

The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory

meets the goal! *The 2007 California Fall Challenge successfully raised \$50,000*

By Lisa Myers, Board of Director's Vice President and CFC Committee Chair

This is an exciting update regarding the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory's annual fundraising event, the California Fall Challenge. After a lot of hard work and support from many we successfully met the goal to raise \$50,000! Raising this amount was a first for this event and the organization and required nine months of dedication from the 8 member committee and some out of the box thinking! (committee: Joelle Buffa, Cindy Ralston, Jane Jordan, Jan Hintemeister, Cheryl Adams, Gerry Ellis and Bonnie-Bedford White). Our goal was to provide many different educational opportunities for all to enjoy and also allow people to get involved.

Held for four weeks from mid September to mid October everyone is encouraged to go out and fundraise themselves, or support others that are fundraising. Members could also get involved by signing up for a guided trip or special event. For a non-profit like the bird observatory to be able to exist and execute the birding research that the staff is able to accomplish requires financial support in the form of such a fundraiser. It was the committee's challenge to do whatever we could to motivate you to get involved! Every weekend we offered guided trips led by some of the bay areas most active birding educators.

We also collaborated with the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory and Sky Hunters and spent an entire day in the company of raptors as we took advantage of the bay area's raptor expertise and the fall migration. A night at the movies was also a great chance to meet other bird observatory members while learning about south polar penguins from the folks that have lead Antarctic Expeditions for decades, Chessman's Ecology Safaris. And everyone was impressed with the t-shirt designed especially by local artist Rene Reyes for the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory to commemorate this year's fall challenge. The action did not stop there as it was then at the Annual Meeting that a Silent Auction allowed more folks to support the event while at the same time the winning fundraisers were awarded prizes for their fundraising efforts.

I'd like to take this time to mention the top 20 fundraisers for the 2007 event;

1. Leonie Batkin
2. Lisa Myers
3. Joelle Buffa
4. Matthew Dodder
5. Janet Hanson
6. Gina Barton
7. Jane Jordan
8. Sandy Moore
9. Mike Rogers
11. Jan Hintemeister
10. Karen DeMello
12. Debbie Brusco
13. Lou Young
14. Mike Mammosser
15. Jennifer Krauel
16. Alvaro Jaramillo
17. Phil Gordon
18. Caitlin Robinson
19. Charles Coston
20. Sheri Hudson