



Point Blue Quarterly

Conservation science for a healthy planet.



POINT REYES BIRD OBSERVATORY NEWSLETTER

Number 1

July 1965

POINT REYES BIRD OBSERVATORY
Star Route-Lighthouse Road
Inverness, Calif.

BIOLOGIST'S REPORT (abridged)
for Mar., Apr. & May, 1965

By Paul DeBenedictis

Board of Directors

- Dr. L. Richard Mewaldt Pres. & Director
- Dr. Michael Evans Vice-Pres.
- Lillian K. Henningsen Sec.
- Emerson A. Stoner Treas.
- Dr. Robert O. Paxton Editor
- Enid K. Austin
- Dr. Howard L. Cogswell
- William K. Kirsher
- C. John Ralph

THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS

A year ago, Point Reyes Bird Observatory was no more than a gleam in anyone's eye. By September 1964, however, discussions among then Supt. Fred W. Binnewies, C. John Ralph, and L. Richard Mewaldt, made it apparent such a facility had merit. This idea taken to the officers of the Western Bird Banding Association and the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of WBBA received warm support. Today, a look back over the first four months of operation, reveals what notable achievements have been made.

(Cont'd on page 2)

The period March 1-13 was devoted primarily to exploration of the Point Reyes Peninsula west of the Inverness Ridge. This relatively level area, covered mostly coastal grassland (modified by a long history of grazing) and bush lupine-sand dune associations, is broken by coastal brush associations and willow-alder associations along creek bottoms and by plantings of Monterey Cypress and Eucalyptus near ranch buildings.

Closer to the Inverness Ridge, coastal brush becomes more extensive and at higher elevations grades into the magnificent Bishop Pine and Douglas Fir forest of the uppermost and east slopes of the ridge. The more open areas of the peninsula were given preference primarily due to the ease with which migrating birds may be detected in them; they are also becoming famous as a locality for the discovery of vagrant species.

Preliminary observation suggests that the north and east sides of Drake's Estero (for



Ellie M. Cohen


PRESIDENT AND CEO OF POINT BLUE CONSERVATION SCIENCE

Perspectives

As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of our auspicious founding, as Point Reyes Bird Observatory in March 1965, this Quarterly looks at our history, accomplishments, and future through various lenses.

A reproduction of our very first newsletter's front page is followed by a present-day perspective from Dr. David Ackerly, Point Blue Board member and Science Advisory Committee chair. We are also delighted to share personal vignettes on this exciting milestone from some of our members, partners, staff, volunteers, interns, and even a member of Congress!

Thank you for all you've done to make our successes possible. With your continued support, we will secure a healthy, blue planet for birds, other wildlife, and our communities, well into the future!

Enjoy this walk through history and this peek into our future. 

Page 2. (July, 1965)

The Observatory went into operation on March 1, 1965, with its headquarters in an old bunkhouse on the Heims Ranch. It had been made livable by the efforts of a number of members and friends of the WBBA. The 13-room (plus 3 baths) building is being furnished and otherwise equipped by donations of items, material and labor by scores of persons from as far distant as Modesto.

Visitors to the Observatory already establish it as an important factor in the interpretive program of the Seashore. Even though publicity through the month of June was kept to a minimum, well over a hundred visitors sought ornithological information. Ways must be developed to provide answers to visitor inquiries which will not cut too deeply into the other duties of the Biologist.

Late in June the Biologist's position was assumed by Rich Stallcup of Oakland. Mr. Stallcup has nearly five years of experience with observations of the avifauna of Point Reyes. He thus brings valuable background to the position and with his experience in trapping and netting will get Operation Transit off to a good start. He has advised the Board of PRBO on ornithological matters, especially as they pertain to Point Reyes, since the Board's formation in November 1964.

Front cover and at left: Selections from the Director's column in the first newsletter issued by the Point Reyes Bird Observatory.

The Point Blue Quarterly is published quarterly by the Board of Directors of Point Blue Conservation Science (founded as Point Reyes Bird Observatory). Edited by Claire Peaslee with assistance from Point Blue staff. Printed on recycled paper (100% post-consumer waste) using agri-based inks.

© 2015. pointblue.org.

Contents



4

A PERSPECTIVE

Point Blue through the decades

By David Ackerly, PhD

Above: Caspian Tern. Photo by: Tom Grey



6

REFLECTIONS

Friends from many walks reflect on Point Blue's history and what gives them hope.



10

SCIENCE AND PARTNERSHPS

Keys to understanding environmental change at Point Blue.



12

MEET GARY PAGE

45 years of shore-bird study and conservation.

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 From the President
- 11 Putting Data to Work
- 13 Partnership
- 14 Study Sites
- 16 Focus
- 17 News Bites
- 18 Donor Thanks
- 20 Lasting Legacy

INDEX

- climate change 5, 6-9, 10, 13, 17
- climate-smart 5, 17, 20
- future 2, 5-6, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 20
- history 2, 4, 6, 10, 14, 15, 16, 20
- partners 2, 5-6, 7, 11, 13, 14
- training 6, 14, 15

On The Cover:

The first newsletter of Point Reyes Bird Observatory was published in July 1965.

◀ **Left:** Among the friends reflecting on Point Blue's 50th anniversary are ranchers Mike and Kathy Landini. **Photo** courtesy Kathy Landini.

Center: Cassin's Auklet chick, a subject of long-term monitoring and research. **Photo by** Annie Schmidt / Point Blue.

Right: Gary Page, a Point Blue biologist since 1971. **Photo by** Claire Peaslee / Point Blue.



Soon after my family moved to the Bay Area, in 1996, we took a day hike in the southern part of Point Reyes National Seashore. On the way to the trailhead, we came to the Palomarin Field Station of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory. We stopped in the visitor center there to see the exhibits and information.

