

Tide Rising

Winter 2020

Volume 1, Issue 2



Publisher & Editor: [San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society](#) (SFBWS).

SFBWS is a not-for-profit Friends Group for the San Francisco Bay NWR Complex, working along with many Refuge volunteers to keep our public lands available for you and wildlife.

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Restoration, Reflection, & Discovery

by Ceal Craig, PhD, SFBWS BOD President

As the San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society publishes its second digital online newsletter, we **reflect** on the work the Society, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and partners have done to **restore** habitats and locations that were changed by humans in past years.

In this issue:

- Learn about the Antioch Dunes NWR from Louis Terrazas, USFWS Wildlife Resource Specialist.
- Susan Euing, USFWS Wildlife Biologist, will share the Complex's efforts to restore an endangered species, the Least Tern, at the Veteran's Affairs Alameda Point (VAAP) colony.
- Francesca Demgen describes how volunteers and USFWS staff are working to restore and grow the North Bay Refuges.
- How USFWS staff help us all the time!
- How volunteers make a difference.

Let us know what you think! This continues to be a work in progress. If you can help (editing, articles, etc.) reach out to [NEWSLETTER email](#) and enter "VOLUNTEER" in the subject.

Thanks for reading and enjoy the rest of the San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society WINTER Newsletter!

SFBWS Nature Stores

Do you enjoy sharing nature with others? The Nature Stores at the Fremont Visitor Center and the Alviso Environmental Education Center are stocked with items to inspire and inform friends and family about local natural resources. Find informative field guides, soft cotton hoodies (*Water is Life* and *Foxie*), and new T-Shirts: Salamanders in short and long sleeve, and *Dive into Nature* are new items you might like. You can also give the [gift of San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society membership](#) to celebrate the New Year or for Valentine's day.

Fremont Visitor Contact Station W – F 11am – 4:30pm
Environmental Education Center – Saturday 10am – 4:30pm

Winter Refuge Activities

Go to [USFWS Events](#) and [SFBWS Program activities](#)

San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society
Editor: Ceal Craig, PhD., Renee Fitzsimons
Contributors: Hope Presley, Francesca Demgen (Friends of San Pablo), Susan Euing (USFWS), Louis Terrazas (USFWS)

Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge ([More info](#))

The Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1980 to protect three endangered species: the Lange's metalmark butterfly (*Apodemia mormo langei*), the Contra Costa wallflower (*Erysimum capitatum angustatum*), and the Antioch Dunes evening primrose (*Oenothera deltoides howellii*). It's the only National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in the country established to protect endangered plants and insects. Due to the sensitivity of the habitats and these endangered species, the Refuge is not open to unsupervised use by the public. See [monthly guided tours and volunteer activities](#) to learn more.

Donated Sand Helps Endangered Dune Flowers Thrive

by Louis Terrazas, Wildlife Resource Specialist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

This Refuge is 55 acres of a remnant riverine sand dune ecosystem that once totaled over 190 acres along the San Joaquin River. Allison McNally, geography PhD from California State University, Stanislaus, estimated that about 1.8 million cubic yards of sand was mined out of the Refuge boundaries prior to it being established, for brick-making and other purposes. Now the Refuge is getting dredged sand material donated to its site in Antioch, CA.

In June of 2012, Antioch Dunes NWR staff published a small piece in Bay Nature Magazine asking the San Francisco Bay Area and Bay Delta communities for donated sand material in support of a new dune restoration project. The purpose was to mimic natural aeolian, or wind-driven, sand dune processes that have been lost due to development in the area, and, in turn, conserve and promote the endangered species for which the Refuge was established.

Since the Refuge staff made that request, it has received 87,810 cubic yards of dredged sand from deep water ship channel maintenance conducted in the San Joaquin River by the Port of Stockton, CA and monitored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Starting with that initial receipt of sand material in 2013, the Refuge has seen a marked increase in the population of the Antioch Dunes evening primrose. In a spring 2019 study by the United States Geological Survey, 5,220 adults and 48,996 juvenile plants were counted. That is, far and away, the highest amount of individual plants of the species counted on the Refuge since its establishment. The previous high count was 5,857 plants in 1986. It's clear that the endangered flower is responding well to the dune restoration project.

