



# Kite Tales

Volume 45 Number 9

May 2010

## **POTLUCK/PICNIC MEETING - EVENING BIRD WALK** **THURSDAY, MAY 13<sup>TH</sup>**

### **SUGARLOAF RIDGE STATE PARK – 6:30 PM IN THE PICNIC AREA ACROSS FROM DAY USE PARKING LOT**

Directions: Take Hwy 12 to Adobe Canyon Rd. (at the western edge of Kenwood). Drive north to State Park contact station, **pay entry fee or display pass**, and park in Day Use Lot 100 yards ahead. Look for RROS at picnic area across from parking lot. Bring food, plates, utensils, beverages, and binoculars.

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#### **Message to RROS Members from Kite Tales Editor Carol Brant**

This is the last issue of Kite Tales that I will be doing. RROS needs a new editor. The job may appear to be very difficult, time consuming and too challenging but that's not true. Necessary computer skills involve cut and paste, changing font and type size and sending attachments. The writing is done almost totally by the board members. Terry Haag provides the general meeting notices, Ellen Blustein sends the field trip news and Ruth Rudesill does the observations. Occasionally it's necessary to type the field trip report but some leaders submit them by email. Board members and Betty Burrige also send interesting pieces they find or write. Don Howard takes care of printing and distributing the paper and email versions. Ron Storey does the webpage; just send him the latest issue. So, what's left? About 3 hours a month Sept. through May organizing the material, editing it, making it all fit onto 4 or 6 pages. This can be done bit by bit or all at once. The biggest hurdle, besides making the commitment to become editor, is to figure out how to get your computer to send the PDF version of Kite Tales to Don. There must be someone who would be willing to help with this part. I will be glad to provide help with the rest. Carol Brant 823-2806

## **COMING ATTRACTIONS**

### **May 8<sup>th</sup>, Saturday - Field Trip to Pine Flat Road and Geysers Road**

Pine Flat Road and Geysers Road have wonderful rare wildflowers, great butterflies and terrific birds. All the spring nesting species should be in. Meet at 8 am at the first bridge on Pine Flat Road. We will drive from there to Geysers Road. Possible birds include Grasshopper Sparrow, Purple Martin, Mountain Quail, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Bring optics, water, food, sunscreen hats etc. Co-leaders Lisa Hug and Ellen Blustein. Questions: call Ellen at 707- 789-0970. Be prepared to carpool.

### **June 5<sup>th</sup>, Saturday - Field Trip to Pepperwood Preserve Rescheduled!**

RROS has been invited to the Pepperwood Preserve for a spring field trip. Pepperwood Preserve is a 3117 acre property of The Pepperwood Foundation operated in cooperation with Santa Rosa JC and Sonoma State University. It was established in 1979.

We will expect fabulous wildflowers and land birds. Bring binoculars, scopes, field guides, hats, lunch, water, snacks and sunscreen. For carpooling meet at the Park N' Ride on the west side of HWY 101 at the River Road/MarkWest Exit at 7:30 a.m. Or meet at the preserve at 8a.m. Directions are available on the website or: 3450 Franz Valley Road. From Hwy 101 take River Road/MarkWest exit. Go east on Mark West Road. Continue on Porter Creek road. Turn left onto Franz Valley Road. Preserve will be on the left. Porta-potties at Preserve headquarters only.

Questions: call Ellen Blustein 707-789-0970

### **August 28 & 29, 30, Owen's Lake and Eastern Sierra Field Trip**

This is a great opportunity to bird this historic environmental area at the height of shorebird migration. The official field trip will begin Saturday morning. Mike Prather, a local guide and Lone Pine resident, will be our leader. The trip will finish Monday, midday. We have 7 rooms held at the Best Western in Lone Pine, 760-876-5571 ask for RROS. The rate is \$85/double, \$73/single a negotiated high season price. Rooms can be changed until 2 weeks prior to the trip. We will each donate \$20/day to Mike. Questions or to save a place on the trip: Call or e-mail Ellen Blustein [evireo@gmail.com](mailto:evireo@gmail.com) or 707-789-0970. Mike writes;

