



## Executive Director's Corner



Dear Friends,

So far, we are very lucky that our single nest on the island by the Waterfall and the two nests on the island by the Boathouse have survived the latest atmospheric river!

Our intrepid photographer Ken Stampfer is also monitoring the four heron nests on Yacht Boulevard in the Eucalyptus trees there.

The Heron Watch program at Stow Lake runs six Saturdays from April 15th through May 20th from 10 AM to 1 PM. Our 15 volunteers will be ready to show you the activity through spotting scopes and answer your questions. You can download our flyer [here](#).

We will also be leading family field trips for children ages 7–12 each Saturday during the program. Trips start at the Observation Site and continue around Stow Lake and onto Strawberry Island. Please see our family field trip flyer [here](#).

The Spring Fundraising Campaign is off to a good start with a matching gift of \$12,500 — which means every dollar donated through June 15th will be matched up to \$12,500. Please support our Heron Watch program and family field trips by donating online through the [Flipcause portal](#).

Please support our sponsors: Vortex Optics, Fireside Camera, and Heyday Books.

Thanks so much for your support. I look forward to seeing you at Stow Lake in April and May!

Best regards,

*Nancy*

Nancy DeStefanis



Great Blue Heron at nest by Waterfall on March 14, 2023

Ken Stampfer



Pair of Great Blue Herons on Yacht Road in the Marina

Ken Stampfer

### [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

### On the pages ahead:

- 2 Herons Nesting on the Island by the Boathouse — a photo essay by Ian Reid
- 3 Crissy field trip report and April field trip details, Shop Vortex Optics
- 4 Single-use plastics bill, Support our sponsors — Fireside Camera and Heyday Books



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[San Francisco Nature Education](https://www.sfnature.org)



## Herons Nesting on the Island by the Boathouse

Photo Essay by Ian Reid



**Free lecture/movie/slideshow  
30 Years of Great Blue Herons at Stow Lake  
Presented by Nancy DeStefanis, Director of  
San Francisco Nature Education**

**April 1, 2023 at 2:00 PM  
Merced Branch Library  
155 Winston Drive, near Stonestown**

Directions to Merced Branch: Non-metered street parking on Stonecrest (one way) — where the entrance to the library is and surrounding residential streets. The 2-hour parking time limit is not enforced on Saturdays. Also, Muni stops nearby.



Helene Sobol

## Support our Heron Watch fundraising campaign!

Our Spring fundraising campaign begins on March 1st and ends on June 15th, 2023. Please help us to reach our goal by giving generously — \$5,000, \$2,500, \$1,000, \$500, or whatever you can donate now. We have a \$12,500 matching grant from an anonymous donor. Our goal is to raise \$25,000 this season. Our tax ID number is 54-2111941

[Donate online](#)



## Crissy Field trip report — March 11, 2023

### By Alan Hopkins



The start of our trip to Crissy Field had heavy overcast with still winds. The threat of rain kept our group to an intimate four participants. With no wind, the bay's surface was as smooth as glass. On the surface were many **Western Grebes**, a few pairs of **Surf Scooters**, and a single **Red-throated Loon**. A **Great Blue Heron** hunted unbothered by a group of birders on their way to the bridge at the east end of the lagoon. The view from the bridge allowed a full view of the lagoon where we saw: **Belted Kingfisher**, **Snowy Egret**, **Willet**, and the resident **Long-billed Curlew**. In the distance common bay ducks fed beyond the sand bar.

We moved across Mason Street to Quartermaster Reach. We couldn't find any **Least Sandpipers** which have become regular in the new wetland. In the water we had better looks at **Buffleheads** and **Mallards**. We made our way to the bridge between Quartermaster Reach and Thompson Reach where we looked for land birds in the willow thicket. The slight drizzle became a downpour, the birds remained hidden in the rain. We'd had a nice enough trip, so we decided to head back. We crossed the bridge at Crissy and saw two **Black Skimmers** on the sand bar! Note: The Birds of Northern California and Annotated Field Notes — 1979 McCaskie, Morlan, et. al., lists only one record for all of Northern California. In 1972 they were found breeding in Southern California, they spread north and have been breeding in the southern San Francisco Bay since 1994. In recent years these unusual terns have become casual visitors to San Francisco.



Black Skimmers (from the Marina)



Snowy Egret (Crissy Field)

Alan Hopkins

### April 8th Field Trip

#### San Francisco Botanical Garden

Trip Leader: Alan Hopkins

9:30 AM - Noon

Adult members: \$10,

Non-members: \$15, children: free

Volunteers with scopes accompany the walks. Rain cancels.

For details visit: [sfnature.org/calendar](https://sfnature.org/calendar)



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## Score one for the environment!

### Please stop taking single use food ware with your takeout order

By Nancy DeStefanis

**The good news:** Governor Gavin Newsom signed SB-54 on June 30, 2022, which will begin phasing out single-use plastics in California. How it works: the bill requires all packaging in California to be recyclable or compostable by 2032, cutting plastic packaging by 25% and requiring 65% of all single-use plastics to be recycled.

Currently, only 9% of the world's 6.3 billion metric tons of plastic waste is recycled. The remaining 91% accumulates in landfills or litters the environment, and most plastics take more than 400 years to break down. Because single-use plastics are so lightweight, they are easily carried by the wind to litter the ground or end up in open water, causing harm to birds and marine life. Learn more at [nycfoodpolicy.org](https://nycfoodpolicy.org)

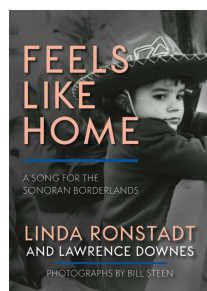
**You can make a difference:** San Francisco has already banned single-use food ware! On June 1, 2022, AB-1276 was passed, mandating restaurants may only offer disposable food accessories upon customer request for takeout and delivery orders. This new single-use food ware bill means less waste for California restaurants. Under the law, single-use food ware accessories are defined as: utensils, chopsticks, condiment cups and packets, straws, stirrers, splash sticks, cocktail sticks, cup sleeves, and lids. Condiment packets include single-use packets of ketchup, mustard, hot sauce, salsa, soy sauce, sugar, and salt.

**Contact the DOE:** SF's Department of the Environment (SF Environment) works with restaurants through outreach and education so they can comply with the law. SF Environment does not fine for violations — they work with the restaurants. However, these single-use items continue to be included with takeout orders. Please insist on no single-use items when you order. Food delivery services must give you the option online to ask for utensils. If you do not opt for the utensils, they are forbidden from including with your food order. SF Environment is the agency responsible for compliance and outreach/education. One can provide information about a non-compliance with SF zero waste policies through the web at <https://tinyurl.com/569sv5kz>. No worries — cafes and restaurants will not be fined.



Typical items included in takeout orders in San Francisco

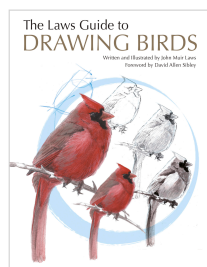
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