



Song Sparrow

Newsletter of the Napa-Solano Audubon Society
Volume 40 No. 1 Winter 2013

For updates and additional information, check the Website:
www.napasolanoaudubon.com

Announcing the Solano County Breeding Bird Atlas Project

The Napa-Solano Audubon Society is excited to announce the upcoming publication of our **Solano County Breeding Bird Atlas**. The result of more than six years of preparation and field work, the Atlas will become the foundational resource on the nesting birds of Solano County. To be available in book and interactive eBook versions, the Atlas will be authored by longtime local birders **Murray Berner** and **Mike Rippey**. Publication is targeted for December 2013.

The purpose of a Breeding Bird Atlas is to determine--through extensive field observations--where each bird species nests within the county. The full-color publication will primarily consist of interpretive text and original color photographs for approximately 150 species, and a series of county maps showing the specific areas where breeding evidence was found for each species.

How can you help?

NSAS is providing the startup resources for the production of the Atlas but contributions, donations, and species sponsorships are sought at this time to ensure the beautiful, high-quality printing of the Atlas. We will soon provide an on-line payment system to make it easy to make a donation on our Web site. In the meantime, if you would like to sponsor a species or make a donation to support our publication, please contact Mike Rippey, Publication Coordinator: napamikie@aol.com, or call Mike at 707-815-8957.

Contributions should be sent to **NSAS, PO BOX 10006, Napa, CA, 94581**. Please make checks payable to **Napa-Solano Audubon** and earmark "**Solano Atlas**." All contributions are tax-deductible.

Photos Needed

Also, for all you bird photographers, Mike is currently seeking high-quality digital photos for possible inclusion in the Atlas. Please contact Mike if you wish to offer bird photos or plan to take photos this spring.



Black headed Grosbeak

Photo by Dave McMullen

Species Sponsorships

A fun and most rewarding way to support the printing of the Atlas is to sponsor a favorite species or two. So far American Goldfinch, Loggerhead Shrike, California Quail, White-tailed Kite, and California Towhee have been sponsored. Ten more sponsorships are pending, so hurry before your special bird is adopted.

Tax deductible sponsorships are \$200 and include a signed copy of the book, the eBook, special acknowledgement, and your name(s) on your species page in the Atlas.

Upcoming Flyway Festival Feb. 8-10

The 16th Annual San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival will be held **February 8-10, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.** As part of the festival, Napa Solano Audubon is presenting nature activities on the new trails in American Canyon Wetlands on **Saturday and Sunday, February 9 and 10.** Meet in American Canyon near the parking lot at Eucalyptus Dr. & Wetlands Edge Rd.

Visit us on the Flyway!! Take a walk on the new wetlands trails, which offer expansive views and intriguing habitats—grasslands, woodland, salt water bay and mudflats, fresh water ponds, pickleweed marsh and the shores of the Napa River. Flocks of shorebirds, ducks, egrets and herons are sure to be seen. Hawks, hummingbirds and all sizes of songbirds abound. Along the trail, stop and chat with our knowledgeable Audubon volunteers, who will be posted along the trail at viewing stations, happy to share what **THEY** are seeing through their spotting scopes!!! Join a **Beginners Bird Walk** for children and families; children's activities, interpretive signage and bird-related items available.

Also, during the Flyway Festival weekend, stop by the Napa Solano Audubon's information table in building 223 on Mare Island—shop our book selection, visit with Audubon volunteers and pick up free materials: suggestions for creating a bird-friendly backyard, plans for building bird houses, birding travel ideas and more.

All activities are FREE. Audubon field trips to outlying locations are scheduled Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Find field trip details and other Flyway Festival activities at: www.napasolanoaudubon.com. Then go to www.sfbayflywayfestival.com for a complete program of all 2013 San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival events.

The Flyway Festival Needs YOU!

Please donate just a few hours of your time to help with this event. This fun festival is our best opportunity to reach out to the community to engage children, families, and adults with the wonders of our local, natural environment and the joys of birding. Help with PR – put up flyers, forward email notices to friends, post on our Facebook page, write commentary, or help with photography, layout, exhibit development or other outreach tasks. As usual, our members are asked to sign up for a short shift at a viewing station in the marsh, or lead a beginning bird walk, or welcome visitors at our information tables either in American Canyon or in the building on Mare Island. Please contact Cheryl Harris if you can help: cherylharris@sbcglobal.net or call (707)294-6423.

Great Need for Volunteers!

Napa Solano Audubon is a volunteer-based organization. Volunteers are always needed to ensure the success of our programs. Here are some select opportunities:

Education – Volunteers are needed to help with our classroom & library presentations.

Volunteer Coordinator – Help us coordinate volunteer activities for upcoming events, such as the Flyway Festival and Earth Day.

Publicity & Social Networking – Help us get the word out about all of our fun activities; write and send press releases, add posts to our Facebook page, assist in updating our website, manage/print newsletter.

Field trips – Are you a knowledgeable birder? Help by leading some of the Friday or Saturday morning bird walks. Or help us plan our trips!

Programs – Help find/ schedule interesting programs for our meetings.

Flyway Festival volunteers – Host a membership/ outreach table, “man” a birding station in the marsh, help with publicity, develop educational materials, assist with beginning bird walks for kids, or other tasks.

Other volunteer opportunities abound –Just let us know and we'll find a task that fits your interest, skills & time availability.

