



Executive Director's Corner

Dear Friends,

We've got a full lineup for our field trips in October and November:

Join *Birding for Everyone*, a monthly walk led by Megan Prelinger on the first Saturday of every month. Next walk: October 5.

Logan Kahle leads a field trip to El Polín Spring on Saturday, October 19. Learn about the natural history of this Presidio birding spot.

Christine Malfatti leads the *Birding for Kids and Families* walk on November 2. This walk has been increasingly popular with birders of all ages.

Alan Hopkins leads a Chain of Lakes birding walk on Saturday, November 16. You can expect to see lots of winter migrants that day.

Please join us for our *20th Anniversary Celebration of Heron Watch*: October 8th at SF's Mercy High School. Good food and wine await you, plus music by Frisky Frolics, with Rick Quisol on ukulele!

Tickets are still available, so please send your check or sign up online. See page 4 for details. Tickets will be held at the door on the day of the event.

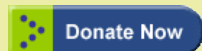
Our school program starts in October. We invite adults to volunteer as naturalists and helpers. Please see page 3. We serve children in grades K-3, and we need your help to ensure that students have up-close experiences in our local parks!

We appreciate your continuing support. I look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events!

Best regards,

Nancy

Nancy



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San Francisco, CA 94118

Birding for Kids in September

Christine Malfatti, Naturalist



Saturday, September 7th, was a beautiful, and rare fog-free day in the SF Botanical Garden. An energetic group of eight children and six adults joined us for *Birding for Kids*. Bill Milestone was the second naturalist guiding the walk.

We sat in the shade in the Library Terrace Garden, passed out binoculars, and explained our plan for the walk. Several children had brought their own binoculars, field journals, colored pencils, and a digital camera. They were very excited to get started.

Our birdwatching started at the fountain in the Library Terrace Garden. An **American Robin** was taking a bath while everyone gathered around to observe. Even birds were seeking relief from the early morning heat! From there, our large group began walking toward the Garden of Fragrance. Along the path we came upon some lawn sprinklers directly in our path. After timing them for a minute, all of us got past with only a light misting. No one seemed to mind.

In the Garden of Fragrance we were able to see the statue of St. Francis near the back of this

small garden. Both of his hands had water running through them where we saw little **sparrows** splashing. Before we left the Garden of Fragrance we stopped to smell many of the plants, and enjoyed their lovely and varied fragrances.

From there the group walked to the Waterfowl Pond. We spotted a juvenile **Great Blue Heron** that has taken up residence in the Botanical Garden. We watched it fish for a few minutes. We also saw many turtles and some large **Koi** in the pond. A few **Canada Geese** waddled down the lawn toward the pond. We moved on toward the Succulent Garden.

Along the way we spotted a **Black Phoebe** and a few **Scrub Jays**. We listened and heard **Anna's**

Continued on next page



Chris Malfatti points out a bird to children and their families in the San Francisco Botanical Garden.

Photo: Sarah Hollenbeck

On the pages ahead:

- 2 More Birding for Kids; Coyotes in the City
- 3 Birding for Everyone; Volunteers Needed
- 4 Twentieth Anniversary Celebration; Upcoming Events
- 5 *Cute in the Eyes of a Coot*, a photo essay
- 6 *Out and About in Golden Gate Park*, a photo essay



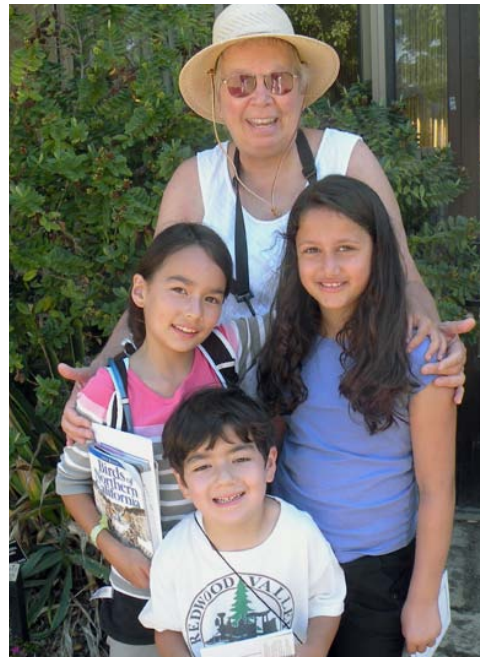
Co-leaders Christine Malfatti far left, and Bill Milestone, back row, fourth from left, with the birding group.

Birding for Kids & Families in the SF Botanical Garden

Continued from previous page

Hummingbirds, but had to look very hard to finally see them among the trees. We moved through the Succulent Garden and along the path to the Redwood Grove, where we observed an enormous tree with numerous sprouts completely surrounding the trunk.

From the cool Redwood Grove we emerged into the California Garden, which was hot and dry. We found a place where there are monastery stones on which to sit and rest. The kids talked about their favorite bird of the day, and spent time coloring in their bird journals. We ended our walk by spotting a **Common Raven** and a **Cooper's Hawk** circling overhead.



