



Photos courtesy Alan Harper

### *A Partnership to Save the Birds & Biodiversity of Bahía San Quintín*

Millions of migratory birds traveling up and down the Pacific Flyway rely on several key sites in Northwest Mexico. One of special concern for California Audubon chapters is Bahía San Quintín, an Important Bird Area (IBA) and a still-unspoiled wetlands complex. However, Northwest Mexico faces growing pressure to exploit wetlands and coastal natural systems for agricultural, urban development, and tourism. Therefore, the National Audubon Society, with its unique conservation and education capacities, is entering a partnership to counter this threat with a campaign to preserve Bahía San Quintín.



Located in northwestern Baja California, Bahía San Quintín is the largest Mediterranean coastal wetland in México. It has the most pristine tract of coastal salt marsh in western North America. Covering over 26,000 hectares, Bahía San Quintín, at the meeting point of temperate and subtropical climatic zones,

harbors 45 species listed as threatened, endangered, rare, or subject to special legal protection under Mexican law. Considered an irreplaceable site along the Pacific Flyway migratory corridor, the Bahía supports 178 U.S. migrant species, many of which are considered priority species by California Audubon. The Bahía provides wintering habitat for 30-50% of Mexico's west coast Black

Brant population, as well for thousands of other waterbirds, including Western Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Reddish Egret, and Snowy Plovers. The world's densest population of California Gnatcatchers is found around the Bahía, and it is one of only three sites along the Pacific coast of Baja California where Black Rails have been sighted. The gray whale has also relied on the Bahía as a reproduction sanctuary since the 1970s.



This natural area is generally unprotected and desperately needs both national and international recognition. It needs best management practices that preserve the ecological integrity of the habitat and advance better land-use policies for the region. Currently, Bahía San Quintín is threatened by tourist development, human disturbance, agriculture,

grazing, pesticides, and contaminants.

In response to this mutual concern, National Audubon Society is joining in partnership with Pronatura Noroeste, The Nature Conservancy, ProEsteros, and Terra Peninsular to engage the services of the organization, Rare, to conduct a Pride Campaign to raise public awareness about the importance of the wetlands and shorelines of Bahía San Quintín. With over 120 campaigns completed in over 40 countries, Pride Campaigns, as they are known, trace their success to engaging every sector of the community: teachers, business leaders, elected officials, religious leaders and the average citizen. The goal of the Pride Campaign will be to launch an awareness initiative that will promote long-term protection for Bahía San Quintín through a campaign whose objectives are to:



- Increase community awareness about the value of Bahía San Quintín, and thus engage local citizens in the conservation of the Bahía.
- Implement management practices and ordinances regarding the recreational and agricultural use that balances economic returns with environmental safeguards.
- Obtain national and international protection of Bahía San Quintín through the declaration of the site as a federally designated Protected Natural Area and a Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) site; thereby raising the profile of the site and its prospects for attracting governmental and private sector funding.
- Provide support for a full-time staff person at San Quintín for at least three years who will be able to continue local conservation work after the Pride Campaign has been completed.

We ask you to become partners in conserving one of the most important migratory sites for California birds. The cost of the Pride Campaign is \$150,000. To date, our partner organizations have provided \$75,000. National Audubon's goal is to raise the \$50,000 in partnership with its chapters. Contributions from California Chapters will be matched 1:1 by National Audubon, thus if our chapters can contribute \$25,000, Audubon's goal will be reached. For further information, please contact: Jess Morton at 310 832-5601 or [jmorton@igc.org](mailto:jmorton@igc.org).

178 Species present in Bahía San Quintín

Red-throated Loon
Pacific Loon
Common Loon
Pied-billed Grebe
Horned Grebe
Eared Grebe
Western Grebe
Clark's Grebe
Northern Fulmar
Sooty Shearwater
Black-vented Shearwater
Black Storm Petrel
Brown Pelican
Double-crested Cormorant
Brandt's Cormorant
American Bittern
Great Blue Heron
Great Egret
Snowy Egret
Little Blue Heron
Tricolored Heron
Reddish Egret
Cattle Egret
Black-crowned Night Heron
White-faced Ibis
White-fronted Goose
Snow Goose
Brant
Canada Goose
California Quail

Black Rail
Clapper Rail
American Coot
Black-bellied Plover
Snowy Plover
Wilson's Plover
Semipalmated Plover
Killdeer
Mountain Plover
Black Oystercatcher
Black-necked Stilt
American Avocet
Green-winged Teal
Mallard
Northern Pintail
Blue-winged Teal
Cinnamon Teal
Northern Shoveler
Gadwall
American Wigeon
Western Gull
Glaucous-winged Gull
Black-legged Kittiwake
Caspian Tern
Royal Tern
Elegant Tern
Forster's Tern
Least Tern
Black Skimmer
Rock Dove
Mourning Dove
Common Ground-Dove

Spotted Dove
Northern Flicker
Greater Roadrunner
Barn Owl
Burrowing Owl
Short-eared Owl
Lesser Nighthawk
Anna's Hummingbird
Costa's Hummingbird
Rufous Hummingbird
Allen's Hummingbird
Belted Kingfisher
Black Phoebe
Say's Phoebe
Ash-throated Flycatcher
Cassin's Kingbird
Western Kingbird
Horned Lark
Purple Martin
Tree Swallow
Violet-green Swallow
Cliff Swallow
Barn Swallow
Western Scrub-Jay
Common Raven
Cactus Wren
Rock Wren
Bewick's Wren
House Wren
Marsh Wren
Canvasback
Redhead

Ring-necked Duck
Greater Scaup
Lesser Scaup
Black Scoter
Surf Scoter
White-winged Scoter
Common Goldeneye
Bufflehead
Red-breasted Merganser
Ruddy Duck
Turkey Vulture
Osprey
White-tailed Kite
Northern Harrier
Cooper's Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Ferruginous Hawk
Golden Eagle
American Kestrel
Merlin
Peregrine Falcon
Greater Yellowlegs
Lesser Yellowlegs
Willet
Wandering Tattler
Spotted Sandpiper
Whimbrel
Long-billed Curlew
Marbled Godwit
Ruddy Turnstone
Black Turnstone

Surfbird
Red Knot
Sanderling
Western Sandpiper
Least Sandpiper
Pectoral Sandpiper
Dunlin
Short-billed Dowitcher
Long-billed Dowitcher
Wilson's Phalarope
Red-necked Phalarope
Red Phalarope
Parasitic Jaeger
Bonaparte's Gull
Heermann's Gull
Ring-billed Gull
California Gull
Herring Gull
Thayer's Gull
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
California Gnatcatcher
Mountain Bluebird
Hermit Thrush
Wrentit
Northern Mockingbird
Gray Thrasher
California Thrasher
American Pipit

Loggerhead Shrike
European Starling
Orange-crowned Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Golden-crowned Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Red-winged Blackbird
Western Meadowlark
American Redstart
Common Yellowthroat
Spotted Towhee
California Towhee
Rufous-crowned Sparrow
Vesper Sparrow
Sage Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Brewer's Blackbird
Great-tailed Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
Bullock's Oriole
House Finch
House Sparrow

\* Audubon 2007 Red and Yellow-listed Species indicated by highlight