



## Executive Director's Corner



Dear Friends,

Please help us meet our goal of raising \$100,000 by the end of 2022! We have a match from an anonymous donor for the first \$25,000 donated.

Your support enables San Francisco Nature Education to continue and expand our 32 field trips throughout the year, our Spring Heron Watch program at Stow Lake, our Youth Internship program in the Spring (255 interns have already graduated), and our continuing classroom visits and field trips for underserved schools in San Francisco.

All donations are tax-deductible; our tax id number is 54-2111941.

### In other news:

**The Paving of Stow Lake starts in 2023.** The first half will be repaved, and once the first half is complete they will repave the second half so that visitors can still access part of Stow Lake. More details in the January newsletter.

**Applications for the SFNE Youth Internship Program at Stow Lake in Spring 2023 are due February 2023.** We have openings for six students — 7th grade through high school.

<https://www.sfnature.org/youth-internships.html>

We are grateful to our Webmaster, Peter Shen, Newsletter Editor, Ariel Heinicke, our field trip leaders, our interns, and our volunteer photographers. Thank you for a great year!

Best regards,

Nancy DeStefanis



Grace Ruth

American Redstart



Grace Ruth

Wood Duck

### On the pages ahead:

- 2 November field trip report for Chain of Lakes
- 3 Save the Planet - Stop Buying Plastics! Female Kingfisher - photo essay by Paul Dixon
- 4 Support our Sponsors - Our sponsors help reduce expenses for must-have items including binoculars for interns and volunteers as well as books for the Youth Internship Program

### [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 no.: 54-2111941. Membership: Adults, \$35; Seniors 65+, \$30. Joint Membership for two seniors at same residence \$50; students 21 or under, \$25.

Email: [info@sfnature.org](mailto:info@sfnature.org) tel.: 415-205-0776

## Chain of Lakes trip report — November 12, 2022

### By Alan Hopkins



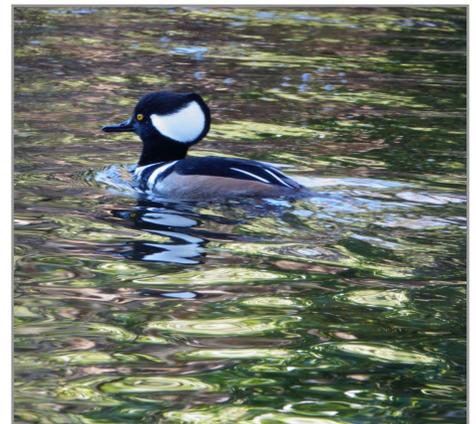
We started our Chain of Lakes walk with a clear sky and a slight but cool breeze. Middle Lake is closed for much needed restoration, so we checked South Lake first. We weren't disappointed! Right off we found a male **Wood Duck** that was quite tame. Along the lake's southern edge we found three pairs of **Hooded Mergansers** and a **Belted Kingfisher**. We were off to a great start!

As we entered the Burcet equestrian area we spotted a **Cooper's Hawk** being chased by **Anna's Hummingbirds**. There were the common winter **sparrows**, but a highlight was a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** feeding in a nearby bush at eye level. North Lake was a little slow to start but we soon found a raucous **Red-shouldered Hawk**. Through the trees we spotted a **Black-crowned Night Heron** in the willows and a group of **Northern Shovelers** on the lake. On the little viewing platform along the eastern edge of the lake we found a **Yellow-rumped and Townsend's Warblers** while a **Common Yellowthroat** made momentary appearances in the cattails. By far the highlight of the trip was our last bird of the day — an **American Redstart**. This bird was a female and flared its distinctive orange and black tail for us. It is somewhat rare in California and so was a "lifer" for a few of our lucky members!



Grace Ruth

Great Blue Heron and Great Egret



Grace Ruth

Hooded Merganser



Grace Ruth

November's participants with trip leader Alan Hopkins, third from right

Next field trip at Stow Lake  
December 10, 9:30 - noon  
For details visit: [sfnature.org/calendar](https://sfnature.org/calendar)

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Education



**Please Support Our Programs!**



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e-mail: [info@sfnature.org](mailto:info@sfnature.org) telephone: 415-205-0776 [www.sfnature.org](http://www.sfnature.org).  
All contributions are tax-deductible. Our tax ID no. is 54-2111941.