Contact Cheryl at 294-6423

General Meetings and Programs Second Tuesday, Monthly

General Meetings are usually held on the second Tuesday of each month at The Florence Douglas Senior Center, 333 Amador St., Vallejo (see map on our website). Meetings begin at 7 pm with about 15 minutes of social time, sharing of birding experiences and refreshments. This is followed by announcements (field trips, conservation, and membership reports, etc.), and finally, a special presentation or guest speaker. See calendar dates on our January-June programs.

NSAS Selected Board Members

President	Cheryl Harris	(707) 294-6423
Vice President	Dr. John Glover	jcglover@pol.net
Treasurer	Dr. Robert Martin	rkjbhome@gmail.com

Please check our Web site for a complete list of Board members. The board meets once a month and all members are welcome. Please call Cheryl Harris if you are interested.

Join in January ~ Save a Bundle!

For those of you who are members of National Audubon and receive the **Song Sparrow** but have never joined the Napa-Solano Audubon Society, please give some thought to supporting our local chapter. One hundred percent of NSAS's dues (\$25 annually for an individual, \$35 for a family) pay for local conservation education, bird-related field trips and monthly programs, advocacy for ecologically sound planning, and habitat restoration. A complete list of our planned activities from January through June can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. We do not receive money from National Audubon for these activities. We are an all-volunteer organization with no office, and no paid staff, but we have been

successful in obtaining grants and expect to do more grant-writing in the future. Because our fiscal year begins on July 1, we offer everyone who joins NSAS after January 1, 2013 an extended membership the first year, that is, your second year will begin on July 1, 2014. From the second year everyone's dues expire on June 30. So put some of your conservation funding to work here in the North Bay, and join our efforts to keep the Bay Area we all love bird and wildlife friendly so that it will be a healthy place for our children and grandchildren to live. Be sure to fill out the renewal form enclosed and send it in promptly. If needed, contact our Membership Chair, Mary Wilson, to check your membership status at: membership@napasolanoaudubon.com. Thank you!

NAPA-SOLANO AUDUBON SOCIETY Chapter Membership

100% of the *Napa Solano Audubon Society* Chapter membership dues remain in our local chapter to support local birding, local conservation education and advocacy, and local birding science.

\$25 individual or \$35 family. Please JOIN or **RENEW TODAY** by completing the following:

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____ (receive timely reminders or notification of events)

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

- Please contact me about volunteer opportunities. I prefer to receive my newsletter by e-mail ONLY.
 I am enclosing an additional _____ donation to support citizen science and educational projects.

Make your check payable to "NSAS" and mail to: Napa-Solano Audubon Society, P.O. Box 10006, Napa, CA 94581



The San Francisco Flyway Festival February 8-10, 2012

Napa Solano Audubon will host a birding event at the **newly restored** American Canyon Napa River Bay Trail for the San Francisco Flyway Festival.

Bird Walks & Special Viewing Opportunities

Visit our website & Facebook page for updates.

Napa-Solano Audubon Society

**P.O. Box 10006
Napa, CA 94581**



PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
FAIRFIELD, CA
PERMIT NO 8

**Weekly Friday Bird Walks in and around
Napa and Solano County**

Please check the NSAS Website and Facebook
for any last-minute updates regarding our events.
www.napasolanoaudubon.com

*Save Paper! Receive your newsletter by email by
contacting our Webmaster Dave McMullen at
(red-tail@comcast.net)*

February Program – Birds of Nome, Alaska

Our guest speaker for the February 12th general meeting will be Rich Cimino, of Ohlone Audubon Society, an experienced birder and field trip leader from the Bay Area. Rich will show us digital photos and maps of the many species seen on his annual tours of Nome, Alaska. He covers a wide variety of habitats in the Nome area, including coastal lagoons, tundra wetlands and spruce forests. Most of the birds are in their resplendent breeding plumages – rarely, if ever, seen in the "lower 48".

Birding northern California for forty-five years, Rich Cimino is experienced at designing, organizing, and leading birding tours throughout Alaska, Wisconsin, New Mexico the inner mountain west. He is the Conservation Chair for Eastern Alameda County for the Ohlone Audubon Society; his interests are photography and eco-sustainable tourism.

Rich is inspired by birding and appreciates nature for the value it brings to our lives. You can learn more about Rich and his birding field trips at: www.yellowbilledtours.com.

Event Calendar At-a-Glance

- Tues, Jan 1, 2012** Angwin CBC & Compilation Dinner
- Tues, Jan 8, 2013** General Meeting/ Program: TBA
- Sat, Jan 12, 2013** Field Trip - Thornton/ San Joaquin
- Thurs, Jan 31, 2013** Backyard Birding Presentation – Napa Library
- Fri, Sat, Sun, Feb 8-10** S. F. Bay Flyway Festival, NSAS activities at American Canyon Wetlands as well as many other great field trips
- Tues, Feb 12, 2013** General Meeting/Program: ***Birds of Nome, Alaska with Rich Cimino***
- Sat, Feb 16, 2013** Field Trip – Grizzly Island
- Sat-Mon, Feb 16-18** Great Backyard Bird Count
- Tues, Mar 12, 2013** General Meeting/ Program: TBA
- Sat, Mar 16, 2013** Field Trip – Panoche Valley
- Tues, Apr 9, 2013** General Meeting/ Program: TBA
- Sun, Apr 14, 2013** Field Trip – Bodega Bay *Note: *This field trip is on Sunday instead of Sat.*
- Tues, May 14, 2013** General Meeting / Program/ Election of Officers
- Sat, May 18, 2013** Field Trip - Putah Creek
- Sat, June 15, 2013** Field Trip - North Lake Tahoe

Watch for email updates or check the NSAS Website for more information. You can also go to our Facebook page. Note: you do not need to join Facebook to view our information.