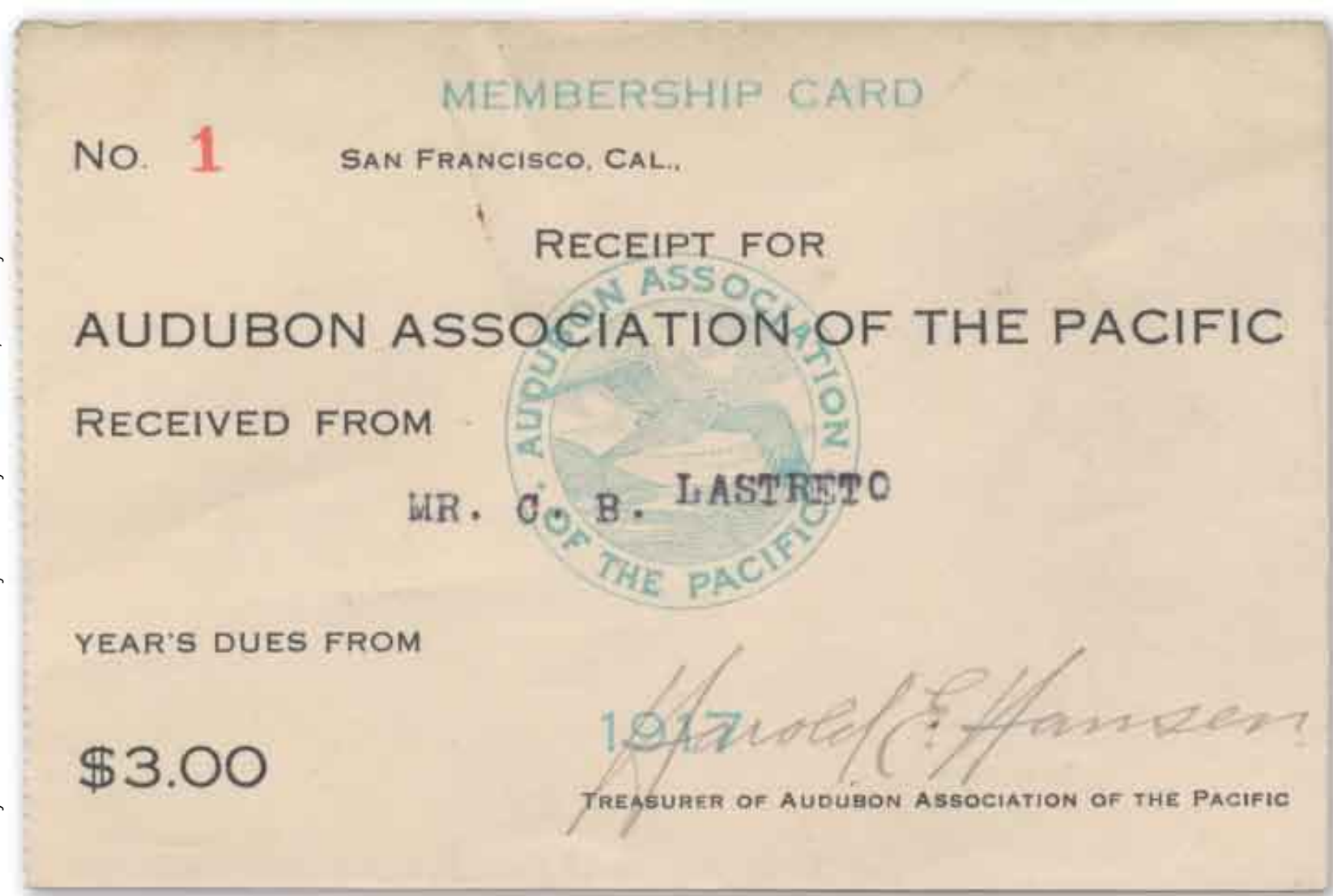




Carlos B. Lastreto



Courtesy of The Bancroft Library/University of California, Berkeley



## 1917

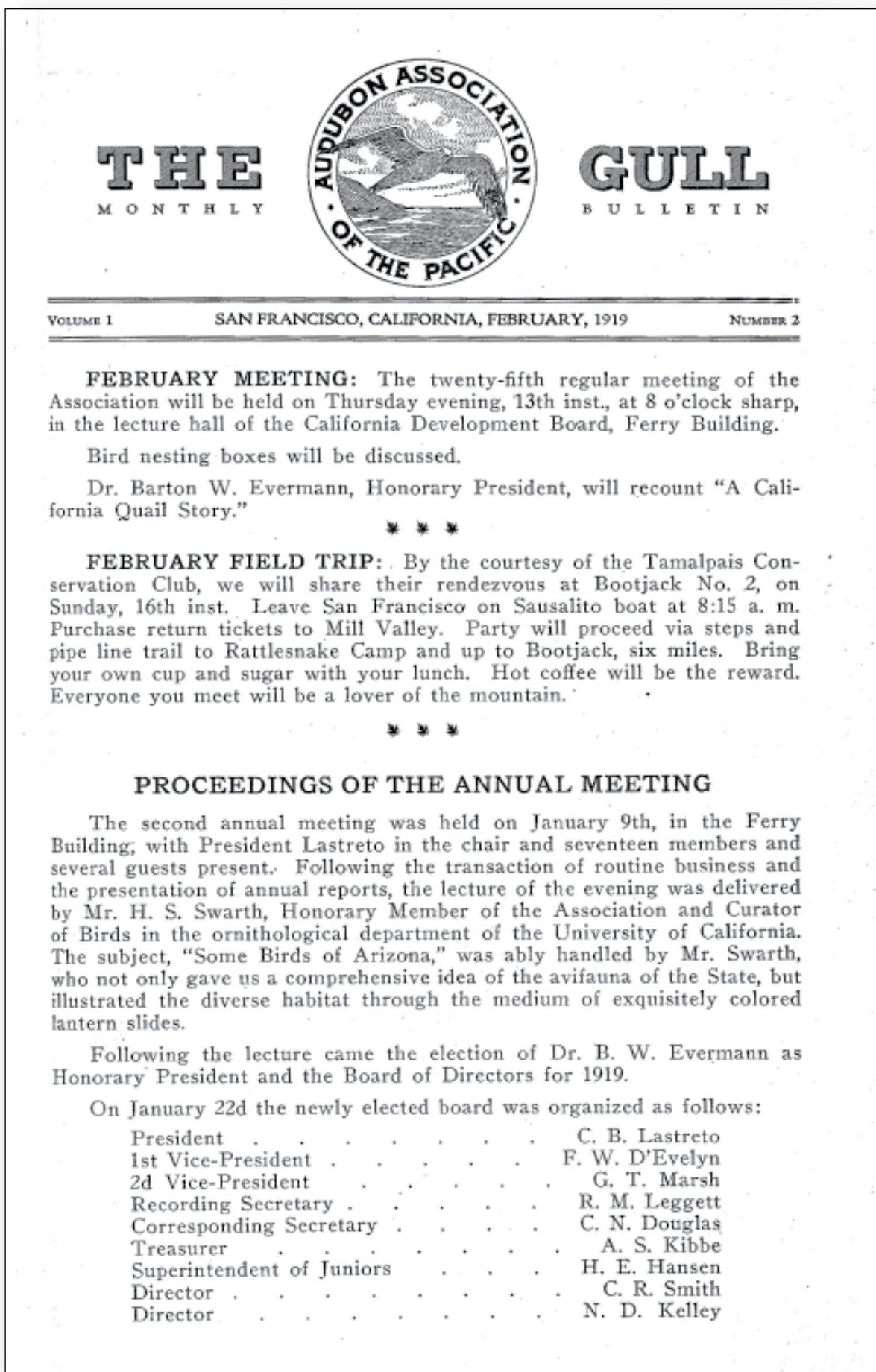
A group of birders from a UC Berkeley class taught by ornithologist Harold Bryant establishes the Audubon Association of the Pacific for the purpose of enjoying, studying, and protecting birds. At the first meeting, January 25, Carlos B. Lastreto, a local businessman, is elected president.

