

2024 Annual Report

JULY 2023 – JUNE 2024





OUR MISSION

To inspire people to protect Bay Area birds and our shared natural environment.

OUR VISION

A world where birds, wildlife, and all people flourish together.



From the Board President

After long thought, discussion, and consultation with our community, our membership chose our new name, Golden Gate Bird Alliance, at our annual meeting in August. Our new name honors our past and geographic region, conveys our mission—to protect birds and their natural environment—and emphasizes the importance of building an inclusive community of bird advocates.

Have we lived up to our commitments as the Golden Gate Bird Alliance?

We continued our restoration work around the Bay Area. In addition, we successfully advocated for expanded wildlife habitat at Alameda Point, pushed for a “Reserve” designation status for Tesla Park in Livermore, and celebrated the reopening of Middle Lake in Golden Gate Park, a project we were consulted on. We are committed to our region.

Our San Francisco Conservation Committee spent countless hours creating the *San Francisco Bird Species of Conservation Concern* report, an effort which is now being repeated by the East Bay Conservation Committee. We focused on protecting birds and their habitat.

Our second year of the Birding For Everyone Fellowship saw ten more BIPOC fellows benefit from free classes, membership, and an engaging cohort experience. We worked to build an inclusive community.

From our new name to the actions we’ve taken to live up to it, none of this would’ve been possible without our deeply passionate and engaged members, volunteers, and leaders. Thank you for being part of the alliance, and for continuing this work in the new year.

Chris Tarr

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Education

Between our classes, monthly birding trips, public speaker series, and live Osprey Nest Cam, Golden Gate Bird Alliance continues to provide public opportunities to engage in wildlife recreation and ecological knowledge. With birdwatchers four to five times more likely than non-recreationists to engage in conservation¹, we're creating a community of environmental advocates through these programs.



(From top) Birding at Arrowhead Marsh at the Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline; Birding For Everyone Fellows at Birders for Palestine Event.

Janet Carpinelli; Daniela Sanchez

Birding for Everyone

People of color make up less than 12% of staff working with general conservation and environmental organizations² even though they make up 34.3% of the population³.

Responding to historic and current barriers for people of color in accessing nature and engaging in its stewardship, GGBA launched its Birding For Everyone Fellowship program (BFE) in 2023.

Developing and empowering the next generation of BIPOC conservation leaders in the Bay Area, the second year of the BFE Fellowship provided 10 people of color with free access and priority enrollment to all GGBA classes, free membership, and facilitated cohort trips and networking opportunities. Given the high demand for social support-based programming, BFE expanded its offering by introducing a new four day supplemental course to the over 40 applicants who were not selected for the fellowship.

Learn more about our fellowship program by visiting goldengatebirdalliance.org/fellowship.

BY THE NUMBERS

88

Free classes taken since the program's inception

8

BFE fellows in the Master Birder Program to date

2

BFE fellow-led classes

¹ wildlife.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/jwmg.855 | ² Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences, 2018 | ³ U.S. Census Bureau, 2022

Classes

Deep diving into discussions on ornithology, bird ID, ecology, and conservation, our classes continue to serve the community by building a foundation of knowledge for current and future bird advocates. With five new classes in just the past year, our instructors old and new move our understanding of birds and ecology forward.

BY THE NUMBERS

30
Classes

342
Students

5

New classes:

Beginning Birding in Nesting Season
Birding Your Patch
Birds in Anthropocene
SF Habitat and Birds
Skaggs Island



Birders at Corona Heights Park, San Francisco.
Dominik Mosur



"I became a birder through my love of plants and natural history. Creating and teaching a class about SF bird habitats was a wonderful opportunity for me to share my knowledge and joy with the GGBA community."

Jeanette Pettibone, Class Instructor, SF Habitats and Birds

Eco-Ed Youth Program

GGBA's award-winning Eco-Ed youth program saw another successful year. Continuing to teach students from Title I schools in the Bay Area about the region's ecology, Eco-Ed expanded its reach to middle and high schools in North Richmond and Richmond. Eco-Ed also formed new partnerships with local nonprofits: Richmond Outdoors Coalition; Town School for Boys; and YES Nature to Neighborhoods. With more than 70 classroom visits and field trips to sites like Alcatraz Island, Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline, and Wildcat Canyon Regional Park, over 500 students learned about wildlife, the water cycle, and the importance of environmental stewardship.



