

July 13, 2026

Napa County Wildlife Conservation Commission
County Administration Building
1195 Third Street
Napa, CA 94559

Dear Commissioners:

Napa-Solano Audubon Society (NSAS) hereby applies for the Wildlife Conservation Commission grant funding cycle for 2026-2027. We have a strong track record of providing outdoor education to Napa County residents of all ages.

Description of Organization

1. Type of organization or business: non-profit 501(c)(3) organization
2. Purpose for which organization was formed: The NSAS mission is: "...to share the joy of birding, engaging citizens in experiencing the wonder of birds, to use science-based data to increase our understanding of native birds and their habitats, to promote education to transfer our inspiration and deeper understanding into meaningful conservation action to protect birds and their habitats for future generations in Napa and Solano Counties."
3. Tax exempt status: 501(c)(3) non-profit
California tax ID: 94-2375760
Federal tax ID (EIN): 237325783
4. Date formed as Non-profit: September 18, 1973
5. Membership: restrictions, number of members, fees, etc.: No restrictions.
Membership fees for Local Chapter memberships are \$25 for individuals and \$35 for families. Our current membership base includes over 400 Local Chapter members and approximately 800 National Audubon memberships assigned to our chapter who live in Napa and Solano Counties.
6. Names of Board of Directors; contact person (include phone number, email address and mailing address):

Mark Stephenson, President

Jane Hicks, Co-President and **contact person** (707-373-7011, hixholtz@earthlink.net, P.O. Box 10006, Napa, CA 94581)

Phil Burton, Vice-President and Program Chair

David Kassel, Treasurer

Helena Kassel, Secretary

Judy Kahle, Membership Chair

Yvonne Baginski, Conservation Chair, Napa County

Roberto Valdez, Conservation Chair, Solano County

Pam Condos, Holly Jessop, Robin Leong, Directors-at-Large

Needs Assessment / Problem Statement

1. Clear statement of problem

We are increasingly concerned that our nation as well as countries around the globe are losing valuable habitat to sustain native bird and animal populations. To this point, it is estimated that our planet has lost over 4 billion birds during the past 40 years. We are also concerned that students in our K-12 school systems have limited time to study science concepts and especially learn about the biology of our native birds and animals as well as the importance of using scientific data to inform habitat preservation to sustain native plant and animal populations. With the support of your grants in previous years, we have been able to maintain and expand our programs in many schools and in our community. We are looking forward to 2026-27 as an opportunity to further expand our school and community outreach to sustain and grow our programs for years to come in Napa County.

2. Specific objective & specific dollar amount requested

Proposed activities for 2026-2027:

A. Education in the Napa County Schools:

- (1) Continue teaching our 3rd - 5th grade curricula to schools such as Donaldson Way and Napa Junction Elementary Schools and high school-level curriculum to schools such as American Canyon High School.

- (2) Hire an Education Coordinator to increase our outreach and teaching to Napa County Schools.

B. Beginner, Weekly & Regional Field Trips

Continue to provide regular Beginner and Weekly Bird Walks, and Regional Field Trips for students, families and community members.

C. Monthly Speaker Seminars

Continue to fund our monthly speaker seminar program with National and Local expert ornithologists who educate us on a variety of topics from Birding to Conservation.

D. Citizen Science

Continue to engage Community Members in Citizen Science activities related to birds and conservation, including Christmas bird counts, breeding bird surveys, western bluebird nestbox maintenance and monitoring, heron nesting colonies monitoring, endangered species monitoring, and other activities in Napa County.

E. Educational Festivals

Continue to support Community Events that foster a love and deeper understanding for birds and our environment such as the International Bird Rescue Open House, Napa Earth Day, activities at the Pacific Flyway Center, and the Winged Migration Expo.

To help fund these activities, we are requesting \$4,750.

3. Anticipated results, with time-line

Education in the Napa County Schools: In the 2025-2026 grant year, we taught our curriculum of at least three weekly bird classes and at least one birding field trip to 506 Napa County Elementary School students and 142 Napa County High School students (648 total students). Our goal for the 2026-2027 grant year is to teach at least this many students by June 30, 2027. During the 2025-2026 grant year, we taught in multiple classrooms at Willow Elementary, Donaldson Way Elementary, Brown s Valley Elementary, Napa Junction Elementary, Vichy Elementary, and Alta Heights Elementary Schools, and American Canyon High School for a total of seven schools. Our goal for the 2026-2027 grant year is to increase these efforts by teaching at eight to ten Napa County Schools.

