



# Song Sparrow

[www.napasolanoaudubon.org](http://www.napasolanoaudubon.org)

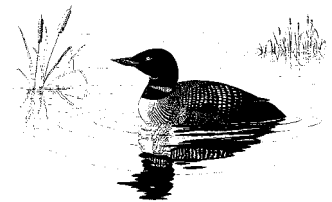
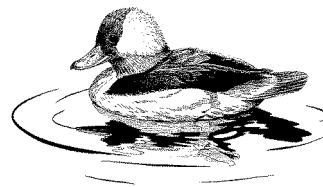
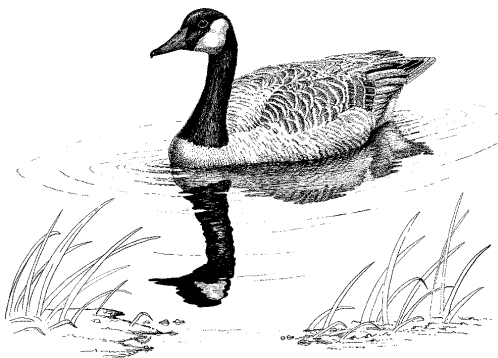
NSAS General Meeting  
 7:00 P.M. Tuesday, September 14, 2004  
 Solano County Office of Education  
 Waterman Room  
 5100 Business Center Drive, Suisun City

*Sept. 14th, 2004— Speaker 7:30*  
**Birding in Mexico**

Darrell Lee will tell about his trip to Mexico this past May, driving his mini-van from here to Colima, Colima (Mexico). It's a hard-core birder and ecology talk. Margaret McClune and he drove through five Mexican states and got as far as 1200 miles below the border, joining up with two Georgia birders in Mazatlan and birding in the states of Sinaloa, Nayarit, Jalisco, and Colima. They each saw about 245 bird species, with about 90 lifers.

**Directions:** Take the Green Valley exit from eastbound or westbound I-80 and go north to the first road which is Business Center Road. Turn west and head toward the Costco store which is northwest of the junction of I-80 and I-680. The Board of Education Building is on the right side of the road before you reach Costco. If you're coming north on I-680, take the Cordelia Road exit and make three right turns to go under the highway and north on Green Valley Road which is the frontage road west of I-80. Go over I-80 and make a left turn on Business Center Rd. **Please go inside the building and go to the Waterman Room.**

For more information: [www.napasolanoaudubon.org](http://www.napasolanoaudubon.org)



## Come to Where the Birds Are!

*Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival, January 14-17, 2005*

Migrate to one of the country's pre-eminent birding spots and join the Morro Coast Audubon Society (MCAS) for the 8th Annual Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival. Morro Bay -- located on California's scenic Central Coast -- is an important stop on the Pacific Flyway, and is recognized worldwide for its diversity of both resident and wintering birds. At last year's festival, 213 species of birds were identified!

The Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival is sponsored by MCAS and gives you the chance to join local and national birding experts on a variety of field trips and workshops. Field trip group sizes are limited to maximize spotting and identification opportunities. The Festival also offers workshops aimed at sharpening your birding skills, as well as evening programs with outstanding speakers.

For more information about the Festival, check out our website at [www.morro-bay.net/birds](http://www.morro-bay.net/birds), where you can request that your name be added to the mailing list for our 2005 brochure, due out in October. Registration deadline is December 31, 2004 and early signups are encouraged as the

## Field trip to American Canyon Wetlands.

Beginning Birder Field Trip.  
Come and learn about shore birds.



**DATE:** September 18, 20004

**LEADER:** John Robinson

**COORDINATOR:** David Takeuchi 643-5544

**DESTINATION LOCATION:** Meet at the Vallejo Car-pool location at 8:30 a.m.. We will be proceeding to Wetlands Edge Road, American Canyon for a morning of birding.