Students at Spreckels Lake, San Francisco.
Helen Gong

BY THE NUMBERS

519
Students

95%
Students of color

7

Schools served:

Bayshore Elementary
Esperanza Elementary
Korematsu Discovery Academy
Nystrom Elementary
Prescott Elementary
Richmond High
Verde Middle



"Many students don't often have access to outdoor spaces, and visiting these spaces gives them access to nature and encourages them to go with their families, too. Through the program, our students have developed a greater understanding of ecosystems and different organisms' places in them."

Julia Yarak, 4th grade teacher at Esperanza Elementary School

Monthly Birding Field Trips

Every month, we offer around 20 free birding field trips, deepening participant's relationship with birds, the natural world, and each other. With over 25% of participants engaging with us for the first time, we've continued to expand our offerings to include Bird Curious trips for beginners and more accessible slow birding trips. Leaders and attendees actively engage in conservation by recording bird observations to community science platform eBird. This data helps monitor species populations, identify potential trends, and set conservation priorities.

BY THE NUMBERS

260

Field trips

279

Bird species observed

1,198

Unique participants

126,200

Birds listed

315

First-time participants (26%)

19

Counties visited



(Clockwise from top) Aquatic Park Field Trip at the Berkeley Bird Festival; Young birder at the Berkeley Bird Festival; Birders at UC Berkeley Campus.

Ryan Nakano; Ryan Nakano; Darwin Mayhew

Speaker Series

Our free monthly speaker series program highlighted a diverse group of scientists and conservation leaders while expanding our community's understanding of birds, the state of specific bird species, and local efforts to protect them.



BY THE NUMBERS

1,754

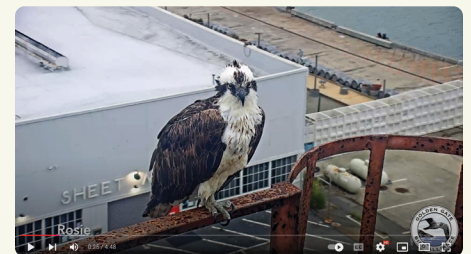
Attendees

146

Average attendees
per event

Osprey Cam

Thanks to a grant from the Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund, we now have a newly upgraded Osprey Nest Cam, providing our community with a crisper view of our resident Ospreys in Richmond.



BY THE NUMBERS

11,104

Website views

19,103

YouTube views,
totaling
434.3 hours

18,700

Facebook visits,
with 250 follows

Conservation

Throughout the Bay Area, Golden Gate Bird Alliance actively engaged in bird conservation strategies ranging from local policy advocacy and bird monitoring to on-site, volunteer-driven habitat restoration work. At the same time, we've identified a growing need to focus and prioritize ongoing and future conservation projects. By the new year, we will have a dedicated Conservation Director to lead these efforts!



(From top) Middle Lake in Golden Gate Park opens after restoration work; California Least Tern, Alameda Point; Bluebird on lichen branch; Hermit Thrush at Wildcat Canyon; Western Bluebird, Richmond.

Glenn Phillips; Rick Lewis; Alan Krakauer; Alan Krakauer; Glen Tepke

Achievements

We Successfully Fought for Critical Bird Habitat

In November 2023, GGBA and other Bay Area environmental groups successfully advocated for the maximum amount of wildlife habitat at De-Pave Park, the planned nature park on a section of the former Naval Air Station in Alameda. Writing op-eds, sending city council letters, and attending several planning meetings, our volunteers pushed to completely remove a large building from the site, opening up an additional 3.9 acres of safe habitat for birds, including the nesting colony of endangered California Least Terns. The removal of Building 25, known as Option 3, was approved by the Alameda City Council and marks a major win for local wildlife conservation.

We Conducted Field Research!

This year GGBA conducted two breeding bird monitoring surveys. At Wildcat Canyon Regional Park, Fen Conway reported 69 species in total (18 of which were confirmed/probable breeders) along the Flow Trail, a proposed mountain biking path. Conway's findings provide an important baseline to assess the ecological impact of future land management decisions. Across the bay, Dominik Mosur monitored breeding and overwintering birds at Mount Sutro, tracking the impact of revegetation efforts by UCSF and Sutro Stewards on local wildlife.

We Created a Critical Conservation Resource

Countless hours of volunteer research, and review by bird experts in San Francisco, led to the development of the *San Francisco Bird Species of Conservation Concern* report. This invaluable resource will raise awareness of bird species of concern, guide local conservation efforts, and serve as the model for a forthcoming East Bay edition.

