



Executive Director's Corner



Dear Friends,

Good news - we successfully moved our Observation Site and Field Trips to a corner of the Blue Heron Lake Boathouse on April 20th! Fortunately, there are three nests on the island by the Boathouse and one of the nests with 3 chicks is super visible from our spotting scopes!!!

Lots of folks came by to see the chicks! Our volunteers also led a field trip around Strawberry Island for three adults and two children. A great time was had by all! Heron Watch and field trips continue through May 18th from 10-1pm.

Field trip participants should register on our website - donate now and prepay \$15.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children 4-12. Please note the date in a memo at the bottom. We will confirm with you by email.

Our Spring Fundraising Campaign continues and has been extended to June 30th, 2024. Please consider a generous gift to help us reach our Spring Fundraising Goal of \$25,000 which will fund Heron Watch Observation, Heron Watch field trips and Heron Watch Youth Internships!

The first \$10,000 will be matched by an anonymous donor. Please donate now via our online portal Flipcause at www.sfnature.org or via mail at our address below. All donors receive our e Blue Heron Newsletter.

On March 7th, Supervisor Connie Chan of District 1 (The Richmond District) invited San Francisco Nature Education to join the recipients of the Golden Gate Park Community Benefit Fund and Another Planet Entertainment to announce \$110,000 in funding for community-based organizations and programs. Thanks to Supervisor Chan, SFNE was awarded \$15,000!

In addition, we recently received high quality binoculars from our supporters- Fireside Camera on Chestnut St., NOCS binoculars and Vortex Optics for our field trip and Heron Watch programs.

Thanks so much for your support.

Nancy H. DeStefanis



Credit: Ken Stampfer

Heron vs. Heron

Note: Whenever another Great Blue Heron, an interloper, flies too close to an occupied nest, the Great Blue Heron who belongs to the nest will chase the invading Heron away by flying at it. The episode may go on for several minutes with the two fighting herons returning to their original spot when the fighting began!

-Nancy H. Stefanis, Executive Director



Ken Stampfer

3 Chicks at Boathouse Island

[Become a Member | Donate Online](#)

Donate online or mail a check to: SFNE,
PO Box 210303, SF CA 94121 www.sfnature.org

Tax ID no.: 54-2111941. Membership: Adults, \$35;
Seniors 65+, \$30. Joint Membership for two seniors
at same residence \$50; students 21 or under, \$25.
Questions: info@sfnature.org tel.: 415-205-0776



Credit: Supervisor Connie Chan

SFNE Receives Grant for Environmental Education

far right- seated Nancy DeStefanis, standing Pres. Jennie Yoon and Janel



Courtesy: SFNE

Volunteer, Sarah Shafer, shows the chicks



Jennie Yoon

New observation site at Boathouse Island



Jennie Yoon

Volunteers lead Field trip

left to right SFNE volunteers Jackie Andrews, Janel Schulenberg, far right Diane O'Donahue

Upcoming Field Trips:

Field trips for adults and children (4-12): from 10-noon continues Saturdays through May 18th at Blue Heron Lake.

Please register and prepay on line- see www.sfnature.org for info.

Summer Birding Just for Families (children ages 4-12):

SF Botanical Garden- main entrance kiosk 10-12 Sat. June 15 from 10-12

Blue Heron Lake - Boathouse- 10-12 Sat. June 29 from 10-noon

SF Botanical Garden- main entrance kiosk Saturday July 13 from 10-12

Please register and prepay on our website: sfnature.org (donate now)

April 27, 2024, field trip

Report by trip leader Janel Schulenberg

On Saturday, April 27th, SF Nature Education hosted a field trip for 5 Birders around Blue Heron Lake in Golden Gate Park. Each person was fitted with a new pair of binoculars (a generous donation to SFNE from NOCS) as we set out on our hike around the lake and up to Strawberry Hill at 10am from the Boathouse.

We headed out towards the Roman Bridge as Song and Chipping Sparrows highlighted our way. As we walked past Huntington Falls towards the Pagoda, Stellar Jays seemed to follow us throughout the rest of the walk. At the top of Strawberry Hill, Red tailed Hawks hovered in the sky catching the wind and giving us a full display. We counted three Hawks in just one area alone. Another Red Shouldered hawk hung around the observation point throughout the day.

We headed back down the hill and as we rounded the Rustic Bridge, an American Coot, which we had been looking for all day, was sitting there as to say, where have you been, I've been waiting for you. We were all really excited for our find. As we rounded the lake on our walk back, to our surprise, sitting on a rock right in front of us was a Double-breasted Cormorant soaking up the sun. It was a treat to see so close and on full display with its' wings open and drying out in the sun,

Of course, another highlight of the day was seeing the Great Blue Herons' 3 nests through the scopes set up at the observation site where we began. The heron chicks were very active and put on quite a show-exciting end to our day.

Trip list: 17

Song Sparrow

American Robin

Steller's Jay

American Coot

Double-crested Cormorant

Chestnut-backed Chickadee

House Finch

Common Raven

California Towhee

Red-tailed Hawk

Red-shoulder Hawk

Pacific Wren

Marsh Wren

Wilson's Warbler

Mallard

Tree Swallow

And great blue Herons of course!



Photos top: Steve Worsfold shows chicks to youngster
Middle: Volunteer Shawn Shafer shows the chicks
Bottom: Trip leader Elisabeth at left & Janel Schulenburg at right

All photos courtesy SFNE