

Executive Director's Corner

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Heron Watch starts up on April 12th for six Saturdays from 10-1pm. So far we have four nests on the island opposite the Boathouse and one around the corner on the island facing the waterfall!

Our corps of dedicated volunteers will be on board to staff the spotting scopes and lead field trips around the Lake. Two interns will be joining us Avery & Colette- more information in the April Newsletter!

Our field trip to Blue Heron Lake on Feb. 8th was a big success. Our leaders Alan Hopkins, Joe Spillane, Chris Pryor-Brown and Janel Schulenberg led four different groups! Photos are on pages 1, 2 and 3.

Our 25th Anniversary Celebration and Fundraiser will happen at the Internet Archive on Tues. May 20th at 5:30 pm. More details coming in the April Newsletter!



Joe Spillane, leader (far right) with children ages 8-12

Best regards,

Nancy

Nancy H. DeStefanis

Page 2- Trip Report by Alan Hopkins
Page 3- Heron Watch Flyer



Love is in the air. Photo credit © Ian Reid



Chris Pryor-Brown (center red shirt) with children 7 and up.

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Next: Alan's Trip Report

Blue Heron Lake - February 8, 2025

Trip report by Alan Hopkins, Leader



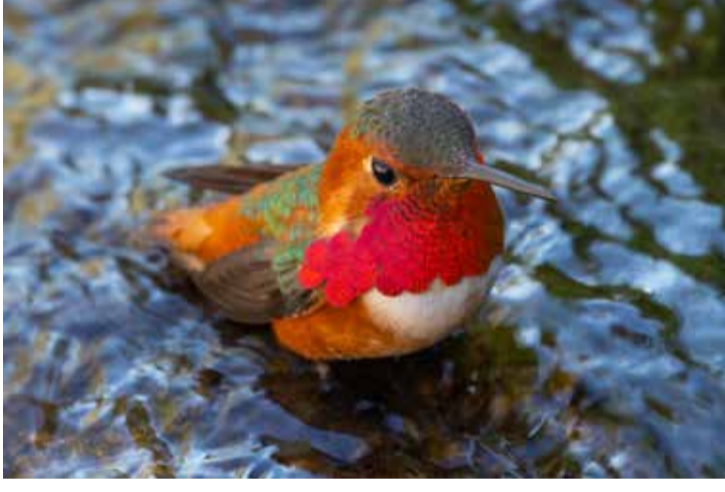
Alan Hopkins center with ballcap. Photo credit © SFNE

Our adult group assembled near the Boat House where we could view the Herons nesting on the Giant Pine on the island opposite the Boat House. We had a great turnout of folks, some experienced and some who were just beginning. It is always nice to show people new birds! We were off to a good start- it was a spectacular day.

From the Roman Bridge we had another view of the herons' nests and we did a brief survey of the gulls on the boat shed. Heading clockwise we walked onto Strawberry Island. There were Mallards and Canada Geese near the waterfall and a very pregnant woman in her wedding gown having her picture taken.



Yellow-rumped warbler
Photo credit © Grant Ly



Allen's Hummingbird
Photo credit © Grant Ly

Farther along we found the Ring-neck Ducks, a Pied-billed Grebe and a Steller's Jay. We followed the trail up the hill to the top of Huntington Falls.

As we caught our breaths, we looked down at the water falling below us. I told everyone if we just waited an Allen's Hummingbird would show up to take a bath. I was beginning to worry when the hummer came to the exact spot it bathed in last year! At the top of the hill, we saw Red-tailed Hawks, Song, White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrows.

As we made our way back down the hill there was a Red-shouldered Hawk and a fleeting Ladderback Woodpecker. At the Rustic Bridge we found one Nancy DeStefanis who filled us in on San Francisco Nature Education Happenings. I needed to be back by noon so we worked our way back over the Rustic Bridge

Species List: Total 39

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Canada Goose | California Scrub jay |
| Mallard | American Crow |
| Ring-neck Duck | Common Raven |
| Ruddy Duck | Pygmy Nuthatch |
| Pied-billed Grebe | Ruby-crowned Kinglet |
| Double-crested Cormorant | Hermit Thrush |
| Great Blue Heron | American Robin |
| Cooper's Hawk | European Starling |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | Yellow-rumped Warbler |
| Red-tailed Hawk-10 | Townsend's Warbler-10 |
| American Coot | California Towhee |
| Short-billed Gull | Song Sparrow |
| California Gull | White-crowned Sparrow |
| Western Gull | Golden-crowned Sparrow |
| Anna's Hummingbird | Dark-eyed Junco |
| Allen's Hummingbird | Brewer's Blackbird |
| Nuttall's Woodpecker | House Finch |
| Northern Flicker | Lesser Goldfinch |
| Black Pheobe | House Sparrow-9 |
| Steller's Jay-10 | |

2025 Heron Watch in Golden Gate Park

Six Saturdays during the Spring Nesting Season in April and May
April 12, 19, 26 and May 3, 10, 17 - From 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM
- A Free Birding Observation Program -



Adult heron in nest with two chicks
Photo credit © Raphael Bradsma

Observe and Learn About the Great Blue Herons

Since 1993, 297 chicks have learned to fly at the Lake. Volunteers will use spotting scopes and direct attention to the Great Blue Herons and chicks, explain their behavior, and answer questions during this free program at the Observation Site in front of the Blue Heron Lake Boathouse. Donations welcome.

Field trips for adults and families leave from Blue Heron Lake (formerly Stow Lake) Observation Site every Saturday for adults and families at 10:00 AM sharp and return at noon. Binoculars will be loaned to children as needed. Adults should indicate whether they need to borrow a pair on the sign up sheet on the website.



Meet at Blue Heron Lake (formerly Stow Lake) Boathouse for Observation of herons and Field trips. Our large sign will be at our location.

Field Trip Details

Naturalists lead walks on gently sloping trails around Blue Heron Lake and Strawberry Island.

- Adults \$20, teenagers \$10, children 5-12 \$5.
- Must Preregister by Wed. evening before field trip at www.sfnature.org
- Please enter date of field trip with payment.
- Bring water/snack/pencils/binoculars.
- Nature journals provided for children.



San Francisco Nature Education

For more information about our programs:
SfNature.org/Heron-Watch email info@sfnature.org phone 415-205-0776

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Red-tailed Hawk
© Grant Ly



Black Phoebe
© Grant Ly



Townsend Warbler
© Grant Ly



Nuttall's Woodpecker
© Grant Ly



Janel Schulenberg, (center) leader and co-leader Mike Lehman (far right) with children ages 4-6. Photo courtesy © Mike Lehmann