



PRESIDIO POST

Help Save California's State Bird

Join the Presidio Quail Recovery Project



The mention of San Francisco generally brings to mind cultural icons such as the cable car and Golden Gate Bridge. The living members of the city's natural history are charismatic if less obvious icons of this area. The California Quail is our state bird as well as the official bird of the City and County of San Francisco. And it is now threatened with local extinction.

Though the Presidio is home to the largest Quail population in the city, the number of Quail that make their home in this national park site has diminished significantly over the decades. To help rescue the species, the Presidio has joined the Golden Gate Audubon Society's city-wide "Save the Quail" campaign.

As part of the recovery effort, PRBO Conservation Science (formerly Point Reyes Bird Observatory) and the Presidio Trust are conducting a citizen-based monitoring project to determine how many Quail make their home here, where they find habitat, and how they use the park. We are seeking help from those who frequent the Presidio – residents, employees, hikers, birdwatchers, and others –

to report Quail sightings in the Presidio.

To aid in this effort, the known Presidio California Quail (approximately 20 birds) have been identified with uniquely colored leg bands that allow individual birds to be distinguished and monitored. Jill Harley, a terrestrial biologist with PRBO who is helping to develop the monitoring program, observes that "In San Francisco, there is almost no Quail habitat remaining. The Quail Recovery Project is a unique opportunity to rescue a population from impending local extinction. Every bit of information helps, so reporting Quail sightings allows Presidio visitors to contribute to our knowledge of the Quail covey. Our results will guide habitat management in the park and help boost the dwindling population."

Even before the current monitoring program began, park users reported Quail sightings via e-mail and telephone. In addition to monitoring the Quail, for the past two years park staff and volunteers, along with members of Golden Gate Audubon Society, have been regularly participating in hands-on habitat enhance-

ment projects in the Presidio. Park residents and tenants are informed about ways to co-exist harmoniously with this sensitive species.

Why are people getting involved? Volunteer Dick Gale, long-time Presidio neighbor and stockbroker, explains, "I used to see Quail spread around the Presidio. Now I see just one covey in one location."

Hundreds of students and community members are helping, in Dick's words, to "support a come back!"

It's notable that in recent decades there has been an increased awareness of and concern for the loss of biodiversity in other parts of the world. Like the tropical rainforests, San Francisco

and the larger Bay Area are also a biodiversity "hotspot." Attention to the Presidio's Quail is helping to raise awareness that the Presidio provides vital habitat for more than 300 species of birds and other wildlife. Within a densely urbanized environment, the open space of the Presidio is an island of refuge for San

Francisco's natural heritage.

If you'd like to participate in the Presidio's Quail monitoring project see www.presidiotrust.gov for details, or contact Damien Raffa, Presidio Trust Natural Resources Specialist, at (415) 561-4449 or draffa@presidiotrust.gov.



How To Report A California Quail Sighting

California Quail are known to use habitat in the areas west of Presidio Golf Course, at Fort Scott, and in the Tennessee Hollow Watershed. Though you can often spot Quail here, an important part of this study is to determine whether they might be moving to other areas of the park.

General Quail Description

Length: 10" Wing Span: 14"

California Quail have dark gray backs, a forward tilting, teardrop-shaped crest (called a "topknot"), and unmarked bluish-gray to gray chests. Their abdomens and bellies are buff with dark scaly markings, their flanks (just below wings) are brownish with light buffy streaks, and the back of their necks are gray with dark scales.

Males have black throats and a dark brown cap, outlined with white. Topknot is black. Forehead is buff-colored.

Females have dark brown (not black) topknot, and do not have black and white markings on face and throat. Instead, the head and throat are grayish brown with some darker marks.



Photo by Peter Knapp

The Color Band System

Each of the known Presidio Quail has been fitted with a unique combination of two colored bands on each leg. If you spot a Quail, take note of these combinations.