The Refuge is currently planning on seeding host plants and nectar plants for the endangered Lange's metalmark butterfly in winter, 2019-20. Meanwhile, it is working to expand the area of dune restoration.

Refuge staff are appreciative of their partnerships with the Port of Stockton, CA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on this important restoration effort. The Refuge also hopes to work with other private property owners, organizations and corporations that are able to donate dredged, non-contaminated sand material (over 75 percent sand), to rebuild critical habitat for its endangered plants and butterfly.

The Antioch Dunes NWR offers tours on the second Saturday of each month, from 10am to 11am, at 501 Fulton Shipyard Road in Antioch, CA. If you are interested in volunteering for the Refuge, please call the office at 707-769-4200 or email [Louis Terrazas](#) at USFWS.



Blooming Antioch Dunes evening primrose on a restored dune site at Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge (Photos: USFWS)



Veterans Affairs Alameda Point (Federally Protected Wildlife Area)

Since 2002, USFWS has managed this Federal property for the benefit of wildlife.



Fledgling Osprey on the rocks along VAAP shore. (Leora Feeney)

A Town for Terns!

by Susan Euing, Wildlife Biologist, San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Most remember the property at the northwest end of Alameda Island as the Naval Air Station Alameda (early 1940s to mid-1990s). Did you know that this same property is also home to many wildlife species, including an endangered bird? Wildlife abounds in its surrounding waters in San Francisco Bay. When the property changed hands from the U.S. Navy to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (V.A.) in 2014, the name was changed to V.A. Alameda Point (VAAP). The USFWS continues to manage the site as a federally protected wildlife area under a contract with the V.A., as it did with the Navy from 2002.



Elegant Terns flying around VAAP (Susan Euing)

Wildlife continues to thrive, particularly birds, mainly because the site is protected and closed to the public. Some of the birds thriving on VAAP and neighboring waters include Avocets, Horned Larks, Great Blue Herons, Stilts, Gulls, diving and dabbling Ducks, Peregrine Falcons, Kestrels, Owls, White-Tailed Kites, Red-tailed Hawks, Osprey and Cormorants. Bottlenose dolphins, harbor seals and sea lions are also seen regularly nearby in the Bay. Even a humpback whale made a three-week visit last June! But what most distinguishes the site and ensures its protected status is the presence of a federally endangered bird species, **California Least Terns**.



Wintering Burrowing Owl peers out of iceplant (Leora Feeney)



Adult Least Tern feeding a silverside to hungry fledgling. (Aric Crabb)

Since the mid-1970s, CA Least Terns (*Sternula antillarum browni*) have successfully nested on the property, even when the Naval Air Station was active. Over the years, the colony has grown to the largest Least Tern colony in northern California. Over 600 fledglings were produced in 2016, the most productive year to date. However, the species continues to be listed as endangered because the overall population in California and Mexico is not stable.



New hatched chick and hatching egg (Susan Euing)

Despite its success, the VAAP Least Tern colony has endured its share of hardships as well. From 2017 to 2019, the birds arrived to their breeding colony days later than the previous year. In 2017, heavy rains and storms might have slowed them. Normally, the first birds to arrive are older, more experienced ones that have nested there before. That year, however, many of them arrived thin and in poor shape. In fact, a few were found dead on their nests. The adult terns were also bringing fish back to the nests that were too large for chicks to consume, and many chicks died during the first wave of nesting. Luckily, newly hatched fish started to appear in the local waters in late June, saving the second wave of chicks. In 2018, many nests were abandoned or unsuccessful, possibly due to a shortage of fish nearby.

A typical Least Tern breeding season lasts 15-16 weeks. In 2019, it lasted 12 weeks – yet the number of nests laid was comparable to 2018. It meant that Least tern adults intensified their egg laying to catch up to a normal nest number, and that hatching would occur in a shorter period. The USFWS Biology team had to find every chick to count them – a long day!

