



Executive Director's Corner



Dear Friends,

As we prepare for Fall field trips, I am pleased to announce that Alan Hopkins, premiere birder and teacher, will lead the field trips on the second Saturday of the month beginning in September. All field trips are listed on our

Calendar. The new title for Alan's walks: Birding for Teenagers and Adults. The walks will rotate around the city to various birding hot spots that Alan chooses. Please join him!

In October, we inaugurate our Birding for Kids and their Families, also on the Second Saturday. This program is exclusively for 7-12 year-old elementary and middle school students and their families. Like the adult walks, these trips will rotate around the city to various birding hot spots. All walks start at 9:30 am and conclude sometime between 11:30 and noon.

July brought us a big surprise – our supporters, Esther and Kenn, discovered a late heron nest on the island by the Stow Lake Boathouse!!!! The late nest was in the original tree where the herons first started nesting in 1993!!!! Our interns – Maddie and Katie – conducted surveys of the three chicks in the nest until all successfully fledged at the end of July. Helene Sobol photographed the nest and the three chicks.

In this issue, we congratulate our interns for their successful completion of the Youth Internship Program at Heron Watch. Kate, Hunter, Maddie, Katie, and Joy were outstanding interns!!!!

I look forward to seeing you at our field trips in the Fall.

Best regards,

Nancy DeStefanis

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Late nest on Heron Island by the Boathouse

Helene Sobol



Parent (center) prepares to feed the chicks

Helene Sobol



Three full-size chicks at the beginning of July

Helene Sobol

Class of 2022 - Heron Watch Interns

A Note from Nancy DeStefanis, Executive Director

New interns Katie, Maddie, Hunter, and Kate graduated from the program after completing thirty hours of training and participation in the Saturday Heron Watch program. In addition, Joy Chang, Senior Intern, completed three years in the program and is currently editing her second feature film for SF Nature Education.

The interns all graduated at Stow Lake and received a big hand from the volunteers and visitors to the Heron Watch program. To honor their service, all the interns received Certificates of Achievement, new 8X42 binoculars, Drawing Birds book by John Muir Laws, and photos of the herons and other birds donated by Raphael Brandsma and Helene Sobol. On May 21st, when three of the five interns graduated, desserts were provided by their parents.

The graduating interns richly deserved their honors and gifts. Applications for the Internship in 2023 are available on our website under [Get Involved](#).

We wish all the interns well as they continue their education and birding adventures.



Helene Sobol

Graduating interns Katie, Maddie, and Hunter holding the Certificates of Achievement



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Left: Four of the graduating interns with Nancy DeStefanis: Joy, Kate, Maddie, and Katie

Right: Kate holding her Certificate



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