

## Napa Solano Audubon Society Birding Notes #27

Hello NSAS friends and members –

I'm looking at the intro to Notes #26 and it talks about sighting the first Bullock's Oriole of the spring and the Tree Swallows and Western Bluebirds that were beginning to build nest and lay eggs in our nesting boxes. Time does fly! Travel, birding trips, citizen science projects, and a few unfortunate events sucked up all of my spring and much of the summer. Now Fall is coming with the departure of all those Spring birds and the arrival of shorebirds with the waterfowl soon to follow. Hopefully with more free time, I'll be able to get back into a routine of sending out future issues of Birding Notes on a semi-regular schedule.

### **Note #1 – NSAS announcements**

1. *The annual election NSAS officers was held in May.* The four current office holders for the elected positions of President (Mark Stephenson), Vice President (Tom Slyker), Secretary (Helena Kassel), and Treasurer (David Kassel) were reelected for the 2022 – 2023 season. In addition, we have had two participants, Betty (Mo) Mosher and Patti Heidl, step down from the board as of July 2022. Please give a warm welcome to Judy Kahle who has volunteered to take Patti's place as our Membership Chairperson and Pamela Condos who volunteered to take Mo's place as an at large board member. Note that in the future you will begin to receive emails from Judy in relation to Membership notices.
2. Our Fall 2022 "Song Sparrow" newsletter is in the process of being written and should be ready for publication and circulation in early September. We are always looking for new contributions to our publication. If you would like to pen an article for the "Song Sparrow" to share your interactions with the birds with the rest of your NSAS colleagues please contact Mark Stephenson at [napabirder@gmail.com](mailto:napabirder@gmail.com) or Tom Slyker at [solanobirder@gmail.com](mailto:solanobirder@gmail.com).

3. ***Each year NSAS provides two scholarships to deserving students*** who will be continuing their education at a 4-year college with the goal of earning a degree they can use to focus on conservation and protecting the environment. Each scholarship is worth \$2,000 towards the cost of their education. This year we have awarded scholarships to a Napa County student from Angwin and a Solano County student from Benicia. Be sure to read about them in our upcoming Fall newsletter.
4. Our ***NSAS Summer hiatus will soon be coming to an end***, and we are gearing up for a new calendar of activities that will start in September. Be on the lookout for August email announcements about:
  - Andrew Ford's weekly Saturday Field trips. He is planning to restart these walks beginning the last week of August or the first week of September when migrating birds will begin to return.
  - Our monthly speaker series is tentatively scheduled to resume at 7 PM on Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. This will most likely be a Zoom presentation as we are having difficulty finding a venue where we can conduct a hybrid in-person / Zoom meeting. If you know of a location that would be available to us from ~ 7 to 9 PM on Thursday evenings with seating for ~ 50 participants, excellent internet connectivity, and a minimum cost for non-profit organizations, please let us know by contacting Mark Stephenson at [napabirder@gmail.com](mailto:napabirder@gmail.com) or Barbara Navolanic at [bnavolanic@aol.com](mailto:bnavolanic@aol.com).
  - Our September Field Trip to a destination outside of our Napa – Solano County boundaries. These trips are for NSAS members only and are usually limited in the size of the group. If you see an announcement for a trip you like, be sure to act quickly to get on the trip participants list.

## **Note #2 – What about the Birds?**

## 1. Audubon Photography Awards for 2022 have been announced!

- This year, almost 2,500 photographers from across the United States and Canada submitted nearly 10,000 photographs and videos to Audubon's 13th annual **Audubon Photography Awards**. With so many exceptional shots Audubon selected the top 100 runner up photos that nearly won over their judges. See these TOP 100 photos at [https://www.audubon.org/news/the-2022-audubon-photography-awards-top-100?ms=digital-eng-email-ea-x-engagement\\_20220713\\_eng-email\\_apa-top-100&utm\\_source=ea&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=engagement\\_20220713\\_eng-email&utm\\_content=apa-top-100](https://www.audubon.org/news/the-2022-audubon-photography-awards-top-100?ms=digital-eng-email-ea-x-engagement_20220713_eng-email_apa-top-100&utm_source=ea&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=engagement_20220713_eng-email&utm_content=apa-top-100).
- To see the WINNING photos for this year's contest, check them out at [https://www.audubon.org/magazine/summer-2022/the-2022-audubon-photography-awards-winners-and?ms=digital-eng-email-ea-x-engagement\\_20220707\\_eng-email\\_apa-winners&utm\\_source=ea&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=engagement\\_20220707\\_eng-email&utm\\_content=apa-winners](https://www.audubon.org/magazine/summer-2022/the-2022-audubon-photography-awards-winners-and?ms=digital-eng-email-ea-x-engagement_20220707_eng-email_apa-winners&utm_source=ea&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=engagement_20220707_eng-email&utm_content=apa-winners).



