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THE GULL



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CALIFORNIA
ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY

JAN 30 2012

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Charles Denson

Cooper's Hawk, one of the birds of prey affected by the use of rodenticides.

GGAS Joins Campaign: Don't Take the Bait

In November, Golden Gate Audubon joined the San Francisco Department of the Environment and Supervisor Malia Cohen in calling for a voluntary ban on rodenticides that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency had determined pose "unreasonable adverse effects on the environment" and are unnecessarily harmful to people, pets, and the environment. Already 14 businesses with 87 retail locations in San Francisco have agreed to stop selling the products. City officials and GGAS are hoping to expand the effort to all businesses in San Francisco while encouraging residents to use more ecologically sensitive means of rodent control.

Birds and other predators that eat poisoned rodents or the rodenticides suffer severe impacts. The problem of raptors poisoned by rodenticides, usually by eating poisoned prey, has been well documented by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game. For example, the USFWS has stated that more than one-third of dead raptors recovered as part of criminal investigations have traces of rodenticide in their systems. The Department of Fish and Game has reported that 79 percent of San Joaquin Kit Fox around Bakersfield have been exposed to rodenticides; 92 percent of raptors in San Diego County and 79 percent of those collected in the Central Valley also contained them. In another study, 82 out

DON'T TAKE THE BAIT continued on page 4

Hotspots Along the Waterfront

With increased redevelopment, a growing Bay Area population, and projects such as the America's Cup, San Francisco waterfront is receiving renewed attention for its commercial and ecological values. Golden Gate Audubon has prioritized 10 spots along the waterfront that deserve special consideration for their ecological values. We are working on every major plan or permitting process that affects these areas. The list here highlights important areas and is not an exhaustive account of all the significant waterfront areas. The sites are organized from the southeast to the southwest.

Candlestick Point State Recreation Area Yosemite Slough Hunters Point Within this very southeast portion of the waterfront, the Candlestick Point State Recreation Area provides vital open space for the community and year-round habitat for shorebirds and land birds. Although the park may be closed due to budget cuts, it is expected to undergo a significant reconfiguration to accommodate surrounding redevelopment. Just north of the park, Yosemite Slough includes San Francisco's largest wetland restoration site and two bird nesting islands. Hunters Point, the former naval shipyard, is also the focus of intensive redevelopment, which, thanks in part to conservationists' efforts, will include native grasslands, seasonal wetlands, and a constructed beach and lagoon.

India Basin and Hecks Head Park One

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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.

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Looking Ahead to 2012

While we are still soaring from the holidays, two successful Christmas Bird Counts, and the rewards of winter birding in the Bay Area, let's look ahead. The new year promises to be an exciting one featuring new developments along with our full calendar of classes, field trips both local and far afield, and engaging speakers.

- The first year of our Eco-Education program in San Francisco elementary schools, along with an expanded program for high school mentor interns on both sides of the bay.
- At Altamont Pass, continued replacement of nearly half of the 5,000 old wind turbines with fewer, more bird-safe modern turbines (we're aiming to reduce bird kills by 60 to 80 percent). This year, we will continue to push for the other half to be replaced.
- At Alameda Point, promising signs that 2012 could be the year we achieve permanent protection for the breeding endangered California Least Terns and the refuge's 180 other bird species.
- Creation of a new back-barrier lagoon at the former Hunters Point Naval Shipyard to complement habitat restoration of the adjacent Yosemite Slough and nearby Heron's Head Park and Pier 94.
- Restoration commencing at Breuner Marsh (newly acquired by the East Bay Regional Park District) on the north Richmond shoreline.
- Expanding the Bird-Safe Building and Lights Out programs to the East Bay.
- Birdathon 2012—our third annual birding event in April.

What you might not know is that Golden Gate Audubon is also in the middle of a three-year strategic plan. This may not sound exciting, but it's actually quite stimulating. Think of it as a roadmap that allows us to plan a trip to the place where we want to be in three years and shows us how to get there.

Some important questions have been posed by our plan. Who are our members and who else should we attract as members? What do we do well (and not well)? What makes us unique and valuable among conservation organizations? How do we remain faithful to our birding and conservation roots while growing and welcoming new people?

In the coming months, I invite you to share your thoughts on these and other questions by posting to our blog (www.goldengateaudubon.org/blog) or by sending me a note. I welcome your ideas about where Golden Gate Audubon is headed.

One thing is clear about our future. In this economy, we simply cannot rely on corporations or foundations for consistent support. Our ability to weather financial storms comes from the rock-solid generosity of members and donors like you. In our plan we will focus on growing our membership to broaden that support. Please renew your membership today and bring your friends and family to a Golden Gate Audubon bird walk or event.

Mark Welther

—Mark Welther, Executive Director

New Board Members

Golden Gate Audubon welcomes two new designated board members. Jack Dumbacher is curator and chair of the Department of Ornithology and Mammalogy at the California Academy of Sciences. John Muir (Jack) Laws, naturalist, educator, and artist, is the author and illustrator of the *Laws Guide to the Sierra Nevada* and winner of the 2011 Educator of the Year from the California Institute for Biodiversity. We are also pleased to announce the reelection of Carey Knecht, Phil Price, and Linda Vallee to three-year terms ending in 2014.



GGAS DOCENTS IN THE FIELD

Want to get a close look at wintering shore birds and learn why migrants and resident birds winter in the Bay Area in such abundant numbers? Docents in our Birding the Bay Trail program are stationed at key spots along the San Francisco Bay Trail between the Richmond Marina and the Albany mudflats. Spotting scopes are made available to show you the birds in detail. To learn when docents will be stationed on the trail, go to www.goldengateaudubon.org.

As of this issue of the *Gull*, five Burrowing Owls have returned to spend the winter at Cesar Chavez Park in Berkeley. As part of our Burrowing Owl Docent Program, now in its fourth season, volunteers watch for the arrival of the owls and point them out to visitors. Check the GGAS website for the docent schedule.

