

Kite Tales

Volume 52, Number 8

April 2017



*Young Bald Eagle, by Rick LeBaudour
Klamath Falls Trip, February*

**RROS Monthly Meeting, April 12, 2017, 7pm
First United Methodist Church
1551 Montgomery Dr, Santa Rosa**

Monthly Meeting: April 12, 2017, 7pm - RROS General Meeting, First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Dr, Santa Rosa. Program: The ACR Mountain Lion Project is a community-based research and education project in the Mayacamas Mtns of Sonoma and Napa Counties that will increase scientific and public understanding of mountain lions, identify priority habitat areas for conservation, and increase appreciation for these important top predators. Principal investigator on the Project is Dr. Quinton Martins, a leading expert on large mountain cats and a skilled predator trapper. Together with a team of ACR staff and advisors, Dr. Martins is studying the movement of mountain lions fitted with GPS collars within a study area that encompasses approximately 1,000 square miles, primarily in the Mayacamas Mtns (areas east of Highway 101 and west of 29) in Sonoma and Napa Counties. ACR's project will lead to a better understanding of mountain lion ecology, connectivity in this fragmented landscape, and identification of priority areas for conservation.

Join us at 5:30 pm for dinner before the meeting at Mary's Pizza Shack, 535 Summerfield Rd, Santa Rosa.

Save the date: May 10, 2017: Annual Spring Potluck: Likely will be at Sugarloaf Ridge State Park at 6:00 pm. Look for details in May Kite Tales.

UPCOMING RROS FIELD TRIPS & EVENTS

April 8, 2017, Sat: Central Valley chaparral, riparian, and marsh birds, 8:00am

Location: Yolo & Solano Counties Trip Leader: Chris Dunford of Yolo Audubon Society (christopher.j.dunford@gmail.com) Chaparral birds high above Winters are singing, including California Thrashers and Bell's Sparrows (Mountain Quail might be heard if early enough in the morning). Oak woodlands along Putah Creek and Lake Solano are coming alive with breeding residents (including Phainopepla), lingering winter birds, and early neotropical migrants. Thousands of blackbirds are staging at Yolo Bypass, including Yellow-headed and possible Tricolored, plus early migrating shorebirds. **We will start in Winters: meet at the ARCO – AM/PM market at 8:00 am (701 Matsumoto Lane, Winters, CA 95694 – I- 505 exit 11 ("Winters-Lake Berryessa").** Coming from Vacaville, turn left and over the freeway then right at the first traffic light at Matsumoto and right again into the ARCO gas station – park between Burger King and Taco Bell. Bring lunch, drinks, snacks, and binoculars (scope provided but more may be helpful). Dress according to the weather forecast (we will range from 50 to 3,000 ft. elevation) and for easy walking. Vehicles must be able to manage a steep but mostly paved mountain road. Lingering flood water and road washouts may alter the plan, but only heavy rain/wind will cancel. Chris' cell # for the morning of the 8th is 530-902-3576. We should finish at Yolo Bypass by 3:00 pm.

April 22nd, King Ridge Road, near Cazadero, 8am. Leader: Bill Doyle

(shortbill@comcast.net). Meet at 8:00am, at the excellent bakery in Duncan's Mills. Bring lunch/snacks, fluids. No bathrooms once we start up the hill. Possible Black Throated Gray Warblers & Lazuli Bunting, and we may hear Sooty Grouse. HEAVY RAIN CANCELS.

June 9-11, Friday through Sunday: Mono and Inyo counties. This June, instead of our usual Sierra Valley/Yuba Pass mountain trip, we hope to explore the east slope of the southern Sierra Nevada range with base camps (and motels) at Lee Vining and Bishop. Lee Vining is a six-hour drive (310 miles from Santa Rosa via US 50 and 395). It is located at the base of the Tioga Pass road through Yosemite (very likely still blocked by snow this year in early June), which provides access to a string of campgrounds and other birding opportunities from 6400 feet elevation on the shores of Mono Lake up to 10000 feet at

