

KITE TALES

A monthly newsletter from the
Redwood Region Ornithological Society

Volume 55, Number 8

April 2020

SOCIAL DISTANCING FOR BIRDERS

Six feet apart (in wingspans) equals approximately:



5 Common Grackles



20 Ruby-Throated
Hummingbirds



2 Red-tailed Hawks



1 Bald Eagle

@TheRaptorTrust

Next RROS General Meeting – when the Health Experts allow!

Possibly Wednesday, May 13 or maybe not until September – potluck dinner at Sugar Loaf Ridge State Park

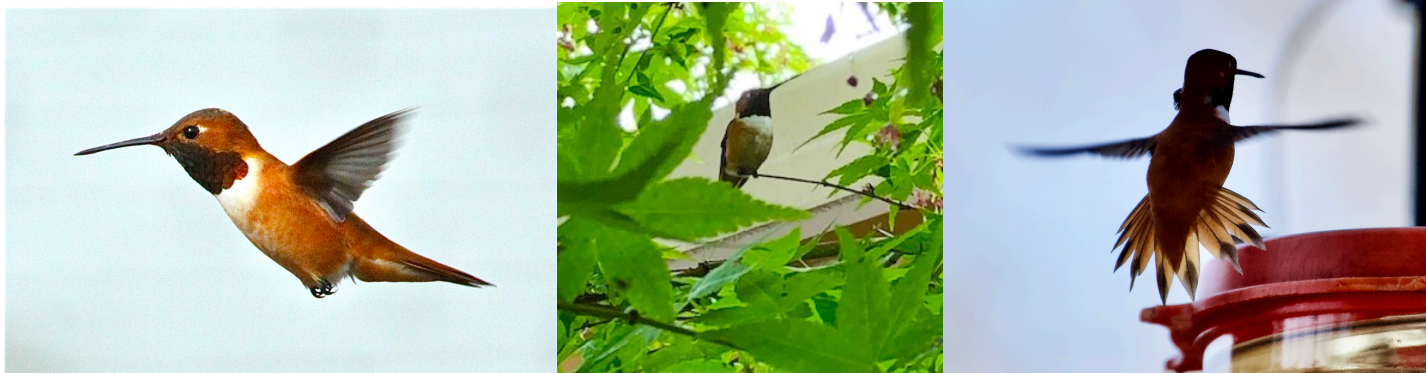
Our Sonoma County Hummers



Anna's Hummingbirds

Our year-round resident. An Anna's Hummingbird can be daunting, flamboyant, and maternal. The Anna's at the Abutilon has a dusting of pollen. It can consume 50% of its weight in nectar a day. On sunny days, a male climbs over 130 feet in the air, orients so that the sun is reflected from the iridescent throat and crown and directed to the object of his attention. He dives at 40 miles per hour to impress his girlfriend. If you've ever been buzzed by an Anna's, you haven't forgotten it. In the first half of the 20th Century, they only bred as far north as Baja and Southern California. It's expanded its range thanks to Californians love of planting exotic trees and gardens.

Rufous v. Allen's



Rufous Hummingbird

We always look forward to the Rufous Hummingbird as it travels north from Mexico to southeast Alaska. Over 5,000 miles, it's the longest migration of all North American Hummers. In the Fall, most head south by flying east of the Sierras. Note the notch in R2 tail feather which is diagnostic. They also make a distinctive chu-chu-chu stutter at the base of their dive. Don't get anyone started on the presence or absence of green feathers regarding identification!



Allen's Hummingbird

Arriving in the Spring from Mexico, they breed in a narrow strip of coastal forest, scrub, and chaparral from sea level to around 1,000 feet elevation along the West Coast. They can be aggressive in defending their territories as witnessed by chasing off this Anna's. However, Rufous are even bigger (though same sized) bullies. Tail feathers are diagnostic, not that one can see them in real time. A male will sally in a pendulum before climbing to 100 feet and diving before the female(s). Allen's make a bumblebee-like buzz when they are displaying.

Occasional Visitors: The Purple Patrol



On the left, the United States' smallest hummingbird. The Calliope prefers the cool crisp mountain air in meadows and forests. Fearless or foolish, it's been known to nest adjacent to a Northern Goshawk's nest.

Center stage is Costa's Hummingbird. It's calculated that a Costa's Hummingbird needs to visit 1,840 flowers to meet its energy needs for one day. Many birders were treated to seeing this male in Santa Rosa last September.

Why it's called a Black-chinned Hummingbird is beyond me. Truth is, one has to catch perfect light to see its purple collar. We don't see these guys in Sonoma County very often. They're more common in the Central Valley and southern deserts before moving to higher elevations to follow the flowers. A female is recorded to have lived over 11 years. This photo was not taken in Sonoma County.

