



2023 Annual Report

July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023



Birdathon trip to Glen Canyon Park. Evelyn Rose

FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Golden Gate Bird Alliance,

Has a nice ring to it, don't you think? We hope that our new name will provide continuity (thus the "Golden Gate"), make our mission clear to those who don't know us ("Bird"), and prove welcoming to all who care about birds ("Alliance"). See the New Name section of this report for more on this recent development.

The year had many successes. Once again we had a full slate of field trips, adult education classes, and ongoing conservation projects. We moved into our beautiful new home in the David Brower Center. Birdathon was our biggest ever, raising more than \$120,000— a fifty percent increase from last year. We launched a Birding for Everyone initiative and raised enough money to give scholarships to ten applicants who took a wide range of our adult education classes.

George Marschall became the newest member of our staff this year as our Membership Manager. We said farewell to some beloved board members (Amy Chong, Ilana DeBare, Dan Roth, and Solana Rice) but gained some great new ones (Brandy Ford, Tara McIntire, and Steve Powell).

I'll end by welcoming our new Board President, Christina Tarr, and saying thanks to the staff and board members who made my tenure easier with their hard work and good cheer.

Eric Schroeder Immediate Past President

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Adult Education

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

Our field trip program collaborated with Outdoor Afro, Latino Outdoors, Bay Area Older Adults, and the Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program (BORP). With BORP's leadership, we led field trips with birders with physical disabilities and vision impairments. We joined with California State Parks for two trips to Angel Island and one at Candlestick Point. Our field trips had over 3,000 registrations in 2022–2023.

We offered 20 adult education classes, including one for staff of Urban Tilth, a local nonprofit connecting Richmond residents to nature and tools to build a healthy, sustainable food system. We expanded our adult education offerings with new classes on eBird and Sparrows. Over 300 registrants participated in Adult Education classes.

We continued to take advantage of Zoom, bringing a wide range of speakers to our community. We also hosted three in-person speaker events at the David Brower Center in Berkeley. With the help of other local Audubon chapters, we brought authors Doug Tallamy and Scott Weidensaul. Beverly Ortiz and Kanyon Sayers-Roods spoke with us about Ohlone peoples and birds: past, present, and future.





(From top) California Towhee; Bears for Birds UC Berkeley campus birding trip. Ryan Nakano; Bob Gunderson



(Top and inset) Students from Esperanza Elementary at Arrowhead Marsh. (Above) Eco-Ed students planting natives at MLK Jr. Regional Shoreline.

Ryan Nakano

Youth Education

During the 2022–23 season, our youth education program, Eco-Ed, received a \$5,000 grant to provide students with transportation for field trips to local parks and natural areas. Bringing these students to places like Crab Cove, Wildcat Canyon, and Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline offers them a chance to develop a love for nature, understand its importance, and strive to protect it as its future stewards.



Prioritizing Title I schools, Eco-Ed partnered with Fred T. Korematsu, Esperanza, Ocean View, Bayshore, and Prescott elementary schools serving 12 classes of 3rd to 5th grade students. A total of 324 students, 98% students of color, received the full Eco-Ed program. Eco-Ed provided a total of 24 field trips in conjunction with 22 classes, which comprised 26,680 opportunities for nurturing an appreciation for nature. We also served one private school that paid to participate in the Eco-Ed program thereby allowing us to continue providing free education for the rest of the schools and students we served. With the inclusion of other "one time" events, like our Drawing Birds class with Acorn Woodland Elementary and Nature Journaling session with Saint Thomas the Apostle School, a total of 580 students learned about the importance of the water cycle and its role in nature and the world.

Volunteer Program

TABLING AT EVENTS

At community events we help inspire people to protect Bay Area birds and our shared natural environment. To that end **32 of our volunteers engaged hundreds of event attendees** at: the Berkeley Bird Festival, the Berkeley Bay Festival, the Gum Tree Girls Festival, The Chabot Space and Science Center's First Fridays, Wildcat Creek North Richmond Watershed Project Cleanup, Contra Costa Resource Conservation District Shoreline Festival, and Oakland Zoo Earth Month events.