IMPORTANT BILL FOR BIRDS SIGNED

A new bill signed into law by Governor Brown will go a long way toward preventing

oil spills—and their impacts on birds—during routine refueling operations by ships in San Francisco Bay and elsewhere around the state. After the Panamanian flagged *Dubai Star* overtopped its deck with oil while refueling in the bay in October 2009, a coalition of environmental groups worked with Assembly member Jared Huffman (D-San Rafael) to draft legislation to prevent similar incidents. AB 1112 requires the state's Office of Spill Prevention and Response to develop a comprehensive screening mechanism and risk-based monitoring program for bunkering and lightering operations that take place at anchor in open waters and at dock throughout the state. The bill also raises the per-barrel fee from 5 to 6.5 cents and requires the State Lands Commission to report to the legislature on the precautions it has taken to prevent blowouts from offshore oil drilling.

RESTORE HABITAT AT GGAS SITES

Start 2012 by joining us in habitat restoration at local sites. We provide all the

instruction you need, along with gloves, tools, mulch, and water. For site details and direction, please go to www.goldengateaudubon.org/volunteer.

- Pier 94, San Francisco, January 7, February 4, 9 a.m. – noon
- Alameda Wildlife Refuge, Alameda, January 5, February 12, 9 a.m. – noon
- Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline, Oakland, January 21, January 16 is MLK Jr. Day and February 18, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Golden Gate Park, near Bison Paddock, San Francisco, January 21 and February 18, 9 a.m. – noon with SF Recreation and Parks
- Lands End East Wash, San Francisco Presidio, February 25, 1 – 4 p.m.

FAWR AT THE FLYWAY FESTIVAL

Volunteers from the Friends of the Alameda Wildlife Refuge, a Golden Gate Audubon conservation committee, will be among the representatives from many environmental groups tabling at the annual San Francisco Flyway Festival, February 10–12, held on Mare Island in Vallejo. In addition to featuring displays from local organizations, the festival has a full schedule of educational programs, field trips for birders of all levels, and activities for families with children. For details, go to www.sfbayflywayfestival.com.

NEW POLICY FOR VISITING STATE WILDLIFE AREAS

If you plan to visit one of California's wildlife areas or ecological reserves, you now have to obtain a pass in advance. Day-use and annual passes are no longer sold at the various sites. Daily lands passes (\$4.32 each) and annual passes (\$22.68) may be purchased at www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing or at one of the Department of Fish and Game's license agents or license sales offices. Daily passes purchased online cannot be printed and are delivered by mail. Areas that require passes include such popular birding spots in Northern California as Gray Lodge Wildlife

New Year—New Member Contest

You—our members and volunteers—are our most valuable assets. But we need more of you, and we are hoping you can help! We are asking each member to tell at least one potential new member about us, and there's something in it for you, too.

New members can join Golden Gate Audubon by March 1 as part of our New Year—New Member Contest. All they need to do is click on donate or join/donate on the home page of our website, www.goldengateaudubon.org, and enter your name in the "comments or questions" box.

The first 12 members from whom we receive a new member will be given a set of six gorgeous limited-edition bird prints by San Francisco artist Bruce Lattig. The set includes a Barn Owl, two Golden Eagles, a Prairie Falcon, a Northern Goshawk, and a flock of Canada Geese.

The member who brings in the most new members by March 1 will be treated to a private bird walk with GGAS Conservation Director Mike Lynes, a signed copy of the newly published *Natural History of San Francisco Bay* (UC Press), and an iPod Touch. Contact Development Director Lisa Owens Viani with questions: 510.843.7295 or lowensviani@goldengateaudubon.org.



Prairie Falcon by Bruce Lattig

CONSERVATION CORNER continued on page 4

of 104 Mountain Lions tested in California contained anticoagulants, usually more than one kind.

The rodenticides also pose risks to humans and pets. Each year in the United States, 12,000 to 15,000 calls are made to poison control centers when a child accidentally eats rodenticides. The pellets are blue and may be mistaken for candy. The poison may resemble kibble and be attractive to pets. Pets may also eat rodents weakened or killed by the rodenticide. Symptoms of rodenticide poisoning in mammals include weakness, pale lips and gums, and bleeding in the gums, nose, or digestive tract.

The products in question contain brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difethialone, and difenacoum. After more than a decade of studying the problem, the Environmental Protection Agency is working to issue regulations to remove these products from the market, but the manufacturers, Reckitt Benckiser Inc., Spectrum Group, and Liphatech Inc., are challenging the EPA in court. Meanwhile, conservation and public health groups are working to persuade

consumers and retailers to implement a voluntary ban on the products. A full list of the products that should not be used is at <http://tinyurl.com/EPArodenticides>.

The best alternative to using rodenticides is to take preventative measures to reduce the likelihood of rodent infestations. For example, homeowners and business owners should remove trash and other materials that attract rodents, such as uncovered food waste, wood piles or ivy, and holes in building walls. Snap traps, carefully sited to avoid harming songbirds, should be used before poisons. If the infestation is severe, a rodent-control professional who is Green Shield Certified should be contacted.

As the campaign gathers momentum in San Francisco, Golden Gate Audubon is trying to expand it to cities and counties in the East Bay. We encourage our members to get involved by contacting their local elected and public health officials and asking them to join the campaign. Please visit www.goldengateaudubon.org for more information or come to our East Bay Conservation Committee meeting on the second Tuesday of each month.

Area and Grizzly Island Wildlife Area. The Elkhorn Slough Ecological Reserve will continue to sell passes at its visitor center.

