

Napa Solano Audubon Society Birding Notes #9

Hello NSAS friends and members –

Happy New Year! Hopefully 2021 is a much better year than 2020!!
Because I like the photo, here's a delayed Happy Holidays wish to all.



Note #1 – Be sure to join us for our January Speaker Presentation on Thursday, January 14th at 7:00 p.m. ***Alvaro Jaramillo will talk about birding the Mediterranean Regions of the World from South Africa, Chile & Spain to California!*** It will be a birding tour of the some of the best wine-producing regions from around the globe. **THIS WILL BE A ZOOM MEETING.** For additional details about the presentation and the Zoom Link information for the meeting, visit the NSAS website at <http://www.napasolanoaudubon.com/Event/20210114-BirdingTheMediterraneanAreasOfTheWorld>.

Note #2 – “ARTISTS & BIRDS” - Two artist related notes popped up during the last few weeks and we wanted to share them with you.

- “december birds” is a video montage of East Bay birds by Ralph Goodwin. In a 9-minute presentation Ralph shares a video of birds and scenery from the East Bay where the images are linked to the calls of the birds he films. Ralph shares his “videos, photos, and original art from Berkeley, CA” in a blog at <https://picturewandering.blog/>. He posted “december birds” on the 26th of December and it is now 3rd video in the series posted on this blog site. You will have to scroll down the list of videos to find it. One of the comments from a viewer of this video was, “So lovely and meditative, a perfect way to transition to the new year! Thank you.” I couldn’t agree more. It is definitely worth viewing.



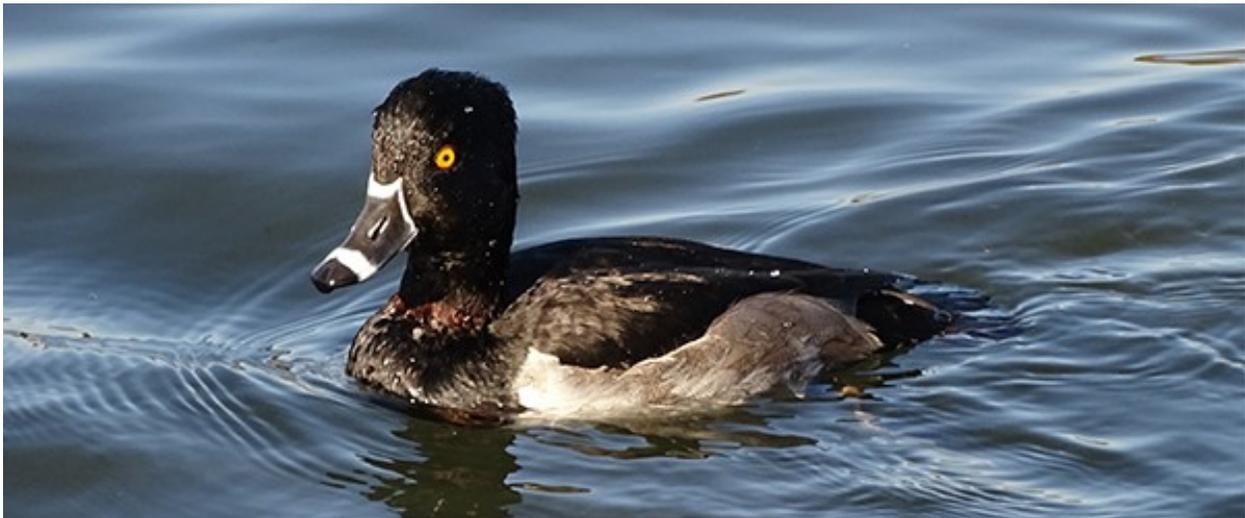
Cedar Waxwings by Tony Varela Photography

- Lynn Bantley is an artist and citizen scientist. She’s recently launched a website featuring her artwork as prints, stickers and greeting cards. The inspiration for the art comes from volunteering for the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory as a raptor bander for the past 26 years. Her illustrations provide an opportunity to combine her love of raptors, working as a citizen scientist, and artistic endeavors. She has asked us to share her website and will provide a donation to

NSAS from purchases of her art. If you find something on her site that you would like to purchase, be sure to enter "napasolano15" in the promo code box when placing the order. The link to Lynn's website is <https://coolbirdart.com/>.

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Note #3 – “How to identify dabbling and diving ducks” – Want to work on your bird identification skills? I recently signed up for a “Birds Canada” newsletter and was delighted to find this intermediate-level video which helps you brush up on waterfowl IDs. The video is presented by Dr. Kiel Drake and belongs to a series of ID resources created primarily for volunteers with the Saskatchewan Breeding Bird Atlas. But, these duck species are found in many other locations including the Bay Area. It is a short video at ~ 25-minutes and the speaker does a good job of covering the important field marks that distinguish each species. After you finish with the video, you might want to take a trip to American Canyon Wetlands at high tide and see if you can apply what you've learned in identifying our local ducks. Watch this YouTube video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HCbWc5K5m4&feature=youtu.be>.



From Birds Canada - Ring-necked Duck by Graham Sorenson

Note #4 – “*Audubon Information*” – Two announcements from National Audubon caught my attention.

- Carol Boykin forwarded a link to an article titled, “This Winter Marks an Incredible 'Superflight' of Hungry Winter Finches.” The focus of the story is that “Across the country, birders are being treated to one of the biggest irruption years of boreal birds in recent memory.” Much of the article focuses on what’s being seen on the east coast. However, here in CA we are seeing a record year for Pine Siskins. If you have a backyard feeder, most likely you’ve seen plenty of these birds. The article is a good read on the causes behind the winter movement of these finch species. Check it out at <https://www.audubon.org/news/this-winter-marks-incredible-superflight-hungry-winter-finches>.
- The National Audubon December 2020 Newsletter provided a link to “Our Favorite Fascinating Bird Behaviors From the 2020 Audubon Photo Awards.” Every year the contest attracts entries capturing rare and unusual moments in the avian world. Check out this year’s memorable images of bird behavior at https://www.audubon.org/news/our-favorite-fascinating-bird-behaviors-2020-audubon-photo-awards?ms=digital-eng-email-ea-newsletter-engagement_20201221_wingspan_&utm_source=ea&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=engagement_20201221_wingspan&utm_content=&emci=2423b1a8-6941-eb11-a607-00155d43c992&emdi=5ce7e1e0-a543-eb11-a607-00155d43c992&ceid=3257812.

And, because I like the bird, here's a picture of a Horned Lark.



From Birds Canada - Horned Lark Photo by David Bell

Note #5 – One of the things I miss with sheltering in place due to the Covid-19 pandemic is the opportunity to visit birding festivals around the state. To address this loss, the Galt Winter Bird Festival has decided to hold their festival this year as a virtual on-line event. It will be a one-day event on Saturday, February 6. John Muir Laws will be the featured speaker and he will talk about simple tricks that you can use to help you observe more deeply to improve birding skills. Also, there will be 3 different virtual birding tours of the Consumnes River Preserve. All of the events are being offered for free. If you want to spend a day of birding without leaving the comfort of your home this may be a good way to enjoy a cold February day. Details for the festival and the link to register for the event can be found at <http://www.ci.galt.ca.us/about-galt/special-events/11th-annual-winter-bird-festival>.

- 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 9 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.