We will spend both mornings out on Owen's Lake. Saturday maybe Owen's Lake all day. Sunday we can do Owen's Lake in the morning and Sierra in the afternoon. Dress in layers, hats, sunscreen. Would you like to bring lunches with us each day or stop for lunch at a local eatery? I recommend bringing our lunches on Saturday for sure since we will likely be out on the lake all day. Valley temperatures 80's-90's. Sierra temps 60's-70's.

**Possible birds:** **Owen's Lake:** Baird's Sandpiper, Sabine's Gull, Snowy Plover, White-faced Ibis, Long-billed Curlew, Peregrine Falcon, Semi-palmated Sandpiper, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Great-tailed Grackle, Large numbers of peeps of various species, Bonaparte's Gull, Franklin's Gull, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Dowitchers, LeConte's Thrasher **Sierra:** Mountain Chickadee, Hairy Woodpecker, Williamson's Sapsucker, Sooty Grouse, Dipper, Brown Creeper, migrating neotropicals (Wood Warblers), Cassin's Finch, Fox Sparrow, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Western Wood-Pewee, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Nighthawks.

[www.easternsierrabirdingtrail.org](http://www.easternsierrabirdingtrail.org)

**Redwood Region Ornithological Society ([WWW.RROS.org](http://WWW.RROS.org))** was organized in 1962 “to encourage the study and conservation of birds, other wildlife, and their natural habitat.” Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month September through May, at 7:00 pm at the Laguna Waste Water Treatment Plant, 4300 Llano Road, Santa Rosa California, unless otherwise announced. Dues are \$20 per family, \$15 per individual or \$5 per student for a one-year membership. Send dues to RROS Treas. Don Howard, 979 Hogwarts Circle, Petaluma CA 94954.

**RROS 2010-2011 Board of Directors**

**RROS Officers**

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 Vice Pres. Terry Haag  
 Secretary Elaine Pruett  
 Treas. Don Howard

**Committee Chairs**

Field Trips Ellen Blustein  
 Observations Ruth Rudesill  
 Christmas Count Ruth Rudesill  
 Kite Tales

**Kite Tales Deadlines:** Submit observations to Ruth Rudesill, all other items to Kite Tales editor by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

