

AVAS TO THE RESCUE FOR BIRD IDENTIFICATION

Do you have a digital photo of a bird that you can't identify? If you are an AVAS member and the image isn't too fuzzy or too distant, chances are an expert AVAS birder can I.D. it for you.

Nowadays even less expensive point-and-shoot cameras can take relatively sharp photos that can be enlarged to two or more times the original image. This frequently allows the photographer to get an identifiable shot without invading the birds' fright range.

If you aren't experienced in bird photography, start with birds at a feeding/watering station. Practice taking pictures of the common birds you can find there. Get in the habit of having your camera with you while observing birds. The more you practice the better your photos will be. In this way, if you see a puzzling bird, take its picture and later check your field guide. If the bird is still a puzzle, send the pic to AVAS!

You may send photos of mystery birds to Leon Bright at urraca2@comcast.net and he will identify the easy ones and seek help for the rest.