

Napa Solano Audubon Society Birding Notes #25

Hello NSAS friends and members –

March is almost here. Yesterday morning I watched 3 large flights of geese headed north and west over Benicia. Spring is coming and they're starting the journey to their nesting grounds. My daughter, who lives in Japan, reports that the swans that winter in her area are gone. Soon our spring migrants will start to arrive, and a new season of nesting will begin. Makes me feel like it is a good time to start up ***Birding Notes*** again after a long winter of recovery and rehabilitation from my surgery.

Note #1 – NSAS announcements

1. Field Trips:

- ***Saturday Weekly Bird Walk with Andrew*** started again in January and Andrew has been in the field leading trips most weekends. You should be receiving weekly announcements of these trips. If not please email tcslyker@comcast.net and ask to be added to our Field Trips mailing list.

With regards to Andrew's weekly walks, he selects a different walk each week based on where interesting birds are being seen. As the best locations change from week-to-week he cannot predict in advance where his next walk will be. Therefore, it is important to ***watch for the weekly email announcements*** for the latest information regarding the next Saturday walk. Also, please be aware that occasionally Andrew has to work on a Saturday, and this may cause a cancellation of that week's walk if we cannot find an alternative leader for the trip.

- Our ***March monthly field trip*** that will take us outside of the Napa – Solano County area will be to the "***Petaluma Wetlands***" on ***Saturday, March 19***. Details for this trip can be found on the NSAS website at <http://www.napasolanoaudubon.com/FieldTrip/20220319-PetalumaWetlandsFieldTrip>. There is a participation limit of 15 NSAS

members for this trip. If you would like to attend RSVP to Wendy Cole, beehaven2@comcast.net.

- The report from Carol Boykin was that the January Field Trip to Merced National Wildlife Refuge was the “**best NSAS trip she has ever participated in.**” There were lots and lots of birds to see and the guide, Ralph Baker, was the best. She hopes we will schedule this trip again for January 2023.
- From the Sacramento Valley Trip in December Mark Stephenson reported, “We had a wonderful trip! Gray Lodge had by far the most ducks! Geese were everywhere! Great looks at Ross’s Geese.” Sandy Rosenthal was taking pictures during the trip and a few of her pictures are included below.
- After missing the field trips for Nov., Dec., and Jan. I was able to get into the field again for the February trip to Yolo Bypass. A group of 12 birders caravanned through the wetlands and discovered 57 species. The highlight for the day was the constant movement in the distance of 1,000s (probably tens of thousands) of Snow Geese. At times the sky was full of geese. A wonderful sight to see!





2. Monthly Member's Meetings:

- Our **March** monthly Members Meeting will be held via ZOOM on **Thursday, March 10 at 7 PM**. Harry Fuller will present "*A Virtual Birding Tour from the Sonoma Coast to Oregon and the Great Basin.*" Harry has been leading bird trips and teaching birding classes since the 1990s. For more information about Harry, his talk, and the ZOOM meeting ID check out the NSAS website at <http://www.napasolanoaudubon.com/Event/20220310-NSASPresentsZoomSpeakerSeriesAVirtualBirdingTourFromTheSonomaCoastToOregonAndTheGreatBasinWithHarryFullerMarch10th700Pm>
- In January we had an excellent presentation by Alvaro Jaramillo on "*Birding for Conservation in Columbia.*" If you missed the talk, it was recorded and the link to this presentation on YouTube is at: <https://youtu.be/ynk8OVZQgj0>.
- In February, Lia Gaertner, who is the Director of Education and Outreach at the Bay Area Lyme Foundation, provided us with a "*Tick Talk workshop*" with the latest research on tick-borne diseases, prevention strategies for birders, testing, and treatments. Did you know that sticking your clothes in a dryer for 20 minutes after you finish your walk will kill any ticks you may have picked up in your clothing? This is just one of the many useful tips you can learn from this talk which has been recorded and is available on YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/sXr-fxA8Ngc>.

Note #2 – Fun Birding Activities When You're Stuck at Home (or what I have been doing for the past few months)

1. Want to get your mind off winter for a few minutes? Here's your chance to get to know all the **colorful birds** that have visited the **Panama Fruit Feeder web cam**. From caracara to aracari, take a **rainbow-hued cruise** through all 77 species that have shown up on camera since 2018 with this video field

guide. Sit back and enjoy the **tropical rainbow** at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0FB77T30feo>.

