



# 2022 Annual Report

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022





Golden Eagle. Jiaji Chong

## FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Golden Gate Audubon Society Family,

At this time last year, we turned a corner. Glenn Phillips, our new Executive Director, joined us, along with new board members. We had resumed field trips, thinking it was safe enough to do so, but it turned out the pandemic wasn't finished with us yet. However, following health guidelines, we were soon able to return to a normal schedule with our field trips, classes, and conservation programs.

And we moved ahead with new initiatives.

The most successful of these was the inauguration of a third Golden Gate Audubon sponsored Christmas Bird Count, this one in Richmond. Our co-compilers, Derek Heins and Karyn Noel, were able to get this initiative launched in record time after only six months of planning. It was a huge success with 180 people taking part and 172 species recorded.

Most of our board and staff have taken part in a year-long training program intended to help make us a more inclusive organization. We have resumed our advocacy efforts on behalf of birds. We filed a new lawsuit against Alameda County for its failure to significantly reduce Golden Eagle deaths at the Altamont. We supported a successful initiative to save Tesla Park from off-road vehicles, and we renewed our efforts to help protect Point Molate.

Our board and staff have been strengthened by key additions: Ryan Nakano joined our staff as Communications Associate and former board member Whitney Grover took over as Deputy Director. Our board added new members: Jess Beebe, Angelika Geiger, Solana Rice, Rachel Lawrence, and Sharol Nelson-Embry.

And, as always, we're grateful to you, our members, for making us the dynamic and committed organization we are today.

Eric Schroeder

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Eric Schroeder

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Bruce Mast

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Meshay Turner

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Ilana DeBare

Ryan Nakano

### **Director of Volunteer Programs**

Janet Carpinelli

### **Director of Development**

Catherine Millar

### **Membership Manager**

Justin Pepito



## Adult Education

Golden Gate Audubon's monthly speaker series, free monthly field trips and adult education classes continue to provide opportunities for people to strengthen their connection with nature.

Adapting to the continuing COVID pandemic and adopting the video conferencing technology of Zoom for our speaker series and adult education classes, we've been able to minimize the environmental costs of our programming while providing greater access. Attendance at the webinars varied widely from month to month, with a median of 100 participants.

After a year-long hiatus, in-person field trips returned to a record number of adult education classes with over 600 registrations.

Participants in our monthly nature journaling class, centered on Oakland's Lake Merritt, were able to resume in-person sessions. Two new beginning birding courses focused on the Berkeley shoreline. New intermediate courses on migration and a gull ID camp joined our popular diving birds, shorebirds, raptors, and birding by ear classes. Evolution of birds, two unique bird families (swifts and hummingbirds) and a new series of one-week courses on finding rarities joined the lineup.

The 2020 Master Birder cohort was able to complete their requirements, and a new cohort of 20 began this comprehensive program in February 2022.



(Clockwise from top) Allen's Hummingbird; Vaux's Swifts; Anna's Hummingbird. Corey Raffel; Bob Gunderson; Bob Gunderson

## Youth Eco-Education

For 23 years, the Eco-Ed program has had an unwavering mission: To be the bridge for disadvantaged youth to nature and the outdoors. Despite the challenges of the pandemic years, Eco-Ed remains in demand. This year, student participation reached two-thirds of pre-pandemic numbers and the program served six schools.

Students start to hone nature awareness and observation skills by documenting nature and birds in their schoolyards. The program then expands its scope from the schoolyard to local storm drains and creek beds, to bay marshes and mudflats, and to the ocean.

The Eco-Ed Manager and trained volunteers engage students, their guardians, and extended family members in exploring and protecting the watershed from ridgeline to the ocean. Three in-class presentations and associated field trips allow students to apply their observational skills to exploring an upper watershed creek, a wetland, and a coastal marine habitat and help them connect these habitats to the places where they live.

As a Golden Gate Audubon program, students also learn about why birds are important, how pollutants threaten birds, and what plants attract birds to gardens.



Eco-Ed students with volunteer Jennifer Navarette at Arroyo Viejo Creek.

