San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory

Organization/Agency: San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory  Date: 4/15/13
Supervisor/Sponsor: David Thomson  Supervisor/Sponsor title: Senior Ecologist
Address: 524 Valley Way, Milpitas, CA 95064  Email: dthomson@sfbbo.org
Phone: 408-946-6548  Fax: 408-946-9279  Website: www.sfbbo.org

Describe the internship assignment:

The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory is dedicated to the conservation of birds and their habitats through science and outreach. We are located in Milpitas, approximately 45-60 minutes from Santa Cruz. SFBBO’s Habitats Program is a science-based program that works to determine feasible methods to restore and manage a rare and valuable habitat - the upland transition zone, or the ecotone, between a tidal marsh and upland habitats.

A transition zone dominated by high-quality native vegetation provides high-tide refugia and cover for endangered species like California Clapper Rail and Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse. We seek an intern to work with Habitats Program biologists to evaluate the success of different strategies in restoring native communities of plants in the upland transition zone. The specific details of the internship can be modified based on the intern’s interests, but the intern would likely be conducting vegetation surveys and related data analyses to evaluate restoration at three existing sites, each of which used different restoration treatments and with seeding occurring at different times of the year. We are very interested in working with interns who are interested in developing their research further as a senior thesis or Masters thesis, though that is not required.