In addition to the CA Least Terns, other tern species also nest at the site. Caspian Terns (*Hydroprogne caspia*), the world's largest tern species, had been nesting on the Navy property until 1999. They then stopped nesting there for over two decades. After mitigation work was completed in 2014, they returned to VAAP to breed and nest for the summer, and have continued ever since. In 2018 and 2019, Biology staff observed over 1,300 Elegant Terns (*Thalasseus elegans*) spending time there. Forster's Terns (*Sterna forsteri*) were also seen foraging there in small numbers in 2019. On a few occasions, a Black Skimmer (*Rynchops niger*), a tern-like bird, has foraged in ponds at the site.

The USFWS's mission at VAAP is to help endangered CA Least Terns and other species thrive and ensure that their breeding habitat is safe and well-maintained. If you are interested in helping the Service and its partner, the Friends of Alameda Wildlife Reserve, prepare the Least Tern colony for the next breeding season, there are regular, three-hour work parties every second Sunday from September through April, 9am to noon. For more information, contact [Pat](#).

Reflection, Restoration, & Discovery

Reflecting back to the beginnings of the Society, we asked Dr. Chris Kitting some questions. Chris is a Founding Member of the Society and still an active BOD member and officer.

What prompted you to help found the Society? What was the need? Who were the people involved? How did you make it happen?

Back around 1987, one of my CSUEB grad students, John Steiner, was Refuge Naturalist at the DESFB NWR and noticed that their refuge carpenters were planning to move into an old abandoned shoreline “Pumphouse” building. Leslie Salt had built that shoreline structure before ~1950 to house a huge pump to periodically fill higher evaporation ponds and channels with seawater from nearby Newark Slough. Steiner invited me to write a proposal to instead convert that solid old building into a shoreline laboratory. We arranged a cooperative agreement between USFWS and Cal State University East Bay/Hayward. The shoreline lab proposal was accepted and the old pumphouse was converted.



Chris in NASA's ATV-1 MAC flight

About the same time, the Refuge was arranging to establish a bookstore at the Fremont Visitors Center, but needed a non-for-profit organization to manage the finances. John Steiner arranged with an existing not-for-profit, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, to temporarily add our new SFBWS to their program, and loan us funds to establish a Refuge bookstore. Within a few years, several of us then established an independent organization.

An early grant proposal I wrote, to equip the shoreline lab with a hi-resolution video microscope system, was funded through SFBWS, which assisted numerous school groups using that lab, including classes from CSUEB year-round.

Tell us a bit about yourself

Early in my life, I was an Eagle Scout and an Aquanaut team leader for a NOAA Hydrolab saturation research mission in the Caribbean. My life focus had become **research**. Since 1985, I've been a Professor of Biological Science at Cal State East Bay, teaching biology and ecology classes. After earning a Bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences from UC Irvine, a Stanford University Fellowship, a PhD there, followed by postdoctoral work on food chain biochemistry. Recently, NASA-Ames Research Center selected me, with a team of scientists associated with NASA and the European Space Agency, to fly NASA mission ATV-1 MAC in a high-altitude airborne observatory, bringing a CSUEB Student, to study upper atmosphere phenomena in the South Pacific, as far from land as possible. Then an analogous Hayabusa satellite recovery mission. Exciting years!

What are you most proud of thinking back over thirty plus years?

I am most proud of my 40-plus successful graduate students, all of whom became leaders in their specialties. Several of us pioneered non-destructive sampling (with hi-resolution audio, and imagery, above and below water, and now in the upper atmosphere). Those methods became essential once ecologists realized that habitat restoration and monitoring was crucial for sustainable life support systems around the planet, and for adaptive management of those systems.

What has kept you participating? What do you recommend for volunteers and members of the Society?

Following in the footsteps of my major professor, the late Dr. Don Abbott: Wildlife and their limiting factors keep me and my colleagues active. We seek to discover those limits on particular wildlife experimentally in the field, and try to reverse those limits, as habitat and now ecosystem restoration. Just as my older colleagues such as Drs. Howard Cogswell, Ned Lyke, and Sam McGinnis helped inspire and encourage my continued work, I encourage others to seek out models to pattern our lives after, and focus on examples of success with wildlife conservation and restoration, and contribute whatever talents and resources we each can offer.