BART ACTS TO PROTECT BIRDS OF PREY

The glass dome atop the North Berkeley BART station and the windows that encircle the station fill it with daylight. But that glass and the open fare gates make the station attractive to birds of prey. In at least two separate incidents, a Cooper's Hawk and a Sharp-shinned Hawk flew into the station, likely in pursuit of prey, and became disoriented and trapped on ledges beneath the windows and the atrium. Both birds were rescued by volunteers with Wild Rescue; however, the Sharp-shinned did not survive, probably because it had been in the station for several days. After wildlife rescuers and GGAS staff urged BART to take preventive measures, BART installed netting across the base of the glass dome in late November. GGAS appreciates BART's quick response to protect birds at the station.

Donations

Many thanks to our generous donors! Donations from September 23 to November 18, 2011.

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Golden Gate Park: A Stroll Through History

Heath Massey

San Francisco: Thursday, January 19—7 p.m. refreshments, 7:30 program
(free for GGAS member, \$5 nonmembers)

Many dedicated naturalists have left memorable footprints in Golden Gate Park. William Hammond Hall applied principles of natural plant succession to stabilize the sand dunes that underlie the park. John McLaren arrived at the great variety of plants in the park through trial and error. Dr. Luis Baptista studied the vocalizations of White-crowned Sparrows and memorably whistled their calls at scientific meetings. Heath Massey will recount the stories of these and other fascinating individuals.

Heath Massey lives in San Francisco and is a professor of landscape architecture at U.C. Davis. She is a licensed landscape architect and a landscape historian and is the author of *Melodramatic Landscapes: Urban Parks in the Nineteenth Century*. Her blog on the park, Golden Gate Park: Views From the Thicket, can be found at <http://fromthethicket.wordpress.com>.

San Francisco Speaker Series: First Unitarian Universalist Church and Center, 1187 Franklin Street at Geary. Visit 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.



Monterey cypress windbreak created after the sand dunes were stabilized

Heath Massey

Human Population and Wildlife Impacts

John Seager

Berkeley: Thursday, February 16—7 p.m. refreshments, 7:30 program
(free for GGAS member, \$5 nonmembers)

In the wake of the world's population reaching seven billion, John Seager will share his insights on the causes of rapid population growth, its impacts on wildlife, and our options to deal with this challenge. Population Connection (www.popconnect.org) is the national grassroots organization that educates young people and advocates progressive action to stabilize world population at a level that can be sustained by the Earth's resources. The organization focuses on achieving global population stabilization through universal awareness and access to voluntary family planning together with the full empowerment of women.

John Seager, president and CEO of Population Connection, joined the organization in 1996. He previously served in the Environmental Protection Agency during the Clinton administration. A graduate of Trinity College with a B.A. in political science, John travels throughout the country making presentations on global population growth.

Berkeley Speaker Series: Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda (between Solano and Marin)
Directions: www.northbrae.org/directions.htm



A Great Indian Adjutant Stork witnessing the destruction of its habitat in Guwahati City, India

Ritu Raj Konwar, Courtesy of Photoshare

Birdathon 2012

Mark your calendar for April when Golden Gate Audubon will hold our third annual birdathon. As in previous years, we'll have fabulous prize categories and plenty of exciting opportunities to engage in friendly competition and to join field trips led by our expert leaders. Participating in the event will be fun and will help raise funds for our education and conservation programs. Look for details on Birdathon 2012 in the March–April Gull.

All You Need to Know To Be a Field Trip Leader

Are you interested in being a Golden Gate Audubon field trip leader? The requirements for leading trips are simple, and the rewards are abundant. We are always looking for new leaders who would enjoy introducing their favorite spots to other birders. If you've been on our trips, you know the importance of this free public program. You can find out everything you need to know about being a leader at our next training sessions. Sunday, January 15, at Heron's Head Park, San Francisco, and Saturday, January 21, at Arrowhead Marsh, Oakland. RSVP to nweeden@goldengateaudubon.org.

Choose the Gull Online

When you download our newsletter from the Golden Gate Audubon 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. When the next newsletter is published, we will e-mail you a link. To choose the Gull online, e-mail ggas@goldengateaudubon.org or call 510.843.2222.



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-gatebirding.org

San Francisco Botanical Garden

Sundays, January 1, February 5,
8 – 10:30 a.m.

Ginny Marshall, ginnybirder@sbcglobal.net; Dominik Mosur, polstatata@yahoo.com; Alan Ridley, allanrid@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.

Tilden Regional Park

Berkeley

Fridays, January 6, February 3,
8:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Alan Kaplan, 510.526.7609 (messages), LNKPLN@earthlink.net

Meet at the Tilden Nature Area parking lot, at the north end of Central Park Dr. This walk will be on dirt roads, fire trails, and narrow paths, mostly level or with some easy switchbacks. The theme for these two trips is survival in winter (feeding, behavior, physiology). Restrooms available at start and middle of walk. GGAS thanks Phila Rogers for leading this trip for many years and welcomes Alan as the new leader.

Palo Alto Baylands and Mountain View Shoreline

San Mateo County

Saturday, January 7, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Joan and Dan Murphy,

murphsf@yahoo.com, 415.564.0074

The wetlands, marshes, and open waters in Palo Alto and Mountain View are among the richest bird habitats on San Francisco Bay. Levees and boardwalks overlooking the marshes, mudflats, and open water make these excellent sites to view 60 to 80 species that winter in the South Bay, including ducks, shorebirds, waders, gulls, and raptors. Meet in the parking lot on the right side of the road at the gate just before the duck pond near the Baylands Preserve. Wear clothes appropriate for cold, wet weather. If it has been raining, wear boots or waders since the levees can be muddy. Bring lunch and liquids. Rain will not cancel. Chemical restrooms available.

From Hwy. 101 in Palo Alto (just south of Dumbarton Bridge), exit at Embarcadero Rd. East. Stay to right and be careful not to end up on the Oregon Expressway. Drive east over freeway to end of street. Turn left and continue to gate just before duck pond.

Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline

Oakland, Alameda County

Sunday, January 8

Kathy Jarrett, 510.547.1233,

kathy_jarrett@yahoo.com

Meet at Fruitvale BART at 9 a.m. or Tidewater Staging Area at 9:20. We'll ride the SF Bay Trail from East Creek Point to Damon Marsh and Arrowhead Marsh. Return is via Doolittle Dr. and Fernside Blvd. A high tide of 7.4 ft. is at 10:51 a.m. Winter high tides are a good time to see rails and, if there has been enough rain, lots of ducks and shorebirds in the seasonal wetlands. Bring lunch and liquids, and dress for variable weather. Bicycle helmet required. Rain cancels. Contact Kathy if you would like her cell number.

Car: Exit I-880 at High St. in Oakland and go southwest to High St. Bridge to Alameda and cross bridge. Turn left onto Fernside Blvd. and park on street. Bike back over bridge, turn right onto Tidewater Ave., and

go .25 mi. to Tidewater Staging Area on right, just before Lesser St. on left.

Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline

Oakland, Alameda County

Thursdays, January 12, February 9,
9 – 11:30 a.m.

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

The MLK shoreline offers excellent views of shorebirds, waders, and dabblers. The park'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 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.

Wintering Raptors and Waterfowl of Solano and Yolo Counties

Saturday, January 14

Terry Colborn, 916.705.8991,
www.TLCBirding.com

The open agricultural lands of Solano and Yolo provide excellent foraging habitat for numerous wintering raptors, while the wetlands of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area are the winter home for scores of waterfowl including ducks, geese, and swans, as well as many shorebirds. This all-day trip will visit several habitats in search of raptors such as Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, Merlin, and Prairie Falcon. We'll also seek out Burrowing, Barn, and Great-horned Owls and Long-billed Curlew, and the elusive and threatened Mountain Plover. We expect to see a representative sampling of waterfowl and a variety of shorebirds at Yolo Bypass.

Space on the trip is limited. To sign up, contact the leader. Confirmed participants meet at 8 a.m. in Dixon in the

southwest corner of the Wal-Mart parking lot on East Dorset Dr. at the Hwy. 113 exit off I-80. Bring lunch and liquids; dress in layers. Some short walks. Limited rest rooms. Heavy rain cancels.

Heron's Head Park

San Francisco

Saturdays, January 14, February 11, March 10

San Francisco Nature Education,
www.sfnature.org, 415.387.9160

Meet at 10 a.m. at Heron's Head for tours that leave every 30 minutes, with the last tour at 11:30 a.m. The tours will be led by high school interns equipped with spotting scopes. Each tour lasts about 1 hour. Experience the thrill of observing and learning about the waterfowl, shorebirds, and wading birds that winter in the park. Heron's Head is at Jennings St. and Cargo Way, two blocks south of Pier 96. Free parking is available near entrance. Sponsored by SF Nature Education, Port of San Francisco, Literacy for Environmental Justice, and GGAS.

Putah Creek South Fork Preserve

Yolo County

Sunday, January 15, 8 – 10 a.m.,
Saturday, February 4, 8 – 10 a.m.

Aaron Haiman, anhaiman@ucdavis.edu

This wonderful riparian corridor that runs from Lake Berryessa to the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area offers opportunities to bird along the creek and out into the nearby open grasslands. Possible highlights include unusual ducks on the creek and a variety of raptors and sparrows in the grasslands. Participants will be walking on uneven trails, which can be muddy, and through often coarse or prickly grassland vegetation; sturdy hiking boots and long pants are strongly suggested. Weather can be unpredictable, so wear warm clothing. Rain cancels.

Trip is limited to 10. E-mail the leader to reserve space. Confirmed participants should meet at the preserve, on Mace Blvd. in east Davis, south of I-80. The entrance to the parking lot is on the left just after the bridge over Putah Creek. Free parking; no bathrooms.

Corona Heights

San Francisco

Fridays, January 20, February 17,
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.

Pescadero State Beach and Marsh

Saturday, January 21, 9 a.m. – noon
Martha Wessitsh, 415.681.8059,
martha@wessitsh.com

We will scope seabirds and shorebirds from the beach, then proceed into the marsh to look for land birds and ducks on the ponds. The marsh has new trails that should make birding especially interesting. Meet at the parking lot west of Pescadero Rd. Weather may be cold and windy, or warm and sunny, so dress accordingly. There will be about 1 mile of walking on generally flat ground. Bathrooms available. Heavy rain cancels.

Birds of the Bay

San Francisco

Saturday, January 21, 10 a.m.

Carol Kiser, carol_kiser@sips.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 bird watching 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 Anutorage.

John McLaren Park

San Francisco

Sunday January 22, 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Alan Hopkins, 415 794.0281 (after 3 p.m.),
alanhopkins@att.net

Located near San Francisco's southern border, John McLaren Park is only slightly smaller than Golden Gate Park but is rarely visited by birders. We will walk a 3-mile loop along the park's rolling hills, visiting a range of habitats. Meet at the intersection of Cambridge St. and John F. Shelley Dr.

From Silver Ave., turn south onto Cambridge St. Follow Cambridge St. south for 6 blocks to the entrance to McLaren park at John F. Shelley Dr. No fee. sporadic bathrooms.

Lake Merritt and Lakeside Park

Oakland Alameda County

Wednesdays, January 25, February 22,

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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.ebparcs.org/parks
SF Bay Trail:	http://baytrail.abag.ca.gov
Bay Area transit:	www.transitinfo.org
California state parks:	www.parks.ca.gov
National parks:	www.nps.gov/findapark/index.htm
National wildlife refuges:	www.fws.gov/refuges

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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. These are peak birding months at the lake. Just about everyone who's going to spend the winter at the lake should be here, including both scaups and several other diving ducks, and five species of grebes.

Take the 12, N, or NL bus to Grand and Perkins, and walk into the park on Perkins. Best parking is at the boathouse lot near the spherical cage. Entry, via Bellevue near Children's Fairyland, is \$2 if the kiosk is occupied when you arrive (which it probably will be). Buy a 2-hour ticket and try to park in the boathouse lot, where no one checks how long cars sit.