There are 341 species of Hummingbirds in the world. North America has seen 21 species. Costa Rica, the size of West Virginia, has 50 species. Here are a few:



Lesser Violetear

Fiery-throated Hummingbird

Talamanca Hummingbird

Contributors to April Kite Tales: David Hofmann, Carolyn Metz, Anne O'Donnell, Rob O'Donnell, Tom Reynolds, Annette Roth

Secretary Read minutes from April meeting **Treasurer's Reported** a 2/29/2020 balance of \$11,204

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Soundscapes to Landscapes **Bird Blitz** trainings at Pt Blue. Must RSVP: tstephens-VOL@pointblue.org

2. SFSU Sierra Nevada Field Campus (SNFC) classes (<https://sierra.sfsu.edu/course-calendar>)

Friends of SNFC are offering 5 Scholarships of up to \$500 each to support students with a financial hardship, applicable to any classes or workshops at the SN Field Campus. APPLICATION deadline: April 30, 2020. Sign up for the class, then apply for the scholarship. May 1 random drawing from all applications. Winners will be notified the next day. If you aren't chosen, you can cancel class registration.

Send email titled "SNFC Scholarship" to jsteele@sfsu.edu, indicating your interest in a scholarship, identifying the class in which you enrolled, and how much you are applying for.

BUSINESS: Hats for sale! @ \$15

1. Open RROS positions: Field Trip Coordinator, to replace Ruth Rudesill; SR CBC coordinator, to replace Bill Doyle; President, to replace Anne O'Donnell. A team of 2 co-Presidents would be welcome and would help RROS to continue without requiring extraordinary commitments of time by any one of us.

2. RROS donations of \$3000 was spread among 5 organizations

Rob O'Donnell read Thank You letter received from Bird Life Australia for help with fire recovery.

FIELD TRIPS: Lisa Hug reported on the very fun YAMS-led Trip to Willowside Rd/Santa Rosa Creek trail Riverfront Park Report (borrowed from Ruthie's FB post and her ebird list): 3 woodpeckers: DOWO, NUWO, PIWO, 2 swallows: VG and TR. Best Bird: Golden-crowned Kinglet. Later, went up Pine Flat Rd to see if it would be good for a May field trip, but no. The devastation from the Kincade Fire is too much. Pine Flat is gone, just scorched earth and black trees. The Oxbow area is gone. The top has a few patches of chaparral vegetation and there were sparrows there but not much else. Pine Flat had been recovering from earlier fires years ago. It won't recover again in my lifetime.



Upcoming Field Trips were announced. Peter Colisanti will lead* the overnight trip to Fresno County 6/6-7/20.

Contact Peter for details. *email : peter_colasanti@yahoo.com phone: 707-780-7296*

*NOTE: Fresno FT might be canceled – Contact Peter for update

OBSERVATIONS: Monica S Found a Cooper's Hawk nest on Sonoma Mt Rd today on my long walk

Other observations reported.

PROGRAM: Guest speaker and RROS member, Ken Wilson, gave a marvelous presentation based on a tour that he coordinated through Uganda, the "jewel of Africa", home to most of Africa's large mammals with over 1000 species of birds recorded.

Species	Date(s)	Location	Cty	#	Observer(s)
Emperor Goose	03/18/20	Bodega Head State Park	SON	1	ScC, LiH, Eu&NaH, Br&OrO, JoS, DeH, MalB, JeV, PeC, DaL CoH, DeF, CoC, MarB, JaS, Te&MiT, RiL photos
Eurasian Wigeon	02/25-03/10/20	Doran Regional Park	SON	1m	AaM, LiH, DaB, Te&MiT. BrO, GaT, NoO, DeH photo
Eurasian Wigeon	03/02/20	Shollenberger Park	SON	1m	CoM
Black Scoter	03/02/20	Bird Walk & Smith Bros. Rd	SON	2	DaM
White-winged Scoter	03/17/20	Goat Rock Road	SON	1m	LiH
Black-legged Kittiwake	02/22-03/13/20	Doran Regional Park	SON	2	MeG, PeR, RoS, DaE, EuH
Black-legged Kittiwake	03/02/20	Goat Rock State Park	SON	5	NoA photos
Black-legged Kittiwake	03/15-19/20	Bodega Head State Park	SON	02/18/20	MarB, JoS, DoS, DeH, MalB, JeV, DaL, CoH, DeF, CoC, MarB, Te&MiT, LiH, GaT, ScS, RiL ChN, CoM, ToW photos
Lesser Black-backed Gull	03/13/20	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	NoA, LuC photos
White-faced Ibis	02/28-03/12/20	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON	1	DaL, GaP, EuH, Ro&AnO, JiC, MalB, DoK, laM photo
Barred Owl	03/11/20	Johnson's Beach	SON	1	ScC heard only
Northern Saw-whet Owl	02/25-03/15/20	Salmon Creek Road	SON	2	JoS, EuH heard only
Red-naped Sapsucker	03/03-15/20	Salmon Creek Road	SON	1	JPM, JoS, ToB, ScC, MalB, DoK, JeV, LiH, GaT, DoS, CoM, EuH, ScS, DaT, Ro&AnO, Br&OrO, Te&MiT, NoO, DeH. WiG, CoH, RoO, ChD photos
Evening Grosbeak	03/01-18/20	Salmon Creek Road	SON	21	BrO, JoS, ToB. MalB, DoK, JeV, CoM, DoS, EuH, ScS, ReC, TiE, LiH, Ro&AnO photos
Red Crossbill	03/01/20	Goat Hill Road	SON	5	KrW
Red Crossbill	03/11-13/20	Coleman Valley Road upper	SON	1m	BrO
Lapland Longspur	03/01/20	Walker Road	SON	1	LuS fly-over & heard
Clay-colored Sparrow	03/19-20/20	Petaluma/Eucalyptus Ave yard	SON	1	KaJ photos
Bell's Sparrow	03/04-08/20	Pine Flat Road	SON	2	MalB, RAR
Black-and-White Warbler	02/21-03/08/20	Stony Point Road Pond	SON	1f	WeD, TiE, JoS, DoS photos

