



A Wet Bay Area Winter Begins

Blue Heron Newsletter • *January 2013*

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous support throughout the year.

Your contributions help support our education programs for underserved youth, high school students, and adults and children through our Saturday programs.

All non-profits are feeling the pinch nowadays—so I ask, if you haven't given please give now. We need your support to continue these programs. The recession has significantly affected foundation and major donor gift-giving.

In this new year's issue I would like to thank the following people for their generous donations of time and expertise. Our volunteers make our programs possible: Connie Armitage, Jeanne Crawford, Peter Dillon, Tom Dolan, Victoria & Alexa Evans, Ann Galjour, Angie Geiger, Linda Grant, Judy Harter, Alan Hopkins, Missi Hirt, Bill Milestone, Courtenay Pinder, Megan Prelinger, Peter Shen, and Mike Smylie.

To our interns who have donated their time—leading tours, making videos, and giving interviews—you make our programs possible at Heron's Head Park and Heron Watch in Golden Gate Park: Mina, Cedric, Ingrid and, last but not least, Logan.

To our in-kind contributors, we truly appreciate your generosity: Pro-Image Printing, Fireside Camera, Type & Graphics, and Arizmendi Bakery.

There is still time to contribute to our programs. All donations are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

We wish you a very Happy Holiday and New Year.

Best regards,

Nancy DeStefanis
Executive Director



Please donate now, or mail a check to:
SF Nature Education, 3450 Geary, Ste. 208
San Francisco, CA 94118

Time to Tour Heron's Head Park

Nancy DeStefanis, Executive Director, SFNE

This year, 2013, marks our fifth year conducting tours at Heron's Head Park.

Beginning January 12th, high-school interns will lead monthly birding walks in the park and talk about the natural history of these remarkable wetlands.

Interns with high-powered spotting scopes will lead group tours. All participants will receive a checklist to mark birds seen in the park, and children will receive a field journal to color pictures of local birds at home.

The area around the wetlands has been newly renovated. There is now a native garden, picnic tables and barbecue grills, a new parking lot, bike racks, a dog run, and two restrooms.

Every year brings some new birds. Last year it was Clapper Rail juveniles. The year before it was Harlequin Ducks and Eurasian Wigeons. Who knows what species we will find this year? On this page and the next are photos of birds that were spotted during recent intern training sessions.

Please join us on a one-hour-long tour on the following Saturdays: January 12, February 9, and March 9, 2013. Tours start at 10 am, and leave every half hour through 11:30 am.



Photo illustration: Jim Sullivan



Photo: Rick Leche

Least Sandpiper



Photo: Len Blumin

Western Meadowlark

On the pages ahead:

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Western Grebe



Horned Grebe

Birds that Frequent SF's Heron's Head Park

All photos by Len Blumin



Marbled Godwits on alert in nearby Bodega Bay



Long-billed Curlew



Marbled Godwit



American Avocet



Black-necked Stilt



Google Maps

For directions to Heron's Head Park search for Jennings St. & Cargo Way, SF, at maps.google.com.

We thank all the generous photographers who made these pages come alive during 2012:

Len Blumin, Margo Bors, Paul J. Chamberlain, Doug Greenberg, Judy Harter, Bill Hunnewell, Matt Knoth, Jesse Krider, Rick Leche, Trevor Lee, Jerry Oldenettel, Andy Purviance, Susan Swei, Jim Sullivan, Katherine Ulrich, Sandi Wong, and our naturalist and volunteer photographers.

Upcoming Events*

Birding for Everyone: Led by Megan Prelinger on Sat., Jan. 5, and Feb. 2, 10 am-noon. Meet in front of San Francisco Botanical Garden bookstore. SF Nature fees: Adults \$10, children free. See additional SF Botanical Garden fees below.

Leave from SF Botanical Garden bookstore. Take a leisurely walk through the microhabitats of the Botanical Garden. Free field journal provided to children. Please bring binoculars if you have them, and a pencil for recording bird sightings.

SF Botanical Garden Admission Fees: FREE for children ages 4 and under; FREE for all San Francisco residents with proof of residency; nonresidents pay varying fees. See the [Garden's Web site](#) for details.

Birding at Heron's Head Park: Sat., Jan. 12, Feb. 9, and Mar. 9. High school interns lead four one-hour tours: at 10 am, 10:30, 11, and 11:30. Adults \$10, children free. Details [here](#).

*Please see our new online [events calendar](#).



Volunteer Webmaster Needed for SFNE!

We are looking for a volunteer with HTML and CSS coding skills to upload our monthly pdf newsletter to our web site, and to make site updates as needed, typically requiring one to two hours per month.

We will be happy to provide a recommendation letter for any volunteer who works with us for at least one academic year. Please call or e-mail us for information (see contact information below).

School Volunteers Needed! Please visit www.sfnature.org/get_involved for information. The link to a School Program volunteer application is at the bottom of that page, just above our contact information.



Photos: SFNE

Heron Watch Intern Applications Welcome

High school and undergraduate students may apply for SF Nature Education internships at Heron Watch through Feb. 28, 2013. All training will occur in March, on Saturdays from 10-1 pm. Interns in pairs will lead public birding tours of the Stow Lake area in Golden Gate Park during six Saturdays in April and May.

More information is available at our online [Heron Watch page](#). To download a volunteer application please visit http://www.sfnature.org/get_involved/intern.html.

To learn more about being an intern, see our video [San Francisco Nature Education—Internship Program](#).



Give a Gift that Helps Children Become Environmental Stewards!

This holiday season, why not give environmentally-conscious friends and family a membership in San Francisco Nature Education? It's a gift they can enjoy all year long. For a member, please consider making an additional donation in his or her name.

Use the button below to become a member, give a membership, or donate online.

Thanks for your support!



SF Nature Education
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San Francisco, CA 94118

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www.sfnature.org



Great Blue Heron bathing

Female Ring-necked Duck, Lloyd Lake, Golden Gate Park



Birds and Ducks of a Rainy Season

All photos by Sandi Wong



Black-crowned Night Heron



Northern Pintail, Stow Lake

Male Ring-necked Duck, Lloyd Lake



Female Hooded Merganser with fish; below, male Hooded Merganser.



Green Heron chick, Heather Farms, Walnut Creek



Great Egret with tiny catch



Male American Wigeon