As a newcomer to the area, I had not heard of this organization – nor of its evolving mission and strategic work. Little did I know that, almost 20 years later, Point Blue would play an important role in my life, as it does in the lives of many birders, wildlife biologists, land

managers, and conservation biologists across California and beyond.

From its founding in 1965, Point Blue's existence spans the history of the modern environmental movement. Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* was fresh in the minds of Americans in the early 60s, raising awareness of the pervasive dangers of toxins and their ability to move through food chains, crossing both political and ecosystem boundaries. Impacts on raptors were particularly striking, and these birds' size, symbolism, and easy visibility captured the concerns of a generation.

The 1970s saw passage of milestone environmental legislation in the U.S. – the Clean Air and Clean Water acts; the Endangered Species Act. Point Blue has helped gain protection for special-status species from Snowy Plovers to Ashy Storm-petrels, always with the larger ecosystem context in view.

In the 80s, global population growth emerged as a defining issue, and the effects of tropical deforestation on migratory birds made us all aware of the deeply intertwined connections of ecosystems across continents and countries.

Point Blue through the decades

do we see real glimmers of hope, as renewable energy production spreads more quickly than many had forecast, and the largest industrial economies pledge to rein in the relentless trajectory of carbon emissions.

Point Blue has grown throughout this period, building a unique long-term record of changing bird populations, first at Palomarin and the Farallon Islands, and now across California and as far away as Antarctica. Long-term monitoring is deeply rewarding in and of itself, but its true importance is often overlooked. It is all too easy to adjust our expectations – and our scientific and environmental baselines – in response to conditions of the moment, and to overlook fundamental changes that unfold over decades.

Now, in the face of a rapidly changing climate, conservationists around the world are asking whether the concepts, laws, tools, and partnerships that have developed over the past 50 years or more are fully up to the task of the coming decades.

How do we conserve species and ecosystems, even as they change? How do we maintain the function of natural ecosystems and, at the same time, functioning cities, shorelines, and working landscapes?

Climate-smart conservation embraces these questions and many beyond. It represents a commitment to look ahead and manage for an uncertain future, to try new ideas, learn from mistakes, and work with new partners to find common ground in the face of novel challenges.

Point Blue is a leading voice in this new endeavor. As a scientist, it is exciting and rewarding to see Point Blue both contributing to and incorporating the latest research of climate scientists, biologists, and conservationists.

From the interns at Palomarin capturing evidence of shifting rhythms of migration; to the dedicated observers at the Farallones, documenting the rise and fall of seabird populations with shifting ocean temperatures; to scientists who bring to life vast sets of long-term data and create new tools for all to visualize future change and its implications for conservation decision making: Point Blue is now equipped for 50 more years of invaluable conservation science. 🌍

David Ackerly, PhD

Point Blue Board member
and Science Advisory
Committee chair

A Professor in U.C. Berkeley's Department of Integrative Biology, David Ackerly studies the impacts of climate change on biodiversity in California, among many research interests.



In the 90s, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released its first report on the looming dangers of climate change. The global and unavoidable impacts of a fossil-fuel dependent economy slowly came into focus. Twenty years, and five IPCC reports later, early projections of the effects on climate have unfolded largely as predicted, and little sign of change in our economic and technological trajectories has been evident. Perhaps only in the past couple of years

Above left: Tufted Puffins are one of the study species in Point Blue's long-term monitoring, at the Farallon Wildlife Refuge, of the marine ecosystem.
Photo by: Annie Schmidt / Point Blue.

Reflecting on Point Blue

What do you value as a quality of Point Blue through our history? What aspect of our work gives you hope for the future?

Friends and partners are celebrating Point Blue's 50th anniversary by expressing what matters to them about our organization. These pages hold a sampling of such reflections. Many more appear on our website. You are invited to send us your words on Point Blue (and a photo, if possible). Thank you!

Please see pointblue.org/reflections. – Editor

Inspired to do more

To conserve nature we must understand nature. Point Blue excels at using science to unravel nature's mysteries. Decades-strong partnerships put that knowledge in the hands of decision makers to create greater harmony with nature. This all works, as I've come

to understand from seven years of volunteering, because Point Blue has a culture of excellence and innovation driven by dedicated and passionate conservationists. They inspire me to do more. *Ed Sarti / Point Blue Board chair*



Passion and science



From the glimmer of an idea, from visionaries such as Rich Stallcup, the Point Blue (PRBO) Palomarin Field Station has become a hub for avian ecology, for volunteerism, and for training the next generation of conservation scientists. Other pioneers such as David Ainley created the scientific underpinnings of prolific research programs now extending from the Farallones to Antarctica. This combination of passion and science has come to characterize an eclectic group that is now a leading force in the science of climate change. *Sarah Allen, PhD / Point Blue Research Associate; Senior Science Advisor, National Park Service Pacific West Region*

Nature-based solutions

Point Blue's evolution from 'bird-focused in Marin' to 'ecosystem-focused around the world' is a reflection of the passion and potential for impact in the world – promoting nature-based solutions. I am especially excited about Point



Blue's work with TomKat Ranch to accomplish our ranch's conservation goals and establish working models for comprehensive ranch management here and on other conservation ranching landscapes. *Wendy Millett / Ranch Director, TomKat Ranch*

Long-term involvement



I was proud to be part of Point Blue (then PRBO) in the late 60s and 70s, helping collect data in long-term research on birds at Palomarin Field Station. Long-term data is a gold standard of science and climate-change research, at which Point Blue excels. Now I am thrilled to be back at Point Blue, in the STRAW Project (Students and Teachers Restoring A Watershed). Engaging students in hands-on restoration work enables them to understand our connectivity with the land. *Meryl Sundove / STRAW Faculty*