We are fortunate to have on our Board of Directors, John Robinson who is with the US Forest Service, Ecosystem Conservation. John is the creator of Lanius Software, Inc. and the author of a birding CD-ROM. John has many years of birding experience and some of you may have had the pleasure of being on a birding field trip he has led for Wild Bird Center. Come and join John as he introduces beginning birders to shorebirds. If you already know your birds, come and experience another season of coastal bird migration in a location you may not be familiar with. Sandpiper Point is not what it use to be, as the reeds and cordgrass fill in the mud flat making it harder to see shorebirds. However, we now have Wetland Edge Road, and it will be a welcome surprise to view shorebirds. We may see raptors, and perhaps a falcon or two. This is a half day trip with little walking.

**CARPOOL LOCATION: Cordelia/Suisun:** 8:00 a.m., Solano County Education Bldg. across from Costco;

**Napa:** 8:00 a.m., Block Buster Video by the old Montgomery Wards;

**Vallejo:** 8:30 a.m. across from Baskin Robbins in the Wal-Mart Shopping Center. Those car pooling, plan for a 25 minute drive to the (destination location).

A reminder from the Field Trip Coordinator: Car-poolers will share driving expenses (recommended \$.20/mi to be split by the number of riders).

## Napa-Solano Audubon Society

### Officers

|                |                                   |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| President      | John Wagnitz.....707-447-2685     |
| Vice President | Marge Irwin.....707-224-6184      |
| Secretary      | Margaret Barson .....707-257-8389 |
| Treasurer      | Joan Ferguson.....707-648-1339    |
| Directors      | John Robinson.....707-864-8279    |

### Chairpersons

|              |                                     |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| Birdathon    | Marge Irwin.....707-224-6184        |
| Conservation | Gerald D. Karr .....707-643-7089    |
| Education    | Pat Hildreth.....707-252-8928       |
| Field Trips  | David Takeuchi.....707-643-5544     |
| Hospitality  | Louise DeBenedetti.....707-642-3993 |
| Membership   | <i>Unassigned for coming year</i>   |
| Programs     | Robin Leong .....707-643-1287       |
| Publicity    | Cheryl Harris.....707-224-6133      |
| Ways & Means | <i>Vacant</i>                       |
| CBC          | Robin Leong .....707-643-1287       |

### Song Sparrow

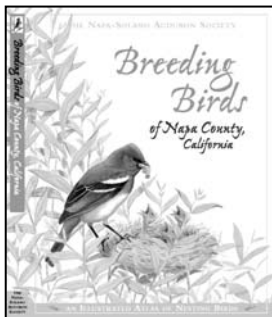
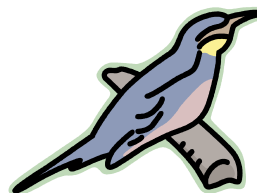
|          |                              |
|----------|------------------------------|
| Editor   | Susan Lane .....707-649-8033 |
| Features |                              |

**Web Page** [www.napasolanoaudubon.org](http://www.napasolanoaudubon.org) .....Darrell Lee

The *Song Sparrow* is published monthly except July & August by the Napa-Solano Audubon Society, P.O. box 5027, Vallejo, CA 94591. Deadline is the 15th of the month prior. Send contributions to: *Song Sparrow*, 301 Clark Drive, Vallejo, CA 94591 E-mail address: [susan@cardsonline.com](mailto:susan@cardsonline.com)

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*NSAS Board of Directors Meeting are held the last Wednesday of the month, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Re/Max Realty Office, 723 & 729 Amador, corner of Amador and Ohio Streets in Vallejo. All members are always welcome.*



### Breeding Birds of Napa County, California

“An essential inventory of the breeding birds....shows the richness and diversity of Napa County” --David Allen Sibley

Price: Book, \$25; CA tax \$2 (no tax on books shipped out of state)

Shipping and handling \$3 **Total \$30.00**

Mail this order form with your check payable to Napa-Solano Audubon Society, P.O. Box 5027, Vallejo, CA 94591. For more information, contact [apasmith@sbcglobal.net](mailto:apasmith@sbcglobal.net)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, and Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

No. of copies \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

## President's Perch

(as in where a bird sits – not the fish)

It has been a busy first month as President of Napa-Solano Audubon Society. The Board has updated the Constitution and Bylaws, performed an inventory of the physical assets of the Chapter, authorized the purchase of binoculars for our Education program, and taken the first steps to convert to all electronic record keeping.

