Local Bird-oriented Groups Seek Donations for Online Auction

The past year of COVID has been challenging for nonprofit organizations that usually fundraise through in-person events. Two of these groups are the Godwit Days Spring Migration Birding Festival and the Redwood Region Audubon Society (RRAS).

In 2020, Godwit Days was set to celebrate its 25th year of offering mid-April bird- and nature-related educational field trips, lectures, and workshops. But the festival had to be cancelled less than six weeks before its launch, after significant money that couldn’t be recouped was spent planning and promoting the event. In 2021, Godwit Days is offering a free, scaled-down, virtual event April 16-18, to keep the organization in the public eye. But the nonprofit needs to raise funds, so that it can return in 2022 with a full-blown, in-person festival.

RRAS has held an annual banquet and silent auction fundraiser for the past 35 years. The event allowed RRAS to celebrate a year of progress on behalf of wildlife in general and bird life in particular, while raising a substantial portion of the funds needed to keep this all-volunteer organization solvent, so it could perform the many activities per its mission. Two areas in need of financial support are production of a monthly Sandpiper newsletter and educational outreach to local schools and the public.

Therefore, Godwit Days and RRAS are seeking donations of new or “gently used” goods, as well as personal services, for an online silent auction to be held in late May or early June. The donation deadline is May 1. Each group will receive the proceeds from the items they collect.

Donations may include artwork & photography, books (coffee-table type), clothing & accessories, food & drink, gift certificates, home décor, jewelry, outdoor items, pottery & glass, and toys & games. Or donors can create an “experience,” such as teaching a class, leading a trip, making a dinner, providing getaway/camping space, or any other special talent or opportunity they can offer!

Items with a bird or nature theme are especially sought. Please, no junk (broken or dirty items): the sponsors reserve the right to reject items for inclusion in the online auction (although they may retain them for future in-person events).

Donor names will be attached to their items on the auction website, unless the givers prefer to remain anonymous. Donors to Godwit Days will also be listed as Supporters on the festival’s website. All donations are tax deductible.

Godwit Days and RRAS will arrange to pick up donations in the Humboldt Bay area that are worth at least $20 or can be grouped into sets for an auction listing that is worth at least $20. Contact Alex Stillman at alexnacv@gmail.com or (707) 845-3900 to donate to Godwit Days or Gary Friedrichsen at gary@jacobycreek.net or (707) 496-6581 to donate to RRAS. Potential donors with general questions should contact Sue Leskiw at sueleskiw1@gmail.com.