Nancy DeStefanis with three of the participants.

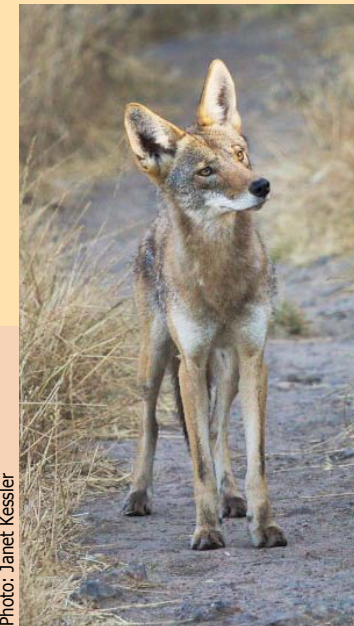
One of our readers, Janet Kessler, asked that we include information about coyotes from CoyoteCoexistence.com as a public service.

San Francisco Nature Education does not have any connection to, or opinions about, the message below or at the linked Web sites.

Living with Coyotes in the City

Coyotes are living in our city and have been recently sighted. Popping season continues through the fall as parent coyotes teach their youngsters the ropes of urban living.

At this stage, pups look pretty much like adults to the untrained eye—but like youths of all species, they are curious and not wise. Because of this, some parent coyote behaviors might be more extreme than usual—for instance, more territorial.



By knowing how to handle situations we can create a win-win situation for all concerned, including ourselves, our pets, and local coyotes.

Below are some tips adapted from [this Web page](#).

A half-hour educational presentation can be seen [here](#). Contact Coyote Coexistence at coyotecoexistence@gmail.com.

Never feed coyotes.

Never approach a coyote.

Don't leave food out. Garbage cans can be secured to prevent animals from getting into them.

Keep your dogs leashed. Dogs are prone to chase coyotes and coyotes will chase them back.

Protect small pets. Keep them indoors until you can be outside with them to supervise.

Be prepared to shoo away a coyote if there is an inadvertent encounter. The best method we have found is to carry a rolled newspaper. Swing that newspaper and slap it aggressively on your thigh as you face and even walk towards the coyote.

During pupping season—roughly March through September—be vigilant for coyote parents who might be protecting their den areas or pups. Give them an extra wide berth.

Photo: Janet Kessler

Photos: SFNE



Seated: Diane Piagneri, Alice Abbott, Sheila Collins, and Chris Hall. Back row: Patti Sanford and Deborah Mabry.

Birding for Everyone

Nancy DeStefanis, Executive Director

We had a warm, sunny day for our field trip on Saturday, September 7th. Five intrepid birders joined co-leaders Diane Piagneri and myself.

On the Great Lawn we passed an enormous number of **Canada Geese** grazing on the grass. We then headed to the Bamboo Grove and walked through for a bit of shade. One of the group spotted a **Black-crowned Night Heron** in the reeds and alerted the other hikers. Everyone enjoyed a great view.

Down the trail a bit, Diane Piagneri spotted two **Red-tailed Hawks** perched in a tree right in front of us. What a thrill to observe these birds closely!

We were repeatedly buzzed by a **Belted Kingfisher** flying back and forth over our heads. Nearby we stopped to observe **Yellow Warblers** high up in a tree.

We were delighted by **Pygmy Nuthatches** and a **Western Tanager** down the trail. As we approached the Redwood Grove we could hear and see **Western Scrub Jays, Song Sparrows,**

Black Phoebes and **Downy Woodpeckers**. Overhead we observed either a **Sharp-shinned** or **Cooper's Hawk**.

It was a great day. Megan Prelinger returns on October 5th to lead the next monthly walk.



Western Tanager

Photo (detail): Matt Knoth



Belted Kingfisher

Photo: Judy Harter



Black-crowned Night Heron ventures out of the reeds at the Bamboo Pond.



A Red-tailed Hawk nearby.



The group observes a Black-crowned Night Heron in the Bamboo Pond.

Photos: SFNE

Volunteers Needed for 2013-2014 School Program!

Please visit www.sfnature.org/get_involved for information.

San Francisco
Nature
Education



There's still time to buy tickets for the
*20th Anniversary Celebration
of Heron Watch*

Honoring Nancy DeStefanis, Founder and
Executive Director, and Outstanding Volunteers

Tuesday, October 8, 2013, at 5:30 pm
Mercy High School, Rist Hall

Wine & Hors d'Oeuvres • Music
musical entertainment by Frisky Frolics



PROGRAM

Welcome Bill Milestone, *President*

Silent Auction Belinda Head, *Secretary*

Presentation Nancy H. DeStefanis, *Honoree*

Awards for Outstanding Volunteers:

Logan Kahle, *Intern at SF Nature Education*

Megan Prelinger, *Birding for Everyone Naturalist*

Connie Armitage, Linda Grant, Missi Hirt,
Birding for Kids Naturalists

Mike Smylie, ERM Corporation,
Heron Watch Volunteer

Judy Harter, *Newsletter Editor*

Peter Shen, *Webmaster*

Sandi Wong, *Photographer*

This anniversary party is our way of thanking you
for being part of our programs all these years.
Nancy DeStefanis created Heron Watch so children and
adults could have an inspirational experience
observing the magnificent great blue herons and
their chicks nesting at Stow Lake.

