



Dear Friends,

Our field trips have returned with spectacular birds spotted by our trip leader, Alan Hopkins, and sharp-eyed participants.



A highlight of the Nov. field trip was the Red-naped Sapsucker-photographed by Bill Hunnewell.

Please continue to join us on our monthly field trips and check the website calendar regularly as we will visit different locations in January and February.

At this time of year, we ask our members to renew and support our 2022 programs..

As we plan for 2022, we hope to offer more field trips and extended tours at Heron's Head Park, and support more interns as well. We need your help. So, please stretch if you can and consider giving \$250, \$500, \$1,000 or even \$5,000 to help meet our goal of \$50,000.

Please donate online via our Flipcause portal or via mail at address below.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Best regards,

Nancy H. DeStefanis
Executive Director,
San Francisco Nature Education

Red-Naped Sapsucker Photos by Bill Hunnewell



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Lake Photo Exhibit Opens Dec. 7th*

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info@sfnature.org Tel: 415-205-0776 Tax ID: 54-2111941

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

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San Francisco Botanical Gardens Trip Report

November 13, 2021 – By Alan Hopkins

The second Saturday in November turned out to be another warm cloudless day. As we met at the Botanical Garden's front gate we were warmed even more with the appearance of San Francisco Nature Education's Executive Director Nancy DeStefanis to cheer us on. We began under the shade of the ancient English Walnut. The tree is riddled with rows of sapsucker holes, if the sapsucker damaged the tree with its drillings the tree would have been gone long ago. And if the sapsuckers' killed the trees they depended on they would die off too. Long ago I remember finding a Williamson's Sapsucker in the walnut. Although the bird is long gone, I still check for other sapsuckers. No luck this time.

We moved to an infrequently visited section in the southeast part of the garden. Earlier I'd noticed a group of fruiting holly trees along the fence. We were not disappointed. We found all the common wintering sparrows, a **Hermit Thrush**, **House Finches** and a hawk high in a cypress tree. The birds were scarce in the native garden. The Monkey's Hand tree in the Succulent Garden had **Pygmy Nuthatches** and a **Townsend's Warbler** taking nectar from the flowers. The John Muir Nature Trail had brief looks at a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, **Hutton's Vireo** and **Orange-crowned Warbler**. It was hard to miss a **Red-shouldered Hawk** as it flew in making its loud squealing calls.

We saved the best for last! As we approached the trip's end, someone spotted a woodpecker in a tree near the Garden of Fragrance. The bird had a white stripe along the edge of the wing indicating it was a sapsucker, but it lacked the mostly red head and red breast of our expected Red-breasted Sapsucker. This bird had a boldly marked black and white facial pattern, a red cap and a red throat! There are two sapsucker species that fit this description: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and **Red-naped Sapsucker**. Fortunately, the bird was well behaved so it was easy to see the red on this bird's nape. A fantastic way to end the trip! 23 birds spotted!!!!



California Scrub Jay.
Photo by Gary Lersen



American Robin.
Photo by Gary Lersen



Pygmy Nuthatch.
Photo by Grace Ruth



Townsend's Warbler. Photo by Grace Ruth



Steller's Jay. Photo by Gary Lersen

Our Field Trips are Back!

Please join us on the 2nd Sat. of each month at the SF Botanical Garden –

December 11th, 10am to noon. Meet trip leader Alan Hopkins at the main entrance kiosk. Rain cancels. Residents must show proof of San Francisco address for free entrance into the botanical garden. Field trip fee (separate from SF Botanical Garden entrance fee): SFNE members – free; non-member – \$10.00.

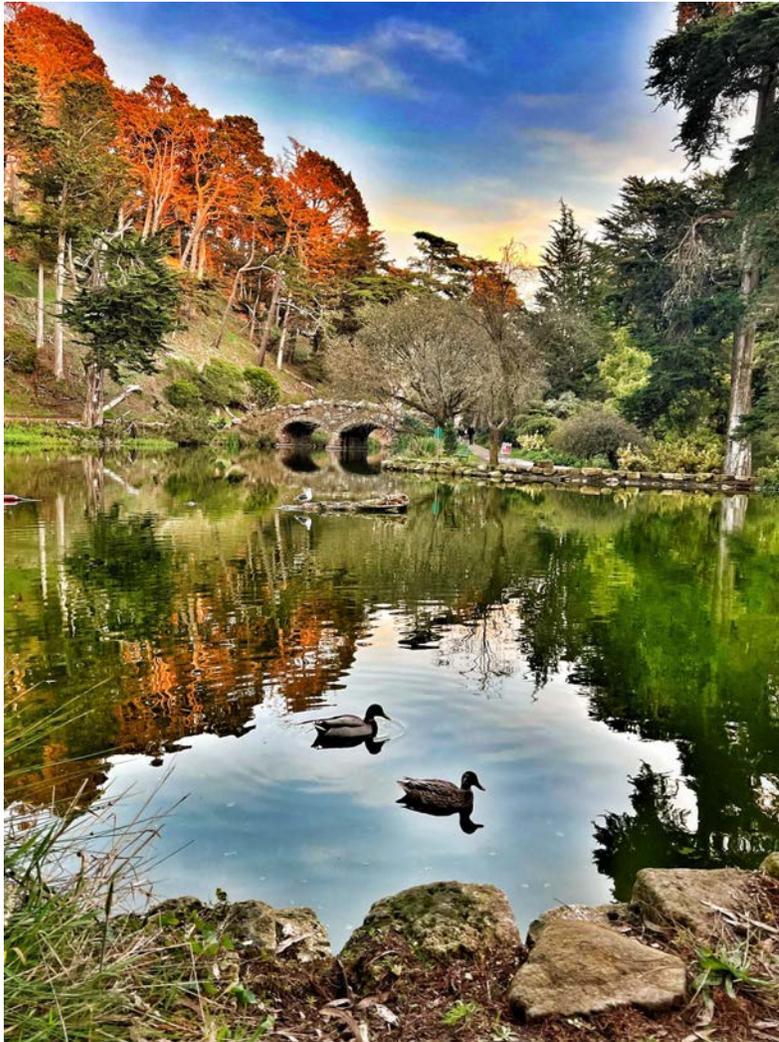
SF Nature is Looking for a Volunteer Newsletter Editor

We are looking for a volunteer skilled in graphic design who can work at home or office. Our database manager emails our Newsletter ten times per year (except July and August).

Position open till filled. If interested, please send a short resume to editor@sfnature.org.

Around Stow Lake

Photo Essay by Helene Sobol



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Birds of North Lake

Photo Essay by Grace Ruth



Juvenile Black-Crowned Night-Heron



Two Anna's Hummingbirds chasing each other



Fox Sparrow



Pacific-Slope Flycatcher

The Great Blue Herons of Stow Lake
Photography by Helene Sobol
December 7 – January 7, 2022
Reception
Saturday, December 11, 2:00-4:00 P.M.
Artist Salon
San Francisco Women Artists
647 Irving St., San Francisco, CA 94122
415-566-8550 - sfwomenartists.org
Tues-Sat 10:30-5:30
HeleneSobol.com



Ruby-Crowned Kinglet

San Francisco
Nature
Education



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e-mail: info@sfnature.org telephone: 415-205-0776 www.sfnature.org
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San Francisco Nature Education is in its 21st 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.