Observers for the Period: Noah Arthur, Mario Balitbit, Dave Bengston, Malcolm Blanchard, Tony Briggs, Scott Carey, Connor Cochrane, Peter Colasanti, Reef Comer, Lucas Corneliussen, Jim Crumpler, Wendy Dandridge, Chris Dunlap, Daniel Edlestein, Tiffany Erickson, Dea Freid, Melissa Gates, Will German, Connie Haile, Denise Herzberg, Lisa Hug, Eugene Hunn, Eugene & Nancy Hunn, Kati Jackson, Don Kirker, Rick LeBaudour, David Leland, David Lumpkin, Colin Meusel, Aaron Mitchell, David Moring, Norm Ortman, Ian Morrison, John Patten Moss, Christian Naventi, Brook OConnor, Brook & Orion Oconnor, Rob O'Donnell, Rob and Anne O'Donnell, Garret Pierce, Peter Ross, Ruth Ann Rudesill, Doug Shaw, Josh Snead, Jackie Sones, Scott Sorby, Lucas Stephenson, Ron Storey, Gabriel Tarantino, David Tomb, Teresa and Miles Tuffli, Jeff Valfer, Kristina Wolf, Tom Wysham

In the puzzle, find the name (or partial name) of a bird, birders mentioned in this issue of KT, a friendly name birders might be called, a birding hotspot, or something every birder should wear when out birding. Created by Puzzlemaker at DiscoveryEducation.com: <http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/code/BuildWordSearch.asp>

BIRD SEARCH

O E K I T T I W A K E K Y F K
Z M J Y Z S T O R I O L E A N
S P O T T E D T O W H E E C B
D E R D N X B E E P F B R A C
R R V U V Y U L A L S I L Y N
E O A B F U A R A O G D B N M
N R L H Z O M B R N E N A I N
D G F O C E U G A A C M I E S
R O E Y T S G S G G F H E K H
I O R E R N A L H O E R A U S
B S R G I M E G H U C D N R D
R E S N A G R E M S M N O S D
F I E R H G V C N A C M T B O
G V V O I S P U Z C R X E Q S
E M D L L I S E D U R I P R B

BALDEAGLE
EMPERORGOOSE
KINGLET
PARMETER
SUNSCREEN

BIRDNERDS
EVENINGGROSBEAK
KITTIWAKE
RUDESILL
VALFER

BLANCHARD
HOFMANN
MERGANSER
RUFOSHUMMER
WFIBIS

BODEGABAY
HUNN
ORIOLE
SPOTTEDTOWHEE

April, 2020

HELLO RROS'ers!

I hope this finds you well and making the best of these unusual times. Who was it that said "May you live in interesting times"? Indeed.

Apologies for the late publication and distribution of Kite Tales. This is sent in hopes that you'll enjoy a distraction away from the pandemic and onto our feathered friends. Some material is "filler", in place of the wonderful member photos that are more commonly included as a major part of KT. Hopefully, we'll be back to a normal, more professional looking publication with the content that you've come to expect soon.

Included in this issue is an abbreviated copy of the March RROS meeting minutes. Especially for those who aren't able to attend evening meetings regularly, is this something you'd like to see in future editions of KT?

Announcement updates:

Thanks to Malcolm Blanchard, our new Field Trips Coordinator, starting September, 2020.

All field trips scheduled for April have been canceled. Chances are that we will also have to cancel RROS events for May and June. That announcement will come at a later date.

Thanks also to Gene Hunn, our new coordinator for the 2020 Santa Rosa CBC.

In putting together April KT, it was discovered that we also owe a BIG thanks to John Parmeter, who regularly helps his father with KT's "Pishing with Parmeter" column. More PwP adventures coming in May KT.

Hope you, your friends, children, or grandchildren enjoy this "unprecedented" edition of Kite Tales and that we'll return to "normal" sooner rather than later!

Anne O'Donnell
President, RROS