Tree Swallow – Photo by Sarah Devlin - Audubon Photo Awards

2. **Shorebirds are showing up in the Bay Area.** You can see them at American Canyon Wetlands, in the Green Island area, at Huichica Creek Unit, at the pullouts along Hwy 37, and at other locations throughout the bay. This week the wetlands was hosting Least and Western Sandpipers, Curlews, Marbled Godwits, Willets, Black-bellied Plovers, Dowitchers and more. For help with identifying shorebirds Cornell labs has a number of useful tools including:

- **A shorebird ID guide** which can be found at [https://f.hubspotusercontent20.net/hubfs/95627/ShorebirdIDRackCard\\_20200629-Accessible.pdf?utm\\_campaign=bird%20academy%20general&utm\\_medium=email&hsmi=216078192&hsenc=p2ANqtz-8ySrR2g8BfZoN\\_gvR269Tii6Hd8VchqkMyPjH7NaXP5mtJAY9DOsliJmr0RL8b3nkgInlb0BsCT\\_uEn1YDjEa9EQQyKA&utm\\_content=216080938&utm\\_source=hs\\_email](https://f.hubspotusercontent20.net/hubfs/95627/ShorebirdIDRackCard_20200629-Accessible.pdf?utm_campaign=bird%20academy%20general&utm_medium=email&hsmi=216078192&hsenc=p2ANqtz-8ySrR2g8BfZoN_gvR269Tii6Hd8VchqkMyPjH7NaXP5mtJAY9DOsliJmr0RL8b3nkgInlb0BsCT_uEn1YDjEa9EQQyKA&utm_content=216080938&utm_source=hs_email).
- A short 7-minute **video showing shorebird foraging strategies** which can be helpful in distinguishing a shorebird species. See the video at [https://academy.allaboutbirds.org/shorebird-foraging-strategies/?utm\\_campaign=bird%20academy%20general&utm\\_medium=email&hsmi=216078192&hsenc=p2ANqtz-\\_bTKUAFgYySVRcEYsUWBf0rRVGAhERl1FgGgKWVudOOku3oEkyBMiWPUSKBZXPk6MTfnpTyPfKWbDMg15v2HGxjX3Q&utm\\_content=216080938&utm\\_source=hs\\_email](https://academy.allaboutbirds.org/shorebird-foraging-strategies/?utm_campaign=bird%20academy%20general&utm_medium=email&hsmi=216078192&hsenc=p2ANqtz-_bTKUAFgYySVRcEYsUWBf0rRVGAhERl1FgGgKWVudOOku3oEkyBMiWPUSKBZXPk6MTfnpTyPfKWbDMg15v2HGxjX3Q&utm_content=216080938&utm_source=hs_email).
- An online **quiz that can help you distinguish and recognize Least Sandpipers when they are next to Semipalmated Sandpipers.** Practicing recognizing key field marks helps to ID birds when you are out on a cold overcast birding day. Have fun with the quiz at [https://academy.allaboutbirds.org/sandpiper-id-quiz/?utm\\_campaign=bird%20academy%20general&utm\\_medium=email&hsmi=216078192&hsenc=p2ANqtz-8pTTDrER1Hm-oxK3vnyTthryHbgbqh1BjNC1SzzrjQb2Dx7LF4UJ8VmSu8-Ns7Rkkl4xOaF58pRBZhC3xwrpaTDKnp5Q&utm\\_content=216080938&utm\\_source=hs\\_email](https://academy.allaboutbirds.org/sandpiper-id-quiz/?utm_campaign=bird%20academy%20general&utm_medium=email&hsmi=216078192&hsenc=p2ANqtz-8pTTDrER1Hm-oxK3vnyTthryHbgbqh1BjNC1SzzrjQb2Dx7LF4UJ8VmSu8-Ns7Rkkl4xOaF58pRBZhC3xwrpaTDKnp5Q&utm_content=216080938&utm_source=hs_email).