HABITAT RESTORATION AND COASTAL/SHORELINE CLEANUP

We hosted **84** habitat restoration and coastal/shoreline cleanup events with **1,019** adults and **135** youth. Our restoration volunteers contributed over **2,750** hours restoring and maintaining eight regular sites including: Pier 94, Heron's Head Park, Crissy Field beach, North Lake and the native plant perimeter garden at the Bison Paddock—both in Golden Gate Park and Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline in Oakland, as well as a pre-nesting season Osprey habitat cleanup at Meeker Slough in Richmond. Volunteers spent some hours working with Literacy for Environmental Justice (LEJ) at their native plant nursery on Treasure Island, up-potting **1,979** plants, and pruning/caring for many local native plants, including some used at our restoration sites.

Highlights by the Numbers

Planted

737 plants

Removed

30-gallon bags of invasive plants30-gallon bags of trash







DOCENT PROGRAMS

This winter our docent program at Lake Merritt reconvened to share our love and knowledge of this special place, the nation's first wildlife refuge. Eleven volunteers spent a total of 68 hours showing over 300 passersby the birds and nature of Lake Merritt. Despite the rainy winter, the Lake Merritt docents were out by the Rotary Nature Center for 9 busy weekend days from November 2022 to January 2023. In addition to Lake Merritt docents, we piloted our first ever Dotson Marsh Docent Day, where 8 volunteer docents took turns showing over 50 kids and adults scoped views of ducks, cormorants, and egrets on this important shoreline habitat just south of Point Pinole Regional Park.

FIELD OBSERVATIONS

Western Bluebird/Tree Swallow Nest Box site monitoring/reporting continued in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park at the Bison Paddock perimeter native plant gardens, as well as Burrowing Owl winter season monitoring/reporting in Berkeley's Cesar Chavez Park.



(Clockwise from top) Transplanting pots for Sticky Monkey Flower starts at Treasure Island Nursery; Trimming back blackberry vines and plant debris along Islais Creek in Glen Canyon Park; Planting natives on new berm at Crissy Field East Beach; Preparing to plant Grindelia at Lash Lighter Cove in Heron's Head Park.

Conservation Program

SAN FRANCISCO CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

The San Francisco Conservation Committee (SFCC) continued monitoring projects around the city and county and advocating on behalf of birds. One of the biggest accomplishments this past year was the publication of the SF Bird Species of Conservation Concern report. The report helps prioritize and focus the committee's work on certain areas and species where they can have the biggest impact. Other successes include: mitigating nighttime lighting at the new Tunnel Tops area of the Presidio; monitoring bird species and activities at Heron's Head Park to assess the impacts of the Shoreline Resilience Project; adding four new native plant species to the Plants for Birds program and working with nurseries around the city to promote them; and submitting letters in response to Environmental Impact Reports for planned projects at the former Lake Merced Gun Club and the Ocean Beach Climate Change Adaptation Plan. Many of the committee's recommended changes were included in the final NPS Air Tour Management Plan for the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

EAST BAY CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

The East Bay Conservation Committee ended its hiatus after finding new leadership with Cathy Bleir and Jeff Manker.



Dotson Marsh in Richmond; (inset) Western Sandpipers at Dotson Marsh.

FRIENDS OF THE ALAMEDA WILDLIFE RESERVE

The Friends of the Alameda Wildlife Reserve (FAWR) continued to champion wild birds and their habitats in the City of Alameda. The committee monitored development plans for Alameda Point including the Least Tern reserve and Veterans Administration land, as well as the proposed DePave Park. We also welcomed a pair of Bald Eagles nesting at Corica Park Golf Course on Bay Farm Island. Working with the golf course owners and staff, FAWR organized a monitoring team and provided daily documentation of the eagles' activities, protection for the nesting area, and weekly public tours of limited access areas as well as education for interested golfers on the course. Public education about birds continues with monthly articles in both the *Alameda Sun* weekly newspaper and the new *Alameda Post* online daily news outlet.







(Left to right) Ridgway's Rails; Shoreline cleanup at Meeker Slough in Richmond; Bald Eagles nesting at Corica Park Golf Course.

