Allocations	\$ -	\$ 11,850	\$ 115,183	\$ 127,033			\$ 127,033	\$ 55,823
Salaries And Wages	-	14,264	16,229	30,493	\$ 9,508		40,001	41,016
Printing And Publications	19,200	1,007	293	20,500		\$ 2,694	23,194	20,929
Postage And Mailing	11,941	-	-	11,941	640		12,581	14,459
Legal	-	12,289	-	12,289			12,289	500
Occupancy	-	2,499	2,499	4,998	1,665		6,663	6,945
Insurance	-	-	-	-	3,979		3,979	2,340
Payroll Taxes	-	1,447	1,447	2,894	965		3,859	3,294
Accounting Fees	-	-	-	-	3,800		3,800	4,506
Office Expense	-	520	1,969	2,489	923		3,412	6,995
Supplies	623	623	623	1,869	624		2,493	1,953
Telephone	-	372	-	372	1,116		1,488	1,616
Room Rents	-	-	1,130	1,130			1,130	545
Conferences And Meetings	-	-	1,014	1,014			1,014	5,324
Miscellaneous Expense	-	-	-	-			90	552
Travel	-	-	-	-			-	4,253
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES BEFORE DEPRECIATION</b>	31,764	44,871	140,387	217,022	23,220	2,784	243,026	171,750
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>	369	369	369	1,107	368	-	1,475	1,918
<b>TOTAL FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES</b>	\$ 32,133	\$ 45,240	\$ 140,756	\$ 218,129	\$ 23,588	\$ 2,784	\$ 244,501	\$ 173,668

**Estimates** - The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

Cash Equivalents are stated at cost (Note 3).

Marketable Securities are stated at fair market value (Note 4).

Inventory is stated at the lower of cost or market using the first-in, first-out (FIFO) method. Inventory consists primarily of bird feed, bird feeders and education books held for sale.

Property and equipment purchased by the Society are carried at cost. Depreciation and amortization are computed using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives ranging from five to ten years.

**Functional Expenses** - Expenses are charged directly to program or management in general categories based on specific identification. Indirect expenses have been allocated based on salary expenditures.

**Income Tax Status** - The Society is organized under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code as a non-profit, tax-exempt organization and is classified by the Internal Revenue Service as a public charity. The State of California has also granted the Society a tax-exempt status under California Revenue and Taxation Code 23701.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement. See accountants' report dated August 18, 2000.

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**NOTE 3 - CASH EQUIVALENTS**

Cash not immediately required for current operations is invested in money market funds which earn interest at varying rates. Interest and dividends earned on these investments was \$19,310 and \$21,028, respectively, for the years ended May 31, 2000 and 1999.

KIRBY AND FORBES  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED MAY 31, 2000 AND 1999

Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.  
Notes To The Financial Statements  
Page Three

**NOTE 1 - DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION**

Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. (the Society) was incorporated in the State of California in 1952 as a nonprofit membership organization engaged in conservation, public education and research activities focusing on birds, other wildlife and wildlife habitats. The Society is an authorized chapter of the National Audubon Society.

**NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Basis Of Accounting** - The financial statements of the Society have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

**Basis Of Presentation** - Financial statement presentation follows the recommendations of the Financial Accounting Standards Board in its Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 117, Financial Statements of Not-For-Profit Organizations. Under SFAS No. 117, the Organization is required to report information regarding its financial position and activities according to three classes of net assets: unrestricted net assets, temporarily restricted net assets, and permanently restricted net assets. Accordingly, all financial transactions have been recorded and reported in the following net asset categories.

**Unrestricted** - Unrestricted net assets consist of all resources of the Society which have not been restricted by a donor for a specific use. Assets for general use are classified as unrestricted. The board has designated certain unrestricted funds for specific purposes.

**Temporarily Restricted** - Temporarily restricted net assets consist of cash and other assets received with donor stipulations that limit the use of the donated assets. When a donor restriction expires, that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the statement of activities as net assets released from restriction. At May 31, 2000 \$123,196 of temporarily restricted funds are to be used for land acquisition and for improving wildlife habitats. Also, \$14,786 is earmarked for the protection and study of the California Least Tern in the Alameda/Oakland Area. Other temporarily restricted funds total \$15,906.

