



Welcome to the May issue of San Francisco Nature Education's e-mail Newsletter!

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## The eNewsletter of San Francisco Nature Education - May 2006

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### 1 – Heron Watch: Dates and Highlights



Two week old chick and its parent



Eight week old chick practicing flapping.

Saturdays at our *Heron Watch* program have been thrilling! Right now, six nests are occupied at Stow Lake, with eight chicks hatched. Two of those chicks have already been seen branch hopping.

In addition to the thriving Heron Colony, the following birds have recently been seen and heard around Stow Lake:

- Brewer's Blackbird
- European Starling
- Mourning Dove
- American Robin

Steller's Jay  
Scrub Jay  
Song Sparrow  
Black Phoebe  
Anna's Hummingbird  
Red-tailed Hawk  
Common Raven  
Mallard  
Western Gull  
Tree Swallow  
Barn Swallow  
Turkey Vulture  
Cedar Waxwing  
Olive-sided Flycatcher  
Chestnut-backed Chickadee  
Brown Creeper

Come out and see them for yourself!

**Upcoming Dates in May:** Saturday May 13, & Saturday May 20

**Reminder: Saturday, May 20th is the last day of our six-week Heron Watch program.**

**Directions:** Go to the Stow Lake Boathouse in Golden Gate Park and follow signs to the observation site nearby.

Heron Watch observation at Stow Lake is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nature Walks around Stow Lake and Strawberry Island start at 10:30 a.m. and end at 12 noon.

The program is free to the public—donations are always appreciated.

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## **2 – Birding for Everyone: Dates and Highlights**

Attendees at our May *Birding for Everyone* program saw twenty-three species of local and migratory birds on a morning of blustery but exciting birding.

Highlights included:

- A juvenile great blue heron feeding alone in the waterfowl pond,
- California Quail foraging by the waterfowl pond and calling in the California garden,
- A brown creeper in the redwood forest,
- A Pygmy nuthatch nest in one of the holes in the spike of a century plant, and
- A bushtit nest just at the entrance to the California garden.

Come with our naturalists to look for these and other varied and vibrant birds!

Walks are held the first Saturday of every month from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

**Upcoming dates:** June 3, July 1, and August 5

Meet at the bookstore kiosk near the main gate of the San Francisco Botanical Gardens at Strybing Arboretum, 9th Avenue at Lincoln Way.

Please bring a pencil and binoculars if you have them.

Nature walks are organized by San Francisco Nature Education and sponsored by the San Francisco Botanical Garden and the Golden Gate Audubon Society.

The program is free to the public—donations are always appreciated.

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### 3 – Highlights of our School Programs: Field Trips and Classroom Visits

We've had an exciting year exploring the birds of San Francisco with students from underserved public schools. At the end of this school year, we will have delivered programs to 38 classes in four public schools, reaching over 1,000 children.

Please enjoy these pictures from our school visits and field trips:



3rd grade students examine a Great Blue Heron egg.



Students observe birds with their binoculars at the San Francisco Botanical Gardens.



Students get a close-up view of the Stow Lake herons.



A 3rd grade class at E. R. Taylor Elementary School figures out what's in a nest.

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#### **4 – Supporting San Francisco Nature Education**

We serve over 1,000 children every year from underserved San Francisco public schools. Our engaging public and school programs couldn't exist without the generous contributions of our supporters.

Would you please send a contribution today?

Please send tax-deductible contributions to:

San Francisco Nature Education  
3450 Geary Boulevard, Suite 208  
San Francisco, CA 94118

Make all checks payable to "San Francisco Nature Education."

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**For more information and to view our photo galleries, please visit our website at [www.sfnature.org](http://www.sfnature.org).**

We hope this e-newsletter has piqued your interest in our upcoming events. Please consider a contribution to help us continue our school and public programs. Your contributions are vital to continuing our bird and environmental education programs in San Francisco. Thank you to our current contributors for your continued support. For other ways to support San Francisco Nature Education, check our wish list above and consider enrolling in the eScrip program.

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