

Napa Solano Audubon Society Birding Notes #14

Hello NSAS friends and members –

Welcome to April! It's a time of nesting birds, migrating birds, and singing birds! Be sure to take some time to enjoy the birds around you.

Note #1 – *There are a number of NSAS announcements that we want to share with you.*

1. Later this month we will be holding our **election for Board Members** including President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. If you would like to nominate a person to be on the ballot for one of these positions e-mail Barbara Navolanic at bnavolanic@aol.com. *You must send in your nominations no later than Thursday, April 15 to be included in this year's vote.*

Like last year we will be holding this vote remotely by sending a survey via e-mail to our current members. The survey will be sent out in late April and the results of the voting will be announced on May 13 at our May Members meeting.

2. This coming Thursday, April 8 at 7 PM we will be hosting our April Zoom Speaker Series with ***Dr. Floyd Hayes. His presentation will focus on the Western and Clark's Grebes populations at Clear Lake.*** For the last 10 years Floyd has been studying the breeding ecology and impact of Climate Change on these birds and he will be sharing the results of his research with us. Details about the talk and information about how to join us for this ZOOM presentation can be found on our website at <http://www.napasolanoaudubon.com/Event/20210408-TheBreedingEcologyOfClearLakesAechmophorusGrebes>.

3. ***NSAS Field Trips have resumed!*** On April 3, Andrew Ford led his weekly walk at Kennedy Park in Napa. This coming Saturday, April 10, he will be leading a walk at Lynch Canyon. A full list of his walk destinations for April and May can be found in our Spring Newsletter at <http://www.napasolanoaudubon.com/Newsletters/Current>.

And, on Saturday, April 24, there will be a ***NSAS Field Trip to Mines Road*** and Del Puerto Canyon which is south of Livermore in Alameda County. Participation is limited. When I talked to Wendy Cole last week, she indicated that there were still a few openings left for interested participants.

If you are interested in joining us for this trip you will need to ***RSVP to Wendy Cole at beehaven2@comcast.net or 707 363-3170***. Trip details can be found on our website at <http://www.napasolanoaudubon.com/Event/20210424-NSASFieldTripToMinesRoadAndDelPuertoCanyon>.

Note #2 – *What about the birds?*

1. Sue Johnson sent me this picture taken by a friend of hers of “Green Herons nest-building at the Benicia marina!”



2. Because I liked the picture. See Mia McPherson's blog at <https://www.onthewingphotography.com/wings/2021/04/03/male-horned-lark/> for details about this photo.



Horned Lark male adult by Mia Mcpherson

3. Pat Innes sent a photo with the message, "I have a hummingbird that is nesting on our front porch and has two babies hatched in the nest. I'm guessing it is an Anna's Hummingbird from what I can see. Can you tell me if these are actually what I believe they are?" *Lucky lady to have these birds nesting where she can watch them.*

The inquiry from Pat was forwarded to Robin Leong who consulted with Manfred Kusch at UC Davis. Manfred's conclusion was, "Is this photo from this spring, in Solano county? If so, it has to be the nest of an Anna's although it looks to me like a typical BCHU (Black-chinned Hummingbird)

nest. From what I can see it's mostly white, has sparse decoration, and the rim curls inward, all what you would expect in BCHU nests. BCHU don't return from Mexico until at the earliest during the last few days of March and in greater numbers during the first 10 days of April."



4. For those of you who like Mark's Rare Bird reports, I wanted to let you know that Eric Pilotte just discovered a ***Least Bittern at Lake Herman in Benicia.*** On eBird he indicated, "Have recording of it singing. Despite me waiting patiently for a long time, it never appeared. Location: 38.0837861, -122.1558113." Later Zane Pickus reported, "Continuing bird found this morning by Eric Pilotte, great find!! Arrived around 7:20pm to find Eric and Roger Muskat listening to the bird as it gave sporadic bursts of song. A soft "coo-coo-coo," but somewhat gurgled sounding. A classic LEBI song." The following day Ethan Monk reported, "Continuing bird found by Eric Pilotte. Presumably only the county's second away from Suisun Bay? Audio recorded. Sang around 15 times." The list of birders who are coming from all over to hear this bird continues to grow. So far nobody has seen it, but it has been heard!

Note #3 – Do you like to garden? Kathy Kramer contacted us to let us know about the “**2021 Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour.**” This will be a virtual ZOOM event with Garden Tours being conducted on 4 different days. The event will kick off on Sunday, April 25 with a talk by Doug Tallamy. The theme of this day is “Gardening for Wildlife.” Then, Nancy Wenninger will give a talk on *gardening for birds*, featuring her own Walnut Creek garden, where she has seen more than 80 species. Over the course of three following Sundays, May 2, May 16, and May 23, there will be additional tours and several presentations specifically on gardening for butterflies with California native plants. (And, as you likely know, if you are gardening for butterflies, you are also gardening for birds.)

And the entire program is FREE. For details about all of the activities and how to register for the event see their website at <https://www.bringingbackthenatives.net/welcome-to-our-2021-virtual-events>.

- 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 14 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.