Informing real-world actions

One of Point Blue's great contributions has been its unique combination of solid, data- and observation-driven science with a fierce commitment to the conservation of birds and the habitats that support them. Others have been the understanding that birds are a window into a larger picture of the health of ecosystems, and using an accumulated knowledge of bird populations to inform real-world policies and management actions. Point Blue is playing an ever more important role in addressing the planet's key environmental challenges, in particular climate change – giving me hope in a situation where hope would appear to be in short supply. *David Loeb / Publisher, Bay Nature Magazine*



Meeting challenges

Collaborations with Point Blue have informed and strengthened The Nature Conservancy's work, particularly through our Migratory Bird Conservation Partnership in the Central Valley. A strong foundation of high-quality avian science and monitoring has led to Point Blue's increasing influence on conservation and management, climate-change science, and environmental policy in California and beyond. The themes of Point Blue's work have expanded to meet the challenges of this century, but the recipe remains the same – great people and great science. *Mark Reynolds, PhD / Lead Scientist, Migratory Bird Program, The Nature Conservancy (California)*



People and ideas



We were fortunate: We were at the right time (the 1960s, when anything was possible), the right place (the beautiful Point Reyes peninsula), with the right birds (in an incredible diversity of habitat), and the right people (biologists plus birders and banders, largely volunteers). Over time the diversity of people and ideas has made Point Blue nimble and able to answer questions about science-based conservation that we could scarcely pose just a few years and certainly a few decades ago. *C. John Ralph, PhD / Point Blue co-founder. Research Wildlife Biologist, USDA. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station*

Rangeland ecosystem goals



The Point Blue biologists we work with are helping us achieve our conservation and ecosystem goals – enhancing the health of soils, grazing lands, and abundant wildlife habitat while supporting our ranch operations. *Mike and Kathy Landini / Ranchers in Point Blue's Rangeland Watershed Initiative*

Inclusive collaborations

Over the ten years that I've been a part of Point Blue, our organization has branched out to apply our science and expertise with new and different audiences. For example, we engage with ranchers and farmers who are reevaluating how they manage their land (privately owned agricultural land holds about 50% of California's viable habitat). The inclusive, collaborative spirit at Point Blue is essential for trying to tackle problems like climate change that have such far-reaching effects. It gives me hope to see people from diverse backgrounds – scientists, teachers, ranchers, students, parents – come together and engage in solutions to support the ecosystems we all depend on now and into the future. *Lishka Arata / Conservation Educator at Point Blue*



Rigorous work of high integrity

It is remarkable how the seeds planted 50 years ago by a visionary group of scientists have grown to become an organization that is a leader in conservation science. Those early scientists developed a reputation



for their rigorous work of highest integrity. I feel fortunate that after 50 years we continue to have Point Blue's highly respected scientists working on nature-based solutions to the environmental challenges we face. *Carolyn Johnson / past Point Blue Board chair*

A leading research organization



As a long-time member who has also served nine years on the Board and two as Chair, I watched Point Blue grow into one of the leading ornithological research organizations in the world. In recent years it has broadened its focus beyond birds, illuminating the effects of climate change on the natural world and providing data for scientists globally. *Ted Eliot, Jr. / past Point Blue Board chair; former U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan*

Necessary for our future

Point Blue is developing and changing as our world's situation has evolved. When I realize my daughter has never known a world where climate change has not been a topic of significance, it is clear to me that Point Blue's years of accumulated work, knowledge, and ability to reach out and educate the next generation can have – *must* have – an impact on shaping our future behaviors. *Ana Galutera / Point Blue Board member*



Caring for the land

Point Blue has been an essential part of our Marin County ranching community over the years. Their STRAW program has restored miles of stream on our agricultural landscape, with the assistance of our local schools. It provides us with hope by educating children about the critical role of volunteerism and about caring for the land and the bounty it returns. *Nancy Scolari / Executive Director, Marin Resource Conservation District*



A major force for the environment



Without solid science, backed by action in the public and private spheres, our planet will suffer. Point Blue's research has been vital to understanding the devastating impacts of global warming and sea level rise and in helping the public understand what we're really up against. Environmentally minded policy makers like me rely on your discoveries to ensure our policies are based on sound science. I look forward to

continuing to work with you on the national level to advance climate solutions and marine and coastal protections. *Jared Huffman / U.S. Congressman, California 2nd District*

Benefiting resource managers and the public



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and ultimately the public, reap the benefits of Point Blue's studies on the Farallones, enabling us to understand conservation issues and protect marine wildlife. *Gerry McChesney / Manager, Farallon National Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

Interconnectedness

There has never been a time when I wasn't thrilled to be a part of this organization, whenever I could contribute. The great essential strengths of Point Blue are the passion, dedication, and ability of people working through scientific research and outreach to better our understanding of the interconnectedness of life on our fragile planet. *Chris Durham / Point Blue volunteer*



Emblematic of Point Blue

Science and Partners

Understanding environmental change

Birds have long been used as indicators of environmental health. The question is, “Indicators of what, exactly?”

What the caged canary was indicating to coal miners was clear enough, but what should we make of such things as seabirds’ varied breeding success, sandpipers redistributing themselves in San Francisco Bay, or songbirds increasing in

body size – all documented by Point Blue scientists? Indicators are of little value if we don’t know what they’re indicating.

This is where the combination of natural history, personal experience, monitoring, and science comes in – a combination that’s become emblematic of Point Blue Conservation Science.

Familiarity with the species we study lets us know how to interpret what the data tell us. Long-term monitoring shows us what’s happening to populations, alerting us to meaningful changes. And science – rigorous data analyses or sophisticated computer models – can help us pin down the factors responsible for past changes or projected future changes and for the consequences of climate change or sea-level rise.