Tioga Pass. Habitats vary from high desert through riparian and coniferous forests to timberline (where Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches are possible). Bishop is an hour's drive south from Lee Vining and provides access to the Bristlecone Pine forests of the White Mountains and the Deep Springs Valley, where we might find such California rarities here as Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Plumbeous Vireo, Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay, Juniper Titmouse, Virginia's Warbler, and Sagebrush Sparrow, as well as characteristic Sierran and Great Basin species. Stay tuned for additional details about camping and motel accommodations. Weather/snowmelt may alter plans.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

April RROS Meeting, Election of Officers: Each April we vote on the slate of officers for RROS for the next year. Here is the current proposed slate:

President: Ruth Rudesill Vice-President: Will Anderson
 Secretary: Rita Bevans Treasurer: Rob O'Donnell

We want to thank Don Howard for his many years of service as Treasurer. He kept all our finances on track and our bills paid! Thank You!

April 19-25, 2017, Humboldt Bay area: <https://godwitdays.org> Speakers include Dr Bridget Stutchbury and Noah Stryker. Popular events have limited capacity & are filling.

If you have ideas of trips that you would like to lead or trips that you'd like to take, please provide those to Monica at fieldsketcher@gmail.com

RROS welcomes our newest member: Barbara Tomin of Santa Rosa

Observations	Jan 21 to Feb 20, 2017		Compiled by David A. Hofmann		
Species	Dates	Location	Cty	#	Observer(s)
Cackling Goose	02/22	Petaluma	SON	1K	DaB fly-over
Cackling Goose	03/16	Stoney Pt. Rd x Wilfred Ave	SON	180	AIW
Grtr White-fronted Goose	03/15	Porto Bodega	SON	1	DAH, ToM, mob
Eurasian Wigeon	03/15	Doran Regional Park	SON	1m	ToM, DAH, mob
Red-necked Grebe	03/15	Doran Regional Park	SON	1	DAH, ToM, mob
Black Vulture	02/01-08	Occidental Rd x HS Rd	SON	1	RoO, AnO, AIL
Swainson's Hawk	02/27	Skagg's Island Road	SON	1	TiB, WiG, WiB, NoO, DeH, StH
Swainson's Hawk	03/11	Hudeman's Slough	SON	1	MuB, RROS F/T
Merlin	03/11	Hudeman's Slough	SON	1	MuB, RROS F/T
Iceland Gull (Kumlien's)	03/17	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	DaW
Glaucous Gull	03/18	Jenner Overlook	SON	1	HeK, DoK, BiD
Caspian Tern	02/25	Bodega Head State Park	SON	1	DoK
Barred Owl	03/09	Ogburn Lane, Forestville	SON	2	ChS heard only
Williamson's	03/08-12	Quarryhill Botanical,	SON	1f	StC, LiH, RiB,

Sapsucker		Gardens			WiB, NoO, WiG, MaS, mob
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	03/12-17	Odd Fellows Cemetery	SON	1f	DeD, ToB, MaB, OpW, WiB, WiG, AlW, LiH, mob
Gray Jay	02/27	Gualala Point Reg Pk	SON	2	ScC
Cliff Swallow	03/04	Shollenberger Park	SON	1	EuH
Warbling Vireo	03/08	Santa Rosa Creek Trail	SON	1	DeF heard only
Black-throated Gray Warbler	02/22-23	Capewood Lane Dog Park, Windsor	SON	1	MaB, WiG, WiB
Western Tanager	03/02	Juilliard Park, SR	SON	1	NiK
Summer Tanager	03/06	Santa Rosa yard	SON	1	YvM
Tri-colored Blackbird	03/08-16	Ellis Creek Ponds	SON	12	EuH, BoD, mob
Hooded Oriole	03/07	Sebastopol yard	SON	1	DeF
Red Crossbill	03/02	Green Valley Rd, Seb.	SON	1	JoC

Observer/s for this period: Mario Balitbit, Dave Barry, Tim Behr, Murray Berner, William Bevans, Rita Bevans, Tony Briggs, Scott Carey, Josiah, Clark, Steve Corey, Bill Doyle, Debbie Drechsler, Bob Dyer, Dea Freid, Will German, Denise Herzberg, Steve Herzberg, David A. Hofmann, Lisa Hug, Eugene Hunn, Don Kirker, Helen Kochenderfer, Nicholas Kronick, Albert Linkowski, Tom McCuller, Yvonne Motherwell, Anne O'Donnell, Rob O'Donnell, Norm Ortman, Chris Shuck, Mark Stephenson, Opal White, Alan Wight, Dan Williams

