

Legacy Gifts at Work

Legacy gifts to Golden Gate Audubon have helped us accomplish some of the most important conservation victories in the Bay Area.

- In the early 1970s, the George Whittell, Jr., estate helped protect Point Pinole. Today, this important place, with its spectacular views of Mount Tamalpais and San Pablo Bay and over 100 bird species in its meadows, marshes, and wooded groves, is preserved as regional parkland.
- In the 1980s, a bequest from the Rachel Makower estate helped establish Golden Gate Audubon's Permanent Sanctuaries Fund, which has allowed us to protect more than 1,400 acres of habitat for Golden Eagles, federally threatened California Red-legged Frogs and Alameda Whipsnakes, and other birds and wildlife in Orinda's Gateway Valley.



- In the 1990s and 2000s, bequests ranging from \$5,000 to \$100,000 enabled us to push for the creation of the Alameda Wildlife Refuge; protect California Least Terns and other birds and wildlife at the refuge; reclaim the salt marsh at Pier 94, which provides habitat for birds, wildlife, and vegetation—including the federally endangered California Sea-blite—along San Francisco's southern bay waterfront; and engage thousands of youth and families from diverse, underserved Bay Area communities in enjoying and protecting local birds and wildlife.
- In 2006, a bequest helped us win strong protections to reduce the illegal kill of thousands of Golden Eagles and other raptors at the Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area, and allowed us to strengthen our conservation, education, and birding programs.

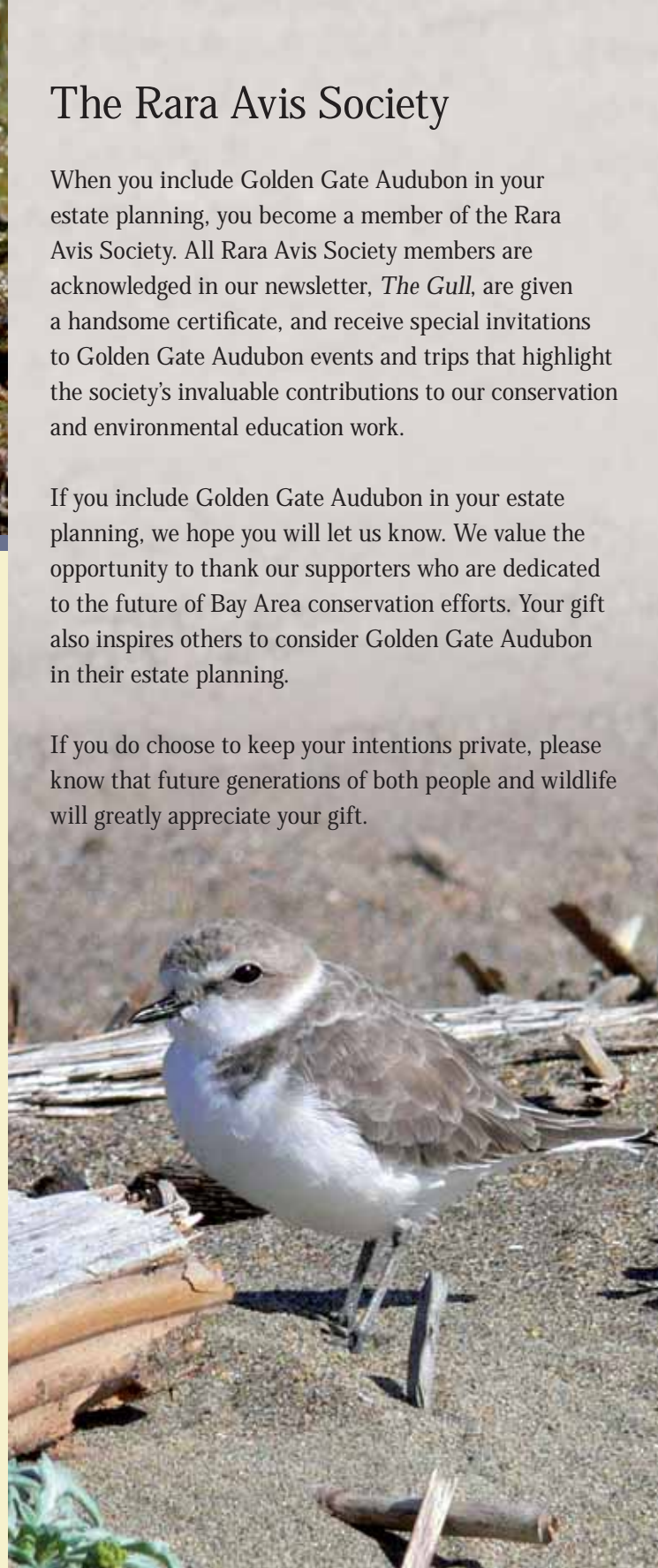
All of these gifts, as well as other unrestricted legacy gifts, have helped Golden Gate Audubon become one of the Bay Area's premier wildlife conservation organizations. We welcome your contribution to our growing list of conservation accomplishments.

The Rara Avis Society

When you include Golden Gate Audubon in your estate planning, you become a member of the Rara Avis Society. All Rara Avis Society members are acknowledged in our newsletter, *The Gull*, are given a handsome certificate, and receive special invitations to Golden Gate Audubon events and trips that highlight the society's invaluable contributions to our conservation and environmental education work.