Point Blue’s understanding of indicator species – immensely valuable for local management – has a global reach. By publishing results in peer-reviewed journals, Point Blue ecologists add to worldwide knowledge of what vital indicators tell us about our environment. Online tools such as Point Blue’s California Avian Data Center (pointblue.org/data) provide universal access to our data.

The species we study can be sensitive indicators of the health of a rapidly changing environment – if we know what they’re telling us. That’s what Point Blue science is all about. 🌍

—John A. Wiens, PhD / past Chief Scientist at Point Blue

Left: Anna Strunkel measures a Cassin’s Auklet chick in our long-term monitoring on the Farallon Islands. Working with USFWS at the island refuge, in 2005 and 2006 we documented the auklets’ unprecedented breeding failures, linked to ocean and climate change. **Photo by:** Annie Schmidt / Point Blue



hips

Putting data to work

Almost a decade ago, at the Midwest Region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service we realized that our strategic bird conservation called for a solid monitoring program – to point our planning in the right direction and also track our progress meeting conservation goals.

In 2009 we crafted a strategy, then looked around the country for help developing the technical foundation of our Midwest Coordinated Bird Monitoring Partnership. We looked as far west as we could without falling off the continent, discovered Point Blue, and began a relationship that continues to this day.

Point Blue delivered much more than the technical expertise we imagined. First and foremost, the staff with whom we worked were always forward-looking and completely enabling. At every turn, our colleagues there made us feel that our own ideas added value to the products that Point Blue envisioned – that we were true collaborators.

From the outset, there was also a feeling of depth to the adventure we shared. Everyone we talked to at Point Blue seemed to be backed up by others who

were equally generous and enabling. Point Blue programs also were deep, with a well developed biological foundation, solid information-science philosophy, and modern technical infrastructure.

Both institutionally and through the voice of its staff, Point Blue communicates a sense of commitment – to bird conservation, to the resilience of its products, to the longevity of the Avian Knowledge Network (pointblue.org/tools), and

to the strength and importance of its Midwest partnership.

Point Blue shares our vision that the true value of the information we steward resides in the degree to which we can meet our partners' need for useful tools, supporting decisions that move the needle of bird conservation forward. 🌍

—Tom Will, PhD / U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Midwest Region



Right: Katie Koch and Tom Will of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Midwest Region. Point Blue recognized this partnership with an award, which Katie accepted, at our 2014 annual meeting.

Photo courtesy: Tom Will / USFWS

MEET THE TEAM



Each Point Blue Quarterly
spotlights a member of our team.

Gary Page – Senior Scientist, Pacific Coast and Central Valley Group

Project. We had to map access to many small areas and recruit about 100 counters to survey the entire Bay over two days at the exact same time. Pulling that off was one of two big moments for me as an ecologist.

The other one concerned an oil spill off the Central California coast, in 1986. Most response efforts at the time focused on rescuing live birds. But along with Harry Carter, then a seabird biologist on our staff, I wanted to learn about the true impacts. The two of us drove up and down the coast for days, walking beaches and counting dead oiled birds. We would mark the carcasses, leave them onshore, and later return to document how many remained – and thus how many were scavenged or washed out to sea. Our data became evidence in a successful lawsuit to mitigate for environmental damages. Oil spill responses have become much more formalized since then, but we contributed something new at that time.

What aspect of Point Blue's work do you consider important?

I think it's the science underlying all of our work. We try not to comment unless we have figured out from scientific study, as best we can, what the answers should be. That runs through the organization, from the beginning to the current time. 🌍

How and when did you begin here? What were things like then?

The year was 1971, and I had been working at Long Point Bird Observatory, in Canada, where I'm from. I had two job offers from U.S. bird observatories. The one at PRBO was just about studying shorebirds, so I accepted it!

Our offices then were at Palomarin (now a Point Blue field station; see page 14). Most of the staff, about four or five of us, had offices in one room. Volunteers would come on weekends to band birds, and people like Rich Stallcup would drop by with stories of what they'd seen and where they wanted to go next. That was a great time, with many lifelong friendships made.

During my first year, I traveled with biologist Jon Winter to San Diego for an ornithological meeting. Afterward, Jon took me up the east side of the Sierra and showed me all the great spots for wildlife and scenery. I fell in love with California.

I originally thought I'd work here for a couple of years, but I'm still here!

What was your early research focus?

I wanted to study the ecology of shorebirds in Bolinas Lagoon – their migration patterns, seasonal occurrence, diet, and all the important aspects of shorebirds' life histories while they were here. So we designed a number of research methods. To learn what birds were eating, we needed to identify all the invertebrates living in the lagoon, sampling several study plots at low tide throughout the year. One of these plots was in a muddy area that I could only cross by attaching plywood platforms to my feet, like snowshoes. There were many more examples.

You've since studied Snowy Plovers, the Pacific Flyway, and much more. What are some high points in your career at Point Blue?

One was completing the first-ever full census of shorebirds in San Francisco Bay – a huge challenge in our Pacific Flyway

PARTNERSHIP



Point Reyes National Seashore – Cicely Muldoon

For as long as there has been a Point Blue or PRBO, our organization has depended on productive partnerships. In fact, our founding 50 years ago was thanks to a partnership – ongoing today – with the Point Reyes National Seashore.

In 1965, Point Blue was founded as the Point Reyes Bird Observatory. Our purpose then was to study migratory birds and otherwise collaborate with the National Park Service (NPS) in the Seashore (established just three years earlier). Soon afterward, the NPS provided us with permanent quarters near the south end of the park – our present-day Palomarin Field Station. It was thanks in large part to the Seashore's support for the concept of a non-profit organization

functioning as we do within its boundaries that Point Blue came into being!