Redwood Regional Park Oakland

Sunday, January 29, 8 – 11 a.m.

Rusty Scalf, rscalf@sonic.net

This park offers century-old second-growth redwoods and riparian woodland habitats. It is one of the most beautiful places in the East Bay and perhaps our best bet for Varied Thrush, Pacific Wren, and Golden-crowned Kinglet. We'll walk for about 3 hours on trails that are level and easy, but can be muddy after a rain.

Local historian Richard Schwartz (www.richardschwartz.info) will join us and give a brief talk on the surprising history of the East Bay redwoods. Meet at Redwood Gate on Redwood Rd. Drive to the end of the road to the parking lot.

East Shore State Park

Alameda and Contra Costa Counties

Saturday, February 4

Kathy Jarrett, 510.547.1233,
kathy_jarrett@yahoo.com

Meet at 8:35 a.m. at El Cerrito Del Norte BART Station or 9 a.m. at the end of S. 51st Street in Richmond, where there is a spur to the SF Bay Trail. We will bird along the Bay Trail, looking for shorebirds and ducks, from Richmond to Berkeley, ending at University Ave. and I-80 in Berkeley. Bring bicycle lock and liquids. Bring lunch or purchase at Seabreeze Market on University Ave. Bicycle helmet required. Rain cancels. Reservations not necessary, but an e-mail or phone call would be appreciated.

Car: Take the Bayview exit from I-580 north and turn left to cross west over the freeway. Go left on Seaport and immediately left on S. 51st Street, then go to end and park on street. Entrance to short spur to the Bay Trail starts here. If you are concerned about security, park at Point Isabel and ride north on the trail about .75 mile to meet the group. **Transit:** Meet at Del Norte BART station at 8:35 a.m. and ride to the trail. From BART, take Ohlone Greenway Trail south to Potrero Ave., turn right toward the bay, cross San Pablo Ave., and turn left onto S. 55th St. immediately after crossing under I-80. Then turn right onto Gately, left onto Ells, and right onto Bayview. Cross

Carlson, then go over I-580, left onto Seaport, and left onto S. 51st St. and proceed to the trail. It is also possible to go from El Cerrito Plaza Station to the trailhead via Carlson.

Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area

Alameda County

Friday, February 10, 9 a.m. – noon

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

This delightful park in Pleasanton has varied habitats and many species in a small area. We'll get close looks at waterfowl and marsh birds in the ponds, then seek out resident and migrant woodland birds in the riparian woods. We should also see raptors (Osprey, Red-shouldered Hawk) and waders. Walking is mainly flat on paved and unpaved trails. Meet in main parking lot to your left as you enter the park. Parking fee: \$6. Directions: www.ebparks.org/parks/shadow_cliffs. \$

Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve

Antioch, Contra Costa County

Sunday, February 12,

8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Denise Wight, blkittiwake@yahoo.com,
925.330.3893, and Kitty O'Neil

We'll have a chance to see Canyon Wren and Phainopepla, as well as winter sparrows and raptors. Some steep climbing, possibly muddy. Meet in the first parking lot to the left of the fee kiosk at 8:30 a.m. Likely parking fee: \$5. Bring lunch if you would like to stay later. Heavy rain cancels. For more information, please call Denise. From Hwy. 4 in Antioch, take the Summersville Rd. exit. Drive south (toward the hills) on Somersville all the way to the park entrance. \$

Emeryville to Richmond

Alameda and Contra Costa Counties

Saturday, February 18

Kathy Jarrett, 510.547.1233,
kathy_jarrett@yahoo.com

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Emeryville Marina, the turnaround at the end of Powell St. High tide is at approximately 8:45 a.m. We will bird most of the East Shore State Park on the SF Bay Trail and may include Aquatic Park in Berkeley. Return may be on BART. Bring bicycle lock, lunch,

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Remembering Blair Jarrett and Courtenay Peddle

Blair Jarrett, who for nearly a decade helped led GGAS bicycle field trips with his wife, Kathy Jarrett, passed away on October 29, 2011. "Blair was really the unsung hero of the bicycle birding trips," Kathy says. "He always carried a pannier full of bicycle repair items. He was the sweep and the dispenser of TLC for tired riders, and just a friendly person." A memorial service for Blair will be held on Friday, January 13, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at the Brazilian Room in Tilden Regional Park in Berkeley (Wildcat Canyon Road at the intersection of Shasta Road). There will be light refreshments before the program and lunch following.

Courtenay Peddle, who passed away on September 27, 2011, led trips for GGAS, many of them at the Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline. He and his wife, Pamela Magnuson-Peddle, lived in Oakland, and Courtenay could often be found birding at the shoreline, one of his favorite patches. A crackerjack editor and skilled wordsmith, Courtenay frequently wrote precise and engaging reports of his sightings for the East Bay Birds listserv. A blog has been established to share details about Courtenay's life (www.capeddle.blogspot.com).



LOONS TO DUCKS

An alternate plumaged Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*) was noted from Battery Godfrey, SF, on Oct. 14 (PS, ME, HC). Perhaps the same bird passed its last days on Salt Pond A4 in Sunnyvale, SCL, Oct. 25–Nov. 4 (PD, mob). A juvenile Yellow-billed Loon posed briefly on Nov. 1 at San Leandro Marina, ALA (BD). An Oct. 16 pelagic trip to Cordell Bank, MRN, found a White-chinned Petrel (*Procellaria aequinoctialis*) sitting on the water with a Northern Fulmar flock (TMG, SH, oob). A Bodega Cyn., SON, trip on Nov. 19 located a juvenile Short-tailed Albatross (*Phoebastria albatrus*) (DS, oob). An Emperor Goose (*Chen canagica*) swam offshore at Rodeo Lagoon, MRN, on the 27th (WL, DW).

