

## Napa Solano Audubon Society Birding Notes #13

### **Hello NSAS Members & Friends:**

Greetings! Did you know that March 22 is World Water Day? It's a day to celebrate water and raise awareness of the global water crisis. Water has enormous value for our households, food, culture, health, education, economics, and the integrity of our natural environment. If we overlook any of these values, we risk mismanaging this finite, irreplaceable resource. Take a day to be aware of how precious this resource is for all of us and all our feathered friends.

**Note #1 – *The Spring Song Sparrow Newsletter has been released.*** If you haven't seen a copy check it out on the NSAS website at [http://www.napasolanoaudubon.com/nsas/newsletters/2021\\_spring-newsletter.pdf](http://www.napasolanoaudubon.com/nsas/newsletters/2021_spring-newsletter.pdf). There is a great story of Mark's whirlwind birding tour of Southern California where they saw over 200 species in a 4-day trip. (I'm lucky to see 200 species in year – in 4 days is an amazing accomplishment.) However, the best story in the issue is the announcement that ***Field Trips are opening up again.*** Beginning on April 3 and continuing on every Saturday through May, Andrew Ford will be leading walks to local hot spots in Napa and Solano counties. Birding with Andrew is a treat and I'm delighted these trips are once again a part of our local birding opportunities.

**Note #2 – Do you want to learn how to ID flycatchers?** If you do, check out some of the latest presentations from the LA Birders group at <https://www.labirders.org/webinars.html>. There are 3 webinars from February and March by Jon Feenstra, Cin-Ty Lee, and Mark Scheel that do a good job of describing the details of bird identification in a way that is of value to both beginners and expert birders. If you are interested in improving your skills in IDing these difficult to distinguish birds and learning more about the overall process of bird identification, these videos are worth checking out. That way, when you come across a Tropical Kingbird like the one that has spent the winter at Lake Dalwigk Park in Vallejo you'll be able to identify the bird you are seeing.



Tropical Kingbird by Mark Stephenson

**Note #3 – Do you have 4 minutes to take a break and enjoy nature?** If you have a few free minutes between tasks or just want to give yourself a reward for a job well done you might check out this YouTube video from Cornell Labs. It contains all the Cutest and Funniest Moments from Bird Cams that Cornell monitored in 2020. See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BfyAUGzBSrE>. My favorites were the Toucans(?) and my daughter liked the Albatross (?) or as she described it “the 4 really stupid looking birds hanging out on a cliff with 1 random baby.”



Toco Toucan by Alejandro Espeche Macaulay Library

**Note #4 – *The story behind Cullinan Ranch on Highway 37.*** As I drive on Hwy 37 towards Novato, I'm always that car that is going a little bit slower as I watch for the ducks and shorebirds in the wetlands surrounding the highway. I always see the signs for the Cullinan Ranch development project; however, I had no idea about the background story. A persistent group of local activists preserved these wetlands from becoming a massive land development project that would have changed the landscape forever. A recent article in SFGate helped me understand the efforts that were undertaken by local citizens to preserve these wetlands and they have my thanks for the work they did to save this wetlands. Check out <https://www.sfgate.com/local/article/cullinan-ranch-restoration-bay-area-vallejo-16013322.php> for the story about how this area was saved from becoming a \$1 billion housing project.



San Pablo Bay NWR by Douglas Zimmerman – SFGATE



Canvasback by Aythya Valisineria Macaulay Library

**Note #5 – *More from Alvaro Jaramillo.*** I just discovered the “Birding Your Best Life” YouTube channel which is a collection of different videos put together by Alvaro. These videos are focused on teaching methods for bird identification. The most recent addition is a discussion of identification of birds based on their shape. There are also videos on gull identification, raptor identification based on observing wingtips in flight, and identification of pelagic birds. And more videos will be coming. Check them out at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuhv1H9IQCbTGD\\_gXd3qHwQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuhv1H9IQCbTGD_gXd3qHwQ).

- 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](mailto: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 12 of our biweekly series. Past copies of Birding Notes are posted on the NSAS website at <http://www.napasolanoaudubon.com/>
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