## 1919

The Audubon Association publishes the first issue of *The Gull* to announce monthly programs, field trips, bird observations, and conservation initiatives. The February issue is the first to carry the association's logo.



Charles Denon



## 1920

In January the Audubon Association inaugurates a census of waterfowl on Lake Merritt in Oakland, held annually through the mid-1950s.

## 1924

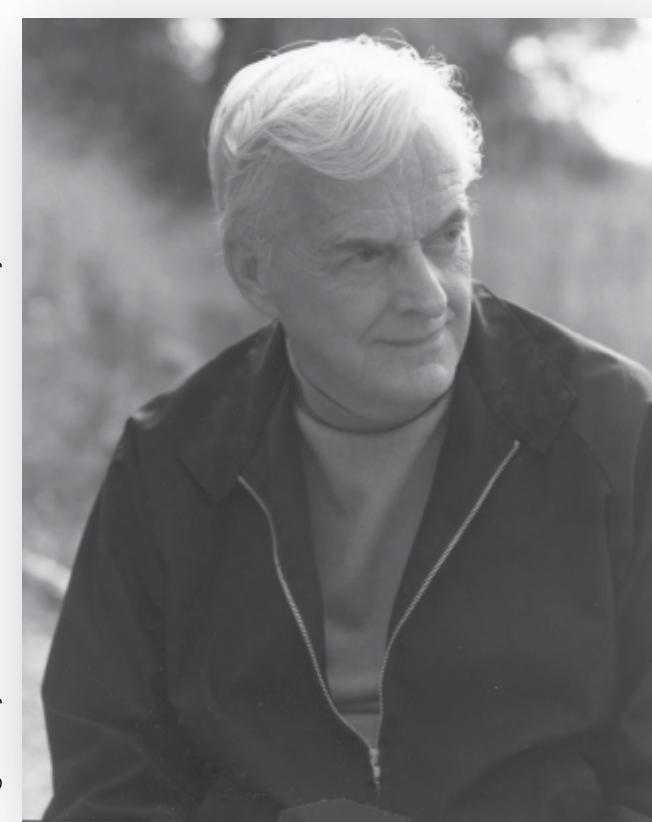
The Audubon Association advocates restoration of Lower Klamath Lake, drained 15 years earlier for use as agricultural land.

## 1927

Members and guests celebrate the Audubon Association's 10th anniversary with a dinner at which Joseph Dixon of the University of California is the main speaker. Joseph Grinnell, Joseph Mailliard, Harold Bryant, and Barton Evermann give short addresses.

## 1936

On October 8 Roger Tory Peterson gives his first lecture at an Audubon Association meeting, two years after publication of his seminal *Field Guide to the Birds*.



Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History

## 1940

In May, Roger Tory Peterson makes his second appearance at an Audubon Association meeting, speaking to an audience of 175.

## 1939

The June meeting is held on Treasure Island during the Golden Gate International Exposition.



## 1943

Copies of *The Gull* are distributed to members of the armed services.

## 1917-1920

The Audubon Association learns that tankers are discharging crude oil near the Farallon Islands, with devastating consequences for seabirds. President Lastreto and Barton Evermann, director of the California Academy of Sciences, form a committee to work with oil companies to curb the dumping of this waste oil. In 1920 Standard Oil, Union Oil, and Associated Oil complete onshore tanks that permit the recycling of oil, eliminating the need to discharge it at sea.



## 1928-1930

The Audubon Association oversees the state bird campaign in Northern California. More than half of the 135,299 votes cast are due to its efforts. The winner is the California Quail, with over 61,000 votes.