RICHMOND INITIATIVE COMMITTEE

Established in 2022, the Richmond Initiative Committee is introducing new communities to Golden Gate Bird Alliance and its programs in Richmond, North Richmond, San Pablo, El Sobrante, Hercules, Rodeo, and El Cerrito. The committee has established new partnerships, increased access to birding, developed new opportunities for youth education activities, and participated in local conservation projects. Initiative highlights include bird walks and presentations for Friends of Pinole Creek and SPAWNERS (San Pablo Watershed Neighbors Education and Restoration Society), outings with Earth Team high school students in Pinole and Richmond, Eco-Education in the Richmond Outdoor Coalition with grant funding and inroads to middle and highschool students, participation in the Contra Costa Shoreline Festival, and cleanups at Meeker Slough and Hilltop Lake. We look forward to expanding our work to achieve the Golden Gate Bird Alliance mission.

Birding for Everyone Scholarship

Golden Gate Bird Alliance (GGBA) is committed to becoming more inclusive and diverse to engage the next generation of conservation leaders. Members of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee worked towards this goal by starting the Birding for Everyone Scholarship program last year. We have an excellent adult birding education program, but cost, awareness, and familiarity can be barriers to new students joining—especially those who identify as Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC), LGBTQ+, low-income, or with disabilities. Thanks to generous donors, we were able to select 10 students to receive a full-year scholarship to attend birding classes, receive mentorship, and engage in community-building activities to network with other students, birding leaders, and local environmental organizations.



Birding For Everyone Fellows on Alcatraz Island birding trip.
Rachel Katz

Four are currently in the Master Birder course and eight recipients regularly participate in activities. They identified community-building as a goal at the start and created a community among themselves, including most attending the Birds of the Sierra class together. A group activity is offered monthly; they have gone behind the scenes at the California Academy of Sciences, toured Alcatraz breeding bird colonies with a biologist, and met with our board and staff. They have shown leadership in being active in the GGBA renaming, writing in *The Gull*, and organizing a Spanish language bird outing. Many folks have been generous in offering access and expertise, and the scholars' skills and confidence have really grown.



Birders on the UC Berkeley Campus at the Berkeley Bird Festival. $\ensuremath{\mathsf{Darwin}}$ Mayhew

A New Name Takes Flight

In August 2023, we adopted our new name: Golden Gate Bird Alliance. After years of exploring and reckoning with the history of John James Audubon, it became clear we needed to remove Audubon from our name to become a more inclusive organization. In March 2023, just days after we polled our members and found 63% were in favor of a name change, National Audubon Society announced they would not be changing their name. So we forged our own path, learning from other chapters like Seattle. On April 20, 2023, our members voted in favor of a name change and we began the process of finding a new name to better represent our mission and values. We believe Golden Gate Bird Alliance marks a new chapter for the organization in its commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion within the conservation field.

Office Migrates Across Berkeley

In March 2023, we said goodbye to our office of over 20 years on San Pablo Avenue and hello to our new home in the LEED-certified David Brower Center in downtown Berkeley. Our new office space has room to grow with nine workstations and two private conference rooms, one of which we are experimenting with as a classroom for adult education programs, and the other hosting our newly renovated library. Come visit us at 2150 Allston Way, Suite 210 during our open hours of 10am–4pm Monday through Thursday.

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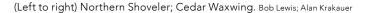
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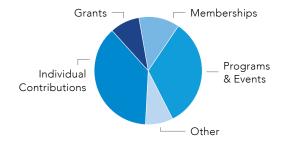
Financials, FY 2023

REVENUE

Individual Contributions	\$ 322,162
Grants	\$ 76,437
Memberships	\$ 105,485
Programs & Events	\$ 283,401
Other	\$ 69,287

Total Revenue

\$ 856,772

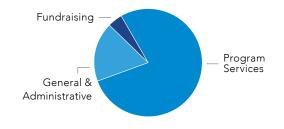


EXPENSES

Program Services	\$ 819,241
General & Administrative	\$ 188,389
Fundraising	\$ 44,027

Total Expenses

\$ 1,051,657



LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Total Liabilities	\$ 69,556
Net Assets	\$ 594,381

Total Liabilities & Net Assets \$ 663,937



Brown Pelican. Rick Lewis

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