PISHING WITH PARMETER

Kenya -- Malindi, June 27 – 31, 1987

We headed to the city of Malindi on the east coast of Kenya, situated on the Indian Ocean. Unfortunately, our flight to Malindi was cancelled so we ended up flying to Mombasa, renting a bus, and driving north along the coast to our original destination. We birded briefly in Mombasa, adding Indian House Crow, Little Sparrowhawk, and Purple-banded Sunbird to our trip list. We had to cross the Kalifi River which was accomplished by boarding a one car ferry. This required a two hour wait. Luckily, I added two lifers during the wait: Brown-headed Parrot (a very popular cagebird) and a Terrestrial Brownbul (old world family). Coastal Kenya is the location of the Sokoce Forest, a unique vegetative type.

The following day we birded in the forest, making additions to my life list: Trumpeter Hornbill, Little Yellow Flycatcher, Retz's Red-billed Helmet-Shrike, Black-headed Apalis, African Wood Owl (genus *Ciccaba woodfordii*), Chestnut-fronted Helmet-Shrike, Narina's Trogon (very pretty bird), Black-breasted Glossy Starling (lots of starlings in Africa), Western Nicator, Bohm's Spinetail, African Golden Oriole, Green Barbet and Red-capped Robin-Chat (the 2500th bird on my lifelist).

Sooty Gulls were common on the beach. Also saw two Whimbrels (same species we have here). At a pond, with emergent plants, in the sand dunes, there was a male and a female African Pygmy Goose. We visited the Sabaki River, including the mouth where it emptied into the Indian Ocean. Some species here: Fire-fronted Bishop, Collared Pratincole, African Skimmer (flock of 10), Swift Tern, Lesser-crested Tern, and Greater Sand Plover (later seen at Bolinas Lagoon).

One species I wanted to see was the Crab Plover. This bird, which is not a plover, is in a family of its own, and occurs around the beaches of the Indian Ocean. We found a flock of 10 birds. It's in its own monotypic family, Dromodide. We also saw this species at the mouth of Mida Creek, south of Malindi. A Cuckoo Falcon flew by. We found a Malindi Pipit in the sand dunes, and a true plover, the White-fronted Sand Plover.

Back in the Sokoko Forest again, we observed a Plain-backed Sunbird and a Crowned Eagle!

We visited an old Portuguese fort, Gede, built of stones. Saw Yellowbill, Eastern Bearded Scrub-Robin, Yellow-billed Greenbill, and Fischer's Turaco on the grounds of the ruins.

Back in the forest once more, we searched for, but did not find, a Sokoke Pipit. Did see Fischer's Greenbill, and Fiery-necked Nightjar. This latter bird was called in at night.

On our final day in Malindi, before flying back to Nairobi and on to Amsterdam, we added East Coast Batis, Black-collared Barbet, Brown-headed Kingfisher, Red-tailed Ant-Thrush, and Zanzibar Red Bishop (at the Malindi airport).

Sorry to leave Kenya; it was such a wonderful 3 weeks of birding. Hope each of you can visit there one day!

Young Ancient Murrelets Field Trip Reports

February, 2017: Story and picture submitted by Morganna Beliz

Our trip began at Schollenberger Park at the Ellis Creek Water Recycling Facility in Petaluma, California. The weather was clear, but it was still cool out, for it was just between storms. As the rest of our group trickled in, we observed the birds on the marsh, consisting of Black-necked Stilts, teals, coots, Canada Geese, and even a domestic duck. As the sun rose higher we got a beautiful look at the stilts on the golden water.

Nearby on some trees we saw several American Pipits, and it was the first time for one of our members getting a good look at these pretty little songbirds. As we walked down to the field at the far end of the marsh we got a magnificent sighting of a Red-shouldered Hawk flying in front of us and into a nearby eucalyptus tree where it remained, allowing us to move our scope onto it and get a good look at the exquisite red barring on its chest and black-and white checker board wings. It was an excellent opportunity for us to learn about the differences in the Red-tailed Hawk and Red-shouldered Hawk's identification.