If you include Golden Gate Audubon in your estate planning, we hope you will let us know. We value the opportunity to thank our supporters who are dedicated to the future of Bay Area conservation efforts. Your gift also inspires others to consider Golden Gate Audubon in their estate planning.

If you do choose to keep your intentions private, please know that future generations of both people and wildlife will greatly appreciate your gift.



For More Information

Because of the complexity of estate planning, we encourage you to consult with your attorney when writing your will and planning your legacy gifts. If you need assistance finding an attorney or executor, please contact us for suggestions.

It is through the generous support of individuals like you that Golden Gate Audubon can play an active role in the protection of Bay Area birds, wildlife, and their habitats. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us for additional information. Your inquiry will remain confidential.



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Printed on 100% post-consumer waste paper. Design by Mark Briggs.



Leaving a Legacy of Conservation

How you can support Bay Area birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for future generations

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON

left to right: Point Reyes National Seashore at dusk (Michael Martin); Red-legged Frog (© 2003 Roger Hall, <http://inkart.net>); Western Snowy Plover (Lee Karney); Burrowing Owl (Charles Denson); Great Blue Heron (Bob Lewis).

Do you love Bay Area birds, wildlife, and open spaces? Would you like to see them preserved for future generations? If so, consider leaving a legacy of conservation by including Golden Gate Audubon in your estate planning.



Golden Gate Audubon

Founded in 1917, Golden Gate Audubon is dedicated to protecting Bay Area birds, other wildlife, and their natural habitats. We conserve and restore wildlife habitat, connect people of all ages and backgrounds with the natural world, and educate and engage Bay Area residents in the protection of our shared, local environment.

Many people who share this commitment to wildlife protection have named Golden Gate Audubon as a beneficiary in their estate planning. We would welcome your gift in helping us achieve our mission.

left to right: Northern Pintails (Bob Lewis); Eco-Oakland Program participants (Anthony DeCicco); Tree Swallows (Bob Lewis); Northern Checkerspot (Bob Lewis); Esperanza Elementary School students at Alcatraz Island (Anthony DeCicco)

Types of Planned Gifts

There are many options for planned giving. You can name Golden Gate Audubon to receive a specific amount of money or property or a percentage of your estate, to receive all or a portion of the residual of your estate, or to be the contingent beneficiary to succeed your named beneficiaries. Below are some options to consider. We strongly encourage you to consult with your financial advisor and attorney to structure a gift that best meets your needs and goals.

DIRECT BEQUESTS

In a bequest, Golden Gate Audubon can be named as a beneficiary of all or a portion of your estate. The bequest may benefit a specific program or suite of programs, or it may be used for general support of Golden Gate Audubon's many conservation, education, and birding projects. When you make an unrestricted bequest, Golden Gate Audubon's staff and board of directors take great care to ensure that your gift will enhance our long-term programs and conservation priorities.

We strongly encourage you to consider an unrestricted gift, as it provides us with maximum flexibility in responding to threats to Bay Area birds and wildlife.



GIFTS OF RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS OR QUALIFIED PENSION PLANS

The funds you have saved for retirement can end up being double-taxed if inherited, thus minimizing their benefit to your heirs. Alternatively, you can pass retirement funds to Golden Gate Audubon at their full face value, leaving other tax-free assets for your beneficiaries.

DESIGNATIONS OF LIFE INSURANCE

You can name Golden Gate Audubon as a beneficiary in your life insurance policy. Additionally, designating Golden Gate Audubon as owner as well as beneficiary of your insurance policy may offer you tax advantages. A bequest of insurance allows you to assure a large future gift to Golden Gate Audubon—at a small cost now.

LIFE INCOME GIFTS

Life income gifts, such as charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts, provide an income stream to you while also benefiting Golden Gate Audubon. If you are interested in making a life income gift to Golden Gate Audubon, please contact us for further details.

GIFTS OF APPRECIATED ASSETS

You can donate appreciated assets, such as securities or real estate, to Golden Gate Audubon. If you are considering a gift of land or property, please talk with us before you make your estate plans so we can ensure that your gift meets our acceptance criteria and that we can best fulfill your future wishes.

RESERVE FUND CONTRIBUTIONS

Golden Gate Audubon also offers you the option to contribute directly to our reserve fund, which provides critical support for our conservation, education, and birding programs. For gifts of \$10,000 or more, you may consider a named gift honoring or memorializing your (or another person's) commitment to Bay Area birds and wildlife. Please contact us to discuss your options.



Your Gift Makes a Difference

Legacy gifts are an important source of Golden Gate Audubon's revenue. By including Golden Gate Audubon in your estate planning, you are helping to ensure that we continue as a leader in protecting Bay Area birds, wildlife, and their habitats for generations to come.

Planned gifts to charitable organizations like Golden Gate Audubon can be an integral part of your estate planning. There are often many tax benefits associated with giving to charitable organizations. Most of all, these gifts offer a way to link you with the causes you care about most.

If you decide to name Golden Gate Audubon in your estate planning, please designate **“Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc., a California non-profit corporation.”** It is very important that “Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.” is clearly stated in the designation. When a bequest is left to “Audubon,” confusion often arises because there are many different Audubon chapters.

Thank you for considering Golden Gate Audubon in your estate planning.

