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News Release: PRBO Conservation Science

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**Remembering Rich Stallcup -  
Champion of all things wild and Point Reyes Bird Observatory co-founder**

Petaluma, CA – Rich Stallcup, revered birder, naturalist, ecologist, teacher, conservation advocate and beloved friend, passed away Saturday from complications associated with leukemia. Rich dedicated his entire life to understanding and protecting the natural world. He inspired and taught thousands of people about the beauty and magic of birds and nature.

Rich's contributions to conservation in California and beyond are innumerable. He was only a teenager when he shared a vision that resulted in establishing the country's first bird observatory at Point Reyes almost 48 years ago- Point Reyes Bird Observatory, now PRBO Conservation Science (PRBO). He has been integral to PRBO's growth and success ever since.

"Rich was a champion for nature and all things wild," said Ellie Cohen, PRBO Conservation Science President and CEO. "He was also an incredibly loving, kind and generous human being. We have lost a true conservation hero, the likes of whom we will never know again. Yet, we can celebrate his remarkable life because his legacy lives on in so many of us."

In the early 1960's, Rich co-discovered the amazing spring and fall "vagrant" bird phenomenon on outer Point Reyes and other "migrant traps" along the coast. From 1976 to 1988, Rich was an owner and trip leader for WINGS birding tours. He also led more than 1,000 PRBO trips, bird walks, and open ocean nature tours over the decades. As Rich liked to say, he "brought nature to humans," hundreds of them each year, through his tours and trainings, including his uniquely effective "Bird School" and youth birding groups.

Rich served as president of Western Field Ornithologists, as regional editor for American Birds, and as a member of the California Bird Records Committee. He published peer-reviewed scientific papers, 7 books about birds and 89 "Focus" articles in PRBO's quarterly journal, the Observer. Rich also worked with the Farallon Marine Sanctuary Association's Beach Watch Program, which designated him a "Star of the Sanctuary" for Cordell Bank in 1998. In 2002, the American



Birding Association presented Rich with the prestigious Ludlow Griscom Award for outstanding contributions to American ornithology.

“To say that Rich Stallcup had a massive influence on birding and natural history in the great state of California would be a huge understatement. Everyone knew him, everyone had learned from him. But his influence spread far, far beyond the boundaries of California,” wrote Kenn Kaufman, a birding expert and field guide author on his blog on Monday. “All over California, all over the world, thousands of people are... sharing stories and smiling at memories of a man who lived so passionately and gave so much.”

Rich had a certain “magical” ability to find and understand birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles and dragonflies. “Walking through the forest, scanning the cerulean California sky, or watching the roiling waves with Rich was like adding another sense to one's own. He seemed to anticipate an animal's presence before it [was] visible or audible,” said Jules Evens, naturalist, author of *The Natural History of the Point Reyes Peninsula* and *An Introduction to California Birdlife*, and long-time PRBO Research Associate.

“Rich was the most talented field ornithologist I have ever encountered. His abilities were almost mystical,” wrote Jon Winter, co-founder of Western Field Ornithologists and the Point Reyes Christmas Bird Count, and a former PRBO ornithologist.

PRBO will hold a public tribute to Rich Stallcup as part of its annual Bird-A-Thon dinner on January 26, 2013 (RSVP required). Other events to commemorate Rich's inspired and inspiring life will be scheduled in the near future. For more information and to share your memories of Rich at PRBO's guestbook on line, please visit [www.prbo.org](http://www.prbo.org)

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**About PRBO Conservation Science:**

PRBO Conservation Science advances nature's health through science, restoration, outreach and partnerships. Our highest priority is to reduce the negative impacts of accelerating changes in land-use, climate and the ocean on birds, other wildlife and ecosystems, while fostering adaptation to the changes ahead. Founded in 1965, PRBO's 140 scientists work hand-in-hand with governmental and non-governmental agencies as well as private interests to ensure that every dollar invested in conservation yields the most for wildlife and our communities. Visit PRBO on the web at [www.prbo.org](http://www.prbo.org).