RAPTORS TO ALCIDS

An American Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*) was well studied Oct. 13–19 at Shollenberger Park, SON (SH; mob). A couple of Sharp-tailed Sandpipers joined the plover fun at Shollenberger Park Oct. 4–19 (GHu, TE; mob). Another Sharp-tailed Sandpiper obliged a county lister on Oct. 11 by visiting the spot at the proposed Alameda NWR where ALA and SF Counties meet and then walking back and forth between both counties (JL, LF). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper was reported Oct. 3 from NAP-SON Wildlife Area, SOL (RM). A female Buff stopped briefly on the 26th at Drake's Bay Oyster works, MRN (RS).

The amplified harassment recordings at Pacific Commons Linear Park in Fremont, ALA, failed to drive away a well-photographed adult Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*) Nov. 17–25 (NA; mob). The same locale produced a possible Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) on the 28th (BR). A hatch-year Arctic Tern wandered inland to Shollenberger Park on Oct. 10 (FS, GD, TE).

DOVES TO THRASHERS

Black Swift migration peaked on Oct. 5 with 13 birds flying over Hawk Hill, MRN Headlands, MRN (RC; mob). A female Broad-billed Hummingbird (*Cynanthus*



Black-throated Green Warbler at Coyote Hills Regional Park

laticrostris) got caught in the mist nets at the PRBO Palomarin Field Station, MRN, on Oct. 6 (RDG; oob).

A Plumbeous Vireo was identified Oct. 6 at Ogier Ponds, SCL (SR). Four Philadelphia Vireos made Oct. forays to Pine L., SF (JC); San Gregorio, SM (GHa); Outer PRNS, MRN (MB, MAR, MD; mob); and Ferry Park, SF (RB, JH, TE). A Red-eyed Vireo was a welcome yard bird on the 8th in Pescadero, SM (GHa).

A Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) was briefly seen but well described Oct. 28 at India Basin, SF (JR, BMD). A Nov. 8 Townsend's Solitaire search at the summit of Mt. St. Helena, SON, was amply rewarded (GHu). A Gray checked Thrush (*Catharus minimus*) skulked at PRNS Light-house, MRN, Oct. 16–17 (RS; mob).

WOOD WARBLERS TO FINCHES

Two Black-throated Green Warblers Oct. 10–11 at Coyote Hills RP, ALA, constitute the first confirmed county records

(JH; mob). A Yellow Green Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*) encountered itself in the poplars at Ferry Park and Sue Bierman Park, SF, Oct. 4–Nov. 25 (JH; mob), where it was joined by a Northern Parula, a Lacey Warbler, and a host of more common warblers. Other warbler migration highlights include Magnolia Warbler at N.E. in GGP, SF (BL, DMO, FS), Virginia Warbler at Outer PRNS, MRN (SS), Blackburnian Warbler on Fulton St. in Palo Alto, SCL (PJM, lide DMO), Prairie Warbler through Nov. 29 at PRNS Fish Docks, MRN (MB, MAR, mob), and Prothonotary Warbler at Pescadero Marsh, SM (MDF, CH).

An American Tree Sparrow was noted Nov. 2 at Drake's Beach, PRNS, MRN (DMA, ST), and another was found on the 7th at Stage Rd. in Pescadero (RT). A Black-throated Sparrow popped up from the weeds along Gazos Cr. Access Rd., SM, on Oct. 12 (RT). Another was found Nov. 5 in Corona Heights, SF (LK). A Nelson's Sparrow rewarded sparrow hunters at Sulphur Cr., Hayward RS, ALA, Oct. 25–29 (BR, BD, DH). Another Nelson's encountered the mist nets at the PRBO banding station, Bolinas, MRN, on Oct. 26 (RC; oob).

A Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) was a 1-day wonder on Nov. 6 at Abbott's Lagoon, PRNS, MRN (PM). The Stevens Cr., SCL, Painted Bunting was refound Oct. 14–Nov. 9 (MR; mob). A Dickcissel joined the sparrow flock at Nunes (A) Ranch, PRNS, Nov. 29–30 (NA, BB). A Corona Heights, SF, observer on Nov. 6–8 reported no Turtle Doves and a Scott's Oriole in a pear tree (MK, DMO; mob).

Semantics separate original observer(s) from subsequent observer(s). Abbreviation, mob, or oob, requires the name of the observer(s) information is compiled from BirdBo!, transcripts and recordings; serves the author's obligation for a very long time.

Abbreviations for Observers: BB, Bob Battaglin; BD, Bob Dunn; BF, Brian Felt; BMD, Brooke McDermott; BR, Bill R. Brown; CH, Chris Hayward; DH, Derek Heits; DM, Don Maxwell; DMO, Dominik Mosler; DS, Dan S. Dyer; DW, Dave Weather; FS, Fritz Steiner; GD, Gary DeGh; GHa, Garth Harwood; GHu, Gene Hunn; HC, Hugh Conte; JC, Josiah Clark; JH, John Hayden; JL, John Lither; LF, Jennife Ryvenga; JT, Jerry Ting; LF, Leora Feener; LK, Logan Kibbe; LS, Linda Simpson; MAR, Mark A. Miller; MB, Mark Butler; MD, Matthew Dodder; MDF, Malla DeFelice; ME, Mark Earle; MR, Mark J. Rauter; MH, Mark Her; MR, Mike Rogers; NA, Nick Arthur; PD, Pete Duniter; PJM, Peter J. Metzger; PM, Peter Myers; PS, Paul Saracen; RB, Richard Bird; RC, Renee Cormier; RC, Rich Camino; RDG, Ryan D. Gaudin; RM, Roger M. Rovat; RS, Rich Stroup; RT, Rich Thompson; SH, Steve Howell; SP, Steve Rittenbourn; SS, Scott Simpson; ST, Steve Tricker; TE, Todd Easter; TME, Todd M. Smith; WL, William Legge.