**NOTE 4 - MARKETABLE SECURITIES**

Marketable securities at May 31, 2000 are summarized as follows:

	Cost	Fair Market Value	Unrealized Gain (From Inception)
Corporate Stocks	\$ 264,674	\$ 641,609	\$ 376,935
Corporate Bonds	255,895	237,806	( 18,089)
US Government Securities	39,999	39,342	( 657)
<b>Total Marketable Securities</b>	<b>\$ 560,568</b>	<b>\$ 918,757</b>	<b>\$ 358,189</b>

Net investment earnings for the years ending May 31, 2000 and 1999 were as follows:

	2000	1999
Interest And Dividends	\$ 19,758	\$ 21,113
Realized Gains On Sales	39,628	43,617
Unrealized Gains (Current Year)	62,174	13,205
Management Fees	(16,260)	(15,844)
<b>Net Investment Earnings</b>	<b>\$ 105,300</b>	<b>\$ 62,091</b>

**NOTE 5 - PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT**

Property And Equipment at May 31, 2000 and 1999 consisted of the following:

	2000	1999
Office Equipment	\$ 22,574	\$ 22,574
Furniture And Fixtures	1,038	1,038
Other Equipment	5,324	5,324
	28,936	28,936
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(27,555)	(26,080)
<b>Net Property And Equipment</b>	<b>\$ 1,381</b>	<b>\$ 2,856</b>

Depreciation expense for the years ended May 31, 2000 and 1999 was \$1,473 and \$1,918, respectively.



**NOTE 6 - PREPAID GRANTS**

In May 2000 the Society received the following grants to supplement 2000-2001 operating expenses and programs from the following organizations:

Sierra Club Foundation	\$ 27,540
Weeden Foundation	15,573
C.A.W. Foundation	5,000
Bank Of America	(5,000)
	\$ 53,113
	=====

**NOTE 7 - LEASES**

The Society leases its office under a month-to-month agreement. Rent expense for the years ended May 31, 2000 and 1999 was \$6,663 and \$6,945, respectively.

**NOTE 8 - LOBBYING EXPENSE**

In furtherance of the exempt purpose of protecting wildlife habitats, the Society contributes to the funding of National Audubon Society's (NAS) California Legislative Affairs Director (the California Audubon Legislative Affairs Program, a joint program of the NAS and California chapters of the NAS), and contributes to the funding of the Planning and Conservation League. In addition, the Society occasionally publishes information regarding pending legislation in its monthly newsletter, provides testimony to legislative bodies, and contributes to campaigns in support of or opposition to ballot initiatives related to wildlife and wildlife habitats. The total amount of expenditures for direct lobbying and grass roots communications was \$6,555 for the year ended May 31, 2000.

**NOTE 9 - LITIGATION**

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. participated in a lawsuit relating to the wetlands at the Oakland Airport. As part of a consent decree the GGAS is to receive \$100,000 in late 2000. These funds are to be devoted to educational (\$80,000) bird monitoring (\$10,000) and consulting (\$10,000) activities at the site.

In anticipation of these funds GGAS expended approximately \$28,000 in educational expense in the year ending May 31, 2000.

	NET ASSETS JUNE 1, 1999	EXCESS (DEFICIT) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	NET ASSETS MAY 31, 2000
Unrestricted:			
General Operating	\$ 470,638	\$( 52,236)	\$ 418,402
Designated:			
Board Reserve	141,270	15,819	157,089
Covell Education	21,491	1,117	22,608
Properties	1,166	-	1,166
Alameda Audubon Center	(82,213)	(9,206)	(91,419)
	716,778	(26,094)	690,684
Temporarily Restricted:			
Sanctuary	110,790	12,406	123,196
Bayshore	13,297	1,489	14,786
Life Membership	7,076	792	7,868
Rare Bird Alert	2,557	506	3,063
Alameda Audubon Center	-	2,547	2,547
Latin America Committee	1,302	1,126	2,428
Birds in the Balance	(8,208)	-	-
	143,230	10,658	153,888
Permanently Restricted:			
Endowment	(81,556)	(4,239)	(85,795)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 941,564</b>	<b>\$( 11,197)</b>	<b>\$ 930,367</b>
	=====	=====	=====

**GGAS Wins ...**  
*Continued from page 3*

several talk shows to explain the need for this action.

"This decision was a vitally important one," said Dan Taylor, executive director of Audubon-California. "Audubon had only one goal; to make sure that California's most imperiled birds and wildlife do not become extinct. Audubon fought for their right to receive the protection they are accorded under the Endangered Species Act."

