

## Executive Director's Corner



Dear Friends,

I am writing to ask for your generous support of our school and public programs.

San Francisco Nature Education is offering our most ambitious environmental programming yet—school and field trip programs for K-4 underserved students and 30 Saturdays of nature observation and walks in San Francisco.

Your donation supports ten Saturday programs at Stow Lake for Heron Watch; two special children's walks at Stow Lake; ten Saturdays at the SF Botanical Garden, plus two special children's walks in the garden; three walks at Heron's Head Park; one at Crissy Field; one at Chain of Lakes in Golden Gate Park; and three special mornings watching Great Horned Owls and their owlets at the Buffalo Paddock in GG Park.

SFNE offers one of the few internship programs for youth in the Bay Area. To date over 150 students have graduated from our program. We depend on your contributions.

Thank you for your support for San Francisco Nature Education. Your contribution is tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law. All donors receive free nature walks and links to our Blue Heron newsletter.

Best regards,

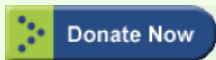
*Nancy*

Nancy DeStefanis

Membership: Adults, \$35; Seniors 65+, \$30; students 21 or under, \$20.

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## Birding for Everyone, October 6th Megan Prelinger, Naturalist

Along with naturalist Sarah Barsness, we started the walk with a **Red-breasted Sapsucker** working at the walnut tree near the entrance to the SF Botanical Garden. The sapsucker was identified by appearance and behavior; although deep in shadow, its white "moustache" stripe and white outer primary stripe against an otherwise dark wing clued us to its species, as did its working on a single area of the tree for the 20 minutes it was observed. (Our three resident woodpecker species would likely flit to several places within that time.)

There were many warblers in the California Garden: a flock of six **Yellow-rumped**, and our first **Townsend's** and **Orange-crowned Warbler** sightings of the day. We also found a wintering **Hermit Thrush** there, then a resident **Pacific Wren** in the Redwood Grove.

The climb up the hill to the Children's Garden was fruitful with hawk sightings: a **Cooper's Hawk** landed in a Eucalyptus near the crest of the hill, and both **Red-tailed** and **Red-shouldered Hawks** flew overhead. One **Red-shouldered** in the area was quite vocal.

*Continued on next page*



Jeff Harter

Two Cooper's Hawks in the city.

### On the pages ahead:

- 2 Birding for Everyone, continued
- 3 Seen and Noted: An Intern's Photographs
- 4 Upcoming Events, including Heron's Head & Chain of Lakes
- 5 Barn Owls in San Rafael



*Continued from previous page*

A hatch-year **Great Blue Heron** hunted for rodents in the grassland area of the Children's Garden. A female/male pair of **Downy Woodpeckers** were busy in the monkey hand tree.

All around the garden both wintering sparrow species—**Fox Sparrow**, **Golden-crowned Sparrow**—were established for the season, and the year-round residents were easy to spot on that sunny day. We closed the walk with another unusual encounter: a **Snowy Egret** was exploring the shore of the Waterfowl Pond. This species, preferring tidal wetlands, is not commonly seen in the botanical garden.

Clockwise from top: Song Sparrow, Red-shouldered Hawk, Steller's Jay (juvenile), Townsend's Warbler.  
Photos by Jeff Harter.



**SF Botanical Garden  
October 6, 2018**

**Compiled by  
Megan Prelinger  
35 species:**

Canada Goose  
Mallard  
Wild Turkey  
Rock Pigeon  
Mourning Dove  
Anna's Hummingbird  
Western Gull  
Great Blue Heron  
Snowy Egret  
Cooper's Hawk  
Red-shouldered Hawk  
Red-tailed Hawk  
Red-breasted Sapsucker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Black Phoebe

Hutton's Vireo  
Steller's Jay  
California Scrub-Jay  
American Crow  
Common Raven  
Chestnut-backed Chickadee  
Pygmy Nuthatch  
Pacific Wren  
Hermit Thrush  
American Robin  
House Finch  
Fox Sparrow  
Dark-eyed Junco  
White-crowned Sparrow  
Golden-crowned Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
California Towhee  
Orange-crowned Warbler  
Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Townsend's Warbler





Black-headed Grosbeak, Camp Mather, Tuolumne County.



Red-tailed Hawk, Ortega St. near Sunset Blvd., SF.



Great Blue Heron, Elk Glen Lake, Golden Gate Park, SF.



Common Nighthawk, Tuolumne Meadows.



Ridgway's Rail, MLK Regional Shoreline, Alameda County.

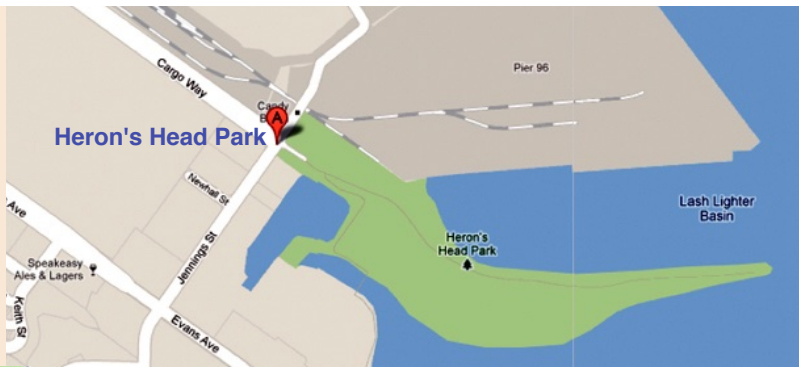
**Seen and Noted  
by Intern  
Nicolas Forestell**



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**SF Nature Walks:** Members free, non-members \$10, children always free. Please bring binoculars if you can, and a pencil. Rain cancels all walks. For directions see our [events calendar](#).

**Birding for Everyone:** First Saturdays from 10 am to noon in the SF Botanical Garden. Next walks: Nov. 3, Dec. 1,



Jan. 5, with Megan Prelinger or Sarah Barsness. Meet at SF Botanical Garden bookstore, 9th Ave. near Lincoln. **SF Botanical Garden:** Free to SF residents; non-residents pay a fee.

**Heron's Head Park:** Saturday, Nov. 10, with Megan Prelinger. Meet at trailhead near parking lot at Cargo Way and Jennings St. See map above. Volunteers with spotting scopes accompany every walk.

**Chain of Lakes in Golden Gate Park:** Saturday, Dec. 8, with Alan Hopkins. Meet at Middle Lake parking lot, 10 am. Enter park at 41st Ave. from south, 43rd Ave. from north. See map at left.

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San Francisco Nature Education is in its 18th year of delivering comprehensive environmental education programs to students from schools in the San Francisco Unified School District.

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**Barn Owls in San Rafael**    Photos by Sandi Wong

