



Executive Director's Corner



Dear Friend,

WOW! San Francisco Nature Education is turning 25! Volunteers, Donors, the Board and staff share a vision, enthusiasm, and energy. Together we have created an esteemed program. Thank you for being a valued partner!

Looking ahead we have so much potential to develop, grow and evolve with another generation. Please consider a tax-deductible donation of \$250.00 or more

in honor of our 25th anniversary so we may continue and build on our premier environmental programs. All donors receive SFNE membership for a year.

*Field trips for K-3 classes at underserved schools in San Francisco,

*Heron Watch - a free program for adults and children to observe the herons and chicks in the Spring every year,

*Field trips for adults and families during Heron Watch,

***Birding for Families serving children ages 4-12 and their parents year-round (see page 2), NEW (see page 2),**

*Youth Internship Program for 6th grade through high school.

Last Fall, SFNE nominated Blue Heron Lake as the new name for the lake where the Great Blue Herons have nested since 1993. The Recreation and Parks Commission agreed and renamed the lake on January 18, 2024, as BLUE HERON LAKE. We're celebrating our years and accomplishments with a new book, *The Great Blue Herons of Golden Gate Park* a collection of photographs by the remarkable Ian Reid. I wrote the forward. Book sales proceeds benefit SFNE. We will send a copy of our new book as a special thank you for every donation of \$1,000 or more. Donations may be made through our secure online portal at www.sfnature.org or by mail. Thanks for your support.

In partnership,

Nancy

Nancy DeStefanis, Executive Director

Become a Member | Donate Online
Donate online or mail a check to:
 SFNE,
 PO Box 210303,
 SF CA 94121

www.sfnature.org
 Tax ID | 54-2111941

Membership:
 Adults, \$35;
 Seniors 65+, \$30
Joint Membership
 Two seniors at same residence \$50;
 Students 21 or under, \$25

Email | info@sfnature.org
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by Ian Reid
 with a foreword by Nancy DeStefanis

The Great Blue Herons of Golden Gate Park



Red-shouldered Hawk in flight- Grant Ly



Black-crowned Night Heron

Next: Field Trip Fun!

North Lake -Birding for Families- Oct. 12, 2024

Trip report by Beth Brumell

It was a beautiful day for birding, and my co-leader, Bonnie H. and I were excited to lead a group of five adults and two children around North Lake at Golden Gate Park. Everyone was eager to see what birds we might encounter. Over the course of the trip, we spotted 18 different species.

During our break, the children enthusiastically wrote in their San Francisco Nature Journals, checking off the birds they had spotted and sketching their favorite one. Along the way, one of the children even found a racoon's jaw and an old wasp nest. It was a fun and educational outing, filled with nature's surprises and everyone left feeling inspired by the experience.

18 Species Spotted:

American Crow
 Ring-necked Duck
 Mallard
 Pied-billed Grebe
 Anna's Hummingbird
 American Coot
 Great Blue Heron

Black-crowned adult Night heron
 Black-crowned immature Night Heron
 Red-shouldered Hawk
 Red-tailed Hawk
 Chestnut-backed Chickadee
 Dark-eyed Junco
 Red-winged Blackbird

Townsend's Warbler
 Pacific Wren
 Golden-crowned Sparrow
 Black-crowned Night-Heron
 Barn Owl



Barn Owl at North Lake- Grant Ly



Looking at the Barn Owl



Immature BC Night Heron flying

Birding for Families and Children

Our friendly and experienced volunteers lead birding walks for children ages 4 - 12 with their parents and/or guardians.

Saturdays
10am - Noon

Field journals provided and binoculars loaned to all participants.
 Don't forget your pencils, water and snacks!

Advance registration required.
 Book your spot at sfnature.org by Thursday prior to trip.

Adults - \$15

Children - \$5

Trips begin promptly at 10am.

Latecomers cannot be accommodated.

All children must be accompanied by their own parent/guardian.

We cannot take children who are not accompanied by their own parent or guardian.

Upcoming field trips

Nov. 9 **Botanical Garden** meet at main gate kiosk
 Golden Gate Park

Jan. 11 **Heron Head Park** meet at trailhead free parking

Feb. 8 **Blue Heron Lake** meet at boathouse eandy stand
 Golden Gate Park

Mark your calendar!



Leading nature walks for children and adults in San Francisco since 2000.

www.sfnature.org

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(415)205-0776



San Francisco Nature Education is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Please support our environmental education programs!

Photo essay of the North Lake Field Trip - Grant Ly



Children use their SFNE nature journals



Children Watching Mallard Ducks



Anna's Hummingbird



Chestnut backed Chickadee



Townsend's Warbler



Dark-eyed Junco