



For Immediate Release

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Exhibit Celebrates 100 Years of Protecting Bay Area Birds

Golden Gate Audubon Society is celebrating the 100th anniversary of its founding with a free traveling museum exhibit that will be on display at five public venues throughout the Bay Area in 2017.

The exhibit on “100 Years of Protecting Bay Area Birds” debuts this month in the atrium of the California State Building at 455 Golden Gate Avenue in San Francisco.

[Media are invited to attend the private reception launching the exhibit on Thursday, January 12, from 3 to 5:30 p.m. GGAS Executive Director Cindy Margulis will also be available for interviews before the reception from 1:30 to 3 p.m.]

The Golden Gate Audubon exhibit – which features stunning photos of Bay Area birds, from tiny Chestnut-backed Chickadees to powerful Golden Eagles – will be on display at the California State Building throughout January. In February it will travel to the Tilden Park Environmental Education Center in Berkeley. Later in 2017, it will appear at Oakland City Hall/Dalziel Building, the Tides/Thoreau Center at the Presidio, and Lindsay Wildlife Experience in Walnut Creek.

Golden Gate Audubon Society – one of the oldest conservation organizations in the Bay Area – was founded in 1917 by a handful of former students of U.C. Berkeley ornithology professor Harold Bryant. Today GGAS has over 7,000 members in San Francisco and the East Bay.

GGAS had the good fortune to be located along San Francisco Bay -- one of the most important bird areas in the Western United States, harboring over a million resident and migrant

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birds each year. Over the past 100 years, GGAS has played a leading role in protecting the Bay and other critical local habitats. Among its achievements, GGAS:

- Stopped oil companies from dumping contaminated ballast water near the bird-rich Farallon Islands in the 1910s, one of the first successful efforts anywhere to stop oil dumping at sea.
- Led the campaign to choose a state bird (California Quail) in the 1920s.
- Helped acquire and preserve Audubon Canyon Ranch in West Marin as an educational nature center in the 1960s.
- Contributed to the creation of beloved parks such as MLK Jr. Shoreline in Oakland, Crissy Field Lagoon and Heron's Head Park in San Francisco, and Point Pinole in Richmond.
- Protected at-risk species such as the nesting colony of endangered California Least Terns in Alameda, and raptors threatened by deadly wind turbines at the Altamont Pass.

Throughout the past century, GGAS's trademarks have been citizen science (such as our Christmas Bird Counts), solution-oriented advocacy, and members who are excited to share their their passion for birds with others.

GGAS's success stems from its grassroots leadership and broad participation: This year, it will mobilize over 3,000 volunteers to restore habitat, provide nature education, and advocate for wildlife. It will offer over 150 free bird walks to the general public. GGAS volunteers and staff will provide hands-on nature education to over 650 children in low-income elementary schools through its award-winning Eco-Education program.

The public is invited to visit the free exhibit on "100 Years of Protecting Bay Area Birds" at the California State Building, 455 Golden Gate Avenue, during business hours through the month of January.

The public is also invited to join a free Golden Gate Audubon bird walk or volunteer at a habitat restoration event at any time during 2017. See goldengateaudubon.org for dates and details, or email ggas@goldengateaudubon.org.

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