Moving on we saw a flock of gulls, which we identified as Ring-billed Gulls after some consideration and debate. When we returned to our vehicles, a White-crowned Sparrow came very close and was among the best sightings I've had of one.

Around 9:00 AM we headed to Tolay Lake Regional Park. The parking lot itself was filled with birds- California Quail, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, a few Eurasian Collared Doves, and several small sparrows. After the recent rains the lake was finally full, and there were many species of waterfowl, including swans, as well as blackbirds near the shore. In the distance, we saw a White-tailed Kite and a juvenile Northern Harrier, in addition to a couple more *buteos*. It was here we saw one of the highlights of the trip: a male Anna's Hummingbird. Though common, it is rare to see one in the lighting we did, bringing out the iridescent green and purple, turning it from a bird into a little gemstone.



On our way to the Burrowing Owl Trail, we went into the barn where we've heard Barn Owls often dwell, resulting in another highlight. The

male and the female were roosting for the day in the rafters, asleep next to one another. It was the first time I'd seen the comparison of male and female next to one another, and the difference was distinct: the female's breast and belly was almost entirely tan, where the male's areas were almost pure white. The female spooked after several seconds, but we did manage to digiscope a picture of the dozing male.

The lake on the other side of the parking lot was full of a variety of waterfowl including Buffleheads, a Pintail, and more teals. A female American Kestrel was hunting the field to the front of the water and the Northern Harrier flew behind the lake again. As we continued onwards, we got some great views of Western Bluebirds, Rock Pigeons, and Mourning Doves, as well as hearing the Pacific Chorus Frog, which, although not a bird, was pretty awesome.

All in all, it was a pretty successful day. With seven observers in 3.25 hours we counted 50 species, with some extraordinary highlights that I'll remember for a long time to come.

March 18, 2017, Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District:

Text and photos submitted by Mark & Lucas Stephenson

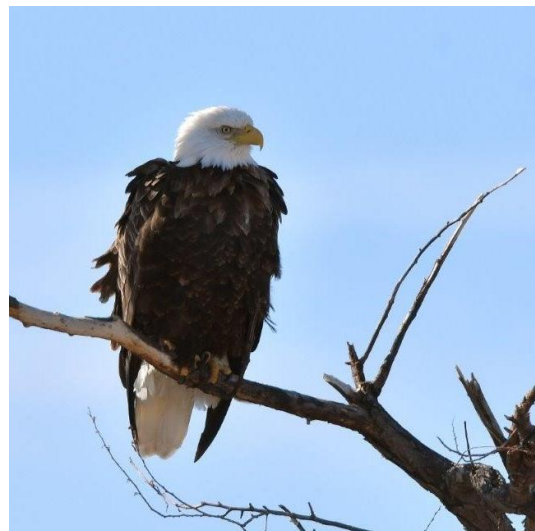
The 10 YAMS and Family participants had a marvelous trip observing many of the 67 species at close range making for wonderful photos and memories. Highlights included the Harris' Sparrow, Red-necked Grebe, singing and nesting Marsh Wrens, and 3 rails: Sora, Virginia, and Ridgeway's.



RROS February Field Trip Report, Klamath Basin:

Text and photos submitted by Rick LeBaudour

Seventeen intrepid birders braved the cold temps and the threat of bad weather to explore the Klamath Basin the weekend of February 24th to 26th. We visited the Lower Klamath and Tule Lake NWR as well as Lava Beds NM and the Petroglyphs on Friday. Saturday was spent entirely in Oregon around upper Klamath Lake where we visited Link River, Lake Ewana, Moore Park, the Running Y Ranch and Fort Klamath at the north end of the lake. On Sunday morning, some of us headed south to bird the Butte Valley Wildlife Area. Low temps were in the teens, highs were in the mid-30s. Highlights included 270 Bald Eagles, 7 Golden Eagles, 3 Prairie Falcons, 7 Rough-legged Hawks (including one Dark morph) 6 Eurasian Wigeon, 2 Yellow-headed Blackbirds, several Townsend's Solitaires, Sandhill Cranes and Barrow's Goldeneyes, Red Crossbills in two locations, 5 Slate-colored Juncos, 1 White-headed Woodpecker and 1 Peregrine Falcon. Total species count was 91. The auto tour loop at Lower Klamath was by far the birdiest area, though Butte Valley was a pleasant surprise as well. We tried for a wintering Barred Owl and Bohemian Waxwings at the Running Y Ranch, but to no avail.





