



## Executive Director's Corner



Dear Friends,

Our Spring and Summer were very successful! Heron Watch brought many folks out to the Blue Heron Lake Boathouse to see the Great Blue Heron chicks through the spotting scopes operated by our expert volunteers. We also conducted field trips for adults and families during the program. Then our Summer Birding for Families program kicked off and over 30 families (60 adults and children!) joined us for four Saturdays in June, July and August!

Given the success of the Birding for Families summer program, we have made the decision to continue the program year-round for parents with children 4-12. Our flyer showing upcoming field trips is on page 2. Please help us get the word out!

We welcome new Board members- Sarah Shafer has joined us as the new President and Omeed Tavisoli as the new Secretary. They are both active volunteers and bring tremendous skills to their new positions. We bid farewell to Jennie Yoon, our tireless President and Steve Worsfold, our Secretary. Both were terrific board members and volunteers and we appreciate their service and wish them well.

We need your support as we begin our end of year fund-raising campaign. Please give generously to help us maintain and expand our signature programs: Heron Watch, Birding for Families, Youth Internships and school and adult birding trips.

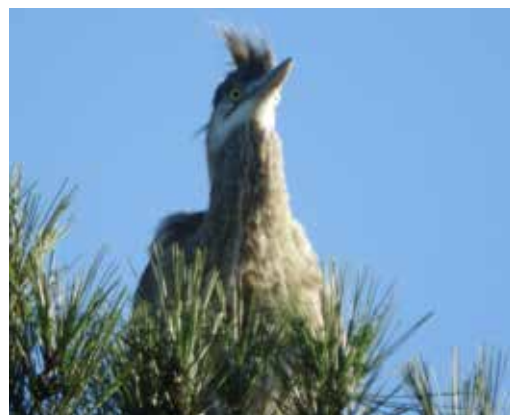
Best regards,

Nancy

## September/October 2024

Sarah Shafer on Volunteering & Birding for Families.....p. 2

Heron Watch recap.....p.3



Heron photos credit: Nancy DeStefanis

## Next: Get Involved!

### Become a Member | Donate Online

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

[www.sfnature.org](http://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](mailto:info@sfnature.org)  
Telephone | 415-205-0776

# SF Nature Expands—



*Sarah Shafer  
President and Volunteer &  
Program Coordinator*

Hello!

Sarah Shafer here, writing to you as the new President and Volunteer/Program Coordinator of San Francisco Nature Education. Thank you so much for being a part of this community of nature lovers and enthusiasts. I am thrilled to have been part of the Heron Watch 2024 program, meeting so many of you at the scopes or on hikes and beginning working closely with others on the hugely successful Birding for Families program.

Join us for one of the upcoming Birding for Families field trips! The next one is on Saturday, October 12, from 10-12 starting at the Chain of Lakes Middle Lake parking lot. Participants will be provided a pair of binoculars to borrow for the trip, which will take us around the lake looking for birds and other interesting nature. Children will receive a field journal to document some of the more exciting details of the walk. Future trips are planned on Saturday, November 9 at the SF

Botanical Garden and Saturday, January 11 at Heron's Head Park. Consider joining us for one or all of these family friendly, nature rich outings! Please see our Birding for Families flyer on our home page for info on signing up for these trips!

If you have an interest in being a volunteer with SFNE, please consider joining the April/May 2025 Heron Watch group that will include two Saturdays at Blue Heron Lake or four of the upcoming Birding for Families field trips. Click on the "Get Involved" link on the [sfnature.org](http://sfnature.org) homepage for more info and to fill out an application.

I want to thank our wonderful team of volunteers who make this work rewarding, joyful, and fun: Jackie Andrews, Richard Adelstein, Natasha Arnold, Beth Brumell, Jeanne Crawford, Connor DiPietro, Sophia Elia, Bonnie Hellevig, Noah Kaitz, Elisabeth King, Kate Patrick, Jeanette Pettibone, Shawn Shafer, Janel Schulenberg, Omeed Tavisoli, and Steve Worsfold.



*Volunteer, Richard Adelstein, assists  
young birder.  
June 15, 2024 courtesy SFNE*



*Birding for Families- Blue Heron Lake, Aug. 3, 2024 courtesy SFNE*



# Heron Watch Volunteers 2024 showing 3 nests and 9 chicks!

To date- Blue Heron Lake colony has fledged 288 chicks!!!!



Volunteers enjoy a picnic on their last day!

Left side: Jeanette Pettibone, Jeanne Crawford, Sarah Shafer, Shawn Shafer, Nancy DeStefanis. Right side-standing: Omeed Tavisoli, Steve Worsfold holding son Cassius, back row seated from left Jennie Yoon, Janel Schulenberg, Jackie Andrews and Diane O'Donahue.



Nest #1 at left, nest #2 at right, courtesy Grace Ruth



Nest #2 - 2 of 3 chicks visible at end of May-courtesy Grace Ruth

**Stay tuned for Heron Watch 2025  
6 Saturdays in April & May 10-1PM.**