

Napa Solano Audubon Society Birding Notes #10

Hello NSAS friends and members –

It's been a hectic few weeks and Birding Notes were delayed. Now they're back!

As a starter I wanted to share this picture Mia McPherson took from her living room window in Utah. Check it out at <https://www.onthewingphotography.com/wings/2021/01/17/urban-raptor-photography/>. I'd love to have a bald eagle land in my neighborhood.



Note #1 – “Be sure to Mark your calendars for the GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT.” This year’s count will occur on **February 12-15**. Each year people from around the world come together to watch, learn about, count, and celebrate birds. *Make this year your year to join the celebration!* See this website for

details <https://www.birdcount.org/>. Included below is one of the many pictures from the 2020 Count that were submitted by Backyard Bird Count participants.



Roseate Spoonbill and Wood Stork by Ellen Trevor/GBBC.

Note #2 – “Don’t miss our next Speaker Series Event” –

- Dr. Wendy Schackwitz will present “*Do Blackbirds Sing in the Dead of Night?*” on **Thursday, February 11** at 7 PM. This will be a ZOOM presentation. Details about the presentation and information about linking

to this ZOOM meeting can be found on our website at <http://www.napasolanoaudubon.com/Event/20211102-NSASFebruaryZoomPresentationDoBlackbirdsSingInTheDeadOfNight>.

- Also, if you missed our last Speaker Series event you missed an excellent talk by Alvaro Jaramillo. His presentation was about “Birding the Mediterranean Regions of the World.” It is now available for viewing on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/5b2a7lyVtn4> and is definitely worth watching.

Note #3 – “Hopefully you’ve been reading our new Rare Bird Alerts” –

Mark Stephenson has started a new Rare Bird Alert communication to make sure our birding community is aware of local opportunities to see birds that you might only have a chance to see once in your lifetime. These Alerts include both a detailed description of the location where the bird has been sighted and a short description of the key elements for identifying the bird and why it is considered rare. Included below is a picture Mark took of a male Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and introduced to us in the Napa-Solano Audubon’s Rare Bird Alert #4. There are now 6 of these Alerts and they are being archived on our website at <http://www.napasolanoaudubon.com/Main/RareBirdAlertArchivePage>. Be sure to check them out.



Note #4 – “From the writings of Robin Leong” – Three items that Robin wanted to make sure were shared with our NSAS community.

- The USGS is submitting a proposal for funding from the Ocean Protection Council Prop 68 grant program. They are proposing integrating over 20 years of existing data on waterbird abundance and distribution and vegetation colonization data from along the Hwy 37 marshland area to model the evolution of restoring wetlands. The goal will be to project how habitat, wildlife, infrastructure could be impacted under future scenarios of SLR and management actions. NSAS has written a letter in support of this research proposal and has agreed to become a project stakeholder. If the project is funded, it will create opportunities for NSAS members to participate in Citizen Science projects to provide input as USGS develops model scenarios and evaluates potential management actions in these local wetland areas.
- Robin has been watching the webinars of Los Angeles Birders and highly recommends the site. Check it out at <https://www.labirders.org>. The presenters are primarily people from the LA birding community who provide in-depth presentations on bird ids with a focus on the details that are required to identify unique and rare species from the more common birds. Also, there are scientific presentations like the recent presentation titled “Evolution of Molt” by Ryan Terrill, PhD.
- Robin wanted to make sure we reminded our readers that the 26TH ANNUAL SAN FRANCISCO BAY FLYWAY FESTIVAL will be held as a virtual event this coming weekend from *FEBRUARY 5-7, 2021*. There will be a variety of virtual birding tours and demonstrations throughout the weekend including a special presentation that has been produced by Mark Stephenson our NSAS President. For more details about the event see the post at [https://www.facebook.com/SanFranciscoBayFlywayFestival/?hc_ref=ARTEvBJRdyEVpBJTUbtkxX6I4KAKjo6gWrFNAFNFaTYQsdrxZk_4_X3Qr49D2y-huqA&fref=nf&_xts__\[0\]=68.ARD43QSU5zO2tNiGy8C0YGT6iz1dGt83Pp_-](https://www.facebook.com/SanFranciscoBayFlywayFestival/?hc_ref=ARTEvBJRdyEVpBJTUbtkxX6I4KAKjo6gWrFNAFNFaTYQsdrxZk_4_X3Qr49D2y-huqA&fref=nf&_xts__[0]=68.ARD43QSU5zO2tNiGy8C0YGT6iz1dGt83Pp_-)

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MGH-mUOn0mC3hCbOjA7o&_tn_ =kC-R](https://www.facebook.com/groups/249115090062583) and there is a Virtual San
Francisco Bay Flyway Festival 2021 public group page at [https://
www.facebook.com/groups/249115090062583](https://www.facebook.com/groups/249115090062583).

Note #5 – “Three unrelated items I wanted to share.”

- Spring is coming and it seems to be the time for announcements about gardening and native plants that will attract birds. If you are a gardener, you may be interested in these websites. National Audubon has a site that will recommend the best native plants for your location to bring more birds to your home. The website is <https://www.audubon.org/native-plants>. And, The California Native Plant Society has put together a Calscape Garden Planner website at <https://gardenplanner.calscape.org> to help you find the perfect native plants for your garden by answering just 4 simple questions.
- The Monterey Birding Festival was canceled, however they have been running a newsletter to highlight birding. I particularly enjoyed the story about “Osprey the Fish Hawk - A Photo Journey into the Life of an Osprey Family” mainly because of the amazing pictures included with the story. These Osprey pictures were taken by Seraphina Landgrebe. Check out her story at [http://web-extract.constantcontact.com/v1/social_annotation_v2?
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the-Fish-Hawk.html%3Fsoid%3D1125017961011%26aid%3DzVkFa0-
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- You can learn that “**Biological diversity evokes happiness**” from this Science Daily report that “More bird species in their vicinity increase the life satisfaction of Europeans as much as higher income.” The study's lead author, Joel Methorst, indicated that "According to our findings, ***the happiest Europeans are those who can experience numerous different bird species in their daily life***, or who live in near-natural surroundings that are home to many species." Read the full news report at <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/12/201204110246.htm>. And, here's to hoping that you're in a spot where the diversity of bird life is improving your overall satisfaction and happiness!
- 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 10 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.