

Napa Solano Audubon Society Birding Notes #1

Hello NSAS friends and members –

This is the first of what we hope will become a biweekly series of short notes providing updates on activities and birding opportunities within Napa and Solano Counties. 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. If you would like to unsubscribe from receiving these birding notes please send your unsubscribe request to SolanoBirder@gmail.com.

Unfortunately, due to ongoing pandemic we have canceled all Field Trips and Bird Walks for the time being. On the positive side, we are able to conduct our monthly members meetings via ZOOM. Be sure to check the calendar at the NSAS website (<http://www.napasolanoaudubon.com/>) for meeting announcements and updates. The next Zoom presentation will be on **October 8** and the speaker will be Dr. Bruce Lyon of UC Santa Cruz. We hope to see you at this Zoom meeting and at upcoming meetings, field trips, and birding walks once the pandemic is under control.

Note #1 – Are you aware that NSAS maintains and monitors Bluebird Nesting Boxes in both counties? The 2020 nesting season was a success and the fledged birds have started their fall migration. We can always use more help to monitor our boxes and hopefully build / install new ones. If you have an interest helping with the program in 2021 please contact Holly Jessop, our Education Chair, at nsas.nestboxes@gmail.com. Picture of the nestlings is from Betty LaBastida. The picture of the busy mom with a potato bug is courtesy of David Kassel.



Note #2 – The Fall 2020 NSAS "Song Sparrow" Newsletter was released at the end of August. If you haven't seen the newsletter, a copy is available at our website at http://www.napasolanoaudubon.com/nsas/newsletters/2020_fall-newsletter.pdf And, while you're taking a look at our website ask yourself what could be done to make this website a more valuable tool for you as a birding resource. If you have ideas for improving the website please send them to Tom Slyker at SolanoBirder@gmail.com. If you have some free time on your hands (while sheltering in place) and would like to help update the website we are looking for volunteers to join a website committee to plan and execute our website update project. If you're interested in participating in this project email Tom Slyker at SolanoBirder@gmail.com.

Note #3 – THEY'RE BACK! Fall migration is in full swing. Have you seen the recent eBird reports for the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge along Hwy 37? Shore birds have returned. Hundreds of Avocets. Thousands of Sandpipers. Willets, Curlews, Godwits, Whimbrels, Plovers, and many more. They've been gone for the summer but now they're back! Be sure to make some time to go see them. Early evenings seem to be the

best time when they are returning to roost for the night. Picking an evening with a high tide means they'll be coming in closer to the shore and will be easier to spot. Also, American Canyon Wetlands at low tide provides an excellent location for observing a wide variety of shorebirds. At the wetlands, not only have the shorebirds returned, but a Pied-billed Grebe has returned to the Grebe Pond and we encountered 3 returning Soras on September 14. The Fall migrants are back!

Note #4 – Did you know that NSAS is a participant in the Lake Dalwigk Urban Greening Project? In 2018 the project undertook restoring the Lake Dalwigk basin in Vallejo to a functioning wetland and wildlife area by planting shrubs, trees, and rushes, sedges and grasses. The plants installed were native species that would enhance resting habitat for migrating birds. Now, twice a year, in November and May, NSAS volunteers monitor the birds at Lake Dalwigk and report their findings to the Vallejo Sanitation and Flood Control District and Vallejo Recreation Department who are providing on-going management of the project. If you check out the Lake Dalwigk eBird hotspot at <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1186178> you'll find that over 40 species were seen at this location on September 16. It's worth a visit if you're looking for a local birding spot in Vallejo.