Today, our collaborative work with the Seashore extends beyond the core research we do at Palomarin. It embraces a range of projects that help NPS understand and protect the spectacularly rich ecosystems here. All this is possible thanks to the leadership and vision of dedicated NPS staff, including Cicely Muldoon (pictured below), now celebrating her five-year anniversary as Superintendent of Point Reyes National Seashore and 30 years with the Park Service!

Cicely says: "From its long-term landbird studies at the Palomarin Field Station, to its work today across the continents, Point Blue carries out science and educa-

Diana Humple
Senior Avian Ecologist,
Pacific Coast and Central
Valley Group

Diana oversees the
Palomarin Field Station
and Point Blue landbird
monitoring in the Bay Area,
including on NPS lands.




"Our partnership with Point Blue is the gold standard of conservation partnerships."

tion that have often been key for park managers and the public to understand our incredible resources. Point Blue has made substantial contributions to our protection of landbirds, seabirds, shorebirds, and their habitats – and increasingly provides guidance on the expected impacts of climate change. This critical information helps us plan and adapt, give native species such as Western Snowy Plovers and Northern Spotted Owls a fighting chance, and ensure that the resources we protect today are here for future generations."

As a Marin County native, Cicely has appreciated the Point Reyes National Seashore since her childhood. "What a gift it is. And what a responsibility we bear, to pass that gift along to the future."

We deeply appreciate the gift that our partnership with the Seashore continues to bestow upon Point Blue – from our facilities inside the park to our opportunities for studying and helping protect the area's rich avifauna.

And we thoroughly agree with Cicely when she says: "I can't think of two organizations whose core missions are better aligned than Point Blue and the National Park Service, the end goal of each being a healthy planet. In my view, our partnership with Point Blue is the gold standard of conservation partnerships." 



STUDY SITES

Palomarin Field Station

Seeding careers in conservation science

Ever since Point Blue began, as a bird-banding station called Point Reyes Bird Observatory (now the Palomarin Field Station), a steady stream of volunteers and later interns has strengthened our mission and the fabric of our culture.

Our training programs are renowned. Interns at Point Blue live and breathe bird ecology for months – at Palomarin, at Southeast Farallon Island, in our STRAW Program, or in our marine ecology lab. This fosters a deep understanding and appreciation of natural history that will affect people for the rest of their lives.

Interns' dedication and energy are essential in Point Blue's ability to maintain long-term data sets (some approaching 50 years) and also in our capacity to embrace new challenges in conservation research. Many current and past members of Point Blue's staff began as interns here, as have partners at many agencies, organizations, and institutions of higher learning worldwide.

The chance to work with highly motivated young adults who are eager to be out in the field, to better understand the complexities of the natural world, and to make a positive difference gives us real hope with regard to the conservation challenges we face now and in the future. 🌍

—Geoff Geupel, Director, Emerging Projects and Partnerships Group and Palomarin intern in the early 1980s.





I began at Palomar in 2011, first nest searching and spot mapping, then banding birds in the fall. I have returned every spring/summer since then, to train and supervise new interns. During winters, I've helped Point Blue survey for Ridgway's Rails in San Francisco Bay tidal marshes, study marine wildlife on Southeast Farallon Island, and sample soils at TomKat Ranch as part of the Rangeland Monitoring Program.

I love the strong, deep-rooted history of this organization and the genuine passion that the people who do the science have. Point Blue believes in the next generation.

Xeronimo Castaneda, Point Blue Seasonal Biologist.

Spending a season at the Palomar Field Station, in the heart of the Point Blue organization, gave me rigorous training in the collection of high-quality field data as well as identification and appreciation of bird diversity. It enhanced my understanding of the relationship between research and on-the-ground conservation, complementing my previous work in the field of conservation. The experience led me to admire the core values of Point Blue – integrity and thoughtfulness in everything, with a great splash of personality – and to pursue my current position when it became available.



Point Blue's strength is in innovation combined with passion for research, conservation, and education regarding the natural world. The invigorating energy at Point Blue constantly encourages and surprises me in all that it is able to accomplish. This is a very rewarding and inspiring place to work.

Navit Reid, Partner Biologist in Point Blue's Rangeland Watershed Initiative

Right: The Wrentit is one of the study species in Point Blue's long-term monitoring and research at the Palomar Field Station. **Photo by:** Tom Grey / tgreybirds.com



Five decades at Palomar Field Station

- 15** interns annually now "fledge" from our training program.
- 22** is the number of nationalities of Palomar interns to date.
- 19** current full-time Point Blue staff are former Palomar interns.
- 130** bird species are observed in a typical year at Palomar.
- 3,400** birds are captured yearly in our banding and monitoring study here.
- 140** nests are found by interns on the gridded study plots in a typical year.
- 10,000** visitors, on average, come to the field station each year.
- 80** scientific papers have been drawn from long-term study at Palomar.
- 11** graduate student theses and dissertations have used Palomar data.
- 12** years is the age of the oldest known Wrentit anywhere – a Palomar bird!



Stallcup, Richard - Biologist P.R.B.O. Journal
June 29, 1965 ✓

Got up at 0600 and went directly to nets in creek near P.R.B.O. mailbox. Spent bulk of day banding, there and at the observatory and helping Mrs. Henningsen uncover ~~to~~ countless waterpipes in the "garden" and clear weeds.

Observation at the creek mentioned above were about the same as yesterday though today was foggy and cold and windy compared to yesterday's fair weather. Differences included two family groups of House wrens not seen yesterday, more cliff swallows and two Rough-wings not seen yesterday and the capture of a worn ♀ American Redstart (the first of many "vagrant" birds to be banded with P.R.B.O. bands) which was banded and photographed. Twelve birds of five species were banded (S. Thrush (4) W. Warbler (4) Song Spa. (2) R.S. Flicker (1) and Redstart (1)) and one bird was retrapped from yesterday.