Willets and Curlew – Photo by Andrew Ray

3. National Audubon is also providing educational support for the upcoming shorebird season. They have published a short “Shorebirds 101: What to look for when you’re out on the shore.” You can find this guide at [https://www.audubon.org/news/shorebirds-101-what-look-when-you-hit-water?ms=digital-eng-email-ea-newsletter-engagement\\_20220611\\_eng-kids-newsletter\\_share-the-shore-lgbt&utm\\_source=ea&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=engagement\\_20220611\\_eng-kids-newsletter&utm\\_content=share-the-shore-lgbt](https://www.audubon.org/news/shorebirds-101-what-look-when-you-hit-water?ms=digital-eng-email-ea-newsletter-engagement_20220611_eng-kids-newsletter_share-the-shore-lgbt&utm_source=ea&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=engagement_20220611_eng-kids-newsletter&utm_content=share-the-shore-lgbt).
4. Audubon sent me “10 Fun Facts about the House Finch.” Currently I have enough House Finches in my backyard to drain my sunflower seed feeder on a daily basis. Learning these fun facts helps me to better understand these birds. It’s fun to watch the Finches play “King of the Feeder.” To learn the Fun Facts check out the article at [https://www.audubon.org/news/10-fun-facts-about-house-finch?ms=digital-eng-email-ea-x-engagement\\_20220209\\_eng-email\\_fun-](https://www.audubon.org/news/10-fun-facts-about-house-finch?ms=digital-eng-email-ea-x-engagement_20220209_eng-email_fun-)

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House Finches – Photo by Chris Wice/Audubon Photography Awards

### Note #3 – Conservation Corner

1. I like the work the Nature Conservancy is doing. If you haven't seen their projects, check out their website and get on their mailing list. One item from their **July: California Nature News** caught my attention. It was a link to a 3-minute YouTube video describing "*Big Data + Farmers = Instant Wetlands to Help Migrating Birds.*" The video describes the use of data from the eBird app that our birding entries help to generate to track the migration patterns of shorebirds and waterfowl that need places to rest and refuel in CA's central valley during their migration. **Using this eBird data**, Nature Conservancy and other conservation organizations are able to coordinate with rice farmers to water their fields just when the migrating birds will be in their area. With this coordination they are able to reduce

the amount of water needed (a precious resource here in CA) and the cost of supporting these migrants while providing optimum resting sites for the birds. Check out this story at [https://www.voanews.com/a/big-data-and-farmers-create-instant-wetlands-to-help-migrating-birds/6600255.html?en\\_txn8=NewSch.WJEMSA2207NPNZNZZE01Z00-ZZZZZ-ST00&lu=0bd1f512-69d2-375c-97ab-49ca664e3cfe&en\\_txn1=e.ch\\_ca.eg.x.gpn.0706.n.sas.trd](https://www.voanews.com/a/big-data-and-farmers-create-instant-wetlands-to-help-migrating-birds/6600255.html?en_txn8=NewSch.WJEMSA2207NPNZNZZE01Z00-ZZZZZ-ST00&lu=0bd1f512-69d2-375c-97ab-49ca664e3cfe&en_txn1=e.ch_ca.eg.x.gpn.0706.n.sas.trd).

2. An area of concern for birds is the distraction that city lights provide during migration. Almost all bird migration occurs during the night time hours and the glow of city lights can disorient flying birds so they might crash into buildings or possibly halt their migration progress. Many cities and states across the country including here in California are actively pursuing programs to limit city lighting during spring and fall migrations. “Lights Out: Providing Safe Passage for Nocturnal Migrants” is a National Audubon program focused on working to help protect migrating birds. To learn more about this program visit [https://www.audubon.org/lights-out-program?ms=digital-eng-email-ea-x-engagement\\_20220509\\_may\\_donor\\_thank\\_you&utm\\_source=ea&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=engagement\\_20220509\\_may\\_donor\\_thank\\_you](https://www.audubon.org/lights-out-program?ms=digital-eng-email-ea-x-engagement_20220509_may_donor_thank_you&utm_source=ea&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=engagement_20220509_may_donor_thank_you).

- 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.
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