San Francisco Nature Education is in its 22nd year of delivering comprehensive environmental education programs to students from schools in the San Francisco Unified School District and conducting Saturday field trips and programs for adults and children.

## Save the Planet — Stop Buying Plastics!

**As I see it!**

**By Nancy H. DeStefanis, Executive Director**

COP 27, the climate change meeting in Egypt, has concluded. More than 35,000 people from every country in the world participated in talks. The good news — the agreement to create a fund to compensate less wealthy nations already suffering destruction stemming from rising average temperatures. The challenge remains in putting all the promises made into action.

The sponsorship deal between Coca-Cola and COP 27 left many attendees baffled and angry. Coca-Cola has been described as the world's top polluter. Environmental groups called Coca-Cola's participation "greenwashing". Coca-Cola is one of the world's biggest users of plastic. John Hocevar, oceans campaign director at Greenpeace USA said, "Coca-Cola produces 120 billion throwaway plastic bottles a year and 99% of bottles are made from fossil fuels — worsening both the plastic and climate crisis."



According to an investigation conducted by All Things Considered, recycling plastic is almost impossible and the problem is getting worse. The vast majority of plastic that people use and most times put in blue bins is going to landfill according to a report from Greenpeace about the state of plastic recycling in the United States. Not even soda bottles meet the threshold to be called recyclable according to standards set by the McArthur Foundation New Plastic Economy Initiative.

What to do?

Remember, Aluminum is 100% recyclable!

After years of embracing plastic recycling, many environmental groups say they hope the public will finally see plastic for what they say it is — trash — and that people will ask themselves if there is something else they could be using instead.

Governor Gavin Newsom signed the nation's most ambitious plastic waste reduction legislation into law on July 3, 2022. SB 54 requires the producers of single-use packaging and plastic food ware to ensure the materials are compostable or recyclable by 2032. Over the next 10 years, it also requires a 25% reduction in the amount of plastic-covered material that is introduced into the market and a 65% recycling rate for all single-use packaging.

Of course, not purchasing plastic is the easiest way to save the planet and send a message to plastic producers that consumers will no longer contribute to the climate mess caused by plastics.

To learn more:

["Confronting the Plastic Pollution Pandemic," International Institute for Sustainable Development](#)

["Only 5% of plastic waste generated by US last year was recycled, report says," The Guardian](#)



Cooper's Hawk sketch by Joy Chang, Senior Intern



Wood Duck sketch by Maddie, Intern

## Female Kingfisher in Action

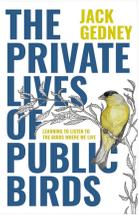
**By Paul Dixon**



## Support our sponsors

Heyday books are great gifts and stocking stuffers!  
By Nancy DeStefanis

This holiday we focus on five fun guides to local birds and nature. I enjoyed all of them and recommend them to all our readers!



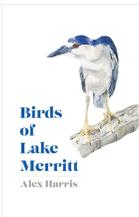
**The Private Lives of Public Birds**  
By Jack Gedney  
Hardcover \$26.00

Gedney is a local birder who's written a great book to help the birder appreciate the fascinating songs, stories, and science of common birds.



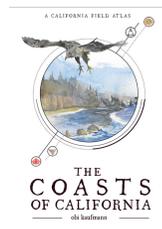
**The California Field Atlas**  
By Obi Kaufmann  
Paperback \$45.00

Kaufmann depicts layer after layer of the natural world, delighting in the grand scale and details alike. The effect is staggeringly beautiful.



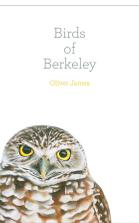
**Birds of Lake Merritt**  
By Alex Harris  
Hardcover \$25.00

This charming full-color field guide introduces us to fifteen waterbirds easily found in the urban wildlife refuge of Lake Merritt in Oakland.



**The Coasts of California: A California Field Atlas**  
By Obi Kaufmann  
Paperback \$50.00

An epic, gloriously illustrated journey up and down California's shoreline.

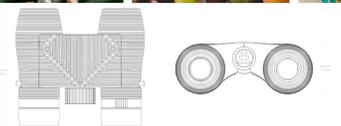


**Birds of Berkeley**  
By Oliver James  
Hardcover \$25.00

A full-color field guide to 25 birds easily found in Berkeley proves that even the city's avian residents are a little quirky.



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