Beginner, Weekly, and Regional Field Trips: In the 2025-2026 grant year, we held numerous field trips in these categories, with many participants from Napa County. Nine hundred eighty-seven people, including adults and students, attended these field trips. Our goal for the 2026-2027 grant year is to hold a minimum of fifteen or more student/family-oriented Beginner Bird Walks at the American Canyon Wetlands in addition to numerous Weekly and Regional Field Trips by June 30, 2027. Beginner and Weekly field trips are open to all at no cost while the Regional field trips require membership in NSAS. We keep the cost of the NSAS annual membership low at \$25 per individual and \$35 per family to encourage participation.

Monthly Speaker Seminars: We are in the process of organizing the speakers for the monthly seminars on birds and conservation related topics for the 2026-2027 grant year. Seminar locations alternate between Napa and Benicia and are held in the months of September, October, November, January, February, March, April, and May. Attendance is open to all both in person and via Zoom. We plan to complete eight seminars by June 30, 2027.

Citizen Science: In the 2025-2026 grant year, we participated in the following Citizen Science projects: the Christmas Bird Count in the Angwin area; National Audubon Climate Watch (seasonal [winter and summer] monitoring of target species using point count data in seven Napa County locations), and Bird Seasons (weekly monitoring of specific species at the American Canyon Wetlands). We currently monitor 150 nesting boxes of western bluebirds and American kestrels at five parks and open spaces as well as several school yards in Napa (Alston Park, American Canyon Wetlands, O'Brien Park, Trancas Crossing Park, and Lakeview Park). We also monitor fifty nesting boxes in Newell and Lynch Canyon Open Spaces. We monitored colonies of the federally endangered western snowy plover in Napa County in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory. We monitor heron and egret colonies in Moore Creek Park and several other locations. We participate in the annual Point Blue Shorebird Survey which collects data on shorebird migration in several estuaries in Napa County. We also participate in Cornell's Laboratory of Ornithology Nest Watch Project. This project collects information on the timing and success of nesting birds by visiting known nest sites weekly during the breeding season (February – July). We will continue these Citizen Science activities in the 2026-2027 grant year. In addition, during the next five years we are partnering with Audubon Chapters and birders across the state to complete the first California Breeding Bird Atlas.

Education Festivals and Cleanup Days: In the 2025-2026 grant year, we participated in the regional Winged Migration Expo, which included birding field trips, presentations and educational tabling in Napa County; Napa Earth Day including clean-up of the Napa River, and Coastal Cleanup Day on the Napa River. We anticipate participating in a similar number of education festivals and cleanup days by June 30, 2027.

4. Detailed description of methods planned to achieve objective

Education in Napa County classrooms: lessons taught to students include Bird Diversity, Bird Song, Habitat Conservation, Bird Adaptations, and Bird Migration. Each series of lessons concludes with a bird walk around campus and / or at a nearby natural area such as American Canyon Wetlands and Newell Open Space. Bird walks allow students to observe live birds, their field marks and behaviors, and reinforce the importance of concepts such as wildlife conservation taught in the classroom lessons.

Beginner, Weekly, and Regional Field Trips: People of all ages learn more about birds, their habitats, and conservation on these trips. Field trips are led by experienced birders who are eager to share their knowledge.

Goals for the 2026-2027 grant year: A minimum of fifteen Beginner Bird Walks at the American Canyon Wetlands, a minimum of eighteen Weekly Bird Walks, and a minimum of ten Regional Field Trips.

Monthly Speaker Seminars: Our speaker coordinator is already contacting potential speakers for the 2026-2027 grant year.

Citizen Science: Each Citizen Science project has a specific protocol. For example, we follow protocols established by the National Audubon Society for the Christmas Bird Counts and for Climate Watch, protocols established by Nature's Notebook / USA National Phenology Network for Bird Seasons, and protocols established by the National Bluebird Recovery Database for western bluebird nesting monitoring.

5. Clear statement of benefit relative to the goals of the Commission

- a. Identify the approved expenditure item(s) the project complies with from [California Fish and Game Code](#) §13103 and which WCC priorities as listed in Selection Criteria Priorities.