In addition, the first organizational meeting for the SOLANO COUNTY Breeding Bird Atlas project was conducted on July 14 under the leadership of Robin Leong, Project Director. It was inspiring to see interested people from all around the Bay area attend the meeting and bring their ideas and enthusiasm to the project. Robin and others will provide many details on the project in future issues of the Song Sparrow. The bottom line is we learned a lot while conducting the Napa County breeding bird project and will build on our successes and learn from our problems. Due to the growth of online information resources some things that were cumbersome and expensive have become much easier and far less expensive – big examples are detailed mapping and data processing.

The Solano County Breeding Bird Atlas will be the central focus of our chapter efforts for the next few years. Birders and non-birders will be able to participate through fieldwork, data entry, graphic design, educational activities, public outreach, publicity, and in many other ways. For example, part of the public outreach will be bird box building and placement. A non-birding spouse has volunteered to lead this effort.

Field trips for the upcoming year have been planned, many with a focus on Solano County and other aspects of the breeding bird project. For example, weekday neighborhood birding walks will be conducted in each of the major cities in Solano County. Of course, we will still have

field trips in many other popular areas in Napa County and around California.

Many of our volunteers have used this summer to hone their already impressive skills at chapter-sponsored events. At the July 24 field trip planning meeting held at Uzelle Williams' bird friendly home, our already top notch field trip leaders were treated to a highly informative talk on Helpful Hints for Guiding Outdoor Nature Tours by Teri Engbring of Yolo Basin Foundation. Three members under the auspices of the chapter's Education program will attend a one-day training session in Davis at the Yolo Wildlife Area where they will be trained in environmental education.

I am very enthusiastic about the future of Napa-Solano Audubon Society. We have a solid financial base which increases with every new Friends membership submitted, a core of dedicated volunteers, and a hard working Board willing to make the tough decisions for a vigorous organization. We have an untapped pool of expertise and volunteer effort among the 650+ members of the chapter. We have a key project - the Solano County Breeding bird Atlas around which we can focus our efforts. Now we need as many chapter members as possible to step up and step out to meet these challenges. We have real volunteer jobs for real people for a real purpose.

Let us all work together to meet our goal of becoming the best environmental organization focusing on Napa and Solano counties.

See you outdoors soon,  
John C. Wagnitz, [c5jd@pacbell.net](mailto:c5jd@pacbell.net),  
707 447 2685  
President, Napa-Solano Audubon Society



### Audubon California Assembly

Stockton, California– November 17th and 18th

Audubon California will be hosting an Audubon Assembly at the Radisson Hotel in Stockton on Wednesday, November 17th and Thursday the 18th. The Assembly is a statewide meeting open to all members to discuss conservation challenges in California and adopt a common set of priorities for meeting those challenges. It is a chance for activists from throughout the state to gather, meet and collaborate. It is also an opportunity for Audubon members to gather and learn more about the birds, wildlife and habitat of California and what Audubon is doing to protect them. The Assembly will include a range of practical workshops led by experienced chapter leaders and Audubon staff. It will also feature interesting speakers, and some great field trips. For more information contact Jill Shirley at 530-795-0550 or [jshirley@audubon.org](mailto:jshirley@audubon.org).

### Book Review *Sierra Birds, a Hiker's Guide*

by, John Muir Laws

Whether you're an experienced birder or just beginning, this pocket size guide is a perfect addition to your birding library. The 4.5" x 8.75" x 1/4" dimensions make it easy to stick in a back pocket or a backpack for a handy reference while walking in the Sierra Nevada.

The book is easy to use too. It is arranged by bird color and size, with color tabs on the pages for fast and easy reference. The full color illustrations are accurate and I appreciated how the distinctive features are identified. This is an excellent book for quick reference use in the field. My sister and I used it while kayaking on the Napa River to identify a young Black-crowned Night-Heron. Over 200 species are represented.

The book can be purchased from Heyday Books,  
PO Box 9145, Berkeley, CA 94709.

