



Executive Director's Corner

Nancy DeStefanis, Executive Director



Dear Friends,

2017 has been a great year. Three interns—two sixth-graders and an eighth-grader—educated the public at Heron Watch. We led several third-grade classes on field trips to the SF Botanical Garden and Stow Lake, and thousands of people visited Stow Lake to see a few of 14 Great Blue Heron chicks.

I am writing to ask for your support for our upcoming programs in 2018. Your contributions fund our school field trips for local students in kindergarten through fourth grades; intern programs that have trained more than 113 students; and our year-round Saturday programs for adults and families.

All Saturday nature walks are free to members. We offer 24 field trips each year with trained naturalists in small groups. Members receive a link to a monthly online newsletter with stories on conservation, field trips, reviews of nature films and books, and spectacular photos of the natural world.

To date we have served more than 15,000 students in San Francisco. Please consider a generous gift:

\$1,500 funds one class for a year of classroom visits and field trips.

\$500 funds one student for a season internship.

\$100 funds one Saturday field trip.

We depend on your donations. Please renew your membership and include a gift. Thank you so much for your continued support.

Best regards,

Nancy DeStefanis

Membership: Adults, \$35; Seniors 65+, \$30; students 21 or under, \$20.

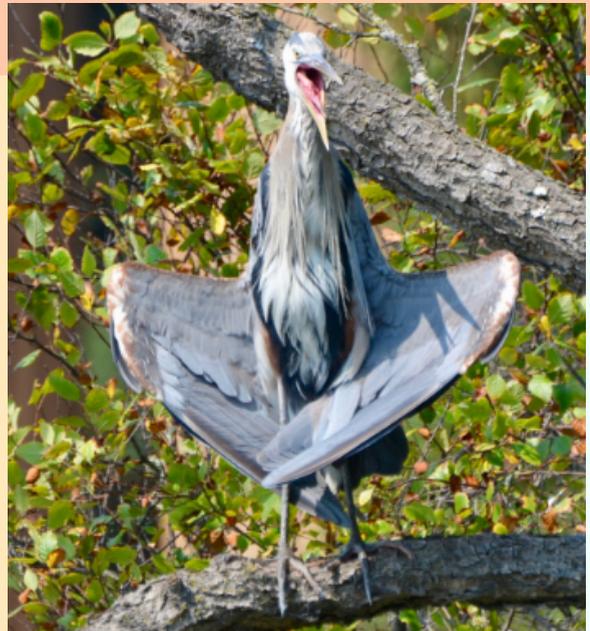
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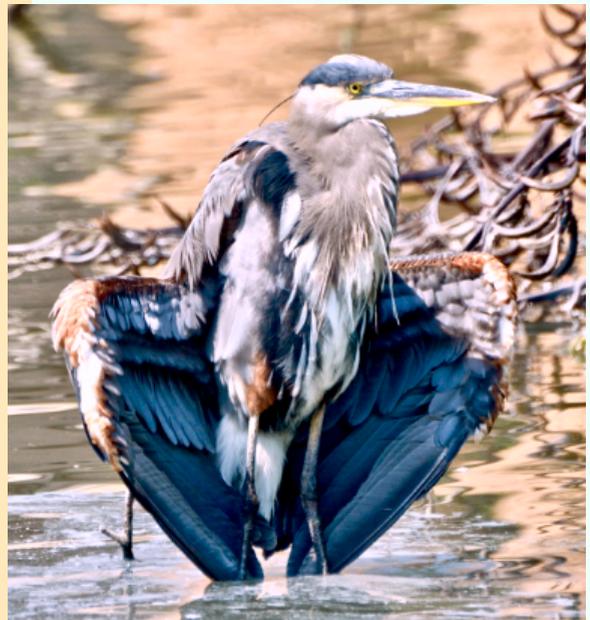
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Sandi Wong

Great Blue Herons at the Palace of Fine Arts.



Sandi Wong

On the pages ahead:

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Birding for Everyone, October 7th

Megan Prelinger, Naturalist



It was a clear warm day for our exciting October walk, during which we found a number of firsts. At the outset, a **Say's Phoebe** was foraging on the lawn; it is a thinly distributed resident in San Francisco and a first for this series of garden walks.

First-of-fall winter residents included a **Hermit Thrush**, four **Townsend's Warblers** in different conifers around the garden, and **Fox** and **Golden-crowned Sparrows**, all recent arrivals from their northern breeding grounds.