Our activities advance the purposes of §13103 of the California Fish and Game Code as excerpted here:

13103. Expenditures from the fish and wildlife propagation fund of any county may be made only for the following purposes:

(a) Public education relating to the scientific principles of fish and wildlife conservation, consisting of supervised formal instruction carried out pursuant to a planned curriculum and aids to education such as literature, audio and video recordings, training models, and nature study facilities.”

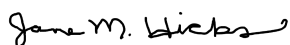
Our classroom curricula, public education through information seminars and field trips and other community outreach clearly meet the intent of §13103.

6. Describe how you intend to determine if the proposed activity is successful

Annual reports are prepared for all activities. Feedback from participants will be analyzed for satisfaction with activity content and suggested improvements.

To summarize, Napa-Solano Audubon Society provides a wide assortment of outdoor education opportunities for the people of Napa County. The Commission s awarding us a grant in the amount of **\$4,750** will help us continue these beneficial experiences for our residents.

Sincerely,



Jane Hicks, Co-President
Napa-Solano Audubon Society

Attachments

1. Expenditure detail – See 2026-2027 Expenditures (Attachment 1).
2. List of other funding sources (i.e. matching funds) – See 2026-2027 Expenditures (Attachment 1).
3. Completion/progress report of projects completed over past 5 years with the use of Fish & Game Fine Monies – See NSAS_NWCC_5-year_report_2021-22-2025-26.pdf (Attachment 2).

4. For environmental education proposals: At least one (1) letter of support from a school board member, principal, teacher, etc., - See letter from K. Stephenson, Fifth Grade Teacher at Willow Elementary School (Attachment 3a) and letters from Enrique, Anonymous, and Anais, Fourth Grade Students at Donaldson Way Elementary School (Attachments 3b-3d), three Bird Art thank you letters from students (Attachments 3e-3g), and three thank you letters from Alana, Sebastian and a mallard duck (Attachments 3h-3j).

NSAS NCWCC Budget 2026-27					
	Salary and Materials	In-Kind Volunteer Hours	NSAS Contribution	In-Kind Grants	NCWCC 26-27 Grant Request
School Programs					
Instruction & Planning					
10 Schools 4-5 lessons including Bird Walks	6,250.00		3,850.00	1,000.00	1,400.00
Classroom Materials	300.00		100.00	100.00	100.00
Total Schools Program	6,550.00	60	4,550.00	500.00	1,500.00
Birding Program					
15 Beginner Bird Walks	1,500.00		800.00	200.00	500.00
30 Weekly Field Trips with Andrew Ford	3,000.00		1,500.00	500.00	1,000.00
10 Monthly Field Trips	3,000.00		2,800.00	100.00	100.00
Total Birding Program	7,500.00	400	5,000.00	1,000.00	1,500.00
Community Education					
8 Monthly Speaker Seminars	1,600.00		900.00	200.00	500.00
Room Rental	200.00		200.00	0.00	0.00
Zoom Fees	200.00		200.00	0.00	0.00
Total Seminar Program	2,000.00	80	1,000.00	500.00	500.00
Educational Newsletters					
Design	1,000.00		1,000.00	0.00	0.00
Color Copy Production	2,500.00		1,500.00	500.00	500.00
Postage	1,000.00		1,000.00	0.00	0.00
Total Newsletters	4,500.00	60	3,500.00	500.00	500.00
Website & Email Design & Hosting	500.00	1,250	500.00	0.00	0.00
Community Festivals					
Winged Migration Expo Field Trips	700.00	200	250.00	200.00	200.00
Napa Earth Day Festival & Activities Materials	150.00	50	150.00	50.00	50.00
Pacific Flyway Center / Intern. Bird Rescue Open House	150.00	25	150.00	0.00	0.00
Total Community Activities	1,000.00	275	500.00	250.00	250.00
Citizen Science					
CBCs (Coordinator Salaries)	2,000.00	12,000	1,600.00	250.00	250.00
Bluebird Nest Box Program (Replacement Boxes)	500.00	540	250.00	0.00	250.00
Endangered Species Surveys in Kind Donations	0.00	50	0.00	0.00	0.00
Climate Research Surveys	0.00	120	0.00	0.00	0.00
Breeding Bird Atlas	0.00	1,400	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Citizen Science	2,500.00	14,110	1,500.00	250.00	500.00
Office Supplies	500.00	0	500.00	0.00	0.00
Total Program Costs & In-kind Dollars	\$25,050.00	16,235	\$17,050.00	\$3,000.00	\$4,750.00
		(Hours)			