## 1933-1934

The Audubon Association successfully persuades the San Francisco Water Department to allow tules and other cover to grow at Lake Merced as bird habitat. A committee is formed to advocate for the creation of a bird sanctuary at the north lake.



Eleanor Biscotti



# GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON

## 90 Years of Environmental Activism and Education



**1962**

Golden Gate Audubon joins Marin Audubon in setting up a foundation to purchase and protect Audubon Canyon Ranch. By year's end, \$90,000 is raised for the down payment. Golden Gate Audubon establishes a fund to raise the annual installments necessary to complete the purchase. Volunteers begin greeting visitors to Audubon Canyon Ranch a year later and continue to serve as ranch docents.



**1965**

Golden Gate Audubon begins supporting the work of longtime member Elsie B. Roemer and other Alameda residents to save important bird habitat on Bay Farm Island from development.



Golden Gate Audubon field trip to the Farallon Islands, 1969

**1957**

Golden Gate Audubon's 40th anniversary is celebrated at a banquet at the Claremont Hotel in Berkeley. Featured speaker is ornithologist George Miksch Sutton, from the University of Oklahoma.

**1956**

Working with other local chapters, Golden Gate Audubon establishes the San Francisco Bay Salt Marsh Sanctuary on leased land in Newark. A fund is started for the purpose of acquiring and protecting Bay Area wildlife habitat.

**1959**

Two members establish a system of phone notification that serves as Golden Gate Audubon's first rare bird alert.

**1975**

Golden Gate Audubon protests the unauthorized filling of five acres of the bay for the Emeryville harbor and proposes that, as mitigation, acreage in the Emeryville Crescent be dedicated to bird habitat. At the end of the year, the City of Emeryville designates most of the crescent as open space and bird habitat.

Golden Gate Audubon initiates classes on Bay Area birds and other natural history topics at the Albany Adult School. GGA-sponsored classes continue today in Albany and are now held in San Francisco and Oakland.



photo by Bob Lewis

**1971–1973**

Golden Gate Audubon joins other organizations in supporting the acquisition of Point Pinole for public parkland and gives \$100,000 to the East Bay Regional Park District toward the purchase. The funds are earmarked for the park's northernmost salt marsh.



Claire Johnson, president of Golden Gate Audubon, gives Marlin Haley (left), president of the East Bay Regional Park District board, a contribution toward the purchase of Pt. Pinole. John May (right) makes a donation on behalf of the San Francisco Foundation.

**1948**

The Audubon Association becomes a chapter of the National Audubon Society. A year later, members approve changing the name to the Golden Gate Audubon Society.



**1974–1975**

Preventing development at south Richmond's Hoffman marsh and mudflat is among the most important initiatives. Field trips introduce birders to the critical habitat, and after advocacy by Golden Gate Audubon members and others in the community, the City of Richmond decides to protect the area.

photo by Bob Lewis



1979

San Francisco Recreation and Park Department releases a new Golden Gate Park Master Plan that incorporates many of Golden Gate Audubon's recommendations.

The portion of the Alameda shoreline between Park Street and Broadway is named the Elsie B. Roemer Bird Sanctuary, in honor of the Golden Gate Audubon member who helped conserve this and other local bird habitats. Golden Gate Audubon establishes a conservation award in her honor, the Elsie Roemer Conservation Award.



Elsie B. Roemer in 1979

1996

Joining local environmental groups, Golden Gate Audubon supports the wetland restoration project at Crissy Field in the Presidio in San Francisco, the historic site of a large wetland and lagoon.



Western Snowy Plover at Crissy Field

1980

Golden Gate Audubon begins funding a study of breeding California Least Terns at the Alameda Naval Air Station to determine the factors affecting nesting success. Monitoring of the colony continues to the present.