We Led Grassroots Projects

Western Bluebirds now have more safe places to nest thanks to our collaborative project with Vista Alternative High School, where we installed nine bluebird boxes on their campus farm in Richmond.



Volunteer Program

With over 90% of the San Francisco Bay's historic wetlands developed, habitat restoration along our shorelines is critical for migrating and resident bird populations. Mobilizing close to 400 volunteers (360 first-time GGBA volunteers), we removed 525 bags (30 gallons each) of invasive plants, planted 380 native plants, and pulled approximately 8,000 pounds of trash across 10 important bird habitat sites in the Bay Area. By allowing native plants to flourish unimpeded by invasives and reducing the threat of plastic pollution, our volunteers gave more bird species a chance to take advantage of crucial habitat. When our volunteers plant Native plants like *Grindelia Stricta* (Marsh Gumplant) we help provide cover, nesting material, and food sources for birds in marsh habitat.

BY THE NUMBERS

10

Sites

Bison Paddock
Crissy Field Beach
Heron's Head Park
Meeker Slough
MLK Jr. Regional Shoreline
(Arrowhead Marsh)
North Lake
Pier 94
Point Molate
Treasure Island
Vista Alternative High School
(Farm)



"Last year, our San Francisco office partnered with Golden Gate Bird Alliance for invasive plant removal at the beautiful Heron's Head Park for a group volunteer outing. It was an educational and fun time for our team to learn about this important habitat and the work of GGBA to restore it for the local birds."

Jessica Kelley, Longroad Energy



(From left) Removing invasive fennel at Pier 94; Mallards "inspecting" restoration work at North Lake in Golden Gate Park.

Inbal Shalev; Janet Carpinelli

Donors, FY 2024

Corporations, Foundations, and Government Agencies

\$10,000 AND ABOVE

California Coastal Commission; Mary A Crocker Trust; Saving Birds Thru Habitat

\$5,000 – \$9,999

City of Berkeley; East Bay Community Foundation

\$1,000 – \$4,999

Apple Matching Gifts Program; Conservation Society of California (The Oakland Zoo); Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee; Ellis Partners; Kitchell Foundation; Martin Marietta; Safari West, Inc.; SPRAWLDEF; University of California, San Francisco

\$500 – \$999

Bank of America Foundation, Inc.; Google Inc.; Longroad Energy; Midvale Foundation; Nvidia; Piedmont Garden Club; Salesforce.com Foundation; Walter and Elise Haas Fund

\$250 – \$499

Birding Ecotours, LLC; Chevron Humankind Matching Gifts Program; Justice Outside; Langur Eco Travels

\$100 – \$249

Berkeley Bob's; California Healthcare Foundation; Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, LLC; Dolby Matching Gifts Program; Intel Corporation; Montelindo Garden Club; Sloat Garden Center, Inc.

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\$10,000 AND ABOVE

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\$5,000 – \$9,999

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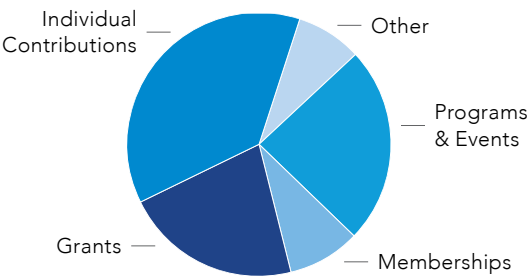
Red-shouldered Hawk.
Catie Michel

Financials, FY 2024

REVENUE

Individual Contributions	\$	437,942
Grants	\$	254,681
Memberships	\$	104,880
Programs & Events	\$	282,428
Other	\$	94,024

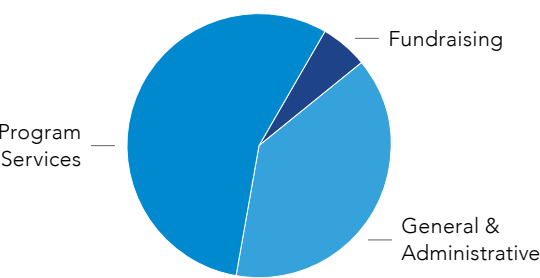
Total Revenue \$ 1,173,955



EXPENSES

Program Services	\$	608,116
General & Administrative	\$	423,870
Fundraising	\$	60,954

Total Expenses \$ 1,092,940



LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Total Liabilities	\$	131,092
Net Assets	\$	676,401

Total Liabilities & Net Assets \$ 807,493



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