Abbreviations for Counties and Others: ALA, Alameda; CC, Contra Costa; CCFS, Coyote Creek Field Station; CP, County Park; Cr, Creek; Cyn, Canyon; GGP, Golden Gate Park; L, Lake; MRN, Marin; Mt, Mount; N, North; NAP, Napa; NWR, National Wildlife Refuge; OSP, Open Space Preserve; PRBO, Pt. Reyes Bird Conservation; 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; SFBBO, SF Bay Bird Observatory; SM, San Mateo; SOL, Solano; SON, Sonoma; SP, State Park; SR, State Reserve; WPCP, Water Pollution Control Plant.

of the jewels of the Port of San Francisco's land holdings. Heron's Head is a vibrant park that provides outdoor recreation for the community, a living classroom for local schoolchildren, and much-needed habitat for wetland species. In 2011, birders repeatedly observed an endangered California Clapper Rail and rail fledglings at the park, likely making the spot the first breeding site for the rails in San Francisco in years. GGAS helped prepare *A Field Guide to 100 Birds of Heron's Head*, a popular guide now available online at <http://tinyurl.com/100birds>. India Basin has been undergoing a redevelopment planning process to accommodate a significant increase in population from surrounding projects.

Pier 94 Once a site for illegal dumping, Pier 94 has been revitalized by the Port of San Francisco, GGAS, and thousands of hours from volunteers into a thriving wetland area that hosts breeding shorebirds and other species throughout the year. While Pier 94 is not immediately threatened by new development, it is a priority site as we continue improving the wetland, restoring upland habitat, and using it as an outdoor classroom for our Eco-San Francisco Program.

Islais Creek Like most of San Francisco's creeks, Islais Creek has long suffered from adjacent development, pollution, and mismanagement. Thankfully, it is receiving renewed consideration in city planning documents, including the Central Waterfront and the Blue Greenway project, which calls for native habitat restoration and pub-

lic access to the shoreline. Discussions are also under way to "daylight" the creek where feasible, let it run more naturally, and provide improved habitat values.

Warm Water Cove Long the site of a power plant, the cove is surrounded by industrial sites and vacant properties. The sediment of the cover is heavily contaminated and undergoing remediation. The cove still provides valuable habitat for shorebirds and nearshore rafting species such as ducks, grebes, cormorants, and pelicans, especially in winter. Planned redevelopment on adjacent properties may increase disturbance at the site. Other plans call for restoring and improving habitat at the cove.

Aqua Vista Park/Pier 70 The dilapidated piers adjacent to Aqua Vista Park provide structures for the city's only Caspian Tern colony. Each year, the structures diminish bit by bit. The Port of San Francisco has pledged to help ensure that the terns have habitat in the area, but funding and opportunities to build replacement habitat are limited. The adjacent shoreline is slated to be redeveloped to include a park and increased public access, and funding from the America's Cup may provide opportunities for building a tern nesting island in the vicinity.

Yerba Buena Island The island will undergo a significant transformation with the implementation of the Treasure Island-Yerba Buena Island redevelopment plan. Yerba Buena is home to many species of migratory and resident birds, both in the steep uplands and along the shoreline. Though the habitat has been

significantly disturbed for decades, it is a relatively serene place that can brim with birds throughout the year. As redevelopment occurs at the site, we expect to see an increase in human-related disturbances, including noise, lights, collision risks, pets, and pollution.

Meatraz Island The island is well known for its historical and cultural attractions, but local conservationists and birders know it for its large seabird colonies. The two values—the historic and the biological—can sometimes conflict. For example, the new Golden Gate National Recreation Area General Management Plan calls for increased visitor access to areas where seabirds breed and may include cliff stabilization and building renovation that may result in impacts to native wildlife. We will work closely with the National Park Service to monitor activities at the island and develop a plan that will allow continued appreciation of the historic resource without compromising the biological values.

The Presidio The Presidio's varied habitats make it one of the most important wildlife areas in San Francisco. Golden Gate Audubon is particularly focused along the shoreline, including the beach at Crissy Field, home to threatened Snowy Plovers and many other species of birds. User conflicts, especially with on- and off-leash dogs, can be extremely controversial and difficult to resolve. We are working on the Golden Gate National Recreation Area General Management Plan, the GGNRA Dog Policy, and the America's Cup planning

HOTSPOTS continued on page 12

A Big Thank-You

We thank the following generous donors who helped fund the production of the *Alameda County Breeding Bird Atlas* by sponsoring species featured in the book. The atlas is available for purchase at the Golden Gate Audubon office.

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CLASSES

ALBANY ADULT SCHOOL

The following classes are held in the East Bay at Albany Adult School. Go to <http://adulted.ausdk12.org> for information on fees and registration.

Birds of the Bay Area

Rory Hunt, Rory.Hunt@comcast.net
English, Berkeley, California

Six Wednesday evenings, January 11 – February 15, 7 – 8:30 p.m., plus five Saturday or Sunday morning field trips, January 14 or 15 – February 11 or 12, and one weekend field trip, February 18 – 19

Join an enthusiastic group of birders to learn about our winter birds, both in the Bay Area and a little farther afield. Winter means shorebirds feeding on our bayshore, ducks in courting plumage in lakes and bay waters, raptors, wintering land birds, and swans, geese, cranes, and more. Learn about bird identification, behavior, physiology, and taxonomy in six lectures filled with great photographs and in six field trips. Go to www.wingbeats.org for more details.

Birding by Ear

Debra Wigton, blkittiwake@yahoo.com

Six Thursday evenings, January 12 – February 16, 7 – 8:30 p.m., plus six Saturday field trips, January 14 – February 18, 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Birds communicate by making a variety of sounds all year, even in the middle of winter. We will learn to locate and identify birds by calls and winter songs. Classroom study will include learning techniques for bird sound recall, analyzing bird sound recordings, and viewing spectrographs. For more information, go to www.blkittiwake.com.