At the headquarters, 5 traps were moved 150 yards from standard trapping area to the parking lot and 14 new birds were caught. The populations seem to be very localized or else we are on the border of two or of many territories - this applies to white-crowned and song sparrows.

About 2 hours were spent at hard work in the garden digging for water pipe and much Thistle and Nettle was cleared.

In the mail came various things from Dr. Mewaldt which I read and filed and a letter, with sustaining membership cheque (\$10) came from Stan Pitcher of Marin Audubon, which I sent to E.A. Stoner - P.R.B.O. Treasurer.

Banding Summary - 30 new birds of 8 species were handled. 18 birds of 4 species were also handled.

I work between 15 and 16 hours a day.
 Visitors: Mrs Lillian Henningsen.
 Rich

boy - moving towards the creek. I have only seen this species in P.R.B.O. parking lot. R.S.+L.H. Broad-footed

Rich Stallcup (1944–2012) was a Point Blue co-founder and our naturalist extraordinaire. At our first headquarters, in the newly established Point Reyes National Seashore (at what was then called the Heims Ranch), Rich was a resident volunteer and soon became the staff biologist. His daily journal entries include the page shown above; Rich's thorough field notes in later years appear in our Farallon Island journal as well. Rich's knowledge and appreciation of all things wild continue to deepen all of the work at Point Blue. His "Focus" columns on birds and birding are archived online at pointblue.org/focus.

news bites



Third-grade students prepare to plant a native shrub in the 500th restoration in our STRAW Program (Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed), in March 2015. **Photo by:** Lishka Arata / Point Blue

WELCOME

Point Blue is delighted to welcome Susan Lee Vick to our staff as Chief Advancement Officer. In her leadership position, Susan is focused on generating an integrated fundraising and communications plan to drive our climate-smart strategic goals. She comes to us with leadership and management background from both the non-profit and for-profit sectors. Says Susan, "I'm thrilled to marry my passion for fund development to Point Blue's urgent mission – and honored to work with such an expert and dedicated team!" 🌍



RECOGNITION



Avian Ecologist Dave Shuford recently received the 2014 Science Excellence Award from the Central Valley Joint Venture. Dave has studied shorebirds and colonial waterbirds throughout California with Point Blue since the early 1980s, his results informing numerous bird habitat plans and conservation projects. "Dave is one of the foremost avian ecologists in California and I continually learn from him," says Point Blue's Catherine Hickey. Read more about Dave Shuford's career on our science blog at pointblue.org/blueplanet. 🌍

POINT BLUE CALENDAR

SCIENCE EVENTS

NATIONAL ADAPTATION FORUM
MAY 12-14
SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI

Point Blue scientists share our innovative climate-smart conservation in dialogue with others who are advancing climate change adaptation.

WHALE ALERT, CAL ACADEMY
JUNE 2
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Point Blue biologists and partners discuss and demonstrate the smart-phone app designed to help protect whales.

ORNITHOLOGY MEETINGS
JULY 29-AUG 1
NORMAN, OKLAHOMA

We participate in joint meetings of American Ornithologists Union and Cooper Ornithological Society.

MEMBER EVENTS

Point Blue offers visits to our field sites where members can learn about our cutting-edge studies. For details visit pointblue.org/walks or contact Lishka Arata at 707-781-2555 x 354 or larata@pointblue.org.

PALOMARIN MIST NETTING
JUNE 7,
BOLINAS, CA

Birds in the hand, science in action, and our intern field biologists at our long-time field station.

MOUNTAIN MEADOWS
JULY 11,
CHESTER, CA

Learn about birds and conservation in Chester Meadow with our Sierra Nevada Group leader.

TOMKAT RANCH
AUGUST 2,
PESCADERO, CA

Inside our collaborative Rangeland Monitoring Network, surrounded by birds in varied habitats.

Thank You For Your Support

Point Blue is deeply grateful to Point Reyes National Seashore, the Farallon National Wildlife Refuge, and Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuaries for providing facilities and field stations where we work.

Your gifts make it possible for Point Blue Conservation Science to reduce the negative impacts of changes in land use, climate, and the ocean on birds and ecosystems.

MAJOR DONORS AND FOUNDATIONS We are very grateful to the following supporters for gifts of \$250 and more (January 1 to March 31, 2015):

Anonymous (5)
Alngrid E. Akerblom
Amgen Foundation
Arntz Family Foundation
Autodesk
Anne W. Baxter
Katie Beacock
Mr. and Ms. Dale Berner
Margaret Lee Blunt
George & Ruth Bradford Foundation
Ruth H. Brandt
Robert and Irene Brown
Susan Caldwell
Eunice Childs
Donald and Jillian Clark
Carole and Peter Clum
Terry and Zeo Coddington
Ellie Cohen and Miki Goralsky
Megan Colwell and Bonnie Stewart
Bruce De Benedictis and Caroline Haas Kim

Carole E. Deitrich
Mark Eaton
Edith and Jeb Eddy
Martha Ehmann Conte
Farallon Islands Foundation
Faucett Family Foundation
Russell B. Faucett
Myriam and Joel Fontaine
William and Karen Foss
Friends of Pajaro Dunes
Ana Galutera
Dr. John C. Good and Dr. Janet E. Arnesty
Geoffrey Gordon-Creed and Jean Fraser
Jean Greaves
Hafner Vineyard
Mary Ellen Hannibal
Richard Honey and JoAnne Kipp
Ellie C. Insley
Carolyn Johnson and Rick Theis