The wooded slopes east of the Waterfowl Pond held a **Pacific-slope Flycatcher**, while the pond basin's trees and shrubs were filled with migratory **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, as many as 25 individuals, mostly young, with another dozen seen around the garden. Others found were **Yellow** and **Orange-crowned Warblers**.

The crowns of the tallest conifers around the garden were filled with **Pygmy Nuthatches**, complemented by one calling **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, singing **House Finches**, and a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**.

The Children's Garden held two woodpeckers, one male **Downy** and the other not seen well enough to determine whether Downy or Hairy, two species that closely resemble one another and are most easily differentiated by the length of their bills. Also seen were **Pine Siskins** and **Lesser Goldfinches**.

The entire garden was dense with birdlife on that wonderful fall day. Other notable sightings include a **Belted Kingfisher**, two **Red-shafted Northern Flickers**, and two flyover **Cooper's Hawks**.

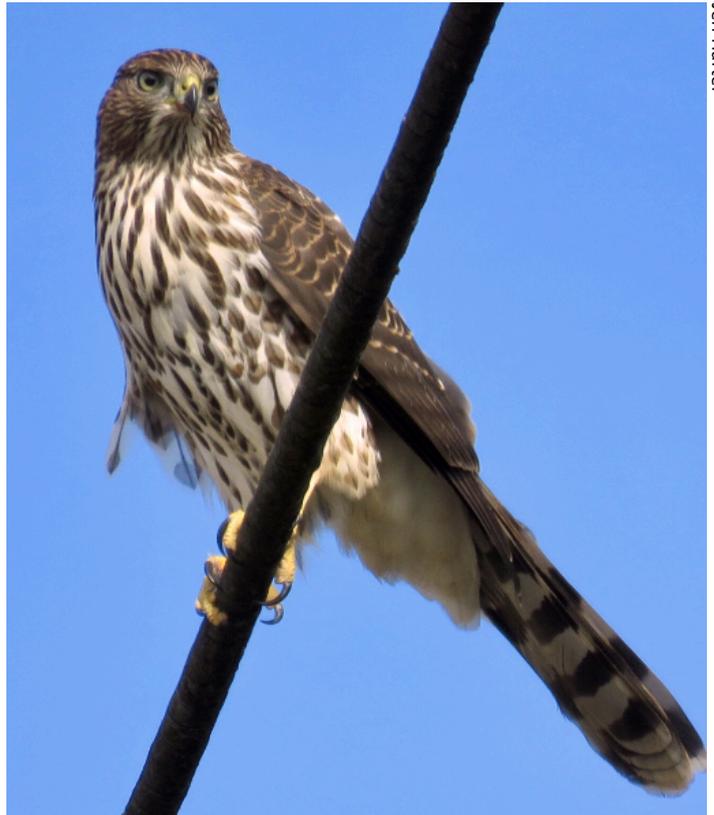
Total species count: 34.



Grace Ruth



Judy Harter



Jeff Harter

Clockwise from top left: Say's Phoebe; Cooper's Hawk; Fox Sparrow.



Walking with Camera in Hand; Recent Sightings Jeff Harter



Clockwise from top left:
Common Raven; Pacific-slope Flycatcher;
Eurasian Collared Dove; House Sparrow;
Juvenile White-crowned Sparrow.

In the San Francisco Botanical Garden

Photos by Grace Ruth



From top: Yellow-rumped Warbler; Anna's Hummingbird.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SF Nature Walks: From 10 am to noon; rain cancels all walks. Members free, non-members \$10, children always free. Please bring binoculars if you can, and a pencil. For directions see our [events calendar](#).

Birding for Everyone: First Saturdays from 10 am to noon in the SF Botanical Garden. Next: Nov. 4, with Megan Prelinger; Dec. 2, with Sarah Barsness. Meet at SF Botanical Garden bookstore, 9th Ave. near Lincoln.

SF Botanical Garden: Free to SF residents with proof of residency; non-residents pay a fee.

Chain of Lakes: Saturday, December 9, with Alan Hopkins, 10 to noon. Meet at Middle Lake parking lot in Golden Gate Park at 10 am.

Heron's Head Park: Saturday, January 13, with Megan Prelinger.

Heron Watch Internships available on our website: http://sfnature.org/get_involved/intern.html.

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San Francisco Nature Education is in its 17th year of delivering comprehensive environmental education programs to students from schools in the San Francisco Unified School District.



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At the Palace of Fine Arts

Photos by Sandi Wong

Clockwise from top: Juvenile (l) and adult Black-crowned Night Herons.

Left: a curious Double-crested Cormorant with a red slider turtle; the cormorant dries its wings.