Bird-watching for Advanced Beginners

Ann Kelly, Ann2110@stgnet.net

Three evening classes, February 1 and 15 and March 7, 7 – 8:45 p.m., plus five Saturday morning field trips, February 4, 11, 18, and 25 and March 10

For students who've taken Beginning Bird-watching or have a rudimentary knowledge of birds and how to use binoculars. The class will look at bird topography and flight patterns and learn to identify 50 common birds.

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON

The class below meets at the GGAS office, 2530 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley. Limit: 20 participants. Sign-ups begin at noon, Monday, January 9. Fee: \$80. To register, call 510.843.2222.

North American Owls

Dave Quady, davequady@aol.com

Four evenings, February 7, 8, 14, and 15, 7 to 8:30 p.m., plus three weekend afternoon and/or evening field trips February and March (dates and times to be announced)

As he shares his extensive knowledge of this fascinating group of birds, Dave Quady will describe what makes owls different from other birds, offer tips for identifying them by sight and sound, and provide insight into their habits and habitats. The three field trips will visit local owl habitats, where class participants can hope to hear and see owls.

JOE MORLAN'S SAN FRANCISCO CLASSES

The next series of field ornithology classes taught by Joe Morlan begin on February 7, 8, and 9. The classes meet on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 7 to 9:15 p.m. at the Marina Middle School, 3500 Fillmore (parking is free). The fee for each seven-week course \$145, a \$15 discount is given to those who register a week early. Call 415.561.1860 for more information. Register online at www.evolveww.com/ce/ccsl.

California Raptors in Winter

Relatively mild temperatures and productive food sources make California an ideal destination for raptors in winter. This popular class taught by Eddie Bartley—now offered in both the East Bay and San Francisco—will focus on the amazing evolutionary adaptations and life histories of California's hawks, eagles, harriers, kites, and falcons. Presentations include information specific to winter resident, migrant, and seldom-seen vagrant raptors. On two full-day field trips, we'll have opportunities to view and focus on this order but won't ignore the myriad other birds.

The East Bay class meets at the GGAS office, 2530 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley. The San Francisco class is at the EcoCenter at Heron's Head Park on the southern waterfront. Ample parking is available at both locations. Fee: \$60. Limit: 20 students. To sign up, call 510.843.2222.

San Francisco schedule: Saturday, February 18, class presentation, 9 a.m. – noon; Sunday, February 19, field trip to San Mateo coast, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.; Sunday, February 26, field trip to Point Reyes, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Berkeley schedule: Tuesday, February 21, class presentation, 7 – 9 p.m.; Saturday, February 25, field trip to Point Reyes, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.; Tuesday, February 28, class presentation, 7 – 9 p.m.; Sunday, March 3, field trip to Sacramento Delta, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Field trip meeting points and carpooling will be discussed in class. Inclement weather postpones field trips to a rain date of March 4. Participants in both classes are encouraged to join Eddie Bartley and Noreen Weeden on their March 11 field trip (see page 12). For more information, contact Eddie at eddie@naturetrip.com or go to www.naturetrip.com.

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY

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and liquids. Food and drink may be purchased at the Sit & Stay Cafe at Point Isabel Regional Shoreline. Bicycle helmet required. Rain cancels. Reservations not necessary, but an e-mail or phone call would be appreciated.

From Powell St. exit on I-80 in Emeryville, drive west to end of Powell. There is parking at Emeryville Marina Park.

Lower Klamath/Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuges

Siskiyou County

Sunday, March 11, 7:30 a.m.

Eddie Bartley, eddie@naturetrip.com, 415.355.0450; Noreen Weeden

In mid-March, Lower Klamath is one of the premier staging grounds for waterfowl preparing for a last leap north to their spring and summer breeding grounds. Expect to see ducks and geese in the tens of thousands, as well as swans, cranes, and raptors, especially Bald Eagle and perhaps Golden Eagle and Rough-legged and Ferruginous Hawks. Great Horned Owls are expected; Barn and Short-eared Owls are fairly common. Meet at the refuge Visitor Center. We'll bird most of the day with a break for lunch. You can join us for part or all of trip. Birders planning to go on this trip may want to take one of

Eddie's raptor classes (see page 11).

From I-5 at Weed, follow Hwy. 97 northeast for 45 miles toward Oregon border. Take Stateline Rd. (Hwy. 161) east to Tulelake. Turn south on Hill Rd. and go 4 miles. Drive from SF is about 7 hours. Wicked weather cancels.

Honey Lake and Greater Sage-Grouse

Lassen County

Saturday – Sunday, March 24 – 25

Dave Quady, 510.704.9353, davequady@att.net.

Lassen in late March offers the chance to enjoy Greater Sage-Grouse displaying on a lek, many resident and wintering raptors and waterfowl, perhaps a trickle of spring migrants, and a spectacular setting for seeking northeast California's resident birds. The trip is limited to the first 20

participants who sign up with the leader; reservations open at noon on January 23. Detailed directions will be provided to those confirmed on the trip. Lodging is available in Susanville; primitive camping, in Honey Lake State Wildlife Area. Bring warm clothing, lunches for both days, and a scope if you have one. Carpooling encouraged.

Yosemite National Park

Friday – Sunday, June 1 – 3

Dave Quady, davequady@att.net, 510.704.9353; Dave Cornman

Spaces may still be available on this popular annual Yosemite trip. Contact Dave to sign up. For a detailed description of the trip, see the November–December *Gull* or the GGAS website.

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processes to ensure that the plovers and other birds that rely on the Presidio shoreline are adequately considered and protected.

Ocean Beach This vast stretch is one of San Francisco's primary attractions for residents and visitors. It is also an important habitat for shorebirds, especially from fall to spring. Golden Gate Audubon is participating in every local and regional planning process that affects Ocean Beach, including the GGNRA General Management Plan, the GGNRA Dog Policy, and the Ocean Beach Master Plan process. Meanwhile, our volunteers continue to monitor Snowy Plovers that winter there and Bank Swallows that nest near Ft. Funston.

—Mike Lynes, Conservation Director