

San Francisco Nature Education is now starting its ninth year of delivering comprehensive environmental education programs to students from underserved schools in the San Francisco Unified School District.

Back to School Blue Heron Newsletter

September 2008

Executive Director's Corner Nancy DeStefanis

We hope all of you have had a lovely summer. Here at San Francisco Nature Education we've been preparing for another exciting school year and expanded public programs and lectures.

Please check our updated website at: www.sfnature.org to see all of the upcoming programs.

To learn more about us, please visit "About Us" at:

www.sfnature.org/about_us/index.html

I hope to see you soon at one of our walks or lectures!

Fall School Programs

- San Francisco Nature Education launches winter classroom visits and field trips to the San Francisco Botanical Garden.
- During the 2007-2008 school year, SF Nature Education served over 1100 students.
- New schools include Visitacion Valley Elementary. Volunteers needed please visit our website at www.sfnature.org for information and application. Training starts at the end of September.

Birding for Everyone Angie Geiger, Trip Leader

The weather was hot and sunny for the September Birding for Everyone walk. About 25 of us set out with high hopes of spotting some early fall migrants. On our way to the California Garden we saw a flurry of movement in a winter's bark tree. On closer inspection we could see a profusion of ripe berries which were attracting a large number of birds, mostly speckled immature robins. It provided us with a great opportunity to compare the adult and younger birds. In



An immature robin.

addition to robins, the tree also attracted some house finches and a western tanager.

Then we noticed movement in a bush directly in front of us. We were delighted to see a number of warbling

vireos darting in and out throughout the interior of the shrub. All of the participants got a chance to study this bird at close range at eye level.

We moved to the California Garden and encountered a number of birds, including song sparrows, scrub jays, and a flock of bushtits. We came upon an elderberry that was covered with black berries. These

attracted a large number of western tanagers. We were able to observe these birds closely at our leisure as they gorged on the berries.



A steller's jay.

From there we moved into the Redwood Forest to get some relief from the sun. There we came upon some great birds—a steller's jay, a brown creeper and a Pacific-Slope flycatcher! We

also stopped to listen to the sounds of pygmy

nuthatches and chestnut-backed chickadees high in the canopy.

On our way back to the front gate, we were delighted to encounter a female California quail as she strolled along



A brown creeper.

the path in front of our group. All together 31 species were observed—a great start to autumn.

Upcoming Birding for Everyone dates:

Saturdays Oct. 4 and Nov. 1. Meet at 10 a.m. near the bookstore inside the main gate of the SF Botanical Garden in Golden Gate Park (Martin Luther King Drive near 9th Avenue).

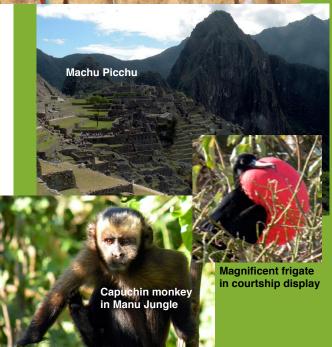
Upcoming Events

Lecture/Slide Show: October 9th at 7:30 p.m. Birds of Three World Heritage Sites—Ecuador's Galapagos Islands, Peru's Manu Jungle, and Machu Picchu, with Nancy DeStefanis.

About birds and monkeys, among other fascinating fauna, and the effects of ecotourism.

San Francisco Naturalists Society Randall Science Museum (free program) http://www.randallmuseum.org/





Wish List

Day packs for students to use on field trips.

Supporting San Francisco Nature Education

We serve more than 1,000 children every year from underserved San Francisco public schools. Our engaging public and school programs couldn't exist without the generous contributions of our supporters. Would you please send a contribution today?

Online donations are particularly welcome, as they decrease our processing costs and allow us to spend more money where it counts. To make a donation online, click on the link on our website at http://www.sfnature.org.

Please mail contributions to:

San Francisco Nature Education 3450 Geary Boulevard, Suite 208 San Francisco, CA 94118

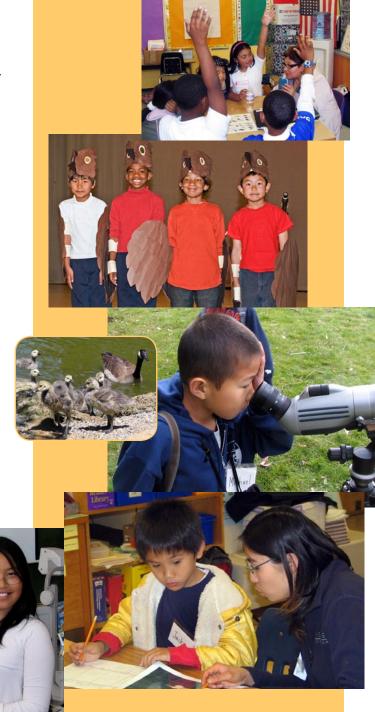
Make all checks payable to "San Francisco Nature Education."

Another way to support San Francisco Nature Education is by enrolling in the eScrip program and designating San Francisco Nature Education. Read about the program at http://www.escrip.com.

Many thanks for your continued support!

San Francisco Nature Education

Contact us: e-mail: info@sfnature.org telephone: 415-387-9160



2008 has been a busy year so far. Here are pictures

of a few of last spring's events.