Karen A. & Kevin W. Kennedy Foundation
Jeffrey Kimball and Pamela Hogan
Helen Kochenderfer
Jack and Adrienne Ladd
Lancor
Lamar Leland
Maidenherren Fund
March Conservation Fund
Marisla Foundation
Mylon Marshall
Nion T. McEvoy
Mr. and Mrs. Miles McKey
Purple Lady / Barbara J. Meislin Fund
Moore Family Foundation
Peter and Kristan Norvig
Pisces Foundation
Frances B. Pope
Helen M. Pratt Trust
James F. Quinn, PhD and Flossie Hoffman

Marjorie Randolph
Resources Legacy Fund Foundation
Jon and Carol Richards
Robert Righter
James Salzman
Joyce and Jim Schnobrich
Robert and Joni Shwarts
Sierra Nevada Brewing Company
The Springcreek Foundation
Alice Stauffer
Colleen and Geoffrey Tate
Anne Teller
Mr. and Mrs. Alan A. Tobey
Mr. and Mrs. J. Duane Vander Pluym
Cynthia Wayburn
Charles Wegerle
The Western Section of the Wildlife Society
Marian and Carl Wilcox
Lou and Kathy Williams

GIFTS HONORING We are grateful for the following honoring and memorial gifts (January 1 to March, 2015):

IN HONOR OF

Eleanor Caves: Karen Kahn
Leah Cohen: Ellie M. Cohen and Miki Goralsky
Jerry S. Cole: Daphne Cole
Andrew Kleinhesselink: Dana Kleinhesselink
Doug Moody: Linda Alden Swanson

Brett M. Robertson: Margaret Lee Blunt
Kylie Sebastian: Joy Phoenix
Anna Stunkel: Karen Fimmel Stunkel
David Wimpfheimer: Ann Wimpfheimer and Eddie Sayder

IN MEMORY OF

Michael Allen: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Martin
William H. Ballard: Ellie Cohen and Miki Goralsky
Robert Cobler: Patricia Cobler
Helen Cohen: Beth Adler; Lori Markowitz; Shana Penn and Paul Milne

Patricia D. Gunther: Robert Gregory
Rich Stallcup: Autodesk; Mark Eaton; Lamar Leland
James Sidbury: Mercy Sidbury
Jon Winter: Gerry Bradley; Rona Weintraub

TERN SOCIETY We are proud to recognize the newest members of Point Blue's Tern Society (January–March 2015):

Carole and Peter Clum
Miles and Mary Ellen McKey
Mark Mushkat
Susan Lee Vick

IN-KIND GIFTS We are grateful for in-kind donations during this period from:

Alpen Optics, Dix and Didi Boring, Carl Zeiss Optical, Inc., Clif Bar & Company, Eagle Optics, Daphne Gemmill, Hafner Vineyard, Lagunitas Brewing Company, William Mueller, Opticron LLC, Point Reyes Farmstead Cheese Company, Matthew and Polly Stone, Rona Weintraub

FARALLON PATROL Our Farallon Islands Program relies upon the skills and generosity of volunteer skippers in the Farallon Patrol. They provide essential transportation year-round between the mainland and our research station at the Farallon National Wildlife Refuge. We acknowledge all Patrol skippers in our Annual Report, and we thank those who made runs during each calendar year in the winter issue of the Point Blue Quarterly.

SNAPSHOTS Quarterly journals sampled through the decades



Point Blue Board and Staff

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ed Sarti, Chair
 Ellie M. Cohen,
 President and CEO
 Megan G. Colwell, Vice
 Chair
 Ivan Samuels, Secretary
 Carolyn Johnson,
 Immediate Past Chair
 Ana Galutera, Chair,
 Finance Committee
 David Ackerly, PhD
 Martha Ehmann Conte
 Edith Eddy
 Rob Faucett
 Simon Francis
 Stuart Jacobson
 Jeffrey Kimball
 Peter Norvig, PhD
 Rebecca Patton
 Mary Power, PhD
 Brett Robertson
 James F. Quinn, PhD
 Robert S. Shwarts

HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

Ted Eliot
 William S. Foss
 Jack Ladd, Chair, Audit
 Committee
 Ann Stone
 Stephen Thal

SCIENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

David Ackerly, PhD,
 Chair
 Larry Crowder, PhD
 John Eadie, PhD
 Mary Gleason, PhD

Sam Luoma, PhD
 Adina Merenlender,
 PhD
 Peter Moyle, PhD
 Mary Power, PhD
 James F. Quinn, PhD
 Terry L. Root, PhD
 Hugh Safford, PhD
 Rebecca Shaw, PhD

PRESIDENT AND CEO

Ellie M. Cohen

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Padmini Srinivasan

CHIEF SCIENCE OFFICER

Grant Ballard, PhD

CHIEF ADVANCEMENT OFFICER

Susan Lee Vick

CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER

Michael Fitzgibbon

CALIFORNIA CURRENT DIRECTOR

Jaime Jahncke, PhD,
 Director
 Ryan Berger
 Russell Bradley
 Meredith Elliott
 Julie Howar
 Jamie Miller
 Dan Robinette
 Jim Tietz
 Peter Warzybok

CLIMATE ADAPTATION

Sam Veloz, PhD,
 Director
 Megan Elrod
 Nathan Elliott
 Dennis Jongsomjit
 Nadav Nur, PhD
 Leo Salas, PhD
 Julian Wood

EMERGING PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Geoffrey R. Geupel,
 Director
 Ryan DiGaudio
 Bonnie Eyestone
 Wendell Gilgert
 Kolten Hawkins
 Alicia Herrera
 Benjamin Martin
 Chris McCreedy
 Melissa Odell
 Breanna Owens
 Navit Reid
 Tiffany Russell
 Corey Shake
 Kelly Weintraub

INFORMATICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Michael Fitzgibbon,
 Chief Technology
 Officer
 Deanne DiPietro
 Noah Eiger
 Fayvor Love
 Martin Magaña
 Douglas Moody
 David Sims
 Zhahai Stewart

PACIFIC COAST AND CENTRAL VALLEY

Tom Gardali, Director
 Blake Barbaree
 Renée Cormier
 Mark Dettling
 Dave Dixon
 Kristy Dybala, PhD
 Jennifer Erbes
 Carleton Eyster
 Doug George
 Carlene Henneman
 Catherine Hickey
 Diana Humple
 Kristina Neuman
 Gary W. Page
 Elizabeth Porzig, PhD
 Matt Reiter, PhD
 Nat Seavy, PhD
 Kristin Sesser
 W. David Shuford
 Lynne E. Stenzel

SIERRA NEVADA

Ryan Burnett,
 Director
 Brent Campos
 Alissa Fogg
 L. Jay Roberts, PhD

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Melissa Pitkin, Director
 Emily Allen
 Lishka Arata
 Jennifer Benson
 Leia Giambastiani
 Gina Graziano
 John Parodi
 Claire Peaslee
 Kenneth Rangel
 Laurette Rogers

Point Reyes Bird Observatory Fund

To honor our history and sustain our bird conservation foundation, we established the Point Reyes Bird Observatory Fund.

Donations to the Fund support our long-term bird ecology studies at our Palomarin Field Station – (in Point Reyes National Seashore) and the Farallon Islands (at the Farallon National Wildlife Refuge).

To learn more, please visit pointblue.org/prbofund.

Isaiah Thalmayer
 Lara White
 Vanessa Wyant

DEVELOPMENT AND MEMBERSHIP

Susan Lee Vick, Chief
 Advancement Officer
 Nancy Gamble,
 Director of Individual
 Giving
 Brian Huse, Director
 of Strategic Program
 Development
 Stacey Atchley
 Jody Holzworth
 Eve Williams

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Padmini Srinivasan,
 Chief Financial Officer
 David Adams
 Lee Callero
 Karen Carlson
 Marilyn Kihara
 Heather Kurland
 Laurel Schuyler

SEASONAL STAFF

(January – March, 2015)
 Xeronimo Castaneda
 Jenna Dodge
 Lynne Hargett
 Kristie Nelson
 Melissa Preston
 Emily Rice
 Annie Schmidt
 Josh Stagner
 Trevor Watts
 Wendy Willis
 Suzie Winquist

RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

David G. Ainley, PhD
 Sarah Allen, PhD
 Frances Bidstrup
 Jules G. Evens
 Mark Herzog, PhD
 Ellen Hines, PhD
 Aaron Holmes, PhD
 Steve N. G. Howell
 David Hyrenbach, PhD
 John P. Kelly, PhD
 Borja Mila, PhD
 Mark Rauzon
 Annie Schmidt, PhD
 Stacy Small, PhD
 Jane C. Warriner
 Sophie Webb
 John Wiens, PhD
 David W. Winkler, PhD
 Steve Zack, PhD

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Ann Casell
 Richard Chasey
 Helen Chmura
 Kate Davis
 Dori Dick
 Sarah Hameed
 Ryan Hartnett
 Jamie Hawk
 Mike Johns
 Rachael Olliff
 Bret Robinson
 Corinne Ross
 Danica Schaffer-Smith
 Zack Steel
 Anna Studwell
 Mike Thayne
 Mike Vailanis

INTERNS

(January – March, 2015)
 Hilary Allen
 Adelle Anderson
 Jose Basaldua
 Zoe Burr
 Adriana Caicedo
 Arguelles
 Emma Chiaroni
 Hannah Conley
 Emma Cox
 Vanessa Delvanaz
 Parker Forman
 Aymeric Fromant
 Sean Gee
 Jessica Greer
 Jason Gregg
 Eva Gruber
 Esther Haile
 Amanda Hooper
 Anna Kennedy
 Kyle Marsh
 Andrew Mealor
 Josh Nuzzo
 James Robbins
 David Sherer
 Robert Snowden
 Candace Stenzel
 Ryan Swanson
 Tyler Winter





Point Blue
Conservation science
for a healthy planet.

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
DMS

Point Blue Conservation Science
3820 Cypress Drive Suite 11
Petaluma, CA 94954
t. 707.781.2555 f. 707.765.1685
e. pointblue@pointblue.org
pointblue.org

Advancing nature-based solutions to climate change, habitat loss and other environmental threats through bird and ecosystem science, partnerships and outreach.

Make Conservation Science Your Legacy

Support the next 50 years of Climate-Smart Conservation!

Point Blue's scientists have made invaluable insights into environmental change for 50 years – an inspiring legacy that moved Sara and Andy Barnes to strengthen their own conservation legacy with a planned gift to Point Blue.

Sara and Andy both recognize the importance of long-term scientific observations to shaping positive conservation outcomes. "We are so impressed with the usefulness of Point Blue's collection of scientific data over such a long period of time," Sara says. "It helps us understand systemic changes that are happening globally."

Sara and Andy see a planned gift as the best way to ensure that Point Blue's collaborative, climate-smart conservation work thrives for many more decades. "In choosing Point Blue for a legacy gift," Sara says, "we know we're doing all we can to ensure this critically important work will continue and expand."

Have you joined Sara and Andy by making a provision for Point Blue in your will or trust? If so, thank you! Letting us know about your intentions helps Point Blue plan for the future. Don't have a will yet? You're not alone! Now is a good time to start planning, and a critical time to make a bequest for the future benefit of birds, other wildlife and our communities.

Please contact Stacey Atchley at 707.781.2547 or legacy@pointblue.org for more information.