Use the Quail Monitoring Map

Pick up a Quail Monitoring Map at the Presidio Visitor's Center (50 Moraga Avenue), Presidio Trust Office (34 Graham Street), or Crissy Field Center (603 Mason Street). Use the grid system to identify where you saw the Quail.

Report Your Sighting

Report your Quail sighting using the online form at www.presidiotrust.gov. You may also call (415) 561-4449 and report your sighting to a Trust natural resources specialist.



New Public Exhibition To Open at Presidio Officers' Club Exhibition Hall

The American Flag

Two Centuries of Concord and Conflict
An Exhibition of Flags from the Zaricor Flag Collection

At the Presidio Officers' Club Exhibition Hall
January 14 through February 16, 2003
Open Tuesdays through Sundays, 10 a.m. through 4 p.m.

From the earliest days of America's emergence as an independent nation, to conflicts in Europe, the Pacific and Southeast Asia, and in light of our current war against terrorism and disputes with Iraq, the American flag has evoked powerful and sometimes conflicted feelings ranging from awe, pride, and patriotism to deep questioning. The story of America as it developed over two centuries, and the extraordinary power of the Stars and Stripes, are manifested in this important exhibition that includes nearly 100 American flags of unique historic and artistic significance.

Perhaps more than in any other emblem, the spirit of America is painted in our national flag. The passions of politics and patriotism, in times of war and in times of peace, are strikingly expressed in the flags of this exhibit, some of which are more than 200 years old. The banners translate issues such as independence, territorial acquisition, slavery and abolition, and westward expansion into graphic form, providing a unique history course told from the perspective of those who made these flags and those who flew them.

"The American Flag: Two Centuries of Concord and Conflict" attempts to display the true art of "Old Glory" using flags themselves as artistic expressions of what America and Americans are all about. The diverse interpretations on the American flag's simple theme – "thirteen red and white stripes on a field of blue with white stars" – is inspiring.

The exhibit, drawn from the resources of the Zaricor Flag Collection, which contains one of the largest and most important collections of United States flags in the world, is supported by Good Earth Teas of Santa Cruz, California. The exhibition is co-sponsored by Good Earth Teas and the Presidio Trust. The exhibit is free and open to the public Tuesday through Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Presidio Officers' Club is located at 50 Moraga Avenue on the Presidio's Main Post. Free parking is available; use of transit is recommended. The PresidiGo Free Shuttle serves the Officer's Club from the Lombard Gate. The Officers' Club Café featuring the Lost Ladle, located in the Officers' Club, offers light fare including soups and sandwiches. For information, directions, or transit information, visit www.presidiotrust.gov. For other information, call (415) 561-5500. For information on the exhibition, visit www.flagcollection.com.



Good Earth Teas

THIRTEEN-STAR 4-5-4 PATTERN AMERICAN FLAG

This 13-star flag was created between 1812 and 1840. Although the early "Betsy Ross" flag design with a ring of 13 stars is the best-known design of early years, rows of stars became more common because they were easier to see from a distance, and easier for a seamstress to arrange and sew. Both the stars and the stripes represented the original 13 states; Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, New York, North Carolina, and Rhode Island.



ZFC0419 circa 1812-1840

SIXTEEN-STAR FLAG WITH GREAT STAR PATTERN

This is the "flag that never was," at least according to law. After Vermont and Kentucky joined the Union in 1791, Congress approved a 15-star, 15-stripe flag. After that, no new states were officially recognized by new stars until a revised law went into effect in 1818.



ZFC0420 circa 1796-1808

There was much opposition to altering the flag; but on the other hand, flag makers didn't hesitate to manufacture flags like this one, with stars for all the states and sometimes an equal number of stripes.

TWENTY-ONE STAR FLAG WITH GREAT STAR PATTERN

Perhaps the most attractive design ever for the flag was the one promoted by Captain Samuel S. C. Reid called the "Great Luminary Flag." The stars were arranged to form a large star. Laws at the time did not forbid such variations, although they appear in very few known flags. The 21-star flag represented the new state of Illinois, admitted in 1818.



