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Comm. Dev. Dept. Brisbane

San Francisco
26 September 2013

John Swiecki, AICP
Communications Development Director
City Of Brisbane
50 Park Place
Brisbane, CA 94005

Dear Mr. Swiecki,

We have been monitoring bird populations on San Bruno Mountain and Brisbane Lagoon each December for the past 16 years as part of the annual San Francisco Christmas Bird Count, Area 12. We are both Biologists who have been teaching about birds, leading field trips and observing birds throughout the Bay Area for the past 40 years.

We are enclosing two spreadsheets of species observed on the Brisbane Lagoon for the past 5 years. We have observed 45+ species using Brisbane Lagoon during these mid-winter counts. As the data indicate, there are an abundance and diversity of birds utilizing the lagoon for feeding and resting. We have found considerable differences in the presence of bird species depending on the stage of the tides. Diving species such as Greebes, Bufflehead, Ruddy Ducks and Surf Scoters prefer incoming or falling tides whereas shoreline probers such as Sandpipers, Stilts, Curlews, Godwits, Plovers, Herons & Egrets, enjoy the lower tides with exposed mudflats. Much of the variation in species we record year to year, reflect differences in tidal stage at the time of our count visits. It is clear, even from these limited annual observations, that Brisbane Lagoon is a vital feeding & resting place for considerable numbers of diverse species of migrating and over-wintering birds.

Recreational boating and the increased presence of dogs and cats, that would likely accompany development of Brisbane Lagoon's shoreline habitat would be extremely disruptive to the birdlife presently utilizing this small, quiet and defined tidal lagoon.

Please feel free to contact us if you have further questions on the bird observation data we've included or if you would like to see numerical data from earlier years.

Yours truly,



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cc:

Jack Dumbacher, Cal. Academy
Mike Lynes, GG Audubon
Dan Murphy, GG Audubon, CBC Chair
Ginny Marshall, Sequoia Audubon

12/20/07

Brisbane Lagoon
Christmas Bird Count

Golden Gate Audubon Society

Species Presence

Species	1999	2001	2005	2006
1 Common Loon	1	1	1	1
2 Red-throated Loon	1			
3 Pied-billed Grebe	1			1
4 Horned Grebe	1			1
5 Clark's Grebe	1			1
6 Western Grebe	1	1		1
7 Brown Pelican	1		1	1
8 Double-crested Cormorant	1		1	1
9 Great Blue Heron	1		1	1
10 Great Egret				1
11 Snowy Egret	1	1	1	1
12 Black-crowned Night Heron	1			
13 Canada Goose			1	1
14 Lesser Scaup	1	1	1	1
15 Surf Scoter	1	1	1	
16 Bufflehead	1	1	1	1
17 Common Goldeneye	1	1	1	1
18 Red-breasted Merganser	1	1		1
19 Ruddy Duck	1	1	1	1
20 Mallard		1		
21 Canvasback	1	1		1
22 Sharp-shinned Hawk				1
23 Red-shouldered Hawk				1
24 American Coot	1	1	1	1
25 Black-necked stilt	1	1	1	1
26 American Avocet	1		1	1
27 Willet	1		1	
28 Greater Yellow Legs		1		
29 Whimbrel		1		
30 Black-bellied Plover	1			
31 Least Sandpiper				1
32 Dunlin	1			1
33 Common Snipe				1
34 Long-billed Curlew				1
35 Western Sandpiper	1			
36 Mew Gull	1			
37 California Gull	1	1	1	1
38 Herring Gull				
39 Glaucous-winged Gull			1	
40 Western Gull			1	
41 Forrester's Tern	1	1		1
42 Belted Kingfisher	1	1		1
43 Northern Harrier Hawk				1
44 Ring-billed Gull		1		
45 Common Loon	1		1	
46				
47 TOTAL SPECIES <i>observed</i>	30	19	19	30

by year

CBC Brisbane Lagoon

2008 2009 2010 2011 2012

Species Name	Number	Number	Number	Number	Numbers observed
Common loon	1	0	0	1	0
Clark's grebe	4	0	5	1	0
Western grebe	6	3	5	8	13
Eared grebe	4	3	0	3	1
Horned grebe	6	1	1	0	1
Double-crested cormorant	6	2	2	0	0
Great blue heron	2	1	0	0	0
Great egret	2	0	1	0	0
Snowy egret	2	0	6	4	1
Mallard	7	5	4	1	7
Gadwall	1	0	0	0	0
Greater scaup	5	0	5	25	0
Lesser scaup	107	47	11	25	11
Surf scoter	9	2	30	5	9
Common goldeneye	5	7	1	3	0
Bufflehead	54	29	51	50	15
Ruddy duck	50	47	64	73	22
Turkey vulture	1	0	0	0	1
Northern harrier	2	2	0	1	0
Osprey		0	0	0	1
Coopers hawk	1	1	1	0	0
Sharp-shinned hawk	1	0	0	0	0
Merlin		0	0	1	0
Red-tailed hawk	1	1	2	1	1
American kestrel	4	0	3	0	1
Brown Pelican		2	0	2	1
American coot	25	21	37	50	12
Black-necked stilt	6	7	0	1	2
Spotted sandpiper	2	2	0	1	2
Ring-billed gull	1	1	2	2	1
California gull	4	0	22	7	2
Glaucous-winged gull	3	0	1	0	0
Western gull	12	14	19	10	12
Brandt cormorant		2	0	0	0
Common Merganser		2	0	0	0
Willet		8	15	10	15
Mockingbird		1	3	1	3
Least sandpiper		0	29	150	0
Belted kingfisher		0	1	0	1
Red-breasted Merganser		0	0	2	0
Canvas back		0	0	2	0
Ruddy turnstone		0	0	0	10
Kildeer		0	0	1	0
Long-billed curlew		0	0	1	0
Marbled Godwit		0	0	1	0
Dowitcher (sp)		0	0	50	0
Forester's tern		0	0	1	0
Pied-billed grebe		0	0	0	2

Total species: 30
Observed by year
24 25 32 25

Total birds

48 species