Timeline: San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society

1987 – SFBWS formed. Restored pumphouse on Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR as environmental education classroom.
1988 – Began publishing Tideline newsletter.
1989 – Published first Drawbridge history book by Monty Dewey.
1992 – City of San Jose and Santa Clara Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program (SCVURPPP) funded EEC employees.

1995 – Funded EEC butterfly garden.
1996 (year 10) – Funded Salt Marsh Manual for environmental education.
1997 and beyond -- Grantors supported full-time Society employees at EEC.
2000 – Bair Island restoration project planning funded through grant (planning completed in 2006).
2005 – Funded enhancements at San Pablo Bay NWR & Farallon Islands NWR.

2006 - 2011 – Bike racks, shade shelters, signage, trail maps, and more.
2012 – Yellow Bus (Blue Goose) Fund supporting transportation to Refuge for school groups.
2016 & 2017 – 30 years anniversary. Summer camp funding expanded.
2018 – City of San Jose withdrew support for Living Wetlands program. SCVURPPP (Watershed Watchers) support continues. Published new Drawbridge book.

King Tides: How Climate Change and Sea Level Rise will Change our Coastlines

Each year, between December and February, global coastlines experience “**King Tides,**” the *highest* high tides. These tides result when the sun is closest to the earth (mid-January) combined with when the gravitational pull between sun and moon is in alignment, typically at a new or full moon. King tides occur naturally and are predictable, but can have a greater effect on the coastline and property if they occur during a storm. King tides provides a visual representation of how future coastlines might look throughout the year if climate change continues to drive increasing sea levels.

Throughout the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex, observing king tides today helps project how this potential change might influence our habitats and surrounding communities. At Don Edwards SFBNWR, photos were taken at Guadalupe River, Coyote Creek, and Alameda Creek during the last king tide event from January 10–12, 2020. In some areas, the water is as high as

the levee that is holding that water back from inundating adjacent communities. As a result of a historically altered landscape and potential environmental changes in the not-so-distant future, many large projects are working to restore vital habitat and protect our communities. The [South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project](#) and [South Bay Shoreline Project](#) are designed to address flood risk, restore wetlands, and provide recreation.

Want to see the king tides for yourself? Visit us at the Environmental Education Center in Alviso, the Visitor Contact Station in Fremont, or check out the [California King Tides Project](#). **The next king tide events are February 8–9, 2020.**

You can participate in the effort to document these tidal effects by taking pictures that highlight the threats imposed by potential sea level rise and submitting them to the California King Tides Project along with the same photo locations at a normal low tide.



Floating Dock along the Mallard Slough Trail in Alviso, Jan-11, 2020 (Hope Presley, SFBWS)



View of Coyote Creek north towards Drawbridge, Jan-11, 2020 (Hope Presley, SFBWS)



Picnic shelter at Don Edwards SFB National Wildlife Refuge in Fremont, Jan-11, 2020 (Miguel Marquez, USFWS)

**More info, check out
KQED Science:**

[King Tides: A Story of the
Moon, Sun, and Sea](#)

by Cecilia (Ceal) D. Craig, PhD, President, Board of Directors

TIDE RISING: The San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society (SFBWS) published its first quarterly newsletter (Fall 2019). Still a work in progress, this quarter's theme is Restoration, Reflection, and Discovery. What do you want to hear about in upcoming issues? Spring quarter the theme will be Endangered and Threatened Species; Summer quarter will focus on Exploration and Learning. Write us at the [Newsletter address](#) with ideas, comments, and questions.

CRITICAL Volunteer NEED: Please consider helping the Society and volunteer for a Board of Directors position or a Committee member. **Interested in learning more?** Email [Ceal](#) or [Renee](#). We need you!

