



2020 Annual Report

July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Golden Gate Audubon Society family,

In July 2019, the starting point for this annual report, Covid-19 was months in the future. But even before the pandemic hit, Golden Gate Audubon saw a number of organizational changes—a new interim Executive Director, a newly-added Director of Development, and staff turnover in other positions. The GGAS board added several new members who lowered its average age and brought a wealth of new talents.

Then came the pandemic. Our new staff adapted nimbly to remote work. We had to cancel field trips but shifted our public lectures and classes to Zoom, using the online format to accommodate larger audiences. We kept key conservation efforts in place through social-distancing practices. We replaced our annual Birdathon fundraiser with an innovative Bird Art Auction where proceeds were split between GGAS and the artists.

Through these difficult times, GGAS has reminded me of a shearwater—gliding just over the wave crests, focused on the horizon. Your support allowed us to keep flying. Thank you, and I look forward to seeing you in person soon when we can resume field trips and volunteer days.

With gratitude,

Eric Schroeder
Board President

(From top) Pink-footed Shearwater;
Townsend's Warbler.

Bob Lewis; Bob Gunderson



Eco-Education Program

Our Eco-Education Program introduces youth in underserved communities to the environmental issues of the San Francisco Bay Area, using birds as a vehicle for inspiration and education. The program reaches approximately 600 elementary and middle-school-aged youth in grades three through six via classroom or online study and field trips for direct observation. In FY 2020 the program worked with these Title I schools: Montalvin Manor, Verde Elementary, and Stege Elementary in Richmond; Hoover Elementary and Bridges Academy at Melrose in Oakland; and Parker Elementary and Bayshore Elementary in San Francisco.

The Eco-Education Manager and trained volunteers engage students and their guardians and families in exploring and protecting the watershed from the ridgeline to the ocean. The program includes four classroom presentations and three field trips (to an upper watershed, a nearby creek or wetland, and a coastal habitat) for a total of approximately 10 hours. Each presentation prepares students for a corresponding field trip.

The students begin in their schoolyards, observing the birds attracted to gardens. Related concepts are introduced,



(Inset) Clay Anderson

Eco-Ed students in the field and showing a California newt (before Covid-19).



such as pollination, food security, and influences on soil health, to inform food choices for the students and family members. As the program extends from the schoolyard to local storm drains and creek beds, students experience healthy outdoor activities while expanding awareness of pollutants that threaten birds. The school year culminates with trips to wetlands and beaches, where students gain a deeper understanding that the diverse wildlife in these habitats is connected to the environment where their families live, work, and play.



(Counterclockwise from top) Golden Eagle; Ridgway's Rails; Burrowing Owls.
Jerry Ting; Rick Lewis; Rick Lewis

Conservation Program

Our conservation committees help protect habitat and promote native plant landscaping throughout the Bay Area. The San Francisco Conservation Committee worked with the City of San Francisco on their Climate Action Plan and encouraged bird-safe architecture standards. Friends of the Alameda Wildlife Refuge partnered with the City of Alameda on a plan to convert concrete paving into a bayfront park and tidal marsh. The East Bay Conservation Committee advised park and city leaders on protecting wetland and upland habitat for Ridgway's Rail, wintering habitat for Burrowing Owl, and preserving nest cavities in vegetation management plans.

GGAS members participate on advisory committees and in environmental workshops to restore ecosystems in our parks, open spaces, and working lands. GGAS delivered over 30 comment letters and attended and spoke at over 15 hearings. We campaigned with environmental stakeholders to pass a state law that restricts second-generation rodenticide use and prevents death and suffering of hawks, eagles, falcons, owls, and other predators.

GGAS is a co-plaintiff to protect Point Molate, an ecologically diverse 436-acre ridge-to-bay habitat for over 200 species of birds and other wildlife. This fragile remnant natural landscape hosts low-lying bluffs and rare coastal prairie that descends to northern California's most productive eelgrass beds.

In partnership with other Audubon chapters, GGAS reduced the scale of a new wind energy project at the Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area and added protection for several special status species, including Golden Eagle, Burrowing Owl, and Tricolored Blackbird.





(Clockwise from top) Volunteer at Heron's Head; Caspian Terns; Snowy Plover.
Janet Carpinelli; Bob Gunderson; Bob Gunderson

Volunteer Program

GGAS connects people with birds and inspires volunteers to make a difference for local habitats and communities. Volunteers are active as birding docents, field trip leaders, public speakers, writers, artists and photographers, conservation advocates, and in office support, as well as in community science and ecological restoration.

RESTORATION/COMMUNITY SCIENCE

In FY 2020, 535 volunteers contributed 4,751 hours and invaluable skills to the restoration of six sites: Crissy Field, Pier 94, Heron's Head Park, and Golden Gate Park in San Francisco; Arrowhead Marsh at MLK Regional Shoreline in Oakland; and Alameda Wildlife Reserve. GGAS partners with San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, San Francisco Parks Alliance, the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, East Bay Regional Parks District, and the City of Alameda and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to support these restoration sites.

Restoration volunteers participated in on-site events and online events to promote the well-being of bird species of special interest and need, including Snowy Plover, Least and Caspian Terns, Ridgway's Rail, Burrowing Owl, and local and migratory birds such as Tree Swallow and Western Bluebird. Volunteers contributed the equivalent in time of \$120,818 in the first half of the year, before Covid-19 curtailed most GGAS activities, including cancellation of 24 work party days.

RESTORATION ACHIEVEMENTS

- Planted 385 plants
- Collected from our sites and later reseeded 100s of native seeds
- Removed 2,020 pounds of non-native invasive plants
- Removed 1,440 pounds of plastic and other trash from shorelines
- Recycled 90 pounds of plastic, glass, and metal
- Removed 10 gallons of used fishing line from receptacles provided at Pier 94
- 21 youth volunteers joined habitat restoration parties as part of their school's environmental education requirements
- 2 corporate volunteer groups, from Salesforce and Williams Sonoma, brought 5 groups totaling 220 Volunteers for habitat restoration parties
- 4 nonprofit partners: Eco Center at Heron's Head Park; Literacy for Environmental Justice; Presidio Trust; SF Parks Alliance
- 7 local agencies and businesses provided in-kind support: East Bay Regional Parks District; National Parks Conservancy; Port of San Francisco; Presidio Trust; Recology-SF; San Francisco Recreation and Parks Dept.; US Fish and Wildlife Service-Alameda



VOLUNTEER ACHIEVEMENTS

Docents

- 8 trained docents worked at Lake Merritt in Oakland, sharing spotting scope views of and information on nesting and other birds at the lake

Monitors

- 4 Burrowing Owl monitors kept watch over 4 resident owls at 3 sites along Berkeley/Albany shoreline parks
- 2 monitors kept tabs on 11 nest boxes at the Bison Paddock in Golden Gate Park for Tree Swallows and Western Bluebirds
- 2 Caspian Tern monitors looked for nesting activity on a constructed platform at Agua Vista Park, San Francisco

Field Trips

- 32 Trip Leaders generously provided 63 local birdwatching field trips totaling 269 hours — from short strolls to more challenging hikes — as well as biking/birding trips for nearly 200 birders ranging from newbies to experts



(Left column from top) Volunteer trash clean-ups at MLK Regional Shoreline and Pier 94.

(Right column from top) Docents at Lake Merritt; Tree Swallows at Bison Paddock; American Avocet. Bird photos by Bob Gunderson

Note: Volunteer photos taken before Covid-19.

Donors, FY 2020

GGAS appreciates and thanks every supporter, but available space precludes listing them all here.

\$10,000 AND ABOVE: Anonymous; Edward L Bennett; Clorox Company Foundation; Beverly C Cramer; The Kimball Foundation; National Audubon Society; Helen & Allan Ridley; Salesforce.com Foundation

\$5,000 – \$9,999: Alameda Fish and Game Commissioners; Mary Betlach; Flora Family Foundation; Bob Hallet; Pat Kirkpatrick & Sid Wolinsky; Jacqueline Smalley; University of California San Francisco

\$1,000 – \$4,999: Regina Anavy; Anonymous (2); Carol Baird & Alan Harper; Chris & Gary Bard; Arden Bucklin-Sporer; Linda & Bob Carloni; Chevron Humankind Matching Gifts Program; Jean Conner; Barbara Dengler; East Bay Community Foundation (Agerter Judd Fund); East Bay Community Foundation (Buehler Fund); Jane Freeman; Glu Mobile; Patricia Greene; Amanda M. Hamilton; Dan Harris; William R. Hudson; Dwight L. Johnson; Liz Kuo; March Conservation Fund; Miles & Mel McKey; Meriama Fund; John Nelson; Vic Quattrin; Pepi Ross; Eric Schroeder; Thomas Mitchell Scruggs; Deborah Senter; The Oakland Zoo; Alan & Ruth Tobey; Walker Warner Architects; Patricia Weeden; Noreen Weeden; Mary Wheeler

\$500 – \$999: Alice Abbott; Anonymous (2); John Blatz; Cathy Bleier; Beatrice Bowles; Andrea Burhoe; Don & Nancy Colberg; Vicki Cox; Jacqueline Craig; Jim Cunradi; East Bay Community Foundation (Lisa Esherick Fund); Marsha Feinland; Pauline L Fong; Robert Gomez; Viola Gonzales; Ken Greenberg; Whitney Grover; Douglas Hendricks; Sara Hirsch; Richard Horrigan; Don & Ann Hughes; Karen Kenney; Arron Klein; Kim Lally; Patricia Langenhahn; Robert & Hanno Lewis; Steve & Carol Lombardi; Diane Luders; Jaime Michaels; Dan & Joan Murphy; Audre W Newman; Wendy Niles; Patrick Owens; John Palo & Heidi Rackley; George Peyton; Phil Price; Madhav Puri; Maryann Rainey; Mary Lou Ramsey; Recology Golden Gate; Dan Roth; Anne B Rowe; Aleksandra Smolyanskaya; Elizabeth Sojourner; Michael Stevens; Margarette Untawale; Linda Vallee; Pam Young; Jaz Zaitlin

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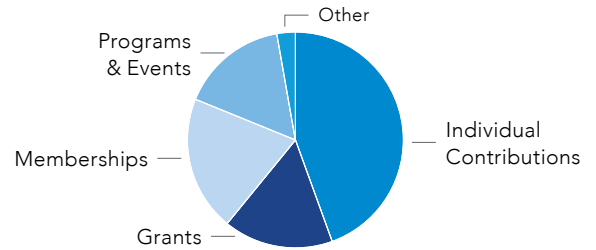


Financials, FY 2020

REVENUE

Individual Contributions	\$ 233,863
Grants	\$ 86,406
Memberships	\$ 106,540
Programs & Events	\$ 84,566
Other	\$ 14,516

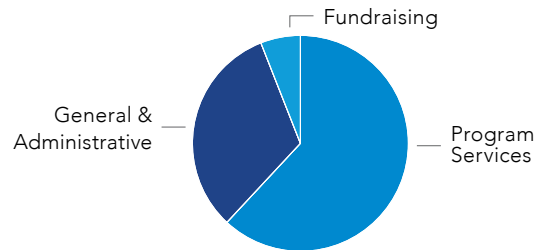
Total Revenue \$ 525,891



EXPENSES

Program Services	\$ 402,683
General & Administrative	\$ 208,783
Fundraising	\$ 38,786

Total Expenses \$ 650,252



LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Total Liabilities	\$ 127,639
Net Assets	\$ 868,747

Total Liabilities & Net Assets \$ 996,386



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(From top)
Common Goldeneye;
Allen's Hummingbird.
Bob Gunderson