

Executive Director's Corner - Nancy DeStefanis

We are excited to be in the classroom again delivering the 7th year of our school program!

We've improved our curriculum to better align with the California Department of Education's curriculum standards. Visit our website www.sfnature.org for more information about our work inspiring the next generation of environmental leaders and stewards.

We recently visited three 3rd grade classes at Jose Ortega Elementary School. The students enthusiastically learned the Red-tailed Hawk (sss!), Red-shouldered Hawk (eee!) and California Quail (acago!) calls. We discussed the extinct Dodo and need for conservation.

The students were very excited to have hands-on study of real bird skulls, beaks, bones, wings, and feet from different birds. They learned about the different adaptations of these body structures and their relationship to diet and flight characteristics.

We are looking for volunteers to assist us in the classroom and on field trips. Please visit our website for more information.

I hope to see you soon in the classroom or at the park at our public programs and lectures!



What's your wingspan?

Birding for Everyone -- Family Nature Walk

Join us for our guided nature walks, 1st Saturday of every month at the San Francisco Botanical Garden. Visit our website for more details: <http://www.sfnature.org/programs/bfe.html>

Upcoming Dates: November 3, December 1, January 5 (Rain cancels.)

October Trip Leader Angie Geiger's Report

We had sunshine and clear skies for the Birding for Everyone Walk on October 6th. There were about 20 adults, including six staff and interns from San Francisco Nature Education and six children. We started off in the Demonstration Garden and were immediately rewarded with the sight of a covey of California Quail, including a female lookout posted on top of a bush. They are quite used to people, so we all got great looks and a chance to compare male and female plumages. Also in the vicinity of the Quail were some White-Crowned Sparrows foraging on the lawn and pathway. We had a direct comparison of adult vs. immature

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Studying Great Blue Heron & Pelican beaks



Sketching California Quail



American Wigeon - Photo by Jim Sullivan

Birding for Everyone -- Family Nature Walk (continued)

birds. We were accompanied by several Anna's Hummingbirds on the way to the Waterfowl Pond. As we stopped to observe a flock of Pygmy Nuthatches working the foliage along the path, we were surprised and delighted by a fly-over Osprey. At the Waterfowl Pond we observed our first American Wigeon of the season, a female, along with lots of mallards and two American Coots. While crossing the bridge, we had a chance to compare three Mallard plumages – a female and male in fresh plumage along with a male still in Eclipse plumage. It closely resembled the female except for a conspicuous yellow bill. Meanwhile two gulls on the bridge itself turned out to be a Western Gull and a California Gull standing side by side, another great opportunity for comparison. Overhead, we saw an entire kettle of Turkey Vultures, circling high above us. There were at least six birds in the group, a very unusual sight in San Francisco.

A full list of birds seen or heard includes: California Quail, White-crowned Sparrow, Anna's Hummingbird, Pygmy Nuthatch, Western Gull, California Gull, Mallard, American Coot, American Wigeon, Canada Goose, Coopers Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Northern Flicker, Western Scrub Jay, Stellar's Jay, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black Phoebe, Yellow-rumped Warbler, American Robin, Common Raven, Fox Sparrow, California Towhee.



Osprey with Rubberlip Surfperch - Photo courtesy Rich Stallcup

Volunteers Needed for School Program

The new school year has started and we need volunteers to assist in the classroom and on our field trips.

Make a difference by inspiring the next generation of environmental stewards and leaders.

Visit the "Get Involved" section on our website for more information.

Support San Francisco Nature Education

Our school programs serve over 1,100 children every year from underserved San Francisco public schools.

Our engaging public and school programs couldn't exist without the generous contributions from people like you.

Would you please send in a contribution today?

Please mail contributions to:

San Francisco Nature Education
3450 Geary Blvd. Suite 208
San Francisco, CA, 94118

Or **donate online** at our website!

Wish list:

Small photocopier with feeder/collator
New or used backpacks for school children.

SFNE Privacy Policy: SFNE does not trade, give away, or sell your information to any group, organization and /or individual.

Please forward this newsletter to your friends!

Lectures -- Save these Dates!

January 22, Tuesday, 7:30PM

Great Blue Herons of Golden Gate Park with Nancy DeStefanis

Magnificent photos of the Great Blue Heron Colony by James Sullivan, Nature Photographer

Golden Gate Audubon Society Hall of Flowers

San Francisco Botanical Garden, Golden Gate Park

Entrance at 9th Ave. & Lincoln Way

Free Program

February 21, Thursday, 7:30PM

Panama Pacific International Exposition of 1915 with Nancy DeStefanis

Lecture/Slideshow and musical performances on ukelele

Randall Museum

Free Program

March 13, Thursday, 7:30PM

Wildlife of Golden Gate Park - Why We Need a Management Plan with Nancy DeStefanis

Lecture/Slideshow on the various mammals that inhabit our parks and open spaces and discussion with special guests.

San Francisco Naturalists Society

Randall Museum

Free Program

Our events are always listed on our website:

<http://www.sfnature.org/programs/calendar.html>