

The Loss of Wetlands and the Importance of Its Restoration

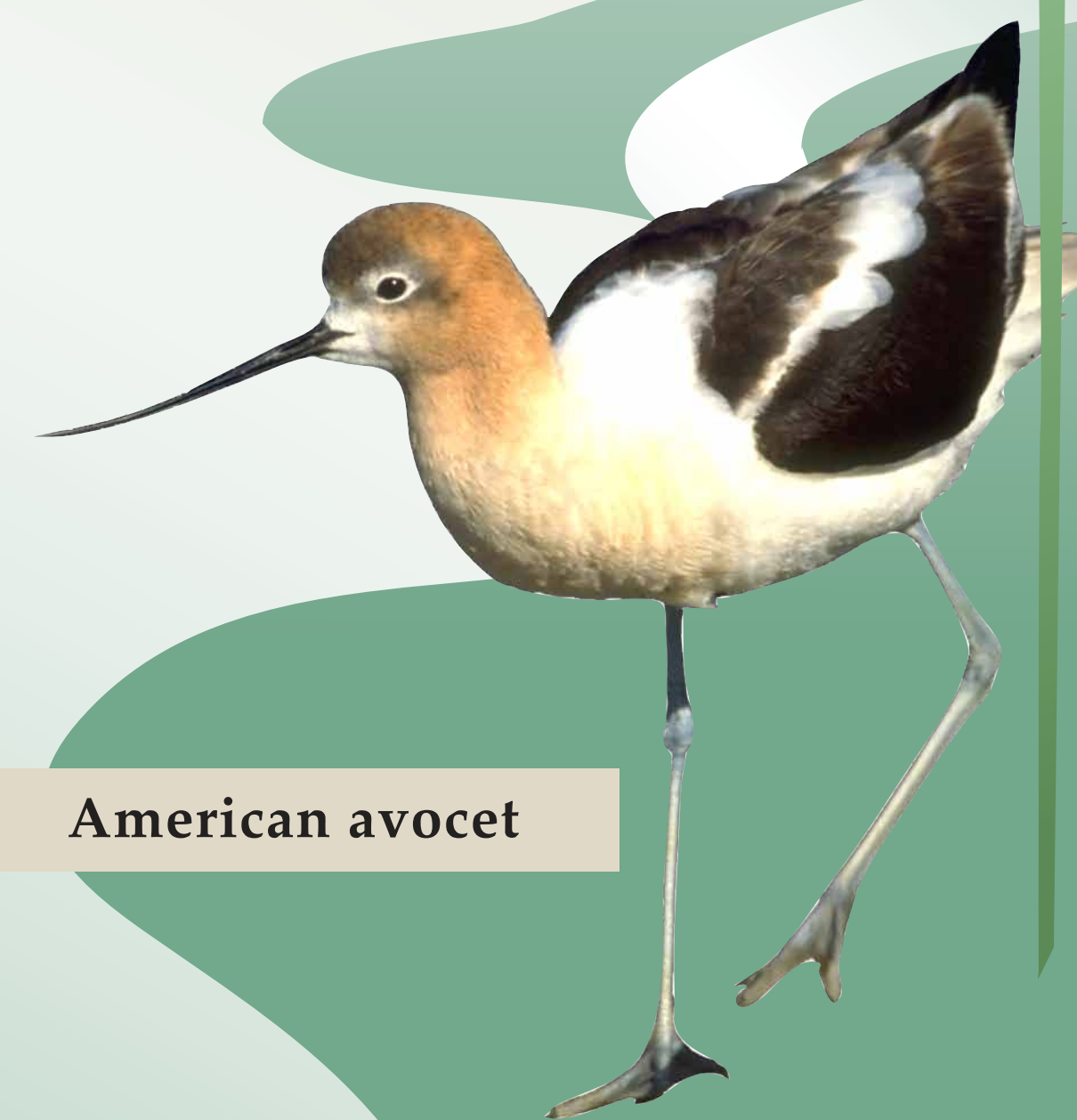
This site has been restored to tidal and seasonal wetlands and now supports numerous species of plants and animals whose habitat has been at risk within the San Francisco Bay Area. Over the past 150 years, 90% of California's wetlands have been filled in or drained to support residential, industrial, and agricultural activities. Wetlands are important to maintain because they form links between the land and the water and act as filters for contaminants. In the past, they were perceived as wastelands and were recklessly filled in or drained. Through the coordinated efforts of many local agencies and individuals, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Wetlands Project has helped restore habitat for wildlife such as the endangered California clapper rail, a secretive marsh bird which was on the brink of extinction. Listen for its chattering call, a sound once common in the Bay. and nearly lost.



California clapper rail, a state and federal endangered species.



marbled godwits and willets



American avocet

Special thanks to: Port of Oakland, The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Save San Francisco Bay Association, Sierra Club, Inc., Citizens for Alameda's Last Marshlands, Regional Water Quality Control Board, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for their dedication and efforts to restore this site.