

Napa Solano Audubon Society Birding Notes #12

Hello NSAS friends and members –

Greetings! Spring is here and the birds are starting to sing. It's a great time to practice "Birding by Ear." It's a skill that takes time to develop, but when you can distinguish different birds by their songs and calls it adds to the overall enjoyment of bird watching.

Note #1 – Be sure to join us this coming Thursday, March 11th at 7:00 PM for our March Speaker Presentation. **Mark Rauzon & Meredith Elliott** will team up to discuss their many years of research into the **"Population Dynamics of the Double-crested Cormorant."** Their focus has been on the local breeding colonies that inhabited the old east span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge and the eastern portion of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge so this talk should have a very local feel. THIS WILL BE A ZOOM MEETING. For additional details about the presentation and the meeting Zoom Link information, visit the NSAS website at <http://www.napasolanoaudubon.com/Event/20211103-NSASMarchZoomPresentationPopulationDynamicsOfTheDouble-crestedCormorantWithMarkRauzonMeredithElliott>.



Double-crested Cormorant by Marky Mutchler from "All About Birds" website

Note #2 – “Volunteers are needed – can you help?” Spring is nesting season and it brings many new opportunities to participate in Citizen Science projects to monitor local nesting populations. Do you have time to join a team for a weekly walk? It will be an opportunity to both bird and do some specific observations of nesting species? Opportunities include:

- **NSAS monitors Bluebird Nesting boxes** in multiple locations *in Napa County*. We need volunteers to help out with monitoring these boxes from mid-March till mid-July. Time commitment is ~ 2 hours a week with a 1 – 2 mile walk in a park. It is a great way to get your exercise and make new friends who are interested in birding just like you. We will provide training and will team up new volunteers with people who have some experience with the process. If you are interested or would like more information about the program before you decide, please contact Tom Slyker at SolanoBirder@gmail.com or at 707-771-1918.

Western Bluebird at American Canyon Wetlands by David Kassel



- ***Solano Land Trust (SLT) monitors Bluebird Nesting boxes*** in a number of their property locations ***in Solano County***. Similar to the NSAS they need volunteers to help with monitoring these boxes. If you are interested in participating in the SLT program, let me know.
- ***Audubon Canyon Ranch (ACR) runs a program to monitor Heron and Egret nesting populations*** and they are still looking for volunteers. If you would like more details about what's involved, give me a call. If you would like to volunteer, I can provide you with contact information for Emiko Condeso who manages this ACR program.



Great Blue Heron by Linda Chittum from eBird website

- NSAS is participating with the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory group to monitor Snowy Plovers nesting in the North Bay Area. This program starts up in March and volunteers are needed to search for Snowy Plover nests in our area.
- In addition to the need for volunteers to help with nest monitoring we are also looking for volunteers to help with our participation in the National Audubon Climate Watch program and CA Audubon Birdseasons Phenology project. The **Climate Watch project** involves monitoring for White-breasted Nuthatches during two specific time windows each year. The **CA Birdseasons project** involves monitoring a small selection of species during a weekly walk at American Canyon Wetlands every Monday morning. It's a great way to start the week in an excellent birding location. And, by adopting this "Patch" you begin to experience the change in seasons through the ebb and flow of the bird species that pass through this unique birding site.
- If you have an interest in any of these Citizen Science opportunities, please contact Tom Slyker at SolanoBirder@gmail.com or at 707-771-1918 for more details and information about the programs.

Note #3 – “Do you like Hummingbirds?” – If you answered yes you really should check out this YouTube video about the **“Hummingbirds of the Northern Andes.”** This video is a recording of a presentation given by Peter Hawrylyshyn on March 3, to the Bay Area Bird Photographers (BABP) club, which is part of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society (SCVAS). Peter's talk is filled with ***amazing photos***. He also spends some time discussing the unique geology of the Andes, the scientific reasons for the special colors in these birds' feathers, best places to stay in Columbia, Peru, and Ecuador, and observations about best equipment and methods to photograph these special birds. But the highlight of the talk is all the beautiful pictures. Peter is a very good speaker, and it was an interesting, informative talk from start to finish. You can access the presentation at <https://youtu.be/a27Q0g2U7to>.



Sword-billed Hummingbird by Peter Hawrylyshyn from SCVAS website

Note #4 – “A useful tool for birdwatching.” I was wondering when to anticipate the White-crowned Sparrows would be leaving my feeders this year. So, I clicked on the Science tab on the eBird website and then clicked on eBird Status and Trends. By typing in White-crowned Sparrow and clicking “**Abundance Animation,**” I was able to watch the migration pattern for these sparrows based on the years of data that have been collected by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. The result of this search was that throughout the month of April these sparrows will be departing the Bay Area for the Arctic Circle. By the end of April, they will be gone, and it will be mid-September before they return. Check it out at <https://ebird.org/science/status-and-trends/whcspa/abundance-map-weekly>. This is a wonderful app to use for monitoring the migration patterns of any species of bird you may be interested in. It can also help you identify the best times and locations for seeing birds that are of interest to you.

- If you have ideas for what can be done to make the NSAS a better birding resource for our community or have Birding Notes and/or Pictures to share with the rest of the NSAS community please send them to Tom Slyker at SolanoBirder@gmail.com.
- Be sure to check the calendar at the NSAS website (<http://www.napasolanoaudubon.com/>) for meeting announcements and Field Trip updates.
- This is issue number 12 of our biweekly series. Past copies of Birding Notes are posted on the NSAS website at <http://www.napasolanoaudubon.com/>
- If you would like to unsubscribe from receiving all email communications for NSAS, including these Birding Notes, please send your unsubscribe request to SolanoBirder@gmail.com.