

## Napa Solano Audubon Society Birding Notes #23

Hello NSAS friends and members –

It has been a while since the last issue of Birding Notes. My excuses for the delay were that I participated in the NSAS Monterey Field trip, and I've been taking care of some other issues. I went to Monterey a couple of days early to see if I could see a Condor and on my second day of standing and waiting and watching one flew in, circled overhead, and was kind enough to land on a rock ~ 75 yards up the cliff from where I was standing. It was truly wonderful!!

### **Note #1 – NSAS announcements**

1. Our November Members Meetings will be Zoom event on Thursday, November 11<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting author and artist **Keith Hansen** will present "**Birds of the Sierra Nevada.**" Keith recently published the definitive field guide for the identification of Sierra Nevada birds. In this presentation Keith will share his experiences and adventures in the pursuit of the birds that are documented in this guide. Full details about the talk and Zoom link information can be found on our website at <http://www.napasolanoaudubon.com/Event/20211111-NSASPresentsBirdsOfTheSierraNevadaWithAuthorAndArtistKeithHansen>.
2. Field Trips:
  - Our Saturday Weekly Bird Walks with Andrew are continuing throughout October and November. The most recent walks were on October 23 at the American Canyon Wetlands and on October 30 at Lynch Canyon. Betty (Mo) Mosher reported "**I went on Andrew's walk at AmCan this morning and it was VERY birdy.**" You can see the complete list of the 74 species and > 2,300 birds seen during the walk on Andrew's eBird list at <https://ebird.org/checklist/S96604281>. Reports for the Lynch Canyon trip were that it started out slow with cloudy, drizzly weather but then the sun and the birds came out a little later in the morning. The highlight was the 3 Golden Eagles, two adults and a juvenile that gave the group a good viewing.

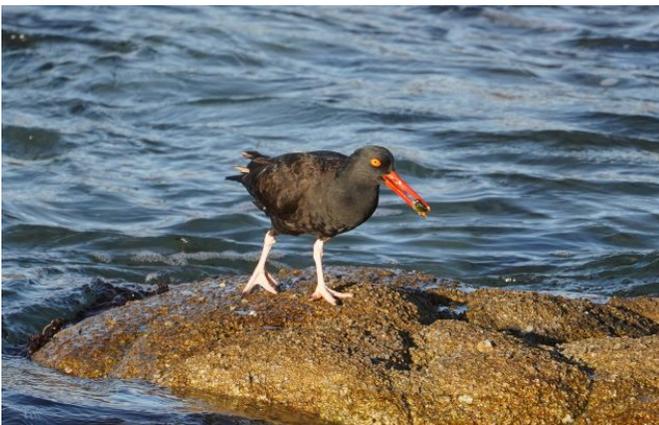
An announcement confirming Andrew's next walk with details about when and where to meet will be sent to the NSAS Field Trips email list a day or two before the walk takes place. If you are not receiving these

announcements and would like to be added to our Field Trips email list, please contact Tom Slyker at [solanobirder@gmail.com](mailto:solanobirder@gmail.com).

- *The Saturday Weekly Bird Walk with Andrew* on October 9 was at Newell Canyon. Patti Heidl was kind enough to write this summary of the day's birding adventure.

*Did I say it was a "Bluebird Day"? Why yes, they were abundant, as were the Meadow Larks and many other species. Newell Canyon did not disappoint the 15 congenial birders that followed Andrew over an arid, autumnal landscape. Red-tailed Hawks, American Kestrels, and White-tailed Kites soared overhead providing great looks to compare sexes and ages. A pair of Golden Eagles posed for us atop a transmission tower brought into closer view thanks to Terry's generous sharing of his scope. Even a Chinese Praying Mantis flew in to delight us! We kept our eyes open for another variety of bird; however, no one sighted the "Blue Angels." Why did the coyote trot away? Join us for the next bird walk and find out. It was a fine day!*

- Our *October Monthly Field Trip* was a visit to the *Monterey Bay area on October 16 - 17*. Trip details and information about this trip can be found on our website at <http://www.napasolanoaudubon.com/FieldTrip/20211016-MontereyBayArea>. Amanda Preece, an Asilomar State Park Ranger, was the trip leader. She was knowledgeable, enthusiastic, engaging, and prepared. She was an excellent guide as we visited local birding hot spots. And she found us a close encounter with a Black Oystercatcher, which is one of my favorite birds to see!