## Volunteer Program and Habitat Restoration

Our Habitat Restoration program ramped up to near pre-pandemic levels during FY 2022 with 87 events, including several Earth Day/ Month events. During these events, 479 volunteers happily got outdoors and contributed 2,002 hours restoring and maintaining 8 sites, including Pier 94, Heron's Head Park, Crissy Field beach, the native plant perimeter garden at the Bison Paddock, North Lake, as well as Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline Park in Oakland. Volunteers spent some of those hours working with Literacy for Environmental Justice (LEJ) at their native plant nursery on Treasure Island, up-potting 1,550 plants, and pruning/caring for many local native plants, including some used at our restoration sites.

### RESTORATION HIGHLIGHTS

#### Planted

**452** plants

#### Removed

**414** 30-gallon bags of invasive plants

**73** 30-gallon bags of trash

**7.5** 30-gallon bags of recyclables

**1** pound of used fishing line



(Clockwise from top) Removing invasive Algerian Sea Lavender from Arrowhead Marsh; Carrying straw into Pier 94 habitat restoration for weed suppression; Watering previous winter plantings at Pier 94; Cleaning up beach at Crissy Field.

Janet Carpinelli



### VOLUNTEER ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Bird Monitoring:** 122 volunteers spent 91 hours at several East Bay and San Francisco locations to monitor and report on: Western Bluebirds, Tree Swallows, Caspian Terns, Least Terns, Burrowing Owls, Osprey, and Tricolored Blackbirds.
- **Docents at Lake Merritt:** 15 seasoned and new docents put in 131 hours to restart our winter docent program, assisting passers-by with bird identification.
- **Advocacy for Birds/Habitat:** 14 volunteers had a virtual meeting with political representatives in Sacramento on Bird Advocacy Day. Our volunteers are educating professionals on Bird-Friendly Buildings, Plants for Birds, Dark Skies for Bird Migration, and the lethal results to raptors of rodenticide use.
- **Local Field Trips:** 42 leaders spent 1,188 hours prepping for and leading 282 free birding field trips for beginner through advanced birders.
- **Travel Program:** 2 busy volunteers worked 110 hours planning and delivering domestic and international trips.
- **Adult Education Classes:** 8 Volunteers spent 643 hours in design, preparation, administration, and teaching of 31 classes.
- **Office/Data Entry:** 42 hours of data entry by our long-time office volunteer.
- **Bird-Friendly Coffee Club:** 4 volunteers spent 76 hours processing coffee orders and payments and delivering orders to 3 locations for members to pick up.
- **Birdathon 2022 Fundraiser:** 397 hours by 20+ volunteers: leading local field trips and individual/group fundraising.
- **Christmas Bird Counts – San Francisco, Oakland, Richmond:** 6 volunteer bird count coordinators spent 872 hours including 1 volunteer who spent 566 hours creating and coordinating the inaugural Richmond CBC.



## Conservation Program

Our three conservation committees, Friends of the Alameda Wildlife Reserve (FAWR), San Francisco Conservation Committee, and the East Bay Conservation Committee, had a busy year advocating for birds and wildlife around the Bay Area. Each committee stayed informed on policy and land use changes and educated the public, government agencies, and developers to improve bird habitat in our challenging urban landscape.

In coordination with US Fish and Wildlife Service and the VA, FAWR volunteers resumed monitoring the Least Tern breeding colony and long-term all-bird surveys in the surrounding areas. They wrote and published monthly articles in the local newspaper, The Alameda Sun, celebrating local bird species. Additionally, they continued to support the City of Alameda in its creation of De-Pave Park on the former runway space of the decommissioned Naval Air Station. Planning for the new ecological park has now been partly funded by a Measure AA grant from the California Coastal Commission.

In San Francisco, Conservation Committee members attended eight meetings and submitted seven letters on a range of issues including the Ocean Beach Climate Change Mitigation project, UCSF's Parnassus Heights New Hospital Plan, Golden Gate National Recreation Area Proposed Air Tour Management Plan, the Lake Merced West Project, and the Farallon Islands Mouse Eradication Plan.