Reviewed by Susan Lane

**FRIENDS OF NAPA-SOLANO AUDUBON SOCIETY**

**MEMBERSHIP ONLY \$25 per year**

One hundred percent, of *Friends of the Napa-Solano Audubon Society* Membership dues will stay in our local Chapter to support local birding, local conservation education and advocacy, and local birding science including the new Breeding Bird Atlas of Solano County. *Friends of the Napa-Solano Audubon Society* members receive periodic issues of Song Sparrow but do not receive Audubon Magazine.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_ I do not wish to receive any communications from National Audubon Society.
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_ Do not share any of my personal information with any other organization.

Please make your \$25 check for Friends of the Napa-Solano Audubon Society Membership payable to Napa-Solano Audubon Society (NSAS) and mail it to: NSAS, PO Box 5027, Vallejo, CA 94591

National Audubon Society new memberships and renewal dues support national conservation issues. A token amount for each new member is sent to the local chapter as a modest 'safety net' payment based on the total local chapter membership. National Members receive Audubon Magazine and receive our local NSAS newsletter, *Song Sparrow*. National Audubon Society Membership is \$20 for one year.

To join or renew your National membership for one year, please remit \$20 and make your check payable to National Audubon Society and mail directly to National Audubon Society, Membership Department, PO Box 51005, Boulder, CO 80323-1005. You may also join or renew online at <http://www.audubon.org/audubon/>.



Napa-Solano Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 5027  
Vallejo, CA 94591

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# NAPA-SOLANO AUDUBON SOCIETY FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

## September 2004 - June 2005

| <u>MONTH</u>                 | <u>LOCATION</u>                                                                       | <u>LEADER</u>                                  |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| September 18 - Saturday      | American Canyon Wetlands, Napa Co                                                     | John Robinson                                  |
| October 16 - Saturday        | Huichica Creek (Buchli Station), Napa Co.<br>Gourmet Picnic                           | Margaret Barson/<br>David Takeuchi             |
| November 3 - Wednesday       | Northwest Vacaville Neighborhood                                                      | John Wagnitz                                   |
| November 13 - Saturday       | Sacramento Wildlife Refuge, Glenn Co/<br>Gray Lodge, Butte Co                         | John Boyd                                      |
| December 4 - Saturday        | Rush Ranch, Solano Co                                                                 | Joanne Castro                                  |
| December 18 - Saturday       | Newell Ranch, American Canyon, Napa                                                   | Jo Maillard                                    |
| December 27 - Monday         | Benicia Christmas Bird Count                                                          | Robin Leong                                    |
| January 15 - Saturday:       | Lake Solano/Montecello Dam,<br>Solano Co                                              | Jim Knight                                     |
| January 21 - 23              | 9 <sup>th</sup> Annual San Francisco Bay<br>Flyway Festival, Mare Island, Vallejo, CA | Myrna Hayes,<br>Festival Coordinator           |
| February 2 - Wednesday       | Northwest Vacaville                                                                   | John Wagnitz                                   |
| February 12 - Saturday       | Open                                                                                  |                                                |
| February 19 - 20 - Sat - Sun | Klamath Basin/Tule Lake, Siskiyou Co                                                  | Charlotte Kisling/<br>(John Boyd)              |
| February 26 - Saturday       | Owling, Solano Co                                                                     | Robin Leong                                    |
| March 12 - Saturday          | Grizzley Island, Fairfield, Solano Co                                                 | John Robinson                                  |
| March 23 - Wednesday         | Rush Creek, Black John Slough, Sonoma Co                                              | Jim Knight                                     |
| April 6 - Wednesday          | Hanns Park, Vallejo, Ca                                                               | Joanne Castro                                  |
| April 16 - Saturday          | Solano Co Transect                                                                    | Robin Leong                                    |
| May 4 - Wednesday            | Fairfield Neighborhood                                                                | Uzelle Williams (Fran<br>Scarlet, Tim Jenkins) |
| May 14 - Saturday            | Napa-Solano Valley Lakes                                                              | Mike Rippey                                    |
| June 18 - 19 - Sat - Sun     | Plumas-Eureka, near Blairsden/Graeagle,<br>(North of Yuba Pass) Plumas Co             | Jerry Karr                                     |
| June                         | Churchill, Canada                                                                     | Robin Leong                                    |