

2023 Heron Watch – A Free Program

Six Saturdays During the Spring Nesting Season in April and May

2023 Season Saturday Dates:

April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 13, 20 from 10 am to 1 pm



Helene Sobol

Enjoy the Free Program in Golden Gate Park

Volunteers and interns will direct attention to the herons and chicks, explain their behavior, and answer questions. There will be a separate section for children taught by interns.

Please bring binoculars if you have them. Because of the pandemic, we will set up spotting scopes as we deem safe. Please wear a mask and practice social distancing among our volunteers and the public.

A new observation site on the eastern edge of Stow Lake will be open from 10 am to 1 pm. The new site will be marked by a sign. See map below. Donations welcome!

GREAT BLUE HERONS began nesting at Stow Lake in 1993. To date, 259 chicks have learned to fly here. The herons court, build their nests, mate, and lay eggs between January and March. By April the nests have chicks. The parents continue feeding them as chicks grow to about four feet tall.

In June the chicks begin to branch-hop and take short flights. They typically start leaving the nest at twelve weeks, around July 4th.

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