**OBSERVATIONS MARCH - APRIL 2010 BY RUTH RUDESILL**

Bird Species	Date	Location	Co.	#	Observers	Notes
Northern Pintail	4/14/10	corner Hwy 37 & Lakeville	SON	1pr	D&MR fide BBU	nest 5 eggs
Hooded Merganser	3/25-27/10	Shiloh Reg Park pond	SON	1 pr	LP, mob	
Hooded Merganser	3/4/10	Oakmont Golf Course	SON	1 pr	BGr	
Hooded Merganser	4/7/10	Putah Creek	SOL/YOL	1 pr	RAR	
Mountain Quail	3/29/10	Pine Flat Rd	SON	1	BMA, TH	calling
Mountain Quail	4/4/10	Pine Flat Rd	SON	1m	RAR	on road
American Bittern	4/10/10	Ellis Creek Facility	SON	1-2	BDy, Survey	booming
American Bittern	4/12/10	Ellis Creek Facility	SON	3	LHg	courting/feeding
Cattle Egret	4/11/10	Ellis Creek Facility	SON	1	AWt	
White-tailed Kite	3/23/10	Chase & 2nd St Sonoma	SON	6-10	AC	migrant roost
Bald Eagle	4/18/10	Laguna	SON	1ad	JMi	
Common Black-Hawk	4/9/10	Laguna	SON	1	LHg	by kayak
Swainson's Hawk	4/7/10	near Winters	SOL	4	RAR	
Swainson's Hawk	4/18/10	Hwy 29 x Hwy 221	NAP	2	AWt	
Golden Eagle	3/25/10	Tolay Creek Ranch	SON	1 pr	ALa,GC,EP, LN	
Golden Eagle	4/18/10	Hwy 12 south Sonoma	SON	2	AWt	
Merlin	3/27-29/10	Pine Flat Rd	SON	1	RAR,BSp, BMA, TH	
Caspian Tern	4/18/10	Clear Lake	LAK	1	RAR	
Great Horned Owl	4/17/10	Spring Lake Reg park	SON	1	RAR, mob	nesting
Northern Pygmy-Owl	3/29/10	Pine Flat Rd	SON	1	BMA, TH	coughing pellet
White-throated Swift	4/18/10	Napa River Bridge Hwy 29	SON	1	AWt	
Black-chinned Hummingbird	4/18/10	Occidental yard	SON	1m	RoM, JM	
Rufous Hummingbird	3/6/10	Oakmont yard	SON	1m	BGr	
Lewis's Woodpecker	4/15/10	off Pine Flat Rd	SON	1	KWi, BSp	
Ash-throated Flycatcher	4/15-19/10	Geyserville	SON	1	TEr	
Western Kingbird	4/14/10	Sonoma yard	SON	3	TR	
Cassin's Vireo	3/8/10	Spring Lake Reg Park	SON	1	RAR,BSp	early singing
Warbling Vireo	3/28/10	Jenner Headlands	SON	2	MH	fos
Horned Lark	4/14/10	Spring Lake x Annadel	SON	sev	AMc	
Purple Martin	4/18/10	Laguna area	SON	5	JMi	

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Rock Wren	3/25/10	Tolay Creek Ranch	SON	1	ALa, GC, EP, LN	
American Dipper	3/27/10	north end Geysers Rd	SON	1pr	BSp, RAR	
Swainson's Thrush	4/1/10	Channel Dr Annadel SP	SON	1	BD	fos early
Cedar Waxwing	4/10/10	Kenwood	SON	100+	RAR	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	3/25/10	Shiloh Reg Park	SON	100+	LP, RAR	migrant flight
Black-thr Gray Warbler	4/15/10	Pine Flat Rd	SON	sev	KWi	
Wilson's Warbler	3/23/10	SSU campus	SON	1	BOI	fos
Rufous-cr. Sparrow	3/29-4/17/10	Pine Flat Rd	SON	2-6	BMa, TH, JMi	
Sage Sparrow	3/29/10	Pine Flat Rd	SON	sev	BMa. TH	
Vesper Sparrow	4/18/10	The Sea Ranch	SON	1	RK	
White-cr/Golden-cr Sparrow	3/31/10	Sebastopol	SON	1m	LHg	photo hybrid
Hooded Oriole	4/17/10	Spring Lake Reg Park	SON	1	RAR	
Hooded Oriole	4/19/10	SSU campus	SON	1	BOI	
Great-tailed Grackle	4/10/10	Ellis Creek Facility	SON	1-2	BDy,	Survey
Bullock's Oriole	3/25/10	Tolay Creek Ranch	SON	1m	ALa, GC,EP, LN	

Observers: Betty Burrige, Gary Compari, Bill Doyle, Bob Dyer, Tiffany Erickson, Betty Groce, Mike Heffernon, Tim Howe, Lisa Hug, Richard Kuehn, Andy Lacasse, Julie Marlowe, Roger Marlowe, Bruce Mast, Alexandra McDonald, Jeff Miller, Len Nelson, Becky Olsen, Elaine Pruett, Dan & Mary Rooney, Ruth A Rudesill, Tom Rusert, Bob Speckels, Alan Wight and Ken Wilson.

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**Please send me your late spring & summertime observations before the Kite Tales August deadline as the North American Birds deadline is August 10<sup>th</sup> - thank you and have a great spring/summer! Ruth ruthier@sonic.net**

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**KITE TALES  
979 Hogwarts Circle  
Petaluma, CA 94954  
May 2010**