Volunteers are vital to assisting with nature store operations in Fremont and Alviso Refuge locations. Email [Mary Deschene](#) at [Mary.Deschene\[at\]SFBWS\[dot\]com](mailto:Mary.Deschene[at]SFBWS[dot]com) or 510-792-0222 ext. 364 for more information or to find out what days volunteers are needed.

Other Refuges Need Support!

Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex (Sacramento NWRC) needs a Friends group to help them restore and rejuvenate their Visitor Center. Reach out to [Lora Haller](#), USFWS, if you are interested or can help.

ON THE TRAIL: Almost 20 years ago, a friend and I were walking on south Bay levees, observing wildlife around us, not knowing what birds we were seeing. That was the catalyst for my birding interest and why I teach bird watching at the EEC, take trips throughout the United States to Refuges and bird watching spots, and finally am a member of the Society.

A few weeks ago, my teen-age niece and I took our fourth annual multi-day birding *discovery* tour, first to Bodega Bay and then across the Sonoma/Napa county mountains to **Sacramento, Delevan, and Colusa NWRs**.

Bodega Bay had brandts, buffleheads, and whimbrels. Then through Napa and past the California Petrified Forest (did you know California had a petrified forest between Napa and Clear Lake?). A birder at their gift shop led us to **discover** a Vermillion Flycatcher at a cemetery in Maxwell CA. The **Sacramento NWRC Refuges** were filled with waterfowl: snow geese, ring-necked ducks, American & Hybrid widgeons, a single blue-winged teal, plus thousands of other migrating waterfowl. To round out the awesome trip, we saw a Wilson's snipe, American bittern, and a number of adult and juvenile bald eagles. Plus a river otter! All in three days. **Our Refuges have much to offer.**

Lora Haller, Sacramento NWRC Visitor Services Manager, confirmed our Juvenile Bald Eagle siting from Delevan NWR, and suggested where we might hear or see a Sora. **Refuge Staff are always helpful to birders I have found when visiting Refuges across the country.**

My niece and I **reflected** on what this trip might have been like if people and organizations had not worked diligently to provide nurturing habitats for the migrating waterfowl and resident species. Reasons for volunteering!
Warmest Regards, Ceal

NEARBY REFUGE PROGRAMS: Sacramento NWRC
Photography program (must preregister and limited) -- Feb 29 at Colusa NWR call 520-934-2801 for more details and to register.
Raptor Run: Do you need help in advancing your raptor identification? Join the raptor ranger in advancing your skills. First class will be inside and day 2 will be in the field looking for nesting, migrating, and local hawks, eagles, harriers, owls, and falcons. Spring is a great time of the year to see the raptors before the leaves pop out. Must preregister for this limited activity. Will go in closed areas of the refuge!
Day 1: Sat, Feb 29 1-2:30 pm
Day 2: Sat, March 7 10:30 am - 1:30 (bring a bagged lunch)



Ring-necked Ducks, Sacramento NWR (Ceal Craig)
Common Goldeneye, Colusa NWR (Mylie Bluhm)
Vermilion Flycatcher Maxwell cemetery (Mylie Bluhm)



American Widgeon, Snow Geese Colusa NWR, (Ceal Craig)

Friends of San Pablo Bay NWR Website

As we begin a new decade, it seems appropriate to look both backwards and forwards, because where we are headed is informed by where we began. Volunteers founded the Friends of San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge (FSPBNWR), coalescing from the group of conservationists who ensured that in January 2020 Cullinan Ranch would be habitat for migratory canvasbacks and not 4,500 houses and condos. With that success under our belts, we continue to move forward, helping the Refuge protect and enhance habitat and connect with the communities of the North Bay.

The Friends and the Refuge are about team work. USFWS Staff, Meg Marriott and Louis Terrazas, from San Pablo and Antioch Dunes and volunteer Fran McTamane represented the Refuges at the 2019 Flyway Festival on Mare Island.