2021-22 Tammy Saunders/ Louisa Liu	Classes / Events	Students / Participants
Mark Stephenson/Tom Slyker/		
<u>Schools were closed to volunteers until January 2022</u>		
Classroom Visitations	27	575
Saturday Bird Walks	30	450
Monthly Birding Field Trips	10	170
Monthly Speaker Series	8	480
Beginning Bird Walks	4	13
Special Events		
Christmas Bird Count 4 Kids Connolly Ranch	1	22
SF Bay Flyway Festival	1	160
Earth Night Connolly Ranch	1	200
Earth Day Cleanup	1	20
Earth Day Napa Oxbow	1	500
Treasury Winery Estates	1	40
Il Fiorello Olive Oil Company	1	30
UC Master Gardeners of Napa Valley Open House	1	200
Nest Box Training	4	30
Bluebird Nest Box Monitoring Program	16	30
Total Events / Participants	107	2920
2022-23 Tammy Saunders/Grace Gable,	Classes / Events	Students / Participants
Mark Stephenson/ Tom Slyker		
Classroom Visitations	24	716
Saturday Bird Walks	30	540
Monthly Birding Field Trips	10	180
Monthly Speaker Series	8	480
Beginning Bird Walks	4	80
Jr. Audubon Bird Walks	4	34
Special Events		
Christmas Bird Count 4 Kids Connolly Ranch	1	30
St. Helena Garden Club	1	20
SF Bay Flyway Festival	1	500
Earth Night Connolly Ranch	1	160
Earth Day Treasury Wine Estates	1	40
Earth Day Il Fiorello Olive Oil Company	1	30
Benicia Library Sustainability Fair	1	80
Earth Day Cleanup	1	20
Earth Day Napa Oxbow	1	500

Pacific Flyway Center Migratory Bird Day	1	100
UC Master Gardeners of Napa Valley Open House	1	200
Napa Parks and Rec Summer Camps	4	180
Bothe-Napa State Park Summer Camps	1	80
Nest Box Training	4	30
Bluebird Nest Box Monitoring Program	16	30
Total Events / Participants	116	3314
School Visitations & Events Individuals Served		4030
2023-24 Tammy Saunders/Jane Hicks/ Mark Stephenson/ Tom Slyker	Classes / Events	Students / Participants
Classroom Visitations	16	1203
Saturday Bird Walks	16	251
Monthly Birding Field Trips	10	164
Monthly Speaker Series	8	423
Beginning Bird Walks	14	265
Jr. Audubon Bird Walks	4	72
Special Events		
Christmas Bird Count 4 Kids Connolly Ranch	1	8
Benicia Christmas Bird Count	1	60
Angwin Christmas Bird Count	1	48
Earth Night Connolly Ranch (August)	1	100
Earth Day Cleanup	1	20
Earth Day Napa Oxbow	1	500
American Canyon Community Parks Foundation Earth Day Bird Walk	1	25
Solano Community College Earth Day	1	75
Vallejo Earth Daze	1	400
UC Master Gardeners of Napa Valley Open House	1	500
Napa Parks and Rec Summer Camps	3	105
Nest Box Training	1	30
Bluebird Nest Box Monitoring Program	16	30
Total Events / Participants	82	3068
School Visitations & Events Individuals Served	98	4071
2024-25 Tammy Saunders/Jane Hicks/ Mark Stephenson/ Judy Kahle	Classes / Events	Students / Participants
Classroom Visitations	20	1138
Saturday Bird Walks	21	324
Monthly Birding Field Trips	10	187

Monthly Speaker Series	8	491
Beginning Bird Walks	13	153
Jr. Audubon Bird Walks	4	32
Special Events		
Christmas Bird Count 4 Kids Connolly Ranch	1	15
Benicia Christmas Bird Count	1	74
Angwin Christmas Bird Count	1	36
Winged Migration Expo	1	750
Earth Night Connolly Ranch (August)	1	200
Earth Day Cleanup	1	23
Earth Day Napa Oxbow	1	600
American Canyon Community Parks Foundation Earth Day Bird Walk	1	15
UC Master Gardeners of Napa Valley Open House	1	350
Napa Parks and Rec Summer Camps	3	80
Nest Box Training	1	30
Bluebird Nest Box Monitoring Program	16	30
Total Events / Participants	85	3390
School Visitations & Events Individuals Served	105	4528
2025-26 Tammy Saunders/Jane Hicks/ Mark Stephenson/ Tom Slyker / Barry Briden / Janelle Hall	Classes / Events	Students / Participants
Napa Classroom Visitations	31	648
Weekly Bird Walks	18	389
Monthly Birding Field Trips	10	250
Monthly Speaker Series	8	440
Beginning Bird Walks	20	188
Winged Migration Expo Bird Walks	10	160
Special Events		
Benicia Christmas Bird Count	1	100
Angwin Christmas Bird Count	1	60
Earth Night Connolly Ranch	1	180
International Bird Rescue	1	150
Winged Migration Expo information table	1	2700
Pacific Flyway Center	1	95
Napa Earth Day	1	975
Napa Parks and Rec Summer Camps	0	0
Nest Box Training	2	30
Bluebird Nest Box Monitoring Program	20	30