To date, 10,000 low-income students have visited
on school field trips, and 15,000 adults and
children through our Heron Watch Saturdays.

You can help support our school and Saturday
programs by purchasing individual tickets or by
sponsoring at a higher level. All donations are
tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

Silent Auction:

Gift certificates for jardiniere, chapeau, and more

Eagle Optics high-quality straight spotting scope

Eagle Optics high-quality Ranger HD binoculars

Great Blue Heron watercolor by Johnny Mayne

Great Blue Heron photographs by James Sullivan
and Jesse Krider

Crane sculpture, bird calls of the world and more!

TICKETS

**Hummingbird \$50; Red-tailed Hawk \$100;
Great Horned Owl \$500; Great Blue Heron \$1,000**

Order tickets by phone: 415-387-9160

To purchase tickets or donate online go to
<https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/1430160>

Tickets will be held at the door.

**Directions to Mercy High School
3250 19th Avenue, San Francisco**

From the north: Take 19th Avenue south
past Sloat Blvd. Continue *past* Mercy High School
(on your left). At the **Winston Drive** traffic signal
turn **right** into Stonestown Mall to turn around.

Make a **U-turn** at the next signal, 20th Avenue.

Go **left** on 19th Avenue. Proceed past Mercy HS
entrance. **Right** on Eucalyptus.

Right onto Junipero Serra. Park on street.
Walk back to Mercy HS through the back gate.

**PARKING IN FRONT FOR PEOPLE
WITH DISABILITIES**

Upcoming Events*

**Birding for Everyone: first Saturday of every
month.** Upcoming walk led by Megan Prelinger:
Oct. 5. Also Nov. 2, Dec. 7, 10 am-noon. Meet in
front of SF Botanical Garden bookstore, 9th Ave. near
Lincoln.

SF Nature fees: Adults \$10, children free; SF Botanical
Garden fees below. Please bring binoculars if you can,
and a pencil.

Birding for Kids and their Families: Led by Christine
Malfatti: Nov. 2, 10-11:30 am. SF Botanical Garden
bookstore, 9th Ave. near Lincoln. Adults \$10 each,
children free.

SF Botanical Garden Admission: FREE for all SF
residents with proof of residency; nonresidents pay
varying fees. See the [Garden's Web site](#) for details.

**San Francisco Nature Education's 20th
Anniversary Celebration of Heron Watch.**

Tuesday, Oct. 8, 5:30 pm, at Mercy High School in SF.
See left for details and tickets.

Birding El Polín Spring in the Presidio: Saturday,
Oct. 19. Led by Logan Kahle, 10 am-noon. Adults
\$10, children free. Meet at parking area on McArthur
Avenue. With its charm, nature, and history, El Polín
Spring is an "outdoor classroom" welcoming school
groups, birders, history buffs, and picnickers. It is
located at the heart of Tennessee Hollow, the park's
largest watershed, just off the Ecology Trail. Map:
<http://goo.gl/maps/3aeib>

Birding Chain of Lakes: Saturday, Nov. 16. Led by
Alan Hopkins. 10 am-noon. Adults \$10, children free.
Meet at parking lot on Chain of Lakes Drive in front
of Middle Lake. From the north, enter at 43rd Ave.;
from the south, enter at 41st Ave. Muni bus stops on
Fulton. Map: <http://goo.gl/maps/LoAIU>

***Please see our new online events calendar.**

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Cute in the Eyes of a Coot

Partly bald and resembling a hair plug recipient, this pink-scalped, splay-footed American Coot chick gets some attention from a devoted parent.

Photos by Sandi Wong

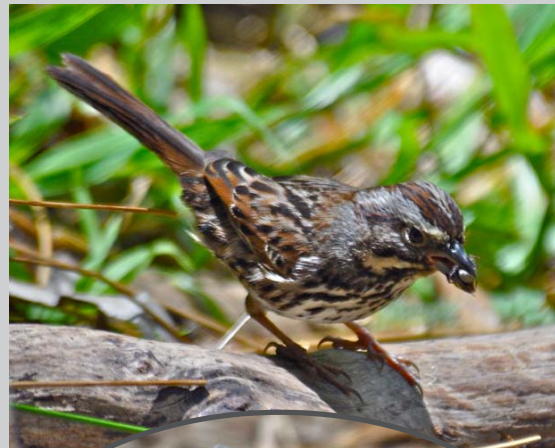


Out and About in Golden Gate Park

Photos by Sandi Wong



Red-tailed Hawk with rodent prey



Song Sparrow



Mourning Dove



Violet-green Swallow



Great Blue Heron and unlucky gopher



American Robin with worm