2019 Flyway Festival on Mare Island, left to right: Meg Marriott & Louis Terrazas (USFWS), Fran McTamane (volunteer). (Photo by Naomi Feger)

A few years ago, after a career with the USFWS, volunteer Fran McTamane knew that a children's book about the charismatic little salt marsh harvest mouse would fill a need. So she and Christy Smith, a former San Pablo Bay NWR manager, put their heads together and found an author and illustrator. Result: the Friends of SPBNWR published *A Home for Salty*, about a little mouse who wanders through the marsh looking for just the right place among the pickleweed.

In addition to attending festivals, we host events to get people out on San Pablo Bay refuge including bike rides at Skaggs Island and kayaking adventures at Cullinan. Our current goal is to fund construction of a shade structure at San Pablo Bay Refuge headquarters for use by school classes and refuge visitors.



Volunteers come in all shapes and sizes and have a variety of motivations. Justin Bodell, avid outdoorsman and San Pablo Bay Friends President, has an enthusiasm and dedication that's contagious. Justin says, "I volunteer to give a little back to the community and environment that provides me with so much enjoyment and recreation. I also want to set a good example for my kids, not just by being an active participant in the natural world, but by doing what I can to ensure future generations have similar opportunities as I have."

For some volunteers it's enough to simply have a reason to be outdoors in the sunshine, to accomplish a task, or invest time and energy to be part of the conservation community. Many hands weeding followed by planting native species of vegetation can improve habitat for wildlife. According to the [National Fish and Wildlife Foundation](http://www.nfwf.org), friends and "volunteers, accomplish approximately 20 percent of all work on National Wildlife Refuges, which is the equivalent of 648 full-time employees" nation wide (www.nfwf.org).

There are unique opportunities at each of the three North Bay refuges. Whether you are part of the Silver Tsunami or GenX, if you want to dig in, or if getting your feet dirty is not your favorite past time, you can help from the comfort of your own lounge chair. If you want to be outdoors counting endangered butterflies at Antioch Dunes NWR, or indoors customizing our website while sipping your morning coffee we can use your help. At Marin Islands volunteers kayak from Loch Lomond Marina in San Rafael to their destination to pull weeds improving habitat one weed at a time. Whatever your forte, from fundraising, to weed pulling, plant growing, or if even the inglorious but oh so necessary and ubiquitous picking-up trash is your forte, we've got a place for you!

The [National Wildlife Refuge Association](http://www.nwra.org)

defends the integrity of the National Wildlife Refuge System with advocacy, restoration and research.

Find out about NWRA, mission, our methods and the results of four decades of advocacy.

Volunteer to help San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuges!

This [link](#) brings you to the latest edition of the *Slough News!* This quarterly newsletter published by USFWS describes volunteer needs, some happenings for volunteers, and describes recognition activities too.

FREMONT OPPORTUNITIES: The Refuge needs volunteers to **staff the Fremont Visitor Center (VC) information desk**. Once trained, volunteers will work a minimum of two shifts a month for a minimum of four months. Training is six hours, broken up over three Saturdays. Walk the trails, discuss the history of the refuge and its mission, find out more about the wildlife that lives on the Refuge, learn about working at the VC desk, and go over standard visitor questions. To volunteer at the information desk, USFWS needs you to attend all of the sessions. For more info and future training dates: contact [Paul Mueller](#).

Environment Education Center (EEC) ALVISO OPPORTUNITIES: Lead school field trips that **educate children** about water conservation, our local endangered species and habitats that surround the bay! Training includes a Field Trip Orientation and shadowing another leader on two field trips. **Restoration Project** volunteers help build the EEC's ecotone through restoration efforts, planting native plants and pulling various invasive species to ensure that the native plants have a chance to thrive. **Weekend Restoration Work Days** are available for students who need volunteer hours: January 18, and February 22. Be a **Community Scientist** by monitoring butterflies, birds, and other species at the EEC. Interested in these or other opportunities at the EEC? Join us for a Volunteer Orientation on Saturday, January 18th from 1:00 - 2:00pm. Contact [Genie Moore](#) about any of these opportunities.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES: Interested in volunteer opportunities at any of the other refuges in the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex? Contact Volunteer Coordinator [Paul Mueller](#).

