

## **VOLUNTEER BIRD WATCHERS NEEDED FOR AUDUBON CANYON RANCH NORTH BAY HERON & EGRET PROJECT**

Audubon Canyon Ranch (ACR), a leader in conservation science, habitat protection and restoration and hands-on environmental education programs, is seeking volunteers for its 2011 North Bay Heron & Egret Project.

Audubon Canyon Ranch's North Bay Heron and Egret Project is an ongoing (more than 20-year) effort to track changes in the status of colonially nesting herons and egrets throughout the northern San Francisco Bay region and to understand their ecological roles in wetland systems. Study species include Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Snowy Egret, and Cattle Egret.

Volunteers monitor a heron and egret nesting site assigned to them by ACR's Cypress Grove Research Center, and may request to observe and track a nest site in their neighborhood or vicinity. They are requested to monitor their colony at least once during each of the monitoring periods shown below, and more if they desire. Volunteers use scopes and binoculars to view nesting activity from formation of the first pair bond to fledging of the chicks. For first-time volunteers, ACR biologists offer training and assistance.

Upcoming observation dates include:

March 4-6

April 2-4

May 6-8

June 4-6

June 17-19

The North Bay Heron and Egret Project provides key information to conservation planning decision-makers. Through formal scientific contributions, the results of this work contribute to worldwide activities in conservation science. Data generated by volunteers are published in peer-reviewed scientific journals, submitted as technical reports to partner agencies, and provided to landowners, biologists, conservationists, and local and regional planning departments.

To participate in ACR's North Bay Heron & Egret Project, call 415-663-8203 or email [cgrc@egret.org](mailto:cgrc@egret.org). Volunteer observers will receive a detailed packet of information including the observation protocol and instructions for accessing their site.