Townsend's Solitaire



Slate-colored Junco



Great Basin Mule Deer



Raven portrait

Photo Gallery



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker



Western Bluebird

By Rob O'Donnell



American Robin
By Rob O'Donnell



American Kestrels
By Tom Reynolds



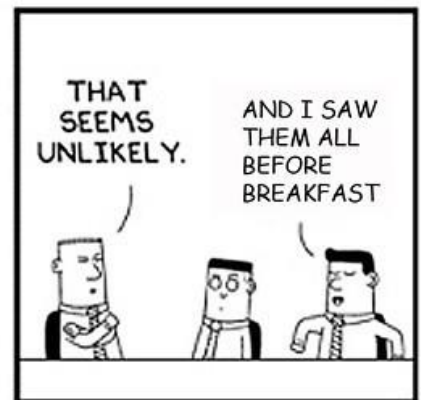
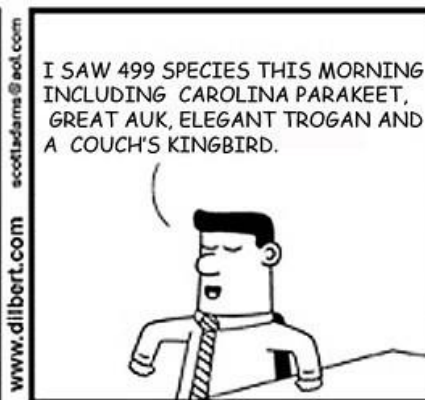
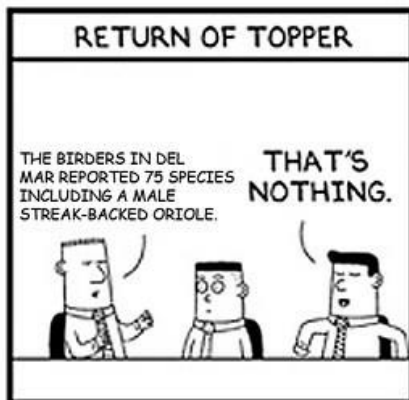
Green-winged Teals

By Tom Reynolds



Great Egret

The Lighter Side



Redwood Region Ornithological Society (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 Wednesday of each month September through May, at 7:00 pm at the First United Methodist Church, 1515 Montgomery Dr, Santa Rosa. Dues are \$20 per individual or family, and \$5 per student for a one-year membership. Send dues to RROS Treas. Rob O'Donnell, 421 St. Mary Place, Santa Rosa, CA 95409

RROS Staff					
	Role	Name	Address	E-mail	Phone
Officers	President	Ruth Rudesill	POB 371, Kenwood 95452	ruthier@sonic.net	833-6026
	Vice Pres	Will Anderson	4724 Hillsboro Circle, Santa Rosa 95405	willanderson990@yahoo.com	
	Secretary	Rita Bevans	237 Deanna Pl, Windsor 95492	ritanbill@comcast.net	484-3704
	Treasurer	Rob O'Donnell	421 St. Mary Place, Santa Rosa 95409	robodonnell1@outlook.com	694-9776
Committee Chairs	Field Trips	Monica Schwalbenberg- Peña	6136 Batesole Dr Santa Rosa 95404	fieldsketcher@gmail.com	542-8107
	Observations	David Hofmann	2021 Pioneer Wy #47, Santa Rosa 95403	nnamfoh@comcast.net	546-0325
	Christmas Bird Count	Bill Doyle	86 Westgate Circle, Santa Rosa 95401	shortbill@comcast.net	483-8773
	Kite Tales	Bob Hasenick	Santa Rosa	bobhasenick@att.net	486-0055
	YAMS Coord	Lisa Hug	Sebastopol	lisahug@sonic.net	535-9370
	Membership	Rob O'Donnell	421 St. Mary Place, Santa Rosa 95409	robodonnell1@outlook.com	694-9776

Kite Tales Deadline is the 20th: Submit observations to David Hofmann and all other items to Bob Hasenick.

KITE TALES
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