California Least Terns at the Alameda Wildlife Refuge

1994

Golden Gate Audubon convenes and sponsors a symposium of leading biologists to discuss the future of the endangered California Least Terns and other birds after the decommissioning of the Alameda Naval Air Station. As a result, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service requests roughly 575 acres of land and 375 acres of water to create the Alameda National Wildlife Refuge. Three years later, Friends of the Alameda Wildlife Refuge, a Golden Gate Audubon conservation committee, is formed to advocate for transfer of Navy lands to the Department of the Interior and creation of the refuge.

1978

Shoreline Park, a 14-acre ribbon of shoreline on Bay Farm Island, opens to the public after a decade of dedicated advocacy by Save Our Shoreline, Golden Gate Audubon, and other activists.

photo by Bob Lewis



1985

Golden Gate Audubon joins the Eastshore State Park Coalition, a group of environmental groups and other stakeholders seeking to create a continuous shoreline park from Emeryville to Richmond.



Bob Lewis



Charles Denson

1990

Golden Gate Audubon makes a contribution from its Sanctuary Fund toward the purchase of West Marin Island and East Marin Island, which support nesting herons and egrets, as well as waterfowl and shorebirds. The islands and adjacent tidelands become a national wildlife refuge.

1981

Thanks to a large bequest from Rachel Makower, Golden Gate Audubon establishes a permanent Sanctuary Fund to help purchase critical wildlife habitat, enhance habitat for birds, and improve access for observing wildlife.

1978-1994

Golden Gate Audubon publicizes the work of the newly formed Mono Lake Committee to reverse water diversions that are threatening to deplete the lake and destroy bird habitat. More than \$100,000 raised by Golden Gate Audubon members go toward the cost of lawsuits by the Mono Lake Committee and National Audubon. In 1994 the State Water Resources Control Board adopts a management plan for stabilizing Mono Lake's water level and restoring the feeder streams and wetlands.

1986-1987

Golden Gate Audubon successfully opposes a plan to build two large hotels on the Emeryville Crescent shoreline, an area described by the Bodega Bay Institute in a 1978 report written for Golden Gate Audubon as "the single most diverse wildlife habitat within the Bay."

1986-1995

Golden Gate Audubon takes legal action to prevent the filling of wetlands next to Arrowhead Marsh at Oakland's Martin Luther King, Jr., Shoreline, thereby destroying a seasonal pond and tidal wetland used by waterfowl and shorebirds. In 1995 Golden Gate Audubon wins a settlement requiring the Port of Oakland to restore 70 acres of seasonal wetlands.







Restoring California Sea-blite, Earth Day, 2006

## 2004

After 16 years of negotiation, Golden Gate Audubon wins protection for Gateway Valley in Orinda, a link in the Caldecott Corridor, the only land bridge for wildlife between north and south Contra Costa County.

Golden Gate Audubon convinces the City of Oakland to include wetland restoration and wildlife habitat along Lake Merritt Channel as part of the city's plan for the Oakland Estuary.

A coalition of environmental and community organizations, including Golden Gate Audubon, obtains funds to restore the Yosemite Slough watershed in San Francisco's Hunters Point. Golden Gate Audubon works with Literacy for Environmental Justice to complete a survey of the area's birds and other wildlife.

Pursuing a project initiated on Earth Day in 2002, Golden Gate Audubon collaborates with the Port of San Francisco to reclaim salt marsh habitat at Pier 94 on the city's southern bayside waterfront. Volunteers colonize a federally endangered plant, the California Sea-blite, and continue to turn out for regular workdays to enhance the habitat.



## 2007

After three years of legal action, Golden Gate Audubon wins protections for the birds at the Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area. The wind industry is required to reduce the number of birds killed by the turbines and engage in a conservation process aimed at mitigating the deaths of 4,700 individual birds annually, including state and federally protected Golden Eagles.

Golden Gate Audubon begins working with the North Richmond Shoreline Academy to involve the local community in the conservation of the North Richmond shoreline and in a census of the shoreline's bird life.



