



# Back to School

## Blue Heron Newsletter

September 2008

### Executive Director's Corner

Nancy DeStefanis

We hope all of you have had a lovely summer. Here at San Francisco Nature Education we've been preparing for another exciting school year and expanded public programs and lectures.

Please check our updated website at: [www.sfnature.org](http://www.sfnature.org) to see all of the upcoming programs.

To learn more about us, please visit "About Us" at:

[www.sfnature.org/about\\_us/index.html](http://www.sfnature.org/about_us/index.html)

I hope to see you soon at one of our walks or lectures!

### Fall School Programs

- San Francisco Nature Education launches winter classroom visits and field trips to the San Francisco Botanical Garden.
- During the 2007-2008 school year, SF Nature Education served over 1100 students.
- New schools include Visitacion Valley Elementary. Volunteers needed—please visit our website at [www.sfnature.org](http://www.sfnature.org) for information and application. Training starts at the end of September.

### Birding for Everyone

Angie Geiger, Trip Leader

The weather was hot and sunny for the September Birding for Everyone walk. About 25 of us set out with high hopes of spotting some early fall migrants. On our way to the California Garden we saw a flurry of movement in a winter's bark tree. On closer inspection we could see a profusion of ripe berries which were attracting a large number of birds, mostly speckled immature robins. It provided us with a great opportunity to compare the adult and younger birds. In



Photo: Judy Harter

An immature robin.

addition to robins, the tree also attracted some house finches and a western tanager. Then we noticed movement in a bush directly in front of us. We were delighted to see a number of warbling vireos darting in and out throughout the interior of the shrub. All of the participants got a chance to study this bird at close range at eye level.

We moved to the California Garden and encountered a number of birds, including song sparrows, scrub jays, and a flock of bushtits. We came upon an elderberry that was covered with black berries. These

attracted a large number of western tanagers. We were able to observe these birds closely at our leisure as they gorged on the berries.



Photo: Judy Harter

A steller's jay.

also stopped to listen to the sounds of pygmy nuthatches and chestnut-backed chickadees high in the canopy.

On our way back to the front gate, we were delighted to encounter a female California quail as she strolled along the path in front of our group. All together 31 species were observed—a great start to autumn.

**Upcoming Birding for Everyone dates:** Saturdays Oct. 4 and Nov. 1. Meet at 10 a.m. near the bookstore inside the main gate of the SF Botanical Garden in Golden Gate Park (Martin Luther King Drive near 9th Avenue).

From there we moved into the Redwood Forest to get some relief from the sun. There we came upon some great birds—a steller's jay, a brown creeper and a Pacific-Slope flycatcher! We



Photo: Alan Hopkins

A brown creeper.

## Upcoming Events

Lecture/Slide Show: October 9th at 7:30 p.m.

*Birds of Three World Heritage Sites*—Ecuador's Galapagos Islands, Peru's Manu Jungle, and Machu Picchu, with Nancy DeStefanis.

About birds and monkeys, among other fascinating fauna, and the effects of ecotourism.

San Francisco Naturalists Society  
Randall Science Museum (free program)  
<http://www.randallmuseum.org/>



Manu Jungle macaws  
at clay lick



Machu Picchu



Magnificent frigate  
in courtship display



Capuchin monkey  
in Manu Jungle

## Wish List

Day packs for students to use on field trips.

## Supporting San Francisco Nature Education

We serve more than 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?

Online donations are particularly welcome, as they decrease our processing costs and allow us to spend more money where it counts. To make a donation online, click on the link on our website at <http://www.sfnature.org>.

Please mail contributions to:

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

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

Another way to support San Francisco Nature Education is by enrolling in the eScrip program and designating San Francisco Nature Education. Read about the program at <http://www.escrip.com>.

Many thanks for your continued support!

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Contact us:  
e-mail: [info@sfnature.org](mailto:info@sfnature.org)  
telephone: 415-387-9160

2008 has been a busy year so far. Here are pictures of a few of last spring's events.