ZFC0422 circa 1819

THIRTY-FIVE STAR DOUBLE-RING FLAG

In the middle of the Civil War, a new star was added to Old Glory when West Virginia was carved out of Virginia by anti-slavery counties that opposed secession. The 35-star design had many variations, but the design of this flag resembles one which can be identified from photographs as having flown on the locomotive that drew President Lincoln's funeral carriage.



ZFC0023 circa 1863-1865

THIRTY-EIGHT STAR TRIPLE-RING AMERICAN FLAG

In 1876, America celebrated 100 years as an independent nation. When Colorado attained statehood on August 1 of that year, it took the nickname of "the Centennial State." The new 38-star flag of 1877 flew for 13 years. The triple ring of stars and the two oddly-placed stars of the design shown here are unique.



ZFC1385 circa 1877-1890

With the growing number of states, flag makers found it difficult to arrange the stars in the fanciful patterns that had been in use for half a century, and so simple rows of stars became the standard design still in use today.

An Evening with the Collector February 5, 2003, 7 p.m.

Meet flag collector Ben Zaricor on Wednesday, February 5 at 7 p.m. in the Presidio Officers' Club for *An Evening with the Collector*.

Mr. Zaricor will speak about his collection and the stories behind its impressive history. The program is free. The exhibit will be open. For more information call (415) 561-5500 or visit www.atthepresidio.org.



ZFC0315 circa 1870



Calendar

Every WEDNESDAY & SATURDAY

Habitat Restoration Programs

Help restore the native habitats of the park! Habitat restoration programs take place throughout the park from 9 a.m. to noon every Wednesday and Saturday. Presidio Native Plant Nursery programs run from 1 to 4 p.m. every Wednesday and Saturday. These volunteer programs are a partnership of the Presidio Trust, the National Park Service, and the Golden Gate National Parks Association. For more information, call (415) 561-4755 or email volunteer@ggnpa.org.



January

Gallery Exhibition at Arion Press and the Grabhorn Institute

A gallery exhibition of limited edition books and prints will be featured at Arion Press throughout January. The exhibit will include the latest project of Arion, a letterpress edition of John Milton's great poem Paradise Lost. Arion Press is located at 1802 Hays Street in the Presidio. For information, visit www.arionpress.com or call (415) 561-2545.

Every MONDAY & WEDNESDAY

6:30 p.m.

Presidio Rx Running Group

Presidio Rx invites runners of all abilities to experience the Presidio on bi-weekly runs. The group meets Mondays under the dome of the Palace of Fine Arts, and runs a five-mile course through the Marina and across Crissy Field. On Wednesdays, the group meets at the Presidio Gate, and runs four to six miles, with a course that varies to include historic buildings, Presidio Heights with hills and stairs, and Crissy Field to the bridge. Participation is free; all are welcome to share fitness, friendship, and the beauty of the Presidio. For specific meeting locations, visit www.woohoo.org/presidiorex.



11 JANUARY

Saturday, 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Water Rules

On a moderate two-mile hike, learn about water above and below the Presidio, and its role in local history. Meet ranger Will Elder at the Crissy Field Center. A free Crissy Field Center Program. For information or to register, call (415) 561-7752.



11-31 JANUARY

Dine About Town at the Presidio Golf Course Café

The Presidio Golf Course Café is participating in San Francisco's "Dine About Town" program, offering a special Prix Fixe lunch menu for \$19.95. For information on program times and menu, or for reservations, call (415) 561-4600 or visit www.presidiogolf.com.

12&26 JANUARY

Sunday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Jazz Brunch at the Presidio Golf Course Café

Come enjoy a delicious brunch while being entertained by the sounds of a live jazz combo. For information or reservations call (415) 561-4600.



