

Napa Solano Audubon Society Birding Notes #21

Hello NSAS friends and members –

Fall is here. White-crowned Sparrows have arrived at my backyard feeder and throughout the Bay Area. Coots, Soras, and Pied-billed Grebes have been seen at the American Canyon Wetlands. Most of the dabbling duck species have arrived and the diving ducks will soon be here. It's an excellent time to be out birding and welcoming the new arrivals.

Note #1 –NSAS announcements

1. Our first members meeting of the Fall was a Zoom presentation on Thursday, September 9. Nathan Pieplow shared his interesting story about tracking the "**The Mystery Owl of Mexico.**" I've participated in a couple of owling trips, but these were nothing compared to the time and effort Nathan spent tracking down this owl. It was definitely a learning experience for me to understand what is involved in the search for a rare species. If you missed this presentation, you can view it on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/h-d-D3XqOO8>.
2. September Field Trips:
 - a. Andrew Ford's first Fall Saturday Field Trip was a success! 23 birders showed up at Putah Creek for this walk. Andrew's eBird list for the day totaled 53 species with *8 different warbler species including a **Chestnut-sided Warbler***. And it always makes me happy to see Andrew chase after a special bird like he was racing to follow the flight of some Lewis's Woodpeckers, one of his favorite birds.
 - b. Andrew's next walk is scheduled for **Saturday, September 18** at **Lake Solano County Park**. Note that this location is a change from the destination that was published in our Fall newsletter. Details for this walk were circulated today to the NSAS Field Trip email list. Information about the trip is also available on our website at <http://www.napasolanoaudubon.com/FieldTrip/20210918-WeeklyWalkToLakeSolanoRegionalPark>.

3. The Fall issue of our "***Song Sparrow***" newsletter has been mailed to all NSAS members. If you didn't receive the newsletter, you can still read it as a copy has been posted on our website at http://www.napasolanoaudubon.com/nsas/newsletters/2021_Fall_Newsletter.pdf. If you'd like to receive a copy of the newsletter when it's published, you can sign up to be a member at <http://www.napasolanoaudubon.com/Main/Join>. The cost of membership is \$25 for an individual and \$35 for a family and the money we raise is used to fund the ongoing activities of our organization.
4. *Christmas Bird Counts* will be here before you know it. We have two dedicated birders, **Robin Leong and Murray Berner**, who have been organizing the Benicia and Angwin counts for many years. Eventually they are going to want to move on and now is the time to identify and train the people who might someday replace them in managing these annual activities. If you have an interest in learning about the process of conducting a CBC, *we could definitely use your help*. If you are interested, please contact Mark Stephenson at napabirder@gmail.com or Tom Slyker at solanobirder@gmail.com.
5. The next NSAS Board meeting is being held on Monday, September 20 in Napa. If you are interested in attending and learning more about the workings of our society, please contact Mark Stephenson at napabirder@gmail.com.

Note #2 – The Joy of Birds –

1. Cornell Labs *Migration Celebration* 2021 has begun. What was once a one-day mini-festival held in Ithaca, New York, is now the Cornell Lab's biggest online event of the year. From **September 13–24** there will be two weeks of free live-streamed events and programs exploring migration from every angle. Enhance your enjoyment of this incredible time of year by checking out the programs at https://www.birds.cornell.edu/home/visit/migration-celebration?utm_source=Cornell+Lab+eNews&utm_campaign=2893b5eebc-Cornell-Lab-eNews-September-2021&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_47588b5758-2893b5eebc-320297257.

2. Vaux's Swifts in San Rafael – **if you've never seen them, it's worth the drive to view the Swifts!** Rich Cimino recently reported that he and several other birders counted 15,000 Vaux's Swifts using the McNear Brick factory chimney roost. The Swifts will be using the chimney for the rest of September and into early October before they head South. For more info about this special birding event check out this website <https://natureinnovato.com/2018/09/08/mcnear-brickyard/>.
3. The Osprey is Audubon's September bird of the month. I liked the picture.



Osprey by Mark Hainen - Audubon Photography Awards

4. Just to get you thinking, with Fall comes the return of the geese, ducks, swans, and cranes to the Central Valley. Hopefully you are planning a trip or two to Colunsa NWR, or Llano Seco WR, or another of the wildlife refuges in the valley where you might see a sight like the one in this photo taken by Linda Muth at a New Mexico wildlife refuge. The sight of so many geese and the sounds they make during an early morning fly in are awesome. It's a spectacle I've returned to see every year since I started birding.



Snow Geese by Linda Muth - 2021 Audubon Awards

Note #3 – Costal Cleanup Day is September 18

If you're not out birding on Saturday, you might consider spending a few hours helping with this year's Costal Cleanup activities. In Napa the RCD is helping to coordinate cleanup sites in the Napa area. You can find information about Napa cleanup opportunities at <https://naparcd.org/cleanup2021/>. In Solano County Cleanup activities are going on at multiple locations throughout the county. To find a cleanup site that is close to where you live check out this website <https://www.cleanupsolano.org/home/coastal-cleanup-day/where-to-volunteer.>

Earth Day for the year 2022 will be on Friday, April 22nd. We are currently searching for an activity or activities that NSAS can participate in on Earth Day to promote environmental awareness for the protection of our planet. If you have any suggestions for an activity NSAS should participate in for Earth Day 2022 please email them to Tom Slyker at solanobirder@gmail.com.

Note #4 – Do you have your copy of our book *Breeding Birds of Solano County*?

The 2nd edition of our coffee table book can be found at Alibi Bookshop at 624 Marin Street in Vallejo. If you are new to our chapter or know someone who is just getting into birding, this is *a beautiful way to learn about the birds that breed in Solano County*. You can also order this book online at our website at www.napasolanoaudubon.com.



- 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 21 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.