CONTACTS:

Paul Mueller -- paul_mueller@fws.gov or call 510-792-0222, ext. 361

Genie Moore -- genie_moore@fws.gov or 408-262-5513 ext. 100

Staff Changes

USFWS Staff Changes

Leaving -- Jesse Navarro, Supervisory Federal Wildlife Officer, retired at end of 2019. Don Brubaker, the San Pablo Refuge Manager, Cindy Ballard in Administration and Ed Van Til in Maintenance also left in the last quarter of 2019.

Doug Cordell, Public Affairs Officer, is retiring from USFWS at the end of January. Anne Morkill, Complex Project leader is leaving USFWS at the end of February, to become an Executive Director at a not-for-profit organization in Santa Rosa.

We will miss all these wonderful people who helped the Refuge Complex grow and prosper for the wildlife and public who benefited from their work. Best wishes!

SFBWS Staff Changes

Leaving -- Victoria (Toria) Rico, Summer Camp Associate, May - August 2019, Key member of the Marsh-In Summer Camp program.

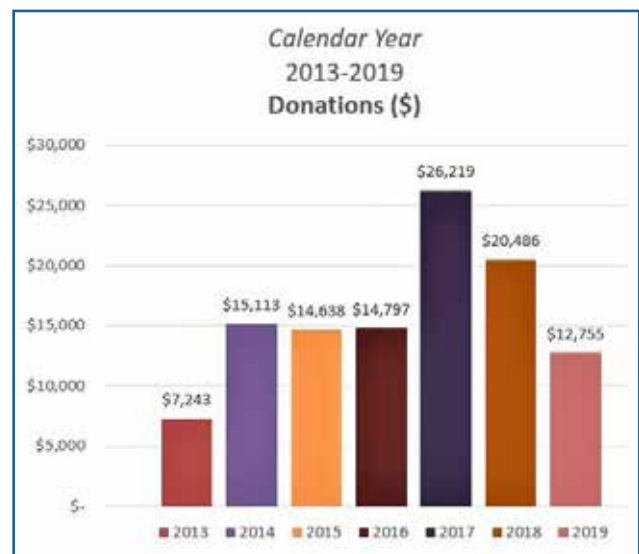
Arriving -- Rachel Caoili, Interpretive Associate (Watershed Watchers), September 2019 - present (end May 2020), focused on Service Learning for grades 5-12, various scout programs, and public programs.

SFBWS Member Support

Donations for this past calendar year were the lowest since 2014. This is a concern for SFBWS. We do apply for grants and those we receive are a large part of the organization's income. Nonetheless, we wonder if the organization is meeting the goals of our members. What are your thoughts? If you can write one of us and share your thoughts, we would appreciate that input.

[Ceal Craig](#), President

[Renee Fitzsimons](#), Vice President



THANK YOU TO SFBWS SUPPORTERS!

We gratefully acknowledge the following donors who have made gifts to the San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society between October 1 and December 31, 2019.

Senior/Student

Laura Avery
Michael Dunn
Thomas Federico
Eleanor Lyang
Leslie Masunaga
Laura Nakanishi
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Albert Roffey
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P.O. Box 234, Newark, CA 94560.

You may also become a member at www.sfbws.com.

For a gift membership, call 510-792-0222 ext. 364.

[LINK here](#)

San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, a Friends group for the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex.

YES! I want to support San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society and its programs.

My membership will help the *San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex* and its south Bay and Outer Bay Refuges

(Don Edwards, Salinas River, Ellicott Slough, and the Farallon Islands)

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Thank you for your support!

For more than 30 years, the San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society has:

- Introduced the refuge to tens of thousands of students of all ages
- Helped fund the Bair Island restoration and Management Plan, restoration work at Antioch Dunes NWR, and uplands restoration at the Environmental Education Center (EEC)
- Provided Saturday staff in EEC through long-term partnership with the Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program
- Provided funding for a new boardwalk at the New Chicago Marsh Trail at the EEC.
- Funded a new greenhouse
- Provided funds for a native plant nursery
- And much more....

Help continue this tradition by becoming a Supporting Member of the Society.

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