

The “Gallinago Go Go’s” Came In First Place For The Most Money Raised For This Years California Fall Challenge

Palo Alto, October 26, 2008 - The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory (SFBBO) announced today at their Annual Meeting that *Let’s Go Birding* founder and, “Gallinago Go Go” team leader, Lisa Myers came in first place for raising the most money for this year’s annual fundraiser, the California Fall Challenge.

The “Gallinago Go Go’s” is a guided trip that Myers leads each year. Team members donate a minimum of \$100 each to be on the team and the money raised helps fund the observatory’s research and science projects. This year the team consisted of 17 Bay Area birdwatchers that wanted to be a part of this annual fundraiser. The rules state that teams need to pick one county to do their fall birding and Myers chose to bird San Benito County on Oct. 11.

“San Benito County is a wonderful place to find fantastic birds close to the Bay Area. From the higher elevations of Fremont Peak to the farm lands of Panoche Valley, the open expanse of habitat makes the county a birders paradise,” said team leader, Lisa Myers.

Myers runs her own birding tour business, *Let’s Go Birding* where she welcomes birders of all levels of experience. Having a large customer base from which to pull she was able to attract several members to the team who were also encouraged to fundraise themselves. Those who successfully fundraise are eligible for prizes. While Myers came in first place as the individual who raised the most money, the Gallinago Go Go’s came in first by successfully raising \$7,900. Team member Jane Jordan came in third place under the category of individual fundraiser and won a Nikon spotting scope for her efforts.

One of the goals for the day was to see as many species of birds as possible, and the final count came to 72. “My thanks for a fantastic day! It was a fun, enjoyable and as always a very educational adventure. I just stand in awe of Lisa’s remarkable eyesight and bird spotting skills. They rank right up there with her vast knowledge of bird ecology and which terrain will feature which species. The dynamics of the birding group on Saturday was the icing on the cake. What a team,” said Hollister resident and Go Go team member Bill McCarey.

Myers added, “Bird watching is something people can easily do on their own so it is always a challenge to get larger groups together for these types of events, but after all, it is a fundraiser and the goal is to raise as much money as possible. When I lead a team I try to make it a fun and educational experience while having incredible moments in nature.”

Myers is also on the board of directors for the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory. The observatory is dedicated to the conservation of birds and their habitats through science and outreach, and to contributing to informed resource management decisions in the San Francisco Bay Area. Founded in 1981, the Bird Observatory has produced more than 25 years of scientific information on local bird populations working with both government agencies and partner organizations. www.sfbbo.org