14 JANUARY – 16 FEBRUARY

Tuesdays through Sundays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The American Flag – Exhibition at the Presidio Officers' Club

This exhibit of nearly 100 American flags of unique historic and artistic significance tells the story of our developing nation and the role of the Stars and Stripes in illustrating that story. The exhibit draws on the Zaricor Flag Collection, one of the largest collections of American flags in the world. The exhibit is open to the public at no charge. For information, see the related story on page 2, call (415) 561-5500 or visit www.atthepresidio.org.



14 JANUARY

Tuesday, 12 noon to 1:30 p.m.

Tennessee Hollow Watershed

Discover the natural and cultural history of El Polin Springs and learn about plans to restore this beautiful watershed on a moderate one-mile hike. Meet your NPS docent at Inspiration Point. For information or to register, call (415) 561-4323.



18 JANUARY

Saturday, 2 to 4 p.m.

Buffalo Soldiers and America's Quest for Empire

Join a moderate one-mile walk and learn about moral dilemmas faced by African-American soldiers in the early years of the 20th century. Meet your docent at the Presidio Visitor's Center, located in the Officers' Club at 50 Moraga Avenue on the Main Post. For information or to register, call (415) 561-4323.



18 JANUARY

Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon

California Quail Habitat Enhancement Program

Casual weeding, plantings, and other field activities benefit habitat for the Quail as well as other plant and animal species. Tools, gloves and snack provided. Families welcome. For more information contact Damien Raffa at (415) 561-4449 or e-mail draffa@presidiotrust.gov. Co-sponsored by Golden Gate Audubon Society.

19 JANUARY

Sunday, 4 p.m.

Dia de los Reyes Concert

Celebrate the Dia de los Reyes at the 16th annual concert presented by the Instituto Pro Musica de California. Medieval cantigas, renaissance villancicos, baroque double-chorus cantatas, and romantic folk melodies weave to retell the stories of Mary and Joseph's search for lodging, and of the Three Magi's quest for wisdom. Works by Francisco Guerrero, Juan Gutierrez de Padilla, Ariel Ramirez, and Carlos Mejia Godoy will be performed by Coro Hispano de San Francisco & Conjunto Nuevo Mundo. At the Mission Dolores Basilica, Dolores at 16th Street in San Francisco. Tickets are \$20 general admission, \$15 for seniors and students. For tickets or information call (415) 431-4234 or visit the Old Mission Dolores store.



23 JANUARY

Thursday, 4:30 to 8 p.m.

Gallery Opening at the Thoreau Center for Sustainability

The Gallery at Thoreau, opening this month, strives to further the Center's values of social, economic and environmental sustainability. The first exhibit, "Transformation of Perspective" by San Francisco artist Miguel Torres, opens with a reception on the 23rd at the Acre Café. For more information, visit www.thoreau.org/gallery.html.



25 JANUARY

Saturday, 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Roots of Invasion

Enjoy an easy one-mile walk and learn about the significance and ecological challenges of invasive plants on the Presidio. Meet at Crissy Field Center, at the corner of Halleck and Mason Streets. For information or to register, call (415) 561-7690.

28 JANUARY

Tuesday, 7 p.m.

Public Hearing on draft Presidio Trails and Bikeways Plan

Come share your opinions and ideas about the draft Presidio Trails and Bikeways Plan. The public hearing will take place at the Golden Gate National Recreation Area Park Headquarters, Building 201, Fort Mason. For information, call (415) 561-5414.

Save the Dates

March 8 – April 13, 2003

Women of the World Exhibition at the Presidio Officers' Club

The Presidio Officers' Club Exhibition Hall announces the opening of a new exhibition, presented by the International Museum of Women, titled "Women of the World; a Global Collection of Art." The exhibition will be free and open to the public. For information and related programs, call (415) 543-IMOW X16. Additional information will be printed as the exhibition dates approach.