Judge Charles Legge issued a comprehensive order in the suit brought by Audubon against various state

agencies challenging the Constitutionality of Proposition 4, a measure banning all trapping (including the humane trapping for predator control employed by Federal authorities), which was passed by California's voters on November 3, 1998. "The judge's ruling is fair and wise. While keeping the state trapping ban in place, he exempted Federal authorities from that ban, allowing them to continue the critically important work of non-native predator control required by the law under the ESA," continued Taylor.

Audubon-California and its co-plaintiffs, including the Golden Gate Audubon Society, the Marin

Audubon Society, and the California Waterfowl Association, sought a court ruling based upon one section of Proposition 4. This section effectively bans "any person, including employees of the federal, state, county or municipal government to use or authorize the use of any leghold trap, padded or otherwise..." Judge Legge ruled that Proposition 4 "cannot be applied to the activities of agencies, employees, or contractors of the United States of America engaged in the management of wildlife on federal lands or in conservation efforts under federal law."

**Field Trips ...**  
*Continued from page 3*

**Sunday, March 4, STRYBING ARBORETUM.**

See February trip for details. Leaders: Allan Ridley and Helen McKenna (415) 566-3241.

**Sunday, March 11, REDWOOD REGIONAL PARK, Oakland.**

8:00 a.m., Canyon Meadow (last) parking lot. Take Hwy 13 to Redwood Road exit, go east (towards the hills)

on Redwood Rd. 3 miles to park entrance on left.

**Wednesday, March 14, MINI-TRIP TO MITCHELL CANYON, Contra Costa County.**

Meet at 9:30 a.m. Take Hwy. 24 through the Caldecott Tunnel. In Walnut Creek, take Ygnacio Valley Rd. exit. Go approximately 8 miles, then turn right on to Clayton Rd. After 1 mile turn right on Mitchell Canyon Rd. and continue to the parking lot at the end of the road. (parking outside entrance will avoid

fee). This is a delightful area with many songbirds and easy streamside walking. Be prepared for mud and bring your lunch. Rain cancels. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (510) 551-9501 and Jean-Marie Spoleman.(S)

**Trips marked with a (S)** go to parks or other sites which require an entrance fee. Carpooling arrangements will be attempted by leader for trips marked with a (\*).

**Problems, etc:** If you need information and have difficulty reaching a field trip leader, or **IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEAD A TRIP**, call Anthony Fisher, Field Trips Committee Chair, (510) 658-8769. Loveisiant@aol.com.



## February Meeting

# The Treasure Island Wetlands Vision—Creating Habitat for Birds and Birders *(a slide presentation by Ruth Gravanis)*

The closing of Naval Station Treasure Island (NSTI) presents a wonderful opportunity to provide wetlands habitat for a host of resident and migratory shore-birds and waterfowl. Ruth Gravanis, Director of the Treasure Island Wetlands Project, will summarize the island's history, present a vision for a beautiful and functional new habitat, and show many of the species birders can expect to observe.

The former NSTI actually consists of two islands in the middle of San Francisco Bay: the human-built Treasure Island and the naturally occurring Yerba Buena Island. The 403-acre TI was conceived in the mid

'30s as an international airport, was constructed out of Bay mud by the Army Corps of Engineers, and gained fame as the site of the 1939-40 Golden Gate International Exposition. YBI, with its own colorful history, has also been home to the Coast Guard, which will retain ownership of the southern third of the island. YBI's natural habitat supports a number of terrestrial species as well as a harbor seal haul-out. After serving as a military base for more than 50 years, NSTI was declared surplus to military needs and is expected to soon be conveyed to the City of San

*Continues on page 6*

Thursday, February 15, 2001  
7:00 p.m. Refreshments/Doors Open  
7:30 p.m. Program  
Northbrae Community Church  
941 The Alameda, Berkeley

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

As a member of National Audubon Society, you are automatically enrolled in the local chapter, Golden Gate Audubon Society. Chapter benefits include receipt of *The Gull*, access to field trips and programs, and the opportunity to volunteer. Call the office if you have any questions.

**Golden Gate Audubon Society**  
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Education - Sande Smith \*  
FAWR - Leora Feeney 510-522-8525  
Field Trips - Anthony Fisher \* 510-658-8769  
Hospitality - Ann Howard  
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510-549-2476  
Major Gifts - Allan Ridley 415-566-3241  
Nominating - Nancy Smith  
Publications - Peter Caldwell \*  
\* Board of Directors '01

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