Restore-A-Thon volunteers at the Presidio

## 2002

Work is completed to restore one of the last remaining portions of natural shoreline in the Oakland estuary, a collaborative effort by Golden Gate Audubon, the San Francisco Baykeeper, and the Port of Oakland following an oil spill in 2000. The Clinton Basin mudflats and salt marsh host ducks, shorebirds, and wading birds.



Students, family members, and teachers returning from an Eco-Oakland field trip to Alcatraz, where they conducted a bird survey

## 1998

Golden Gate Audubon sues the Bureau of Reclamation and other federal entities for failing to protect Lower Klamath and Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuges, critical sites for migrating waterfowl, by allowing water diversions for agricultural use.

Golden Gate Audubon launches the Save the Quail campaign. Volunteers begin habitat restoration work in the Presidio and monitor the quail during breeding season. Five years later, the first of a series of annual Restore-A-Thons is held to raise funds and restore native quail habitat in San Francisco parks.



Fifth-graders in the Eco-Oakland Program, at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline

## 1999

Golden Gate Audubon launches education programs that introduce schoolchildren to local birds and habitats at the Martin Luther King, Jr., Regional Shoreline and the Alameda Wildlife Refuge, and give workshops for teachers. This environmental education effort grows into the successful Eco-Oakland Program.



## 2006

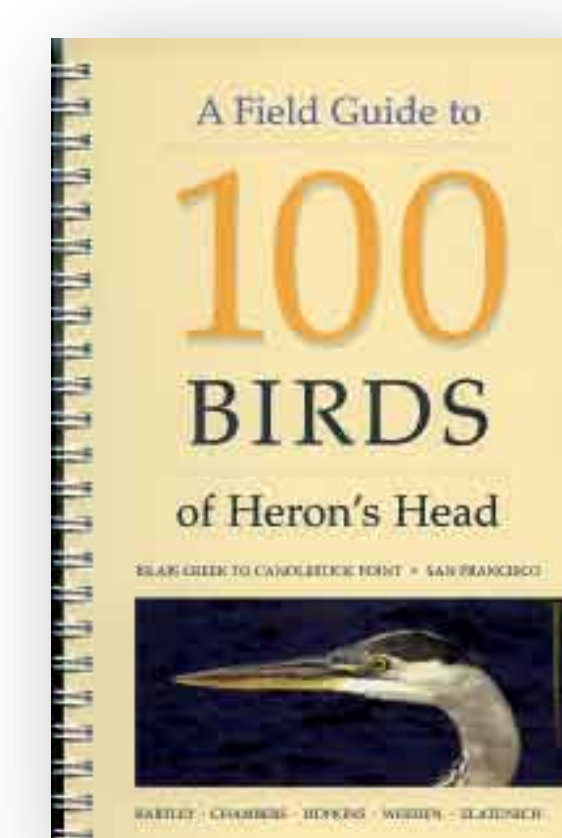
Golden Gate Audubon collaborates with community groups and the East Bay Regional Park District to ensure that nine acres of the Albany Plateau in the Eastshore State Park are set aside as Burrowing Owl habitat. To coincide with the park's opening, Golden Gate Audubon publishes a checklist of the park's birds, based on a one-year census by volunteers.



1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007

## 1993-1999

Golden Gate Audubon asks the Port of San Francisco and the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission to fund creation of a wetland at Pier 98 on the city's southern bayside waterfront. The restored wetland, called Heron's Head Park, opens to the public in 1999 and, among other uses, serves as a location for environmental education for students in the Bayview and Hunters Point communities.



## 2005

A report is released analyzing a five-year census of shorebirds, waterfowl, and other birds at Arrowhead Marsh and the restored 72-acre wetland at Martin Luther King, Jr., Regional Shoreline. The data, collected by Golden Gate Audubon volunteers, show the wetland to be one of the most successful Central Bay restoration projects.