Total Events / Participants	94	5747	
School Visitations & Events Individuals Served	125	6395	

Willow Elementary School
1480 El Centro Avenue, Napa CA 94558
(707) 253-3771
Willow.nvusd.org



Dear Napa County Wildlife Conservation Selection Committee,

I am happy to write this letter of support for Napa-Solano Audubon Society's Education Programs in our schools. Napa-Solano Audubon have been presenting lessons in our 4th and 5th grade classrooms for at least 10 years. The Audubon educators visit our classrooms with a series of lessons that engage our students deeply in learning about birds and their environments.

Their program's include presentations and hands-on lessons that cover a range of topics including bird identification, adaptations, migration, birdsong, human impact on bird habitats and conservation. These lessons connect seamlessly with our state standards and curriculum and inspire our students' natural curiosity. Our students actively participate, asking insightful questions and developing a genuine appreciation for birds, wildlife and conservation.

As a result of their program, our students recognize and observe birds, noting their physical characteristics, behaviors, and habitats. The enthusiasm they bring back to class is evident in their discussions, creative projects, and overall engagement in science. This program directly benefits our Spring outdoor education trip to the Marin Headlands.

I wholeheartedly recommend continued support for the Napa-Solano Audubon Society's Education Programs. They enrich our classrooms and nurture in our students a lifelong respect and interest in stewardship for the natural world.

Sincerely,
Kris Stephenson
5th Grade Teacher



Thank you MISS-
Jane for the bird-
lessons I enjoyed
learning about.

With thanks
encirle

Thank you MISS Jane
for the bird lessons
I enjoyed learning
about birds

Attachment 3c



To Miss, Jane

Thank you for the bird lessons.

I enjoyed learning about all different birds.

Happy Holidays!

Love,
Anai





HummingBird

Cockatiel



Blue Jay



Crow



cardinal



western blue bird



parrot



owl



Hummingbird



Cardinal



eagle



Owl



Parrot



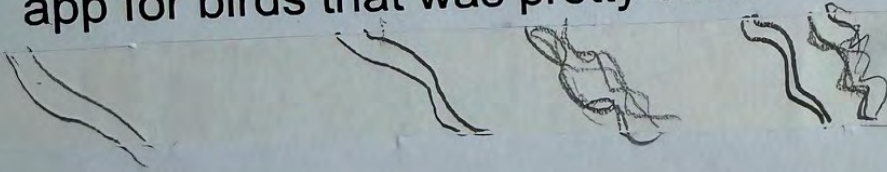
Blue Jay

Dear Mr Stephonson and Audubon Society.

Attachment 3h

Hello my name is Alana from Mrs Gomez class. My favorite part of your presentation was when we went outside with binoculars and looked at different kinds of birds. It was really interesting because we saw a swallow, ducks, snow egret, yellow finch, hummingbird, Red winged bird, turkey vulture, and last but not least bewick wren.

The reason why I liked it is because I saw birds I didn't know that much about and when we went outside I heard the different kinds of birds that had beautiful voices and ok voices to communicate and when they responded back when we used the app for birds that was pretty cool.



THANK YOU FOR TEACHING US ABOUT BIRDS .

Love, Alana



Dear Mr. Stephenson and Audubon Society,

I learned a lot. I learned so much about birds and their habitats. I learned more about one of my favorite birds, the cardinal. Thank you for coming to our school to teach us about birds and stuff. I am grateful for you coming.

My favorite activity is when we used the binoculars. I liked it because I saw many different types of birds. It was very fun. My favorite bird that I saw was a Ring-necked pheasant.

From,

Sebastian

Thank you
Mr. Stephenson!



Mallard duck