



*inspiring people to protect
Bay Area birds since 1917*

MEDIA ADVISORY

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ART FLASH MOB will “Chalk It Up” to Protect Oakland Herons

Friday April 17 from 6:30 TO 8:30 a.m.

Remember the Oakland night heron nests that were destroyed last year in misguided tree trimming outside the Oakland post office?

Now it's nesting season again – and local artists and nature lovers are holding an ART FLASH MOB to ensure that the young birds receive more protection this year!

Golden Gate Audubon Society has organized local artists and nature lovers to create sidewalk chalk depictions of the Black-crowned Night Herons and Snowy Egrets that nest in street trees in downtown Oakland.

The Art Flash Mob will meet at 6:30 a.m. on Friday April 17 at the corner of Alice and 13th Streets in Oakland, the center of the heron colonies. They'll continue their creative endeavors until around 8:30 a.m.

Golden Gate Audubon Society estimates that there are between 45 and 85 active heron and egret nests in downtown Oakland, each producing up to three offspring. Some nests already have young birds in them. The nests will remain occupied through July or August.

The ART FLASH MOB is part of a campaign by GGAS to educate the public to protect the herons and egrets in the wake of last year's tree trimming disaster. Along with the chalk art, GGAS is:

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY

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- Placing educational posters about the herons in English and Chinese at downtown sites including the library, city offices, the Oakland Chamber of Commerce, and local businesses.
- Leading two free public bird walks to view the nests on April 29 and May 6.
- Introducing children at nearby schools and childcare centers to the herons.
- Distributing free brochures in English and Spanish on bird-friendly tree care.

“The Black-crowned Night Heron is a wonderful ambassador for Oakland,” said Golden Gate Audubon Executive Director Cindy Margulis. “Night herons can be found all over the world, so no matter where Oakland residents come from, night herons are part of their culture. Night herons are colonial nesters that mix well with other species. Plus they are stunning birds that deserve our appreciation and protection!”

Media are invited to cover the FLASH ART MOB on Friday morning. GGAS Executive Director Cindy Margulis is available for interviews during the event or at other times during the week.

For more information, contact GGAS Communications Director Ilana DeBare at idebare@goldengateaudubon.org or (510) 301-5573.

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