Black Oystercatchers at Pt. Pinos by Amanda Preece

Sandy Rosenthal took a slew of excellent photo during the trip. I wish they could all be included however we are limited in the size of the message we can send to you. So, I've selected three of the pictures and you will have to contact Sandy if you want to see the rest.





- Our next Monthly Field trip will be held on Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> with Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup> being an option for those who want to stay overnight. The trip will be to the **Sacramento Valley Wildlife Refuges**. This will include stops at Colusa and Sacramento NWRs, Gray Lodge, and a few other Central Valley locations. Details for the trip can be found on the NSAS website at <http://www.napasolanoaudubon.com/FieldTrip/20211204-SacramentoValleyNationalStateWildlifeRefuges>. The trip is already full, but RSVP by contacting **Wendy Cole** at: [beehaven2@comcast.net](mailto:beehaven2@comcast.net) for a spot on the waiting list.

## **Note #2 – The Joy of Birds –**

1. Nan sent me the following message about a certain crow that entertained her and gave her JOY to watch it in action:

Hi Tom,

I watched a crow with an oak acorn fly to a telephone wire. The bird dropped the acorn. Plunck! The bird flew down, retrieved the nut, flew back to the wire, and again dropped the acorn. The bird returned to the ground and proceeded to open the acorn and quickly get to its contents.

Gotta give the bird credit for cracking a nut! Nan

2. Since I've used up all the space available for pictures, I can't add any of the photos from the series called "Ferruginous Hawk in The Changing Light of Dawn" by Mia McPherson. This hawk is one of the birds on my list of species to see and I'm envious of Mia's opportunity to see and observe this bird. The pictures can be found at:  
<https://www.onthewingphotography.com/wings/2021/10/22/ferruginous-hawk-in-the-changing-light-of-dawn/>.
3. Last Thursday I was working in my garage on a project to build twelve new Bluebird Nesting Boxes that will be installed at locations in the City of American Canyon. My work was interrupted by the sound of honking, so I wandered into the front yard and was able to spot the "V" formation of a flight of ~ 75 geese heading east towards the Central Valley which hopefully will be the end point of their fall migration. It gave me **JOY** to hear and see these majestic birds and imagine a time (maybe 150 years ago) when the fall skies would have been full of flights of these honking migrating geese.
4. I was in awe when I clicked on this Audubon website page  
[https://www.audubon.org/magazine/fall-2021/this-stunning-collection-bird-portraits-explores?ms=digital-eng-email-ea-newsletter-engagement\\_20211006\\_audubon-magazine\\_summer-2021-issue&utm\\_source=ea&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=engagement\\_20211006\\_audubon-magazine&utm\\_content=summer-2021-issue&emci=cce00522-be26-ec11-981f-c896653b9208&emdi=a2ec32a5-c226-ec11-981f-c896653b9208&ceid=3257812](https://www.audubon.org/magazine/fall-2021/this-stunning-collection-bird-portraits-explores?ms=digital-eng-email-ea-newsletter-engagement_20211006_audubon-magazine_summer-2021-issue&utm_source=ea&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=engagement_20211006_audubon-magazine&utm_content=summer-2021-issue&emci=cce00522-be26-ec11-981f-c896653b9208&emdi=a2ec32a5-c226-ec11-981f-c896653b9208&ceid=3257812). The link will take you to an introduction to photographer Tim Flach's new book "Birds." This book provides a stunning presentation of images that invites us to marvel at the sheer diversity and beauty of avian species. It could be a wonderful Christmas gift. Be sure to take a few minutes to check out the photos. I think you'll be impressed.
5. Godwit Days are coming April 15 – 17, 2022. If you've never been to a birding festival the Godwit Days in Arcata, CA are a good one to attend. Their website is located at: <https://www.godwitdays.org/>.

### **Note #3 – Fight against Climate Change**

1. I happened to read an article titled “East Bay levee breached after 100-year closure in effort to restore rare wildlife to marshland.” It describes a long running project that has finally been implemented to re-open the Pacheco Marsh which is located near Martinez. This is a marsh that's been dormant for nearly 100 years and its reopening is part of a larger effort to restore a habitat that's becoming increasingly rare in the Bay Area. The plan for this marsh land includes three miles of walking trails and a visitor's center, all set for completion in 2023. Check out this website for more details: <https://abc7news.com/pacheco-marsh-lands-benicia-bridge-martinez/11181264/>. I'm anticipating that it will be a good site for future birding trips.

- 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](mailto: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 23 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](mailto:SolanoBirder@gmail.com).