2. **I love to look at photos of birds and the Macaulay Library at Cornell has put together a selection of their Best Bird Photos 2022.** From *sunbirds to bee-eaters, owls to albatrosses*, they chose some of the very best of the library's 32 million bird photos. All the photos are worth seeing and you can find them at <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/macaulay-librarys-best-bird-photos-2022/>



Pink Robin by Laurie Ross from Macauley Library

3. If you're like me, you have trouble distinguishing a **House Finch from a Purple Finch from a Cassin's Finch**. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology has put together a 6-page summary of ID Tips to help us learn how to identify this challenging trio of red finches. You can find this guide at https://f.hubspotusercontent20.net/hub/95627/Tricky_Finches_CLOeBird.pdf?

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4. Take a quiz to find out “*How much do you know about birds?*” The National Audubon Society has put together a fast, fun quiz to test your bird knowledge. Try it at https://action.audubon.org/quiz/how-much-do-you-know-about-birds?ms=digital-eng-email-ea-x-engagement_20211207_bird-quiz_&utm_source=ea&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=engagement_20211207_bird-quiz&utm_content=&emci=1efb59bf-ba56-ec11-94f6-0050f2e65e9b&emdi=3e812798-8857-ec11-94f6-0050f2e65e9b&ceid=3257812&contactdata=01mH82azeDbvxmCxsoGjmSQri9UyNzV60IS6JKPEnBhj9kXmCsumNBxnTi9AxrShAVYDYe2VKoEWLI95%2fGw2PMb63oh6rEuxzdwpBWpE8urZiwyLQLjVSc4x4Q6nSt3XS6JoU1D3M0GKSwjo02BwXqMwlyMHrgsoTrJfnOECqa4Nzqxaeev7QngVt9QkuwEkSZUi%2fmJHssyG1wbUcPY7g%3d%3d.
5. The Cornell Lab Bird Academy has put together a **Waterfowl quiz** to test your ability to ID ducks. Check it out at https://academy.allaboutbirds.org/quizzes/duck-and-waterfowl-identification-try-a-free-quiz/?utm_campaign=bird%20academy%20general&utm_medium=email&_hsmtc=200239808&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-fu2fn_tUnbNjeypwg8u-tU3uZpDa3g8gU_Zf962-CQJZi9btroBPoG6yejlXGITY4EBRtTB0lhFrhd2hC4s5OM-A6Yw&utm_content=200155536&utm_source=hs_email
6. Ralph Goodwin produces **video compositions linked to musical sound tracks** at a website called picturewandering.blog. Recent entries include “Wintering in Berkeley” which provides a composite of birds Ralph has

photographed in the local area, “In January” which documents dawn at Tilden Park including birds that were seen, and “Consumnes Preserve” which covers a birding trip to the preserve. These videos run ~ 7 minutes each and are sure to help you relax after a hectic day. They can be found at <https://picturewandering.blog/>

7. Are you interested in learning “10 Fun Facts About the Red-tailed Hawk?” The National Audubon organization has put together a list of interesting facts about this magnificent bird. Check them out at https://www.audubon.org/news/10-fun-facts-about-red-tailed-hawk?ms=digital-eng-email-ea-newsletter-engagement_20220119_wingspan_&utm_source=ea&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=engagement_20220119_wingspan&utm_content=&emci=de9dbdad-5079-ec11-94f6-c896650d4442&emdi=bb30ed44-5a79-ec11-94f6-c896650d4442&ceid=3257812.

8. ***This activity is scheduled for APRIL and is half at home and half in person.*** They are Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, an annual showcase of local Bay Area home gardens featuring native plants and green home features. The tour will celebrate its 18th year in existence by offering two days of online tours and two days of in-person tours for participants to learn about how to plant beautiful native plant gardens in their own backyards! **Registration for this *free* four-day event is now open at <https://www.bringingbackthenatives.net/registration>.** Online Tours will be held on April 16 & 17 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. In person tours will be held on Saturday, April 30 and Sunday, May 1 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you like to garden this event is definitely for you!



Photo of Monkeyflower and Penstemon by Liz Simpson

- 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 25 of Birding Notes. Past copies of Birding Notes are posted on the NSAS website at <http://www.napasolanoaudubon.com/>
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