San Francisco and East Bay Conservation Committees continued their Plants for Birds program, working with nurseries around the Bay Area to stock and promote our four choice plant species for the year; Hollyleaf Cherry, Coyote Mint, Yarrow, Coyote Bush. Each year we partner with the California Native Plant Society to select one tree, shrub, vine, and flowering herb to focus our education and promotion.



(Clockwise from top left). Transplanting Yarrow starts on Treasure Island; Least Tern in Alameda.

Janet Carpinelli; Rick Lewis



Binocular Demo on UC campus; (Inset) Chalk artists outside of Li Ka Shing Center.

Ryan Nakano; Ilana DeBare

## Berkeley Bird Festival

Golden Gate Audubon co-hosted the first ever Berkeley Bird Festival in partnership with the California Institute for Community Arts and Nature (CAL ICAN) on October 17, 2021. The day-long event offered the community a chance to celebrate the city's local birdlife. With nine sold out guided birding field trips (215 attendees) around Berkeley, bird chalk art on the UC campus, and a slate of family-friendly activities at the David Brower Center with over 150 registrants, the festival proved to be a huge success.

The Berkeley Bird Festival was made possible by the financial support of the UC Berkeley Chancellor's Community Partnership Fund, and the participation of the following event partners: the UC Berkeley Botanical Garden, the UC Berkeley Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Cal Falcons, David Brower Center, Bay Nature, Berkeleyside, and 350 East Bay.





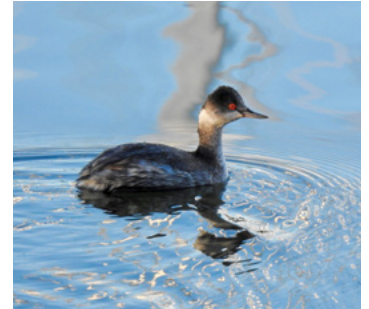
## SF Bay Osprey Cam

San Francisco Bay Ospreys Rosie and Richmond – a bonded pair nesting against the stunning backdrop of San Francisco, faced their most unusual year yet. When ravens reduced the established nest to a slope by removing sticks to build their own nest nearby, Osprey fans had a front-row seat to watch Rosie and Richmond build an even better nest. Richmond, the primary provider, injured a critical rear talon. And for the first time in six years, one egg did not hatch.

In response to the second Osprey nestling's suffering and death from an unknown illness, Golden Gate Audubon took the opportunity to educate viewers on Osprey survival strategies and statistics as well its own policy on human intervention. The award for Most Dramatic Moment goes to the unbanded juvenile – who took over the nest from the remaining fledgling – when it attempted to eat a fish hook with monofilament attached. Fortunately, the young Osprey flung the offending items away and was not injured. Despite the year's challenges, the number of YouTube subscribers grew 25% and Facebook page visits increased 42%, a testament to people's interest in learning about and from wild birds.



Osprey Parents Rosie and Richmond with their offspring Brooks and Molate. SF Bay Osprey Cam



(Clockwise from top left) Red-tailed Hawk at Alvarado Park; Birding at Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline; Eared Grebe at Richmond Marina; Dunlins and Sanderlings; (Inset) Sanderling at Meeker Slough. Alan Krakauer; Spencer Allen; Bruce Mast; Bruce Mast; Elizabeth Winstead.

## Richmond Christmas Bird Count

The annual Christmas Bird Counts in Oakland and San Francisco have been among the most popular nationwide. With such birding spots as Point Molate, Point Pinole, and Miller-Knox Regional Shoreline, the Richmond area was a conspicuous geographic gap in count coverage. That's no longer the case. The inaugural Richmond Christmas Bird Count on January 2 was a huge success with 180 participants. This circle was approved as an official count circle by the National Audubon office only 25 days prior to the primary count day, but the team was able to pull it off with an impressive 172 bird species recorded.

It was a very cold day, but winds were light and skies clear – great conditions for a count. As luck would have it, the first count of the week, on December 30, coincided with a mid-morning king tide. There were no big surprises, but 4 Tundra Swans were seen at Dotson Marsh. Other highlights included Short-eared Owl, Redhead, Black Scoter, Surfbird, Heermann's Gull, Black Rail, Ferruginous Hawk, Northern Saw-whet Owl and Rock Wren. GGAS thanks count organizers and compilers Derek Heins and Karyn Noel, Rusty Scalf for drafting the count circle map, and everyone who helped plan and participated. The second Richmond CBC will be held on New Year's Day, 2023.



## Strategic Plan

When the Board of Directors adopted a Strategic Plan for GGAS in November 2019, no one counted on a global pandemic disrupting progress toward its four-year goals. In partnership with GGAS staff, and guided by the same professional planning consultant, the current Board revisited and revised the Strategic Plan this year through a series of discussions, interviews, and a full-day retreat on May 22. The updated Strategic Plan will be in effect for three years, from July 2022 through June 2025.

Some highlights of the reimagined plan include new vision and mission statements for the organization, a commitment to pursue three strategic initiatives around climate change, birding for everyone, and supporting people and wildlife in the City of Richmond. Seven mission-oriented and institutional goals were articulated along with 13 specific strategies to support each goal. A detailed process for measuring and evaluating progress was outlined.

## Donors, FY 2022

### Corporations, Foundations, and Government Agencies

#### \$5,000 AND ABOVE

California Coastal Conservancy; Explore the Coast; Flora Foundation; Homecoming Capital; National Audubon Society; National Fish & Wildlife Foundation; University of California, Berkeley Chancellor's Community Partnership Fund; University of California, San Francisco

#### \$250 – \$499

East Bay Community Foundation (Buehler Fund); Worldwide Small Change Foundation; Bonfire; George J. & Theresa L. Cotsirilos Merced Foundation; Justice Outside; Hamilton Zanze & Co; The Bluebird Fund; The San Francisco Foundation: The Simpson Booth Fund; East Bay Community Foundation (Anonymous Fund); D & J Hodgson Family Foundation; Piedmont Garden Club; Chevron Humankind Matching Gifts Program; Horizons Foundation; Advanced Building Services Inc; Morehouse Family 2016 Fund; Montelindo Garden Club; Berkeley Bob's; Ellis Partners; The Sports Basement; United Way of the Bay Area; Wells Fargo Foundation; Beatrix Bunny Fund; Moss & Murphy; Nest Yoga

*Golden Gate Audubon gratefully acknowledges the support of our travel partners: Wild Latitudes, LLC and Birding Ecotours, LLC.*

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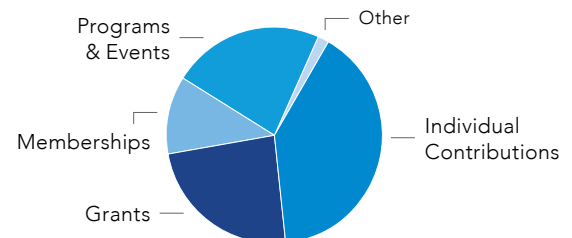
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## Financials, FY 2022

### REVENUE

Individual Contributions	\$	322,470
Grants	\$	191,324
Memberships	\$	93,650
Programs & Events	\$	184,297
Other	\$	11,303

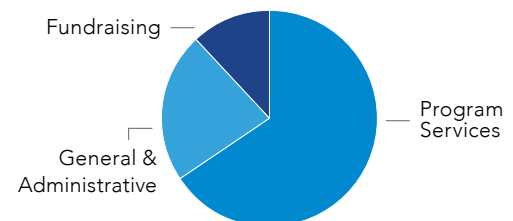
**Total Revenue** **\$ 803,044**



### EXPENSES

Program Services	\$	628,147
General & Administrative	\$	214,086
Fundraising	\$	112,235

**Total Expenses** **\$ 954,468**



### LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Total Liabilities	\$	81,346
Net Assets	\$	730,774

**Total Liabilities & Net Assets